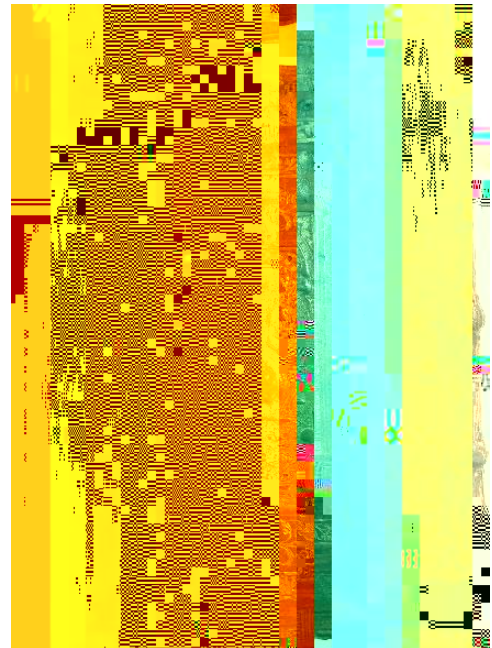
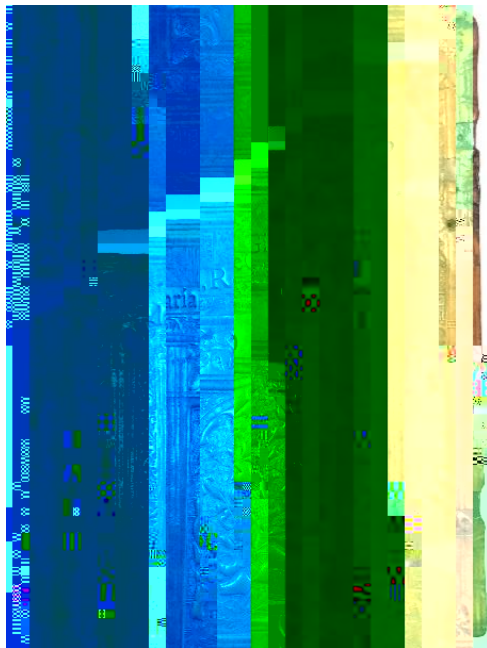


New College Library, Oxford, MS 136

Deleena (BT3.145.20) is a book by Johann Slotan (Joannes Slotanus), also printed in Cologne but twelve years later, in 1555. Born in Geffen, a municipality in the Dutch province of North Brabant, Slotan had joined the Dominican order in Cologne around the year 1525. He taught sacred letters and, in 1554, received a doctorate in theology.² Having been appointed Prior of his convent, Slotan served as papal inquisitor for the ecclesiastical province of Mainz, Cologne and Trier, prosecuting the humanist and preacher Justus Velsius (1510-1581) in 1556. Following his departure from Cologne, Velsius published several works (*Deleena*, in 1556 and *Deleena*, in 1557) which elicited responses in kind from Slotan (*Deleena*, in 1557) and *Deleena* (1558)), condemning all such heretical doctrines. A staunch defender of the Catholic faith, Slotan died in Cologne on 9 July 1560.³

The theme of the text of *Deleena* is diametrically opposed to that of the Deleen volume delivering

The copy of the book in New College Library was, much like the Deleen copy of *et*, clearly intended to be presented to the monarch. In similar manner, the leather binding has an elaborate panel design, created using rolls, ornaments and panel stamps. While faded on the upper board, the lower board still has the traces of the gold-tooling which would have adorned the book and shown it to be an item of importance. As the Deleen volume was inscribed with Henry's name and titles, so too this book has Mary's name stamped on the upper board: 'Maria. ReGina. Angliæ': Mary Queen of England. Adding to the prestigious nature of the item, the textblock edges are gauffered, whereby heated rolls have indented a running pattern along the edges, which are also gilded. While no longer present, clasps were evidently once fitted to the outer edges; marbled end papers inside the book, seemingly a later addition (the chain-holes inside the upper board are covered by the pastedown), add a finishing touch.



New College Library, Oxford, BT3.145.20



New College Library, Oxford, BT3.145.20 [detail: gauffered edges]

This item has been included in a study by Valerie Schutte of the contemporary books and manuscripts which were dedicated to Mary, and jointly to both Mary and Philip.⁴ Given the nature of the text it would appear that Slotan, in dedicating the book to both of them, was honouring them for the restoration of the Catholic faith to England and their continuing opposition to heresy. However, Schutte suggests a possible alternative motive.

⁴ Valerie Schutte,



(New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015).

It had been announced, on 28 November 1554, that Mary was pregnant. The book's dedication date of 4 April 1555, Schutte argues, indicates it may be more likely that this is what Slotan wanted to c296 ,9v6rat1(es, TJETQq0.00000912 0 612 792 reW*nBT/F5 12 04 Tf1 0 0 1 15297.982.54 Tm0

A consultation of the earliest surviving catalogues and classification indexes in the Library, dating back to the seventeenth century, indicates that the *8* is absent from the 1650 (LC/2) catalogue; (that of 1624 (LC/1) is only concerned with manuscripts). It appears that the first time the book was recorded is in the catalogue dated 1654 (, , - 1 , , ” *8* ” LC/3). This bound volume actually appears to consist of two separate indexes. The first, with the 1654 title page and physically smaller pages, is arranged in subject order ('Libri theologici', 'Libri medici' and 'Libri philologici') with alphabetical entries under each, these being written in the left-hand column of the page—the right-hand column was clearly left blank on the initial compilation of the catalogue to accommodate later entries. The second larger index is arranged alphabetically by author and appears to be of later date, perhaps initially compiled around 1700—there are numerous original entries for books printed from the 1670s to the 1690s.

The entry for *8* in:
New College Library catalogue dated 1654
New College Library, Oxford, LC/3

The Slotan book appears under 'Libri theologici' in the 1654 index, the entry reading: 'Johan Slotanus: A dversus haereses praecipue Lutheran , Col: 1555', with the shelfmark ff.12.4, as found on the title page. It is clearly a somewhat later entry, however, as it is listed on the right-hand side of the page, with a line drawn to indicate its correct position in the alphabetical sequence. The entry for the book in the second alphabetical index only bears the shelfmark M.13.11, which today does not appear on the book.

Entries for the book in further existing library catalogues⁷ allow a sequence of early New College shelfmarks to be compiled: the earliest is undoubtedly ff.12.4; this was superseded by M.11.3, followed by a minor change to M.11.4; M.13.11 is confirmed (in catalogue LC/8) as the latest of the quartet. These shelfmarks, therefore, appear to date in sequence from the initial recording of the book some time after 1654 to the turn of the seventeenth/eighteenth centuries.

The unclassified entry for the Slotan book in a Library catalogue of the early seventeenth century,
in both the main author index (l) and in the shelfmark index (r)
New College Library, Oxford, LC/7

Another entry, however, in a regrettably undated vellum-bound index (LC/7), includes an acknowledgment of the dedication of the book to Mary. This catalogue consists of two distinct parts. The bulk of the volume is an alphabetical author index, in which (at least on the initial compilation) each item under the individual author has been numbered, no matter whether there be a single or multiple entries. These numbers correspond to a separate shelfmark index at the back of the volume, again ordered alphabetically by author, where each number has been allocated a shelfmark—for the most part, at least.

The initial entries in the volume, in both the author and the shelfmark indexes, appear to be the work of one person, as the handwriting is consistently uniform. The initial entries in the main author index have been subsequently augmented by other individuals, as evidenced by the differing

1640 and 1641 with the latest being two from 1644, again written in hands other than that which recorded the majority of entries. This would suggest that the catalogue was initially compiled in the 1620s, or at least the latter half of that decade, continuing in use throughout the 1630s, before falling out of use or being superseded sometime in the mid-late 1640s, ultimately by the catalogue of 1654. If this is the case, it would extend the date of arrival of the Slotan book at New College considerably further back in time than the entry in the 1654 catalogue might suggest.

While the evidence is not conclusive, it may be that the Slotan book arrived at New College in the early seventeenth century, if not before, certainly by the mid-1620s, but remained unclassified in Library ownership until some time after 1654 (but well before 1700). A possible reason for the delay may derive from the very nature of the item—it may not have been desirable to draw attention to, much less circulate, a strongly Catholic text and one dedicated to, and actually adorned with the name of, Mary Tudor once England had again become a Protestant nation under Elizabeth and James I. With the demise of Oliver Cromwell and the Puritan Protectorate in 1658-1660, it may have been felt that the climate had settled sufficiently for it to be finally added to the catalogue.

In his article on the Deleen volume in *Journal of the History of Ideas*, James Willoughby indicated that the circumstances of how and when that item arrived at New College are also unknown, but that it was certainly present before 1697 as it appears in the union catalogue *of the University of Oxford*.

He went on to say that 'The College received many books from the estate of Cardinal Pole, and this is the sort of book, given [former Archbishop Thomas] Cranmer's interest, that Pole might have found at Lambeth when he was Mary's archbishop of Canterbury'.⁹ He cast doubt, however, on Cardinal Pole being the source, citing the fact that Pole had not signed the Deleen volume as was his habit, and stating that New College did not receive his Latin texts. As Valerie Schutte suggests, the Slotan volume may have indeed been sent to Mary at the time of her phantom pregnancy when it was either rejected by the Queen herself or possibly kept out of her hands, maybe by protective guardians at Court. While it too bears no signature, is it possible that the book found its way into the possession of Mary's Archbishop of Canterbury—and, subsequently, into that of New College?