

The Exhibition was peculiarly rich in Manuscript music books for the virginals and lute of the Elizabethan period. For the virginals there were the well-known books of Will. Forster and Benjamin Cosyn from the Royal Music Library, Buckingham Palace, and of Lady Neville from Eridge Castle; for the lute, William Ballet's book from Trinity College, Dublin, in which the earliest versions of many of our old English tunes, such as 'Greensleeves' and 'Turkeyloney' are preserved.

Music under the Commonwealth was illustrated by a volume in the handwriting of Henry Lawes, containing the music to Milton's 'Comus' and a large number of songs, and by the music-book of Anne Cromwell, first cousin of the Protector.

Several specimens of Henry Purcell's writing were shown, including the noble volume of Anthems and Odes lent by His Majesty the King; and Handel was well represented by the autograph Manuscript of 'The Messiah' from Buckingham Palace, as well as the Dublin score from Tenbury and the manuscript known as Handel's working score from Mr. Otto Goldschmidt's library.

This section also comprised a large collection of autograph letters and documents.

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