

Mr. Bliss's copy, from the library of Thomas Jolley. Dr. Rimbault's copy, now in the Lennox Library, New York, was for a long time believed to be unique.

This is the first issue of a popular treatise which ran through upwards of nineteen editions—some numbered and others unnumbered—between the years 1654 and 1730. The Preface to this, the first edition, reads as follows :

To all Lovers & Practitioners of Musick.

Courteous Reader : It was desired by some Masters to Print in the Scale of Musick, or Gam-ut, in a halfe sheet of Paper, to put in a Schollers Book, to save the pains of writing ; which I intended only to have done ; but upon second thoughts I have altered my minde, and made the addition of some necessary plain Rules for the better understanding thereof, and the help of Beginners. I confess, men better able than my selfe might have spared my pains, but their slownesse and modesty (being as I conceive unwilling to appear in Print about so small a matter) hath put me upon the Worke, which I count very usefull, though with the danger of not being so well done, as they might have performed it. The Rules of all Arts ought to bee delivered in plaine and briefe language, and not with flowers of Eloquence ; and so this worke is more sutable to my abilities.

The Work as it is I must confesse is not all my owne, some part of it was collected out of other men's writings, which I hope will the more commend it : and if the brevity, plainnesse, and usefulness whereof may beget acceptance with thee, it will encourage me to do thee more service in other things of this nature.

Thine to the utmost

of his endeavours,

JOHN PLAYFORD.

PLAYFORD, JOHN.—An Introduction to the Skill of Musick. In two Books. Duodecimo.

Printed for JOHN PLAYFORD. LONDON. 1655.

*Mr. R. E. Brandt.*

This has been frequently spoken of as the first edition.

The twelfth edition (published in 1694) of this famous treatise was 'corrected and amended by Mr. Henry Purcell.' The extent of these important emendations was exhaustively set forth by Mr. W. Barclay Squire in the 'Sammelbände der Internationalen Musikgesellschaft,' July-September, 1905, p. 521.