

"THE WOODCOCK MANUSCRIPT"

Presented by W.Bro. G.P. Woodcock thro' PAGE LODGE, to the Worcestershire Provincial Library and Museum, 15.02.46.

The Manuscript is in book form and measures 6½" by 4"., it is written the long way of of the page.

Pagination:- I, blank; 2-28. The Charges; 29. A Song; 30-36

To page 31 is pinned a paragraph omitted from page 9 (and refers to Euclid's commission). This was originally pinned to page 9.

Watermarks: Britannia helmeted, holding a trident, motto "Pro Patria".

A lion and a low palisading. (A Dutch mark put on paper specially made for the English market during the reigns of William, Anne and the early Georges.

The watermark together with the engraving on the cover are adaptations of the Dutch water-mark which shewed the Maid of Holland surrounded by her fortified frontiers maintaining liberty by force of arms.)

Cover:- Stiff grey blue paper having on the inside half a steel engraving, shewing a woman seated wearing a hat and holding a rod in her right hand, around her a frame, elaborately ornamented with leaves and flowers.

Outside the frame, at the top, is the half of a Crown and a large letter R; at the bottom of the frame, on a name plate the letters NE. Within the frame and near the head of the seated figure the letter A. The engraving has been cut nearly through the centre, and the right hand portion is part printed. There is a portion of the palisading shewn very alike to that in the paper water-marking.

Probable dating:- 1702---1714.

General:- Two indecipherable signatures in ink on the outside of the cover. On page 1 a die impression of a swan and the initials D.P.K.

The handwriting is in exceptionally clear script and written almost to the edge of the book, and though there is a double red line ruled round each folio a bare 1/32 in. from the edge the writing frequently encroaches on it.

Classification:- Thorp Branch of the Sloane Family, probably a close relative to the Strachan MS.

Acquired by W.Bro. G.P. Woodcock, PAGDC., from his brother-in-Law, a merchant captain, to whom it was given in China.

See: M.C.C., Vol. LVI, 1943, for fuller discription by Wor. Bro. A.J. Underwood.

