

NOTES FOR A BIBLIOGRAPHY
OF MICHAEL WIGGLESWORTH'S
"DAY OF DOOM" AND
"MEAT OUT OF THE EATER"

BY MATT B. JONES

THE following notes are the record of an attempt to gather the present available data respecting early editions of Michael Wigglesworth's poems, "The Day of Doom" and "Meat out of the Eater"; and to ascertain the whereabouts of existing copies of these editions. Correspondence has been carried on with public libraries and private collectors wherever it seemed at all likely that copies of these books might be found. It is not improbable that the checklist is incomplete, although it is unlikely that there are any considerable omissions.

THE DAY OF DOOM

First Edition. It would appear to be a reasonable conclusion from Mr. Wigglesworth's private memoranda that the first edition of *The Day of Doom* was published in 1662, that it consisted of 1800 copies, and that it was sold out in about a year. Without doubt this edition was printed in Cambridge. The date of publication may have been 1663 but scarcely later because, as noted by Mr. Lawrence C. Wroth, there is a reference to the book in Samuel Whiting's "A Discourse of the last Judgement, Cambridge 1664" where in speaking of other works on the same subject the editors refer to "Mr. Wigglesworth's Poems."

No copy of it is known to exist, but in the library of

the New England Historic Genealogical Society is a fragment, referred to by Dr. Samuel A. Green in the Proceedings of the Massachusetts Historical Society for 1895, which is believed to have once belonged to a copy of the first edition. It may be distinguished from all other certainly known editions of the book, and there would appear to be reasonable basis for this belief.

Second Edition. Mr. Wigglesworth states in his memoranda that about four years after the first printing of *The Day of Doom* it was reprinted "with my consent & I gave them the proofs & Margin notes to affix." We may thus determine the date of the second edition as probably 1666, and the place of publication as Cambridge. As in the case of the first edition no complete copy is known to exist. Dr. Green in his notes on this edition refers to a "fragment" in the Massachusetts Historical Society library which came probably from the Cambridge Press, and speaks of it as probably belonging to one of the missing Cambridge editions, but others have more definitely placed it as belonging to the 1666 edition, which was the first to carry marginal notes.

More recently two other fragments of the same edition have come to light, one in the library of the American Antiquarian Society, and one in the library of Mr. A. C. Bates of Hartford, Connecticut. A mere stub of the title page of the Antiquarian Society fragment shows that it had a line of the acorn-like border pieces which also appear on the stub of the title page of the Genealogical Society fragment of the first edition, and which were frequently used by the Cambridge Press in its early publications. There appears to be reasonable ground for the belief that the three fragments above referred to represent the second edition printed at Cambridge in 1666.

Third Edition. Without much doubt the third edition of *The Day of Doom* was printed in London

1666, although it is possible that this London edition may have preceded by a few months the second Cambridge edition also assigned to this year. This possibility is emphasized by the absence of marginal notes in the London edition.

A copy of this edition is in the British Museum and has the imprint: "London, printed by J. G. for P. C. 1666." The author's name does not appear on the title page.

Fourth Edition. Another edition of this poem was printed in London in 1673 and bears the imprint: "London, printed by W. G. for John Sims, at the King's Head at Sweetings-Alley-end in Cornhill, next house to the Royal-Exchange, 1673."

Dr. Green says "There is some reason to believe that there were four Cambridge editions before 1701" and he gives the tentative date of "167-, reprinted London 1673," for the third American edition. This view has been followed by others. No contemporary reference to such an edition is cited, and no copy (even fragmentary) has been found, unless we are to assume that the three fragmentary copies here placed as of the edition of Cambridge 1666 are not, in fact, of that edition, but are of some later edition. It would appear probable that Dr. Green's statement above quoted is influenced by the fact that the edition printed at Boston, 1701, bears the imprint "Fifth Edition," thought to mean the fifth American edition, and the date 167- was probably selected because of the possibility of the London edition of 1673 being a reprint.

Dr. Green notes the statement of Mr. Haven in the addenda to his "Ante-Revolutionary Publications" that the fourth edition (American) was printed at Cambridge 1683. He says that he has failed to find Mr. Haven's authority for the statement, but his extreme courtesy of statement would appear to lend rather too much weight to an assertion which, as it

stands, is unsupported, but needs only the insertion of 1673 for 1683 to be clearly true as to editions generally.

Furthermore, it is not unreasonable to suppose that the printers of the Boston 1701 edition had knowledge of the London editions, and meant just what they said when they referred to their publication as the "Fifth Edition" and not as the "Fifth American Edition."

To sum up, it would appear to be in accordance with the weight of the evidence to reject, until further facts are available, the idea of Cambridge editions of 167- and 1683, and to accept London 1673 as the fourth edition.

Of this edition there are copies in the following libraries: British Museum; Boston Public Library; John Carter Brown Library; Malden Public Library; New York Public Library; William L. Clements Library. The latter is from the Huth collection, and may be the copy noted by Dr. Green in 1895 as then in the Sumner Hollingsworth collection.

Fifth Edition. The earliest known American edition of *The Day of Doom* of which a complete copy exists is that of Boston 1701. It is called by the publisher "The Fifth Edition, enlarged with Scripture and Marginal Notes." For the reasons given above this may be accepted as the fifth general edition. The imprint is "Boston: Printed by B. Green, and J. Allen, for Benjamin Eliot, at his Shop under the West End of the Town House 1701." There were at least two issues of this edition as the name of the bookseller appears in some copies as "Nicholas Buttolph, at his Shop at the corner of Guttridge's Coffee House."

The following copies have been located: Boston Public Library; Harvard University Library; Massachusetts Historical Society; New York Public Library; and in the library of Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach. There are also incomplete copies of this edition in the American Antiquarian Society library and in that of Mr. William G. A. Turner of Malden, Mass.

Sixth Edition. An edition of *The Day of Doom* was published in 1711 with the following imprint: "Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Printed by John White, in the Close, 1711." Copies are to be found in the British Museum; Boston Public Library; Library of Congress; and Henry E. Huntington Library.

Seventh Edition. An edition of *The Day of Doom* was published at Boston in 1715. The title page states it to be the sixth edition, probably trailing the "Fifth Edition" statement of the 1701 publisher. One issue bears the imprint: "Boston, printed by John Allen, for Benjamin Eliot, at his Shop in Kingstreet. 1715." In another issue the name of "N. Boone, at the Sign of the Bible in Cornhill" appears as the bookseller.

Copies of this edition have been located as follows: Boston Athenaeum; Congregational Library in Boston; Harvard-Andover Library, two copies; Brown University Library; Henry E. Huntington Library; Yale University Library; Mr. J. W. Farwell, Boston, Mass.; Mr. Matt. B. Jones, Newton, Mass.; Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed, of Boston, Mass. Incomplete copies exist as follows: American Antiquarian Society; William L. Clements Library; Harvard University Library; New England Historic Genealogical Society; Library of Mr William Gwynn Mather (2); Mr. George Francis Dow of Topsfield, Mass., and Mr. William H. Winship, Malden, Mass.

Eighth Edition. This was published in Boston in 1751. The title page states it to be the "Seventh Edition enlarged," but for reasons above noted it is here classed as the eighth general edition. The imprint is "Boston; printed and sold by Thomas Fleet, at the Heart and Crown in Cornhill. 1751."

Of this edition copies have been located as follows: American Antiquarian Society; Boston Public Library; Brown University Library; Harvard University Li-

brary; Henry E. Huntington Library; Massachusetts Historical Society; Mr. William Gwynn Mather; Mr. A. Edward Newton; New York Public Library; Mr. William G. A. Turner; Yale University Library. Incomplete copies are noted as in the library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society and that of Mr. William L. Clements.

Ninth and Tenth Editions. Abridged editions of *The Day of Doom* were published at Norwich, Connecticut, in 1774 and in 1777. Two copies of the former edition have been located, one in the Massachusetts Historical Society, and one in the library of Mr. William G. A. Turner. A copy of the latter edition is in the American Antiquarian Society and the Connecticut Historical Society and the Massachusetts Historical Society has an incomplete copy.

MEAT OUT OF THE EATER

Wigglesworth's *Meat out of the Eater* passed through fewer editions and is today more difficult to find than *The Day of Doom*.

The first mention of this poem is found in the author's manuscript memoranda now in the library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society where it is stated that its composition was completed in October 1669. It was probably published in the following year as it was advertised as "Now going to the Press" at the end of the Election Sermon of Rev. Thomas Walley preached at New Plimouth, June 1, 1669. The first edition of this pamphlet printed in 1669 does not contain the advertisement, but it is found in the second edition which was published in 1670.

Fourth Edition. The edition of 1689 is noted as "The fourth edition." If so, there were three editions published between 1670 and 1689, but no fragment of

any of them is known to exist. As in the case of the 1701 Day of Doom this statement may be accepted as true with respect to editions generally. The Fourth Edition was printed at Boston in 1689 and has the following imprint: "Boston, printed by R. P. for John Usher, 1689." There were two issues of this edition as shown by the two fragmentary copies owned by the American Antiquarian Society, in one of which the C signatures are sadly out of order because of a disarrangement in the printer's form. Doubtless but few copies were issued before the error was noted and corrected.

Copies of this edition have been located as follows: Boston Public Library; Malden Public Library; New York Public Library. There are two incomplete copies in the library of the American Antiquarian Society and one in Harvard University Library.

Fifth Edition. The fifth edition of Meat out of the Eater bears the imprint: "Boston, printed by J. Allen, for N. Boone, at the Sign of the Bible in Cornhill, 1717." There were several issues of this edition each bearing the name of a different book-seller. The following are known:

- J. Allen for N. Boone
- J. Allen for Nicholas Buttolph
- J. Allen for Benjamin Eliot
- J. Allen for Thomas Fleet
- J. Allen for Robert Stark

The following copies of the various issues have been located: American Antiquarian Society; John Carter Brown Library; Connecticut Historical Society; Harvard University Library; Massachusetts Historical Society; Malden Public Library; Morgan Library; New York Public Library; Yale University Library; and in the private libraries of Mr. William L. Clements, Mr. J. W. Farwell, and Mr. William H. Winship. Incomplete copies have been located as follows: New

England Historic Genealogical Society; Watkinson Library, and the libraries of Mr. William Gwynn Mather, Mr. William G. A. Turner and Mr. Matt B. Jones.

Sixth Edition. An edition of *Meat out of the Eater* was published at New London, Connecticut, in 1770. The only copy located is in the Boston Public Library.

No attempt has been made to trace the whereabouts of later editions of either of these Wigglesworth poems.

Copyright of Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society is the property of American Antiquarian Society and its content may not be copied or emailed to multiple sites or posted to a listserv without the copyright holder's express written permission. However, users may print, download, or email articles for individual use.