

pounds on what later turned out to be forgeries. These acquisitions of course at the time of purchase were accepted as absolutely authentic, and so by pure chance or mischance Mr Turnbull was able to acquire what I hope I can demonstrate to be a more representative collection indeed, though not an absolutely complete one. In my present state of ignorance, I have no knowledge whatsoever as to whether Turnbull, who was ten years Wise's junior, ever personally met Wise. As far as I am aware, there is no correspondence which would indicate this, and the books themselves, insofar as I am cognisant of their provenance, do not indicate it. Mr Turnbull did acquire his books, at least the Wiseian books, over a relatively short period, the first one in 1907 the last one in 1913.

Now these forgeries, some 22 or 23 of them, were acquired from such well known firms as Walter Spencer, the Maggs Brothers and, most interestingly of all, Herbert Gorfin. Gorfin, then a bookseller, was in earlier days Wise's factotum and indeed Wise's confidant, you might say, whereby he could release his piracies, forgeries and private printings to the market at large. Bookseller Gorfin also supplied Spencer and the Maggs Brothers with these choice delicacies, most especially, the choicest one of all, Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *Sonnets*, which Gorfin handled only on commission. Practically all the other ones Gorfin had in stock, but Wise was conscious of the great value of this one little booklet and Gorfin, if he needed one, had to apply to Wise directly. So indirectly then Turnbull had access to Wise only through Gorfin or through the other booksellers that I have mentioned.

The books themselves when acquired were either already bound or bound at Mr Turnbull's direction. The chief binder I discovered for the Turnbull-Wise books was Zaehnsdorf, secondly the well known firm of Rivière, third an establishment I had not heard of before, Jones & Evans, who bound your books, then Sangorski and Sutcliffe, who bound several others. Within an hour or two after my arrival here at the Library, though, I was distracted from these questions of provenance by something else which occupied some 4 or 5 hours of my attention, and even now I have not quite unravelled the complexities of this. I am referring here to the various Turnbull Coats of Arms. There are, I discover, just within the narrow span of the Wiseian area, no fewer than five different coats of arms on these books and within them some 4 different Turnbull plates, one of them in two different states; and beyond those four Turnbull plates there are 3 different Turnbull Library plates. This, of course, is quite tangential to the real matter at hand, which is not Arms or plates, but what lies beyond all that. Still, just this morning Mrs Scott found for me a letter from Wise to Percival Watts Rule, this dated 9 September 1931 when Wise, then in possession