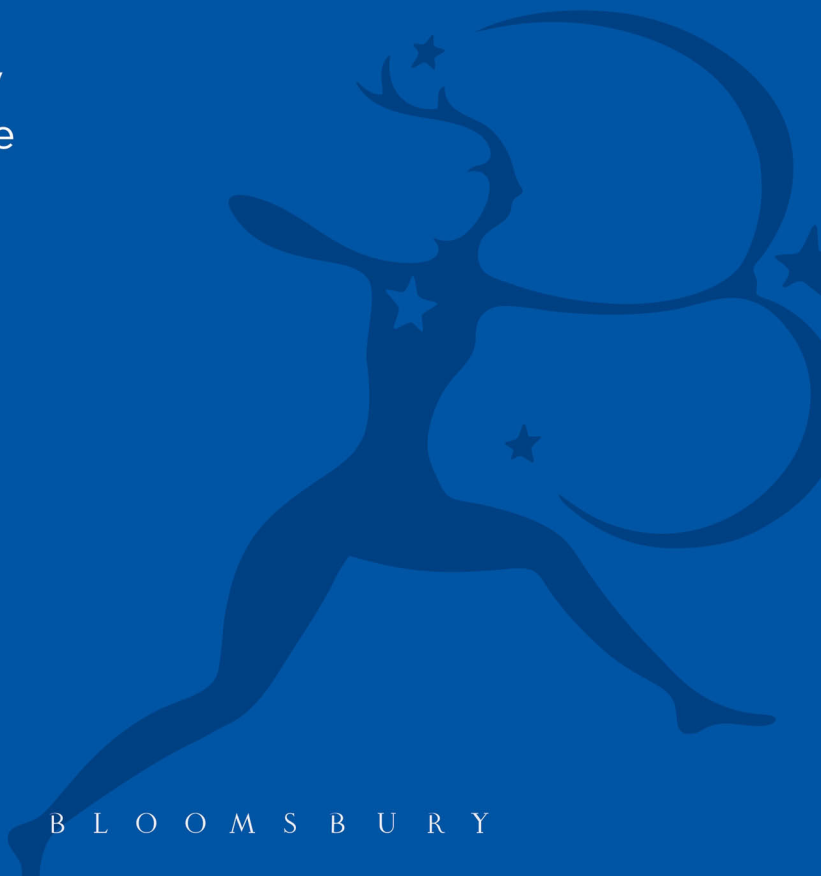


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# LIBRARIANSHIP AND LITERATURE

Essays in Honour of Jack Pafford

Edited by  
A. T. Milne



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**B L O O M S B U R Y**  
LONDON • NEW DELHI • NEW YORK • SYDNEY

**Bloomsbury Academic**

An imprint of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc

50 Bedford Square	1385 Broadway
London	New York
WC1B 3DP	NY 10018
UK	USA

**www.bloomsbury.com**

**Bloomsbury is a registered trade mark of Bloomsbury Publishing Plc**

First published in 1970

This edition published in 2013 by Bloomsbury Publishing plc

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**Bloomsbury Academic Collections**

ISSN 2051-0012

**British Library Cataloguing-in-Publication Data**

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

ISBN: 9781472513427 (Hardback)

ISBN: 9781472511713 (ePDF)

ISBN: 9781472536129 (Bloomsbury Academic Collections:  
English Literary Criticism – General Theory and History)

Entire Collection ISBN: 9781472535412 (Bloomsbury Academic Collections:  
English Literary Criticism)

**Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data**

A catalog record for this book is available from the Library of Congress

Printed and bound in Great Britain

LIBRARIANSHIP  
AND LITERATURE



# Librarianship and Literature

Essays in Honour of

JACK PAFFORD

*Edited by*

A. T. MILNE

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
THE ATHLONE PRESS

1970

*Published by*  
THE ATHLONE PRESS  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON  
*at 2 Gower Street London WC1*  
*Distributed by Tiptree Book Services Ltd*  
*Tiptree, Essex*

*Australia and New Zealand*  
*Melbourne University Press*

*U.S.A.*  
*Oxford University Inc*  
*New York*

© *University of London, 1970*

485 11117 9

*Printed in Great Britain by*  
WESTERN PRINTING SERVICES LTD  
BRISTOL

## PREFACE

WHEN Dr J. H. P. Pafford retired from the position of Goldsmiths' Librarian, University of London, in the summer of 1967, it was suggested that a volume of essays in his honour should be prepared in time for his seventieth birthday, on 6 March 1970. As Dr Pafford has been a prime mover in the formation of the Standing Conference of Librarians of Libraries in the University of London, and its first Chairman, it was fitting that the initiative should have been taken by his colleagues in SCOLLUL, and we were fortunate in persuading Mr A. Taylor Milne, a friend of Jack Pafford from student days at University College, to undertake the task of editing. It was naturally decided that the *Festschrift* should concentrate on the two principal interests of Pafford's career—librarianship and literature—and we are greatly indebted to our friends and colleagues who have contributed the essays which follow. We welcomed also the more personal memoir by Mr Milne, which gives a good idea of the influence Pafford has had in the development of sound principles in his chosen profession and their practical expression: the proper training of librarians, national and international co-operation between libraries, the adequate provision of books to new universities overseas and the choice of proper staffs for them, and the planning of his own library, when he became Librarian of the University of London.

The position of the Goldsmiths' Librarian is probably unique on the British library scene, and the admiration and affection which he has inspired among his colleagues has had no mean influence in itself on library development in our University; his help and advice, diffidently proffered, was never sought in vain.

Side by side with all this professional work he has maintained a steady flow of historical and literary writing, bibliographical information, first-class editing and fair-minded reviewing. The award of the degree of Doctor of Literature recognized the

## PREFACE

level of his scholarship, and the Bibliography prepared by Miss Harries and other members of his Library staff supplies the impressive evidence of his published work. During his retirement from the profession of librarian we may hope that he will make further substantial contributions to learning and literature in his chosen fields.

D. J. Foskett  
Chairman, SCOLLUL

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*The photograph used for the frontispiece was taken in 1967 at the time of Dr Pafford's retirement. The eleven miniatures reproduced opposite p. 123 are from a series of illuminations in the University of London Library (Ms. 620).*

# Dr J. H. P. Pafford

JACK IS A WILTSHIRE MAN, born in the pleasant village of Bradford-on-Avon on the sixth of March in the year 1900 and christened John Henry Pyle Pafford in the parish church. His parents, John Pafford and Bessie Pyle, moved to the neighbouring parish of Holt when Jack was one year old and he attended the village school there from the age of three until he was ten. He then became a pupil at Trowbridge High School for Boys, one of those small, semi-independent educational establishments which are fast disappearing from country towns as well as larger cities. Though ill-equipped for the growing specialization of the twentieth century, they gave an all-round education, which was no bad introduction to adult life and they had the great advantage of ensuring personal contact between the masters, including the headmaster, and every boy in the school. Jack did well at Trowbridge and was particularly prominent at games: he played for his school at cricket and football; he was also in the rifle-shooting and boxing teams. In his last year (1916-17) he was school-captain. He was already deeply interested in literature and thought of taking up a scholastic career once the Great War (as it was then called) was over. While waiting to be called up for national service he became a pupil-teacher at Trinity Boys Elementary School, Trowbridge. After his eighteenth birthday he secured enlistment in the Inns of Court Officers Training Corps. During his short period of military training he won a silver medal for boxing and passed out with a commission as second lieutenant in the Wiltshire Regiment. The First World War was, however, almost over, so that he saw no active service before being demobbed in March 1919. For a few months he went back to teaching as an uncertificated schoolmaster at West Lavington

Elementary School, but in September 1919 he was admitted to University College London, with one of the grants to ex-service men which were being awarded for the first time after the 1914-18 war. At U.C.L. Jack was particularly fortunate in coming under the influence of two great teachers, William Paton Ker, and his successor as Quain Professor of English, Raymond Wilson Chambers. Of the former he wrote, many years afterwards, 'all who came to know him came also to esteem and love him. Not least of these were his students. In a way and to an extent which must be rare in the extreme he left with them a lasting and treasured memory.'<sup>1</sup>

Throughout his life Jack Pafford has remained closely associated with University College London. After graduating in June 1922 (B.A. London, with Honours in English, Second Class Upper Division) he served as an assistant on the library staff of the college for three years, preparing at the same time for the newly-instituted Diploma in Librarianship of the University. He successfully passed the final examination for this in the summer of 1924 and in due course became a Fellow of the Library Association (1926). Meanwhile he was gaining experience as a voluntary lecturer in English language and literature at the Working Men's College, Camden Town, and as an instructor at London County Council evening classes. These active years led to his appointment in 1925 as Librarian and Lecturer in English at the famous Selly Oak Colleges in Birmingham. During his six years there he resided at Fircroft College, where he acted as a tutor and had the opportunity to study quietly as well as to teach. He found time to edit Bale's *King John* and presented it in partial requirement for the M.A. degree of London, finally obtained after examination in 1929.

It was in the following year that he received a travelling fellowship from Selly Oak which enabled him to spend six weeks visiting a number of the major libraries of continental Europe. In a manuscript diary he kept of this tour<sup>2</sup> details are given of his consultations with colleagues interested in schemes for exchange of information between libraries, lending books and periodicals, and other forms of international collaboration which were then only just beginning. In those pre-Nazi days frontiers were easier to cross, and discussions with colleagues

could be frank and unguarded. This highly-rewarding tour gave him the material for what is perhaps his most substantial book: *Library Co-operation in Europe*, which was published by the Library Association in 1935 and received a warm welcome from fellow-librarians and from scholars in general. Despite the destructions of the Second World War and the extensive developments that have followed since 1945 it remains a standard work of reference.

In 1931 Jack Pafford was appointed Sub-Librarian of the National Central Library in London, then under the direction of Colonel Luxmoore Newcombe, his former chief at University College. For the next few years (1931-5) he lived at the Mary Ward Settlement (recently renamed the Mary Ward Centre) in Bloomsbury, where he gave lectures on English literature, and also gave assistance with the small library there and with the active Boys' Club. He acted in the pantomimes put on each Christmas, on at least one occasion writing and producing the annual show himself. In addition to his duties at the National Central Library he was now lecturing on English in the School of Librarianship at University College and examining for the Fellowship of the Library Association (1935-9). During the critical year 1938-3 he helped to evacuate the by now considerable equipment and collections of the National Central Library to Bourne Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, where they were to remain throughout the Second World War. In 1938 Jack had joined the reserve of officers and he was recalled to the Wiltshire Regiment in September 1940. The dullness of hearing which he had begun to experience in early manhood barred him from active service overseas but he quickly rose to the rank of captain and served as a company commander, and for a short while as adjutant, at the Regiment's Headquarters on Salisbury Plain. During the year 1943-4 he was seconded to Southern Command staff at Burford, Oxfordshire. As the war drew to its close problems of preparing men and women in uniform for the return to civil life began to be appreciated and the educational needs of the Forces received greater attention. A wise decision put Jack Pafford, in association with Captain H. R. Mainwood, A.E.C., in charge of the Army Education Scheme for the release period. His pamphlet *Books and Army*