

THE LOST BOOKS OF LIVY.

AN INTERESTING STORY.

By Professor Darnley Naylor.

On August 5, 1924, the world of scholarship, professional and amateur, was deeply stirred by the announcement that an Italian professor had discovered the lost books of Livy, the historian. These books were known to have been extant in the tenth century and, although they had disappeared for nearly 1,000 years, there was nothing a priori impossible about their discovery. Livy wrote 142 books (say 30 modern octavo volumes of 300 pages each), but, of these 142, only 35 have survived, viz. 1 to 10, and 21 to 45 inclusive. We possess brief abstracts (about 100 words each) of all save books 126 and 127. These abstracts have merely whetted the desire for more, containing as they do, accounts of important events and personalities, authority for which is either meagre, or late and doubtful. Excitement, of course, would have been greater had Livy continued his history up to the year of his death in A.D. 17. Unfortunately he went no further than B.C. 2. Even so, the interest was great among the cultured, intense among savants, and agonising among schoolboys.

News of the Discovery.

The happy discoverer was stated to be Dr. di Martino Fusco, of Naples University. He had a reputation as a classical scholar and was considered by his friends to be a man of honor and integrity. He did not make his discovery known publicly, although the manuscript had been in his possession for more than 18 months; but apparently he had, on certain occasions, broken through his reserve and mentioned to friends in a guarded fashion the good fortune which had fallen to his lot. A tradition existed that two codices of Livy's history lay in a Neapolitan convent. Dr. Fusco had followed up this tradition and, after a long and arduous search, his patience was at last rewarded. He saw before him in the vault of an ancient monastery, now covered by the military prison of Naples, the longed-for manuscript, written (as usual) in capitals, without division of words or sentences, and in a poor state of preservation. No one could well be surprised that he had spent some 18 months in producing a text of books 11 to 20 which should be legible and intelligible to modern readers. His continued reticence, however, raised doubts, and these were strengthened when eager reporters were unable to discover him in his home. He had, so it was stated, fled to the mountains in order to escape the glare of publicity which had suddenly been turned upon him.

Genuineness Not Doubted.

Meantime Professor d'Elia, director of the Neapolitan library, and Senator Cocchia, of the University, had expressed themselves as having no doubts of the genuineness of the discovery. The former, indeed, had hinted that even greater surprises were in store for the world: that a life of Christ written in the sixth or seventh decade of the first century was included in the new finds. A further item, but of minor interest, was the assertion that a German scholar (of whom more anon) had actually seen part of the Livian manuscript and had been allowed to transcribe a few lines. Excitement grew apace as the weeks passed. On September 1, news arrived that Dr. di Martino Fusco was busy at Capri (ill-omened place of the retirement of mad Tiberius) copying books 11-20. These were to be ready for publication in January, if only ardent journalists abstained from disturbing the agitated discoverer. After the publication of these ten books, the remainder would be distributed among other scholars for transcription.

"There is a Mistake."

On September 8, the Royal Academy of Naples issued invitations to all its members for a meeting at which Dr. di Martino Fusco was to make an official statement. This was reassuring, but "Il Mattino" published on the same date news of a type-written note from Dr. di Martino Fusco, in which there occurred such cautious expressions as "The elements of the case may assume finally different values from those which a hurried study may lead one to assume." But saddest of all was an alleged statement, "There is a mistake. I am reconstructing codices of Livy of the sixth century. I have not found the original text." These words, if true, but added further darkness, which was temporarily dispelled by a curious narrative given to the Leipzig "Tagblatt" on September 12 (the date is important) by the German scholar to whom I have already referred. This gentleman, by name Dr. Funke, had, so he said, paid a visit more than a year back

to "his friend," Dr. di Martino Fusco. At that visit he had seen the manuscript, and with his friend's permission, transcribed some twelve words. Of these twelve, five reached England. As first reported they ran thus: "ubi multitudo hominum in sperata accessit." Not much to go upon, one would say. But at least no harm was done; for the words might have been written by Livy; indeed, in certain features, they were quite characteristic. They could be roughly translated, "when a surprising number of persons showed a surprising interest in the matter." The editor of the "Manchester Guardian," rather cruelly, found in the words an oracular reference to the position of Dr. di Martino Fusco.

But within a few hours the most sanguine hopes were dashed. The other seven words transcribed by Dr. Funke came into the hands of Professor A. E. Housman. Most people know A. E. Housman as the author of "A Shropshire Lad," but he is also a distinguished Latinist, Regius Professor at Cambridge, and well known for his critical acumen and mordant wit. And what were the seven words? Somewhat corrupted, but clear enough for any scholar accustomed to manuscripts, they read as follows: "audire Gallum de sancti Martini virtutibus locutarum." Thus the "surprising number of persons" (above mentioned) had come "to hear one Gallus preach about the virtues of Saint Martin." It was a cruel blow. Livy had not yet written an infinitive of purpose, nor had he heard of Gallus, born as Gallus was some centuries later. But Professor Housman went one step further; he gave the author, with chapter and verse, from whom the words have been borrowed.

Last Scene of the Comedy.

The last scene of the comedy had been reached, but before the dropping of the curtain Dr. Funke's spark was to be stamped out and a whiter light thrown upon Dr. di Martino Fusco. It soon became clear that Dr. Funke was entirely unknown to Dr. di Martino Fusco, and that the notorious lines had been copied by Dr. Funke from a Naples newspaper of September 2, 1924. This paper (the "Mezzogiorno") had published them merely as specimens of uncial writing. The ingenious Funke had improved upon the third and fourth lines, and two German papers, in the largest university towns of Germany, "fell plump" (to quote Professor Conway) "into the trap, and gave us the rare amusement of hearing it close up tight, with a fine snap, at the touch of Professor Housman's finger."

A commission appointed by the Italian Government sat and reported. Dr. di Martino Fusco made a complete withdrawal of his claims to have discovered anything and gave an "explanation" of his "mistake." Nevertheless the commission added that the Government "would maintain continued vigilance." What these last cryptic words exactly signify, no one seems to know. Possibly they are no more than a reiteration of the Government's purpose to prevent the exportation from Italy of any valuable monument of antiquity. Other interpretations, however, have been put upon the words, and of a more sinister kind. As these hint at a coming quarrel between Church and State, we may leave the trouble to be settled by Signor Mussolini.

Such is the "affaire Tite Live," half comic, half pathetic. But not least curious, among several curious points in the story, is the coincidence that the "Mezzogiorno" should have published twelve chance words from a late Latin writer intimating that "an extraordinary number of people were interested in hearing about the virtues of S. Martino," whose dark namesake (Martino Fusco) was to create an even livelier interest fifteen centuries later.

ADVERTISER 9-5-25

UNIVERSITY DEBATES.

The debates between teams representing Adelaide and Oxford Universities on May 13, 15, and 18, will be broadcast by 3CL. The last will be held in the Town Hall, when the subject will be "That it is in the best interests of the Empire that Great Britain shall remain a free trade country." The opening speech, by Mr. M. MacDonald, of Oxford, will be the only one broadcast on this occasion. The members of the Oxford team (Messrs. J. D. Woodruff, M. C. Hollis, and M. MacDonald) will be entertained at luncheon by the Commonwealth Club on Wednesday. The Lord Mayor of Adelaide (Mr. C. R. J. Glover) will tender a civic reception to the members of the Oxford team in the Lady Mayoress's room at 11.30 a.m. on Wednesday.

CANBERRA FORESTRY SCHOOL.

A Commonwealth Innovation.

MELBOURNE, Friday. The Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) stated this afternoon that Cabinet had decided to establish a forestry school in the Federal Capital Territory. The cost of building, maintenance, and salaries of the teaching staff would be borne by the Commonwealth; but not the cost of subsistence. Requests had been made to the State Premiers for information as to the number of students that could be guaranteed by each State. The diploma course would be fixed at two years, and while a University science degree was the qualification aimed at, to form the school a two years' University art course would be accepted for the start.

ADVERTISER 9-5-25 UNIVERSITY GROUNDS.

The acting vice-chancellor of the University (Dr. Rennie), Sir George Brookman, and Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., waited on the Minister of Education (Hon. L. L. Hill), yesterday, on behalf of the University Council, and asked that land at the rear of the University grounds be dedicated to the council. This ground was previously used in connection with the Jubilee Oval, and had on it a railway line and shed. It was intended if the land were made available to extend the University grounds to Victoria-drive to enable a graduates union building to be erected, and to provide extra facilities for the University. The Minister promised to take the matter to Cabinet, and to give a reply as early as possible.

ADVERTISER 9-5-25

MUSIC EXAMINATIONS AND THE UNIVERSITY.

From EDWARD HOWARD:—In your issue of May 6 Dr. Davies gives a resume of the deliberations of the Australian Music Examinations Board. This board is soliciting public patronage on the strength of its relationship to "the Universities of Adelaide, Melbourne, Western Australia, and Queensland, together with the State Conservatorium of New South Wales." For these Universities to enter into commercial undertakings such as this, and that of their Conservatoriums, catering as they do for all grades, and entering into competition with outside teachers and institutions, is indefensible, as stated in my letter of April 28, and should receive the earnest attention of the councils of the various Universities. That there should be an Australian Music Examination Board is good. That it should derive its prestige from the Universities, not from the qualifications of its members as musicians, is bad. The public naturally and properly respect the Universities, and these seats of learning owe a duty to the public when dealing with artistic matters. Otherwise, why should not the teaching of painting, sculpture, and art generally be brought into touch and dependence on University patronage. If this aid were solicited, artists would be informed that it was inappropriate, and that they should be able to exist by means of their artistic capabilities. One thing is certain—the gentlemen forming the board and the teachers connected with the Conservatoriums, will never take steps to sever their connection with the Universities. Why should they? Their bread is buttered on that side. It would mean more butter on the bread of others of us were we recognised by the Universities. That 15,000 candidates presented themselves for examination does not prove much, unless it be that a large income is derived from this source, and that the board, if thoroughly reliable, should be able to exist apart from the Universities. In this regard it would be instructive for those interested to compare the personal of the examiners of the Australian board with that of the examiners of the English institutions apart from that of the London College of Music.

THE ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

NEW ASSOCIATION FORMED.

If the ideals of the newly-formed Elder Conservatorium Association are realised a big impetus should be given to musical advancement in this State in the near future.

A meeting of past and present students was held at the Elder Conservatorium on Monday evening, when Dr. E. H. Davies presided over a large attendance.

Dr. Davies said it had long been agreed that an association which should aim at the advancement of music in South Australia was desirable. They had the nucleus of such an association present that night, and he was sure that as an



Mr. Frederick Bevan.

organised body they could help to make music as vitally important a factor in the life of the community as it was in their own lives. Every member should assist in advancing the culture of music, which was too frequently regarded by the majority of people as a mere amusement. It was not a case of what they would individually get out of such an association but of what they could put into it. There were many avenues open to them. They could, for instance, encourage original composition. There was the promotion of fraternal feeling among themselves such as had brought the Sydney musicians together, and visiting celebrities might be fittingly entertained. He hoped to see the scheme extended so that some day they would be able to take into their ranks associate members who were in sympathy with their ideals. They could arrange lectures, discussions, and recitals, and, above all, they could organise public opinion for the definite upholding of laudable undertakings. What had been done for the South Australian Orchestra was an example of what was possible in that direction, and they could reinforce public sentiment and support, and also help to make a success of the quartet concerts. The music teachers' conference, to be held from July 12 to July 18, was another thing they might well support.

It was unanimously decided that the Elder Conservatorium Association be formed. Any student of the Conservatorium, either past or present, was declared eligible for membership if over the age of 16.

Dr. Davies, in nominating Mr. Frederick Bevan as chairman of the committee, said no man had the interests of music more at heart. The choice was unanimously approved, as was that of Mr. I. G. Reimann as vice-chairman. A committee of seven was appointed, with the Director of the Conservatorium as a member ex officio to draft the constitution. Past students will be represented by Miss Katie Joyce and Mr. Arthur Williamson, present students by Miss Elsie Willmore and Mr. Alec Burnard, and the staff by Madame Delmar Hall and Mr. George Pearce.

Over 300 names have already been received for enrolment, and it is hoped that old scholars throughout the State will take advantage of the opportunity of maintaining a connecting link between their student days and the present. It was decided at the suggestion of Dr. Davies that four meetings should be held yearly, the first and the last to be of a social character. The first of these will be held at the Conservatorium on June 22, when Mr. Bevan will be responsible for the programme. It is hoped that the new association will be in a position to welcome Mr. Fritz Kreisler, the famous violinist, in a fitting manner when he comes to Adelaide.