

unsuccessful suitor who was acquitted of murder (his three alleged associates were hanged) is linked in one broadside with the departure of another detested foreigner, the Duchess of Portsmouth, the French and Catholic mistress of Charles II, in the *Duchess of Portsmouth's and Count Coningsmarks' Farwel to England* (1682). The collection also includes the 'virulent pamphlet' of 1682, noted in the *DNB*, attacking the Duchess in unequivocal language. It is reputed that Nell Gwyn the King's actress mistress rebuked a hostile mob at Carfax which had mistaken her coach for that of the Duchess of Portsmouth with the words 'Pray good people, be civil, I am the *Protestant* whore'. Bishop Gilbert Burnet, that 'vigorous polemist' as the *DNB* describes him, whose major works are already well represented in the Turnbull collections, is attacked in three pieces dated 1682 and in another after his departure for France in 1683. This 'late scurrilous pamphlet' *Dr B—t's Farewell* (1683) drew a two page broadsheet reply from Burnet which is also in the collection.

The first item, *His Majesties Letter to Both Houses of Parliament 20 Januarii 1641* and the last, *Whereas it hath Pleased Almighty God to Call to His Mercy our Late Sovereign Lady Queen Anne of Blessed Memory . . . Prince George, Elector of Brunswick-Lunenbergh . . . is now Become Our Lawful and Rightful Leige Lord . . . 1st August 1714* are representative both of the political concerns of an age of revolution and of the official pieces which make up over a third of the collection. It is worthy of note that of the 30 items published between 1641 and 1649, a period of reduced official censorship and the growth of unofficial printing, all are official while most of the pieces for the period 1650-59 are official or semi-official. The obvious deficiency here, as elsewhere in the collection, is that of the popular literature of the street. There are only two ballad pieces, both of 1679, and only a handful of 'amazing occurrences' and accounts of non-political trials and murders and no almanacs. None of the 75 ballads and verse broadsides in Hyder E. Rollins' *Cavalier and Puritan: Ballads and Broad-sides Illustrating the Period of the Great Rebellion 1640-1660* (New York, 1923) is included. The evidence from the catalogues of the printed materials of this period such as those of the Thomason Tracts and the Narcissus Luttrell collection in the British Library and the Bibliotheca Lindesiana is that this new acquisition is not truly representative of the broadside and broadsheet output of the period.

Several explanations for the absence of some categories and the overall weakness in street literature can be offered but without a statement of provenance for the collection they are little more than speculation. One obvious explanation is that the dedicated work of the bibliographers of English broadside literature, men like Rollins,