

habit of producing an attractive booklet for his friends each Christmas, and a nice series of these graced Watts Rule's shelves. Newton was perhaps best known as an admirer of Dr. Samuel Johnson and his works. It is relevant here to retail an anecdote that I took pleasure in passing on to Mr. Rule. Newton, at a gathering of academic people, was introduced to a Dr. Johnson, a professor of physics. The latter, knowing something of Newton, smiled quizzically and remarked, "To me, sir, there is only one Newton." Edward Newton struck a pose, and retorted, "Sir, there is only one Dr. Johnson to me!"

Newton and Watts Rule corresponded occasionally, and his letters give an intimate touch to the collection. And I remember his showing me, with some concern, Newton's last Christmas booklet, where he quoted Charles Lamb's "Yours, ratherish unwell". For he had written to me about the same time in the same unhappy strain. It presaged the end, and the end meant something more to Newton—that he would, in the sale of his splendid library, give to others the pleasure he had had in collecting all those treasured volumes. The three-volume sale catalogue is a monument of its kind, such as Newton would have enjoyed preparing—and buying from!

It is tempting to linger on this theme, but the rest of the bequest is also important in divers ways. The selection sought to obtain books that would not only improve the Library's holdings, but reflect some lustre upon the benefactor and his collecting.

Watts Rule's interest in art was the dominating note in his library, as in his life as an architect. Thus two huge volumes (1748 and 1750) of the imposing prints of Piranesi's Roman Architecture were an obvious choice. Four volumes of Japanese colour prints were chosen, one original, two as issued in P. Neville Barnett's editions, and one beautiful volume of Hiroshige.

Two early Bibles were selected, one printed at Lyons in 1643, with woodcuts by Albrecht Durer and others, the other printed at Mainz in 1609, with the superb copper plates of De Bry. As the Library already holds a full set of De Bry's *Voyages*, this latter was an attractive choice.

A Book of Common Prayer printed by Mark Baskett in