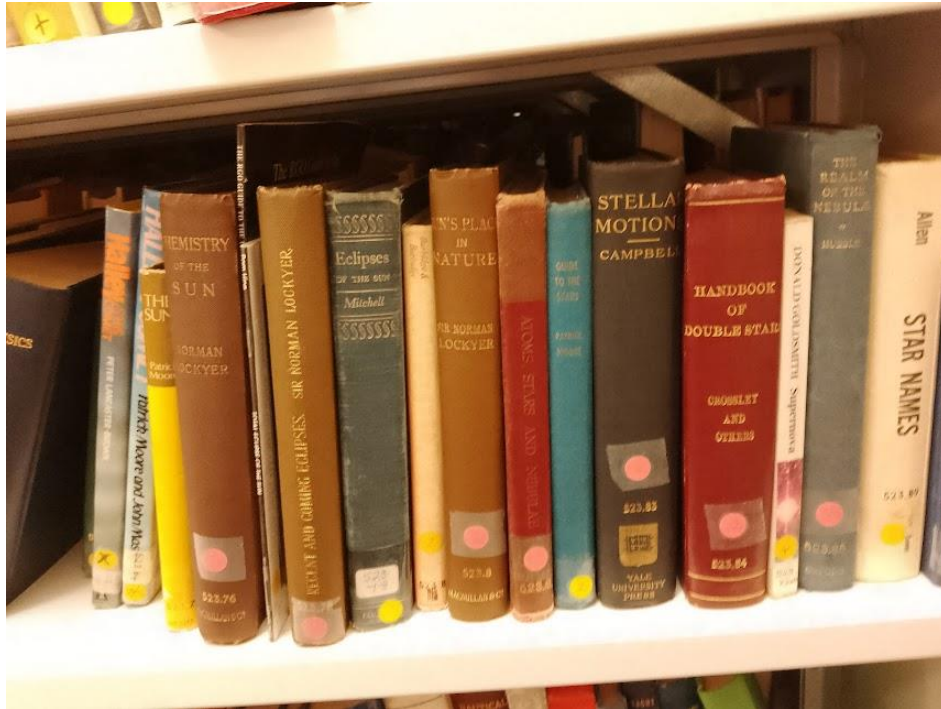


## An exploration of the Lady Lockyer Bequest and books by Sir Norman Lockyer held in Exeter Central Library Stack



*Books in the Stack*

Thanks to Librarian, Jez Winship, I have enjoyed a few visits to the Stack (an Aladdin's cave full of treasure beneath Exeter Central Library) to specifically look at the books by Sir Norman and those from the Lady Lockyer Bequest containing books from their own private collection as well as those belonging to her and her family. Although Lady Lockyer submitted some of her drawings to a magazine, she did not produce a book of these. This Lady Lockyer is Sir Norman's second wife, whose family lived in Brownlands, Sidmouth, just down from where the Observatory is situated.

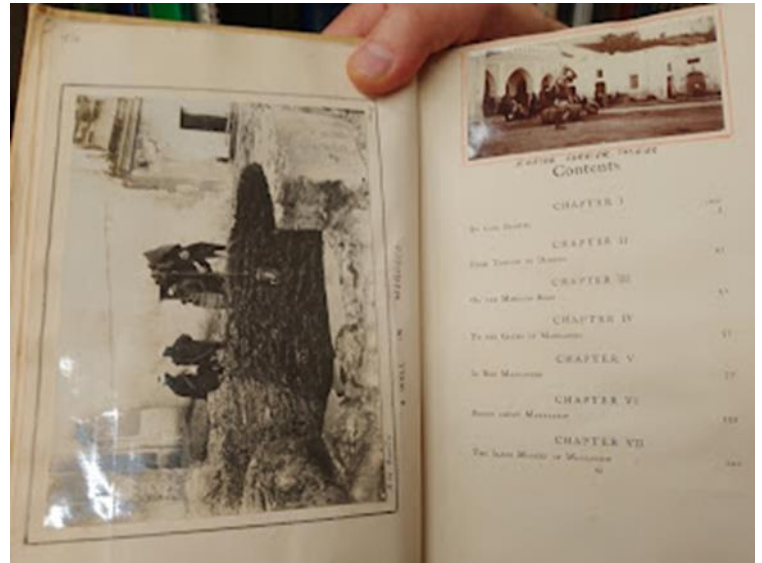
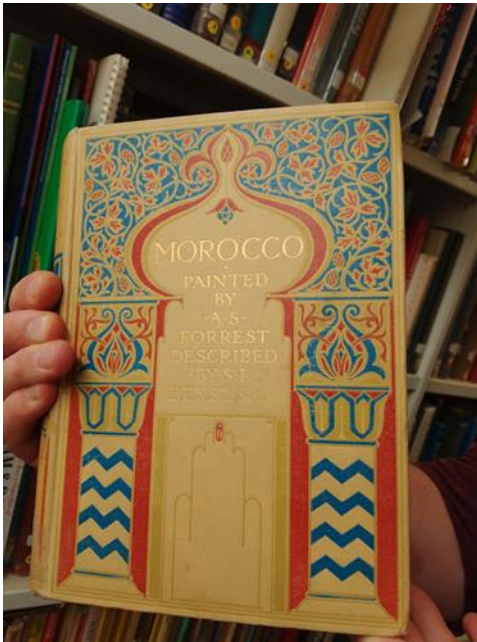
The bequest included several natural history ones which had evidently been in her family. There was a magnificent Japanese folio of temple and artefact drawings which I wonder whether was brought back from Sir Norman's travels.

Other books that form the Lady Lockyer bequest include a first edition Pilgrim's Progress, Knox's Essays, Lamb A History of Chess, a gruesome edition of Fox's Martyrs and a beautifully illustrated book of the genus Iris by WR Dykes in 1914. There is also a 1777 edition of Geography by Guthrie, Lamb A History of Chess, Trees and Shrubs of the British Isles by Cooper, 1909. And a book of letters by Lord Chesterfield and a 1798 edition of Economy of Life.

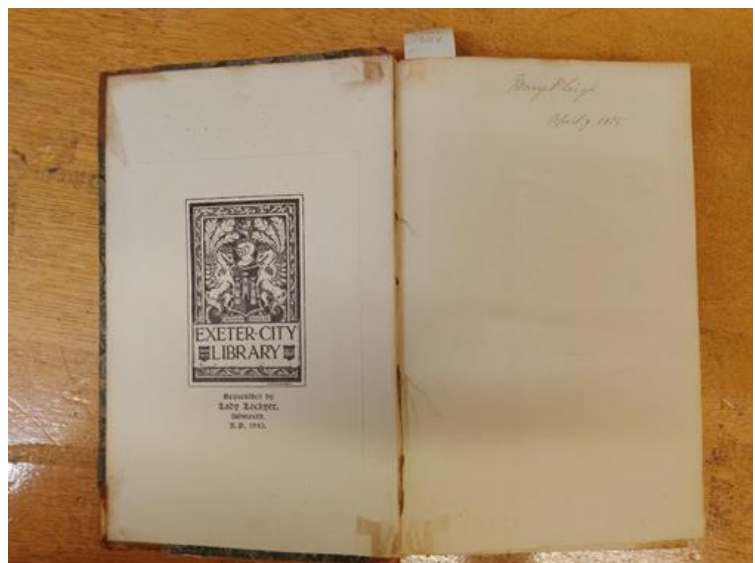
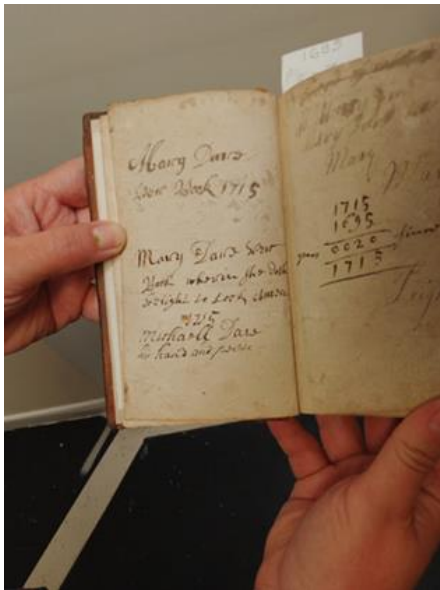
Most have bookplates to the effect that they are bequeathed to Exeter City Library by Lady Lockyer. Some of the books are inscribed by a C or E Carslake of Sidmouth, the grandparents of Lady Lockyer. Others seem to be old, much cherished family books handed

down from generation to generation, while others evidently belonged to her first husband, Brodhurst, with the remainder belonging to both Sir and Lady Lockyer.

I love this splendid book about Morocco with its extravagant cover:

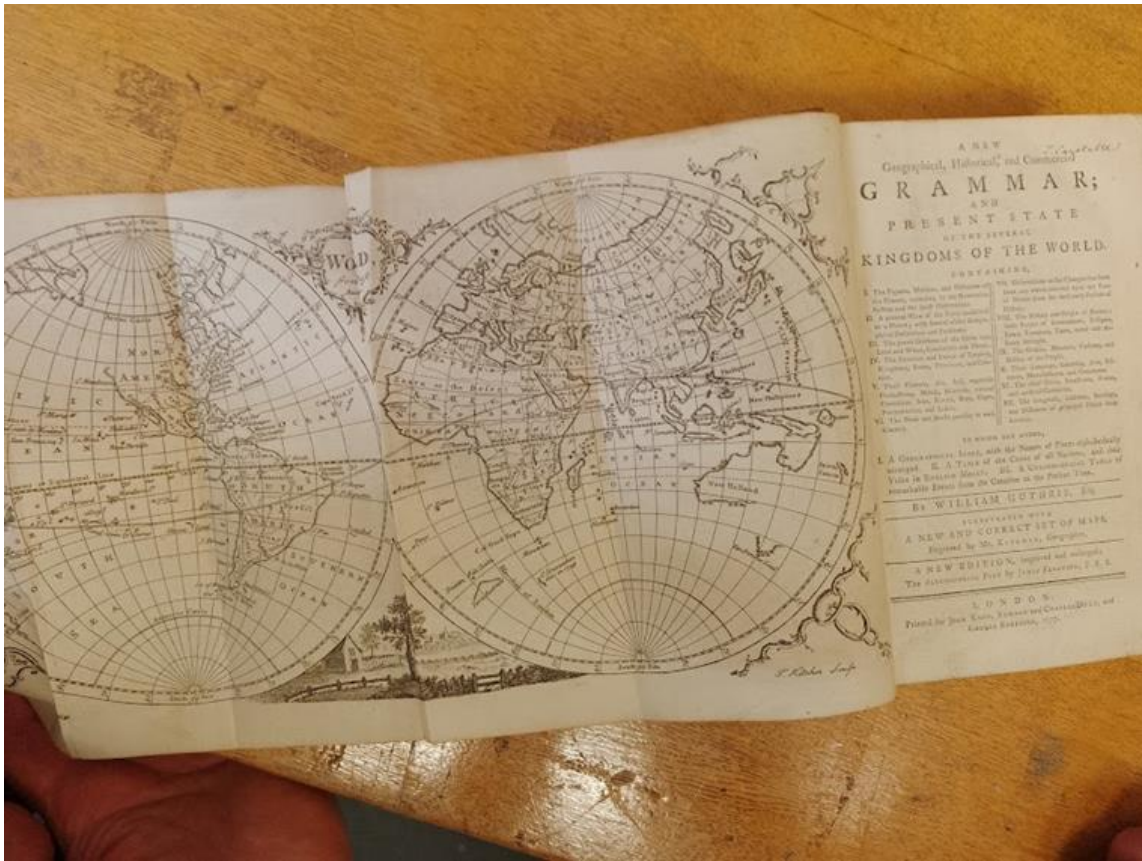


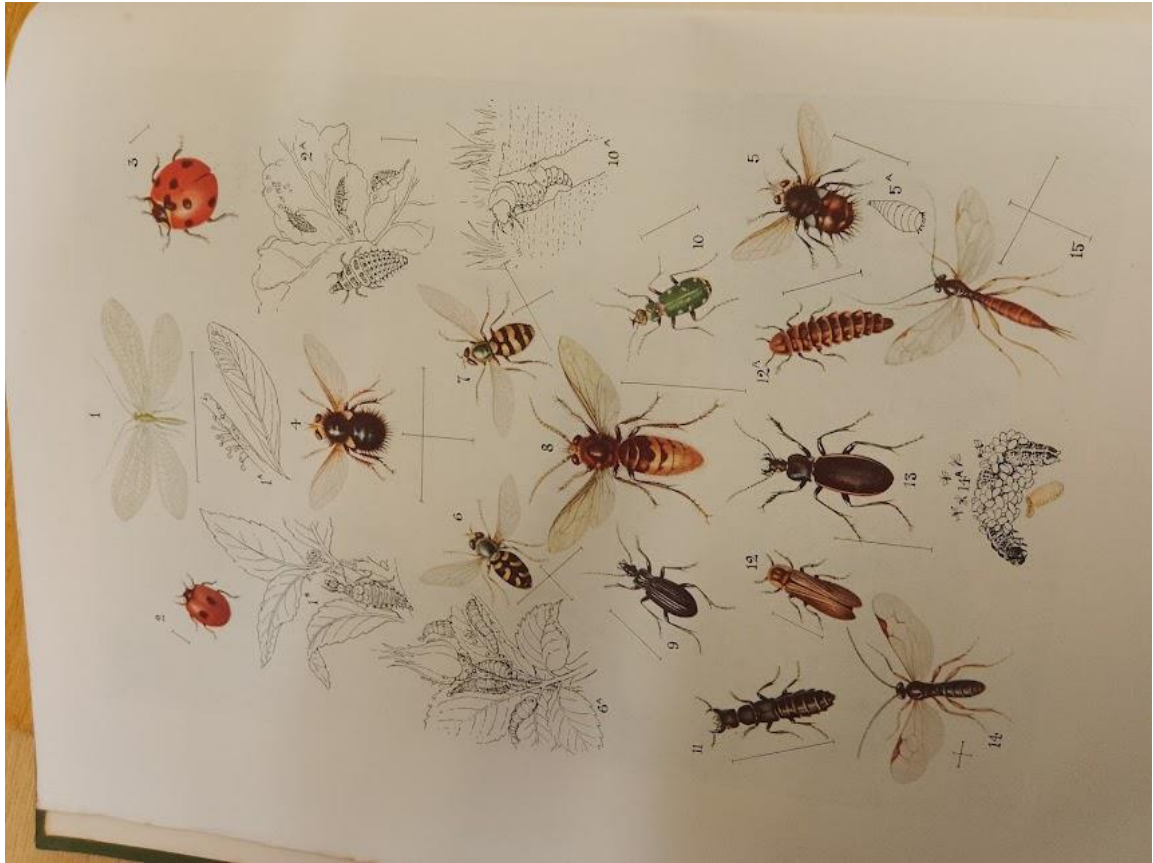
*Some more of the many books from the Lady Lockyer Bequest*





*Iris pallida*

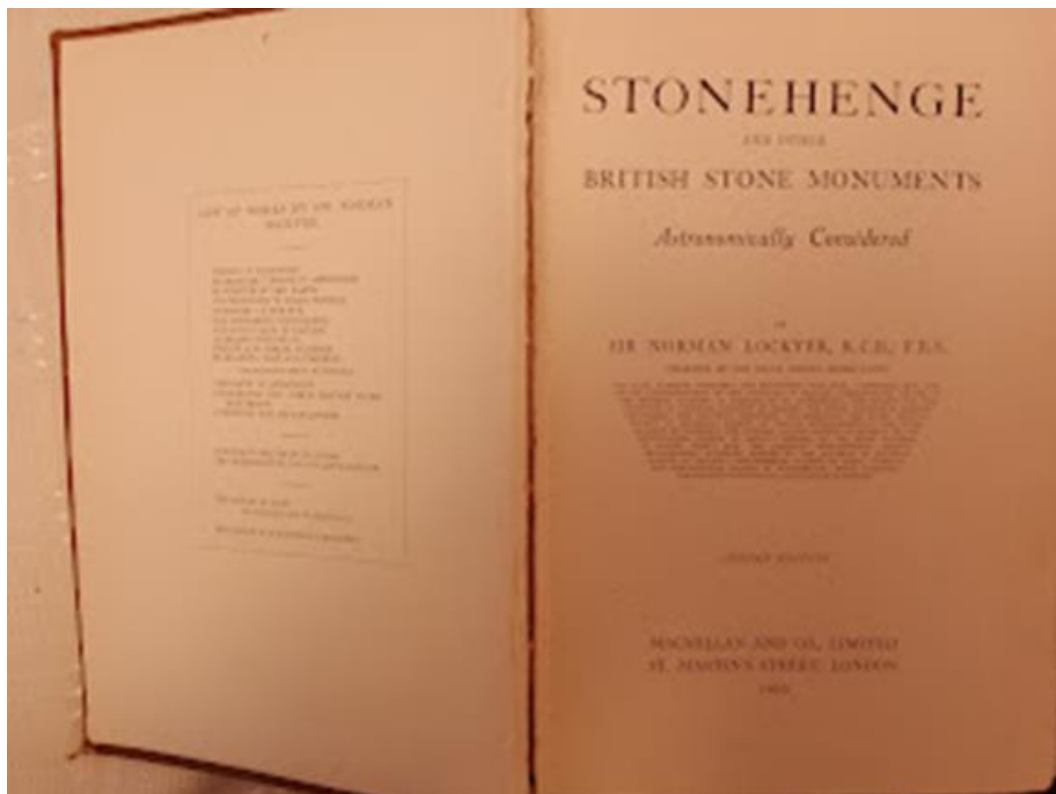
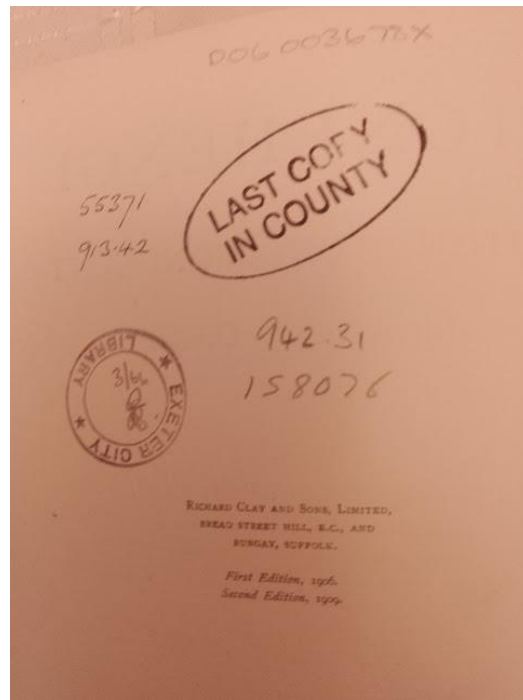




Sadly, the library just doesn't have the resources to put them on display, so the more valuable ones are kept safely in the vaults.

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Those by Sir Norman himself, however, are freely available to take out on loan from the Stack:



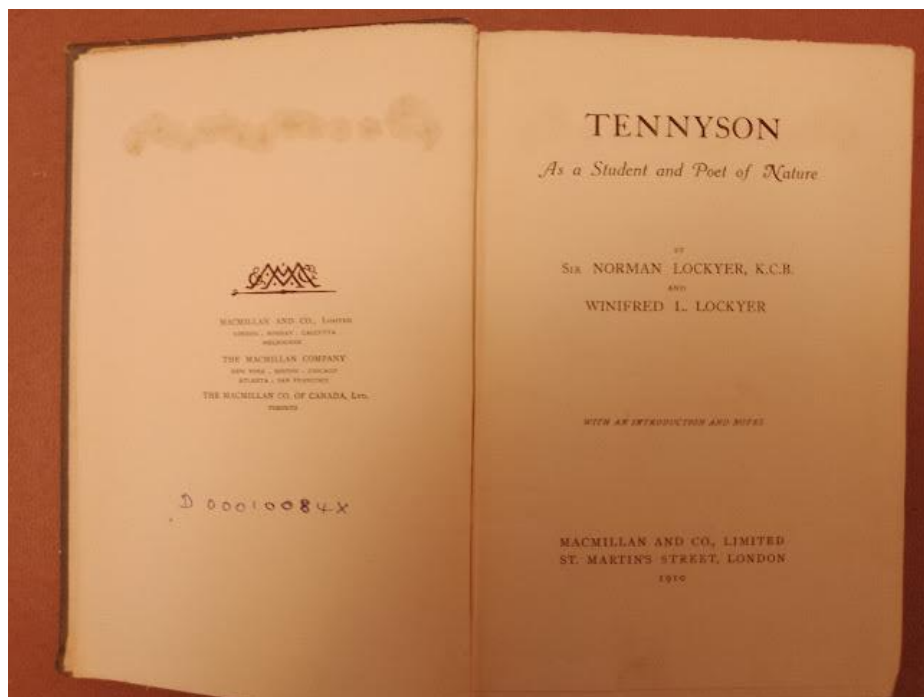
**‘Stonehenge and Other British Stone Monuments’** was written by Sir Norman Lockyer in 1906 with the second edition of 1909 updating the research and is the volume I examine here. In his Preface to the first edition, Sir Norman is scathing at the lack of government funding and support for ancient monuments, referring to their ‘supineness’. He hopes that

with the second edition he will inspire people to continue researching into ancient monuments.

The research Sir Norman undertook at Stonehenge and other monuments was supported by an array of national and local experts. His research into British monuments arose from his interest and research into Greek and Egyptian monuments and their relationship to the stars and sun. He is in no doubt that the British monuments are aligned with stars and in ways that mirror those in Egypt. He is respectful of ancient people, noting their accurate representations of animals and the accuracy of alignments. He notes that their accurate astronomical observations provide the basis for further study of the heavens. By 1909 it was clear that stone circle building had come southwards through Britain from Europe via Scotland, with those in Cornwall being the youngest. With no resources to understand their observations, he suggests that worship of the sun, moon and stars is natural.

In conclusion, Sir Norman reminds us that observations of the Sun and stars were vital for telling the time and for agriculture and predate any clepsydrae. He also thinks that the origin of priestly power comes from this time, growing out of the few 'men who knew'. Finally, he notes that the so-called druids mentioned in Roman times were probably descendants of those earlier astronomer priests.

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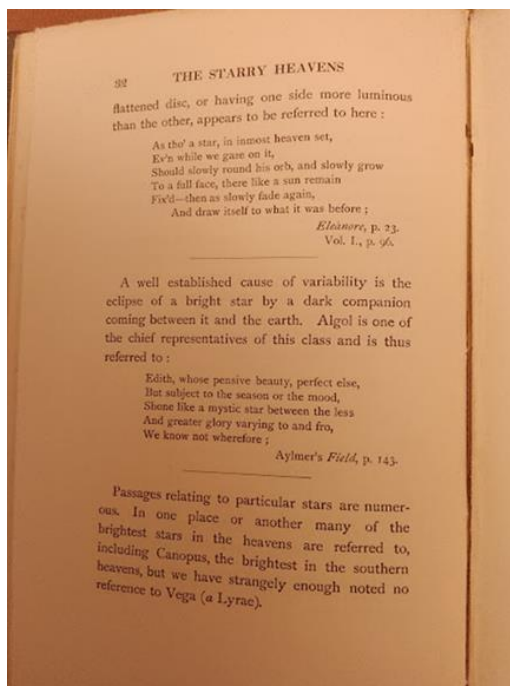
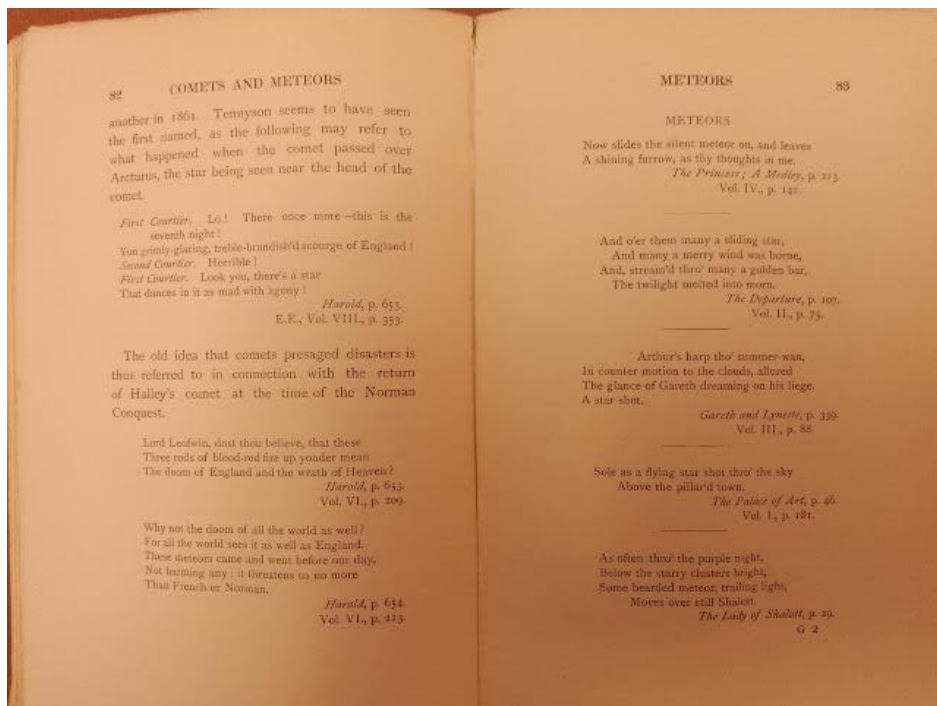


In 1910, Sir Norman managed to complete a book, with his daughter, about **Tennyson** as a student and poet of nature, first begun in 1870 with, and following a suggestion from, his first wife, Winifred. When they were first married, his wife was busy in her own right as translator and editor of 'Le Ciel' by Guillemin, with which Sir Norman assisted. He suffered a nervous breakdown upon her death in 1879 aged just 42. It was a significant loss, as she was so involved with his work, as well as leaving seven children to his care.

In this hugely detailed book are quotes from Tennyson's poems with accompanying notes to explain the science. Sir Norman is full of admiration for the accurate portrayal of nature and astronomical events in particular. Sir Norman was keen that the general public be made aware of Tennyson's immense knowledge and to appreciate it.

In the Preface he acknowledges Lord Tennyson's assistance with the proofs, as well as listing various other worthy individuals who gave up their time to help with this work. This shows that Sir Norman continued to engage with many interesting individuals throughout his life alongside his keen interest across so many subjects. For me, this book acts as a link to the other books in the bequest which show a wide range of interests in his household with an appreciation of great works of literature and the value of books.

Also, in this book, Sir Norman himself refers to the pipe rack in his home in which his friends could leave their pipes in named holders ready for the next visit to converse and smoke. This is noted in a biography by AJ Meadows and a nugget of information retold during open days, so it was nice to have confirmation from the man himself that this actually happened.





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In the 'Stonehenge' book, Sir Norman refers to a Professor Gowland. The Professor is described as being an avid collector of Japanese artefacts and paintings, many of which he donated to the British Museum. And I wonder whether it is he who gave the marvellous portfolio of drawings of Japanese temple artefacts to Sir Norman and Lady Lockyer (and which forms part of her bequest and, as such, is not freely available for loan although a request can be made for it to be brought out for looking at).

This photograph is of the huge tomes, entitled 'Japanese Temples and their Treasures'.



...and a sample of the inside:



In Sir Norman's book explaining spectroscopy there is an advertisement for his new journal 'Nature'. This journal exemplifies his mission to bring the latest scientific research and understanding to the wider public. The book, though, is a compilation of several lectures delivered by Sir Norman in 1869. It provides a comprehensive overview of spectroscopy complete with a fold out illustration of various spectra.

Karen Williams  
March 2024