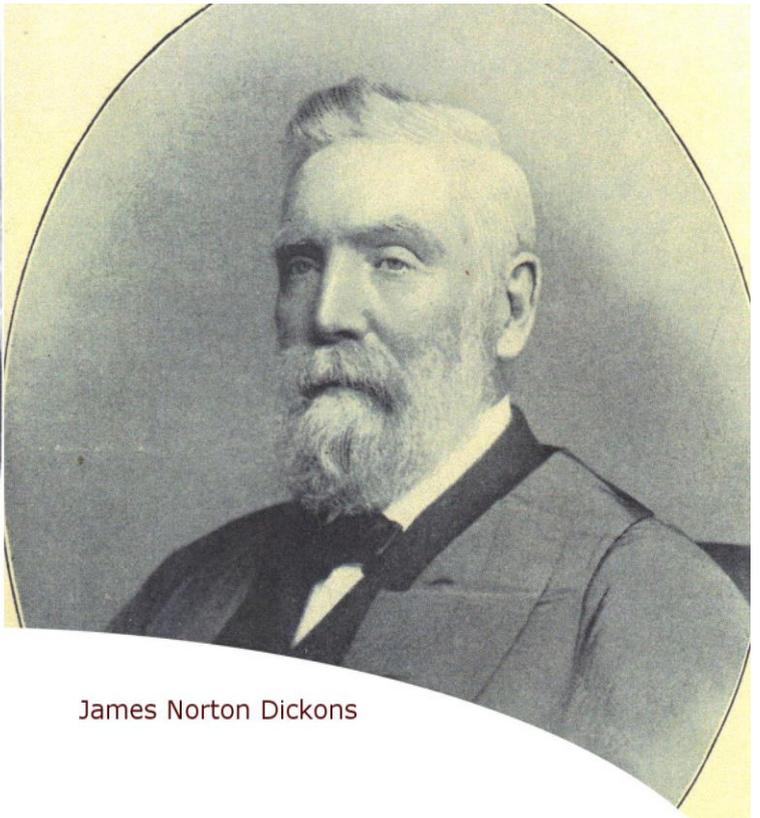




Charles Antoine Federer



James Norton Dickons

Bradford Local Studies Library

Federer, Dickons & Empsall Collections of 18th & 19th Century Publications

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Federer, Dickons & Empsall Collections of 18th & 19th Century Yorkshire Publications

Bradford 'Free' (i.e. Public) Library was founded in 1872. From the start efforts were made to collect books and other material relating to Bradford and the surrounding areas. A valuable boost to this activity was the donation and purchase of a number of collections of books and pamphlets from private collectors. Three of these collections are described below and are available for the public to consult.

The Federer Collection

Charles Antonine Federer (1837-1908) was born in Switzerland but came to England in 1857 and settled in Bradford where he taught languages. He was an author of articles and books on local history, dialect and Methodism. He was a founder member of the Bradford Historical and Antiquarian Society and edited the *Bradford Antiquary* for 14 years. His library of some 8,000 items was purchased by the public library after his death. "Mr Federer collected with utmost enthusiasm books and pamphlets written by Yorkshiremen, in every part of the world, and works written or printed within the county, or having any other local connection, and he was successful in finding and acquiring a very considerable number of works of the greatest rarity." (*Yorkshire Observer*, 2 Dec. 1908) The collection has an estimated 8,000 items.

Over half the collection consists of pamphlets which are now available on microfiche. A card catalogue of the collection (in manuscript) is available for the public to consult. It is in three sequences: Author, Town, and Subject.

The J. N. Dickons Collection

James Norton Dickons (1837-1912) was a Bradford solicitor, historian and book collector of note. On his death many of his books were acquired by the library. Unlike Federer, who collected 'ephemera', Dickons was more discerning in his collecting activities, focussing mainly on archaeology and Bradford history. Some items date back to the 18th century. The catalogue to the Dickons Collection, also on

cards and in manuscript, is in a 'dictionary' format with headings for authors, places and subjects arranged in a single alphabetical sequence. (*Note:* Most of the pamphlets are bound together in single volumes of up to forty items. These have tight bindings which, together with the fragile paper, make them hard to use and impossible to photocopy.)

The Empsall & Miscellaneous Pamphlet Collections

Thomas Thornton Empsall (1824-1896) was born in Brighouse and set up a small textile business in Bradford. He was a Bradford councillor and Borough Auditor. While the focus of the collection is Bradford and its surrounds, it tends more to institutional publications and topics of contemporary social concern.

The catalogue of the Empsall Collection is integrated with the Pamphlet Collection of the Local Studies Library, which covers similar topics. The catalogue has Author and Subject sequences on cards. The location code for the Empsall items are prefixed by the letter 'E' in red biro.

Using the Collections

These collections are located in the Local Studies Library in Margaret Macmillan Tower (ground floor, side entrance). The catalogues cabinets are situated at the back of the Local Studies Library reading room. Take care in using the catalogues as the cards are on non-standard-sized cards and cannot be secured by metal rods.

Items may be consulted on request to the staff. You will be asked for your library card (or alternative proof of identity) and asked to fill in a Request Slip for each item. Make sure you note which collection the items you require are part of, and note the location code at the bottom of each card. All items are located in a basement, so please allow time for the staff to locate the items and use lifts. Most of the items are in a fragile condition, so please take care in handling them.

Some Examples of Items in the Collections

Federer Collection

- Report of the Anti-Afghan War. Public Meeting at St. George's Hall, Bradford, 1878
- Methodism. Bradford Conference. 1874
- Richard Oastler: A Sermon preached in St. James Church, Bradford. 1861 by the Rev. G.S.Bull

Dickons Collection

- Condition of the Working Classes, by R. Baker. 1851
- An Act for Making and Keeping Navigable the Rivers Aire and Calder. 1768
- An Act for Repairing and Enlarging the Roads from the Town of Selby to the Town of Leeds; and from thence (in two separate branches, one through Bradford and Horton, and the other through Bowling and Wibsey) to the Town of Halifax. 1734
- Report on the Health of Bradford for the Year 1879

Empsall Collection

- Independent Labour Party, Souvenir Programme of the ILP Demonstration, 1910
- Bradford ten years ago and now. 1889
- Tyersal Old Hall. Catalogue of Contents for Sale by Auction. 1883
- Wool Sorter's Guild. Rules. No date.

Further Information

Further information on these collections is available. Please ask the staff.

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