

Essay for the Friends No. 14

Large Paper Copies of Standard County Works

Introduction

Book collectors consider condition and rareness, as well as demand, when seeking to add to their collection. For nineteenth century books, those in their original bindings and in good order are worth more than ones in poor condition, or which have been rebound. Earlier books are unlikely to be in their original bindings, but the quality of the rebinding must be taken into account, and also whether in rebinding the body of the book has been trimmed and affected the margins: in certain cases there is loss of text, which is detrimental. Loss of original pages seriously affects the value and the book becomes a relic.

One area of book collecting where examples command a premium is that of large paper copies, where a limited number of copies were printed on a larger sheet of paper, and so the text, while identical to that in the standard run of the book, has a wide margin around. This Essay is concerned with the few county books on bells which have been issued on large paper.

Early system of paper sizes and numbering

With (almost) total metrication, the old sizes of books have been consigned to the dustbin of history. But, of course, to book collectors knowledge of these old sizes is very useful, as old catalogues and descriptions of books use these and not the modern system.

Certain names used in the past are of great antiquity, and were derived from watermarks. Thus the term foolscap, which became identified with a particular size of paper, derived its name for a watermark of a fool's head and cap. The term crown was derived in a similar way.

A system of description was formerly in use, based on how many times the basic sheet of paper, called a broadside, was folded. The earliest known reference to this system, quoted in the Oxford English Dictionary, dates from 1582. The number of folds determined the number of pages formed, and clearly the more pages, the smaller the size. If a broadside is folded in half, it produces two pages, of a size called folio, while a second fold produces four pages, called quarto (usually written 4to). A third fold produces eight pages (octavo or 8vo) and a fourth fold produces sixteen pages (sexagesimo or 16mo). Because of the relative proportions of the length and breadth of the broadside, only quarto and sexagesimo have the same proportions as the broadside, folio and octavo having different proportions. This is in contrast to the modern system, where the ratio of the length to the breadth of the basic sheet is such that each time a sheet is halved, the resultant halves still have the same proportion.

In the old system of description, the odd one out is duodecimo (12mo), where the sheet is divided into 12 pages, and so cannot be divided in this way by simply folding the sheet in half.

The size of the pages produced depended on the size of the broadsheet, of which there were a number of standard ones, each with its own name. In the centre of this booklet is a table of some of the standard sizes of broadside in which the sizes of the pages produced are given in inches. These sizes are untrimmed, before the binder has guillotined or trimmed the edges after

folding and binding. However, comparison of sizes of books with their description shows that, in the nineteenth century, some of the publishers used these sizes as finished sizes.

County books on large paper

It almost appears as if large paper copies of county books came about by accident. The first of which I have note is one for L'Estrange's *Church Bells of Norfolk*, published in 1872. A flyer advertising this book was issued in 1864, where the size was stated to be octavo. The size of page as published was 10 x 6¼ inches, equivalent to super royal octavo untrimmed. Nowhere is there a mentioned of any large paper copy, but recently one has come to light. There is nothing to indicate its provenance, but it is possible that it was either a proof copy (but not marked as such) or for some special person, perhaps the author.

There is more definite information on large paper copies of books by Thomas North. His first county book on bells, those of Leicestershire, was first advertised in *Church Bells* on 5 December 1874, when subscriptions were invited, the book being described as being 'in foolscap 4to, profusely Illustrated.' No hint there of any large paper copies. It was published in 1876, although no comment was made in *Church Bells*, and the size as published was slightly larger than advertised.

To complete the diocese of Peterborough Thomas North published *Church Bells of Northamptonshire* in 1878 and *Church Bells of Rutland* in 1880, all in the same format, of the same size and with a distinctive blind-stamped cover in a dark brown cloth. There is no indication of any large paper copies for *Church Bells of Northamptonshire*, but recently one appeared on the second-hand market, and the size quoted indicated that this was almost certainly correct. Nor do we know how many others were

produced, but the number must have been very limited. For *Church Bells of Rutland*, the subscription list was just under 170 in number, but at the front, for the first time, was a note that 250 copies were printed. At the back of *Church Bells of Rutland* are advertisements for *Church Bells of Leicestershire* (cost 15s.) and *Church Bells of Northamptonshire* (cost 21s.). However, *Church Bells of Leicestershire* was stated to be out of print, and there were stated to be only a few copies of *Church Bells of Northamptonshire* not subscribed for and so on sale.

A few large paper copies may have been produced of North's *Church Bells of Lincolnshire*, published in 1882. At the front it states that 210 copies were printed, 200 for subscribers and 10 for presentation. Now the subscribers' copies seem to have been all of the same size, which was quarto (probably demy quarto) as I have in my own collection the copy subscribed for by Nathaniel Clayton, High Sheriff of Lincolnshire, which is of standard size. However, there is the possibility that the ten presentation copies were of large paper size.

We are certainly on safer ground when we come to *Church Bells of Bedfordshire*, published in the following year. There is no note at the front of the book of how many were printed, only a list of subscribers. However, twelve of the subscribers are noted as having ordered large paper copies. This may have had something to do with the change in publisher, as *Church Bells of Bedfordshire* was published by Elliot Stock of London, while North's earlier books were published by Samuel Clarke of Leicester. Moreover, more than this number of large paper copies of *Church Bells of Bedfordshire* were printed, as when Elliot Stock published Stahschmidt's *Surrey Bells and London Bell-founders* in 1884 a list of Elliot Stock's publications was given on a spare leaf at the back, and one advertisement stated that copies of *Church Bells of Bedfordshire* were available at 12s.

6d. for the standard 4to size, while there were still a few large paper copies available at 31s. 6d.

It is with later writers that a specific point was made of producing large paper copies. In 1890 Dr. J.J. Raven's *Church Bells of Suffolk* was published by Jarrold and Sons, of Warwick Lane, EC. This had been announced in *Bell News* on 25 May 1889, where it was stated that there would be a demy 8vo edition which was limited to 500 copies, and a larger edition, royal 4to, limited to 50 copies. The smaller edition was offered to subscribers before publication at 15s. while the large paper edition was to be subscribed for at 25s. It was not until 6 June 1891 that the book was reviewed – at length – in *Bell News*. The length of the print run was clearly an embarrassment, and from 4 June 1892 an advertisement for the book appeared each week. The large paper edition was stated to have been subscribed for within a few days of the issue of the prospectus and so unobtainable, but the smaller edition was available at 20s., or 27s. 6d. if bound in half-morocco, 'Roxburgh style'. To these prices had to be added 1s. 6d. for postage. This advertisement, in reduced form, appeared for a number of years, last appearing in the issue of 26 October 1901. The length of the print run explains why copies of this book appear relatively more frequently on the second-hand market.

A few years later, A.H. Cock's monumental *Church Bells of Buckinghamshire* was also issued in large paper form. On 7 January 1893 notice of its intended publication by Jarrold and Sons appeared in *Bell News*, stating that it was to be published by subscription. There was to be an octavo edition of 350 copies at 21s. and a large paper edition of 80 copies of Royal quarto size, at 42s. It was stated that the price would be raised on the day of issue should any copies remain unsold. The book duly appeared and was reviewed in *Bell News* on 13 March 1897,

where it was stated that the book was 'the only one of its kind which is the production of a half-pull ringer.' This neglected the fact that Ellacombe himself was a half-pull ringer, although not very far advanced in the art. Again, after a gap, on 16 July 1898 copies were advertised for sale at the pre-publication price, with 1s. 6d. postage, but with notice of the intention to raise the prices to £1 5s. and £3 3s. respectively. Presumably at this time not all the large paper copies had been sold. This ploy seems to have been successful, and the advertisement last appeared in the issue of 4 February 1899: the book does not appear to have been offered later at a higher price.

The week after the advertisement for Cocks's book was dropped, a new advertisement from Jarrolds appeared, stating that the Rev. T.M.N. Owen's *Church Bells of Huntingdonshire* had just been published. There had been no prior notice in *Bell News* and no request for subscribers. Perhaps the lesson of the larger print runs had been learnt, as only 30 large paper copies (Imperial quarto at £2 2s.) and 200 small paper copies (Super Royal octavo at 15s. 6d.) had been printed. Postage and packing was the usual 1s. 6d. An advertisement for the book continued to appear until 26 October 1901. Either the book was sold out, or no more sales were generated, as both this advertisement and the one for Raven's book were pulled at the same time.

There is another county book that was published in a large paper format, although not advertised as such, and this was H.B. Walters' book on the church bells of Shropshire. This was originally published in parts in the transactions of the Shropshire Archaeological Society for 1902 and 1904-1911, and offprints of these parts were also printed, with a continuous pagination. Some were on larger paper, and these were designed to be issued later bound up in book form. This happened in 1915, and

the book has the nice wide margins which are such a feature of large paper copies. Walters' book *Church bells of Warwickshire* (1910) was also printed by the same firm in Oswestry and an identical red cloth binding was used in each case. The two books are identical in size, but not in thickness. However, the Warwickshire book does not have the wide margins.

Large Paper Copies in the Central Council Library

The Library does not hold any large paper copies of North's books, but I would be pleased to hear any details of these, in particular the size. Also whether large paper copies do exist for his books on the church bells of Leicestershire, Rutland, and Lincolnshire, and confirmation of large paper copies of his book on the church bells of Northamptonshire.

The Library has a large paper copy of *Church Bells of Suffolk* (32/50) in the Roxburgh binding, which came to the library in the J. Shepherd bequest. This is a half leather binding – which means that not only the spine is leather but also the corners of the boards. The small copies in the Roxburgh binding are strictly quarter leather as they do not have the leather corners. In both cases the paper used to cover the boards is of the same type.

Of the county books, *Church Bells of Buckinghamshire* is one of the heaviest, and this often results in damaged to the cloth binding, with the weight of the book pulling it away from the casing. Despite this, the library copy (28/80) is in relatively good order, although a copy in my own collection has suffered somewhat. The title on the front cover is in the same typeface as that on the smaller version, but enlarged, while the same three-bell stamp was used on both.

The same three-bell stamp was used on the front of the large paper copy of *Church Bells of Huntingdonshire* which is in the library, and this was used on some of the smaller copies, as an alternative to a shield. (For further discussion see *Essay for the Friends No.9.*) The large paper copy in the Library also came in the Shepherd Bequest, but is un-numbered.

The library has two copies of Walters' *Church Bells of Shropshire*, one made up with offprints and sections from the *Shropshire Archaeological Society Transactions* and thus with idiosyncratic pagination, and another of the 1915 issue, from the E.H. Lewis bequest.

Thanks to Jean Sanderson and Chris Ridley for reading earlier drafts of this paper and making helpful suggestions.

Standard Papers Sizes and their Sub-divisions

Name	Size (inches / cm)				
	<i>Broadside</i>	<i>Folio</i>	<i>Quarto</i>	<i>Octavo</i>	<i>Sexagesimo</i>
Imperial	22 x 30 (55.9 x 76.2)	22 x 15 (55.9 x 38.1)	11 x 15 (27.9 x 38.1)	11 x 7½ (27.9 x 19.0)	5½ x 7½ (13.9 x 19.0)
Super Royal	20 x 27½ (50.8 x 69.9)	20 x 13¾ (50.8 x 34.9)	10 x 13¾ (25.4 x 34.9)	10 x 6⅞ (25.4 x 17.4)	5 x 6⅞ (12.7 x 17.4)
Royal	20 x 25 (50.8 x 63.5)	20 x 12½ (50.8 x 31.7)	10 x 12½ (25.4 x 31.7)	10 x 6¼ (25.4 x 15.8)	5 x 6¼ (12.7 x 15.8)
Medium	18 x 23 (45.7 x 58.4)	18 x 11½ (45.7 x 29.2)	9 x 11½ (22.8 x 29.2)	9 x 5¾ (22.8 x 14.6)	4½ x 5¾ (11.4 x 14.6)
Demy	17½ x 22½ (44.5 x 57.2)	17½ x 11¼ (44.5 x 28.6)	8¾ x 11¼ (22.2 x 28.6)	8¾ x 5⅝ (22.2 x 14.3)	4⅜ x 5⅝ (11.1 x 14.3)
Large Crown	16¼ x 21½ (41.3 x 54.6)	16¼ x 10¾ (41.3 x 27.3)	8⅛ x 10¾ (20.6 x 27.3)	8⅛ x 5⅜ (20.6 x 13.6)	4⅛ x 5⅜ (10.3 x 13.6)
Crown	15 x 20 (38.1 x 50.8)	15 x 10 (38.1 x 25.4)	7½ x 10 (19.0 x 25.4)	7½ x 5 (19.0 x 12.7)	3¾ x 5 (9.5 x 12.7)
Foolscap	13½ x 17 (34.3 x 43.2)	13½ x 8½ (34.3 x 21.6)	6¾ x 8½ (17.1 x 21.6)	6¾ x 4¼ (17.1 x 10.8)	3⅜ x 4¼ (8.5 x 10.8)

Preparing for Publication, in foolscap 4to. profusely Illustrated,

THE CHURCH BELLS OF LEICESTERSHIRE :

Their Inscriptions, Traditions, and Peculiar Uses : with Chapters on Bells and the Leicester Bell Founders. By THOMAS NORTH, Honorary Secretary of the Leicestershire Architectural and Archaeological Society, and Member of the Royal Archaeological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland.

It is proposed to publish this Work by Subscription. It will be uniform in size with the Author's 'Chronicle of the Church of St. Martin in Leicester,' and will be price, in cloth, 12s. 6d. It will contain (in addition to Chapters on Church Bells, on the ancient Bell Founders of Leicester, and on the Founders of the Leicestershire Bells) the Inscriptions on the Church Bells in the County, about 1100 in number, from rubbings taken specially for this Work ; to which will be added notes on Local Traditions and Peculiar Uses, and Extracts, where procurable, from Parish Records, and from the Returns of the Commissioners *temp.* Edward VI. The numerous Illustrations will comprise woodcuts of Initial Crosses and Letters, Founders' Marks, Stops, &c. now to be found upon the Leicestershire Bells.

Subscribers' names will be gladly received at once by MR. SAMUEL CLARKE, Bookseller, Gallowtree Gate, Leicester.

The advertisement for *Church Bells of Leicestershire* from *Church Bells*

To be Published by Subscription,

IN OCTAVO, PRICE 15s.,

Notes on the Bells and Bell-founders

OF NORFOLK.

BY

JOHN L'ESTRANGE.



WHILST everything of interest in our ancient Churches, from the floor to the roof, has been the subject of examination, the BELLS alone have been neglected. The present volume is undertaken to supply this omission. It purposes to treat of the Bell-founders of the District, to note the Inscriptions and Devices upon the Bells, and to illustrate their History, from the Inventories of Edward VI., from old Parish Accounts, and other records.

Numerous Engravings of Gothic Letters, Founders' Stamps, and other devices, accurately copied from the Bells, will embellish the letter-press.

Subscribers' Names are received by the Publishers, MESSRS. CUNDALL AND MILLER, Rampant Horse Street, Norwich.

December, 1864.

The flyer for L'Estrange's Church Bells of Norfolk

THE REV. DR. RAVEN'S WORK.

CHURCH BELLS OF SUFFOLK.—By THE REV.

J. J. RAVEN, D.D., F.S.A. of *Emmanuel College, Cambridge*. With upwards of 90 illustrations. Half-morocco, Roxburgh, 27s. 6d. nett; in cloth, 20s. nett; packing and postage 1s. 6d. extra. This edition is limited to 500 copies. The large paper edition was all sold within a few days of issuing the first prospectus.

"An unexpectedly entertaining book. His researches as to the Norwich founders will be found full of new historical matter. We heartily welcome Dr. Raven's contribution to Campanology."—*Saturday Review*.

London:—JARROLD & SONS, 10 & 11, Warwick Lane, E.C.

MR. A. H. COCKS' WORK.

CHURCH BELLS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE.—

By ALFRED HENEAGE COCKS, M.A., Great Marlow, Bucks.—WITH MANY ILLUSTRATIONS.—Large Paper Edition (limited to 80 copies) £2 2s.; Small Paper Edition (limited to 350 copies) £1 1s.—Packing and Postage 1s. 6d. extra.—The prices will shortly be raised to £1 5s. nett, and £3 3s. nett respectively.

"Mr. Cocks has searched for records of bellfounders with a zeal such as none of his learned predecessors has exhibited. He has read deeply the parish records of Bucks; has brought together much curious lore relating to the Church Bells of Buckingham. Mr. Cocks is eloquent in protesting against the gross carelessness which has ruined many bells."—*Athenæum*.

London:—JARROLD & SONS, 10 & 11, Warwick Lane, E.C.

THE REV. T. M. N. OWEN'S NEW BOOK.

THE *Just Published.*
CHURCH BELLS OF HUNTINGDONSHIRE.—

By THEODORE M. N. OWEN, M.A., Rector of Wood Walton. Large Paper Edition (limited to 30 copies) £2 2s. Small Paper Edition (limited to 200 copies) 15s. 6d. Packing and postage 1s. 6d. extra.

London:—JARROLD & SONS, 10 & 11, Warwick Lane, E.C.

Advertisements from *Bell News* for books mentioned in the text.