

## SHANE CARMODY

# ‘By God’s gift I am what I am’: Relics of the library of Carlos Barron Lumsden

### I

On Saturday 21 July 1923 an article appeared in the Melbourne *Herald* with the triple headline ‘Book shop tragedies: relics of fine collections; parting with old friends’. The journalist began his story on the second-hand department at Cole’s Book Arcade in Bourke Street, Melbourne, with a question: ‘Have you ever thought, you book hunters who search for the elusive bargain on the dusty shelves of the second-hand book shop, that each volume there holds some domestic confidence, and every leaf is a page from some family history?’ Warming to his theme, he continued,

Worse than the agony of the miser when forced to part with his money is the pain of the book-lover when poverty, change of residence, or some other reason, compels him to sell his books. Book-buying is a mania which grows with indulgence. Once a little library is started, there is a constant temptation to buy more and more.

One such collector was Carlos Barron Lumsden, a name perhaps remembered only by the bookplates in volumes from his library, now scattered across the world in public and private collections. His books were known to our journalist, who commented, ‘There are few booklovers who have not at some

Bookplate of Carlos B Lumsden, from endpaper in Matthew Hale, *The History of the Common Law of England: Divided into Twelve Chapters*, [London] in the Savoy: Printed by E Nutt, 1716. Rare Books Collection, RAREWK 340.570942 H134H (1716)



Carlos B. Lumsden.

time purchased one of the books from the remarkable collection of Carlos B. Lumsden's books. These books contain the crest of the family, and among them is included a series of histories of prominent English families'.<sup>1</sup>

Carlos Lumsden's tale is of a book-lover forced to part with his collection. Part of that tale – how his books appeared on the shelves of the second-hand department of Cole's Book Arcade in Melbourne and what became of some of them – is told below.

## II

Carlos Barron Lumsden was born on 19 July 1878 into a prominent Scottish family. He was the second son of Hugh Gordon Lumsden, private chamberlain to Popes Leo XIII and Pius X and 17th laird of Auchindoir and Clova, an estate near Aberdeen. The family were proudly Catholic, and Carlos was educated by Jesuits in England, first at Beaumont College, in Old Windsor, and then at Stonyhurst College, in Lancashire. Two of his relatives, Henry Burnett Lumsden (1821–96) and Peter Stark Lumsden (1829–1918), won promotions and knighthoods as generals in the British army in India. Henry achieved fame as Lumsden of the Guides, so called because in 1847 he established a unit of Indian troops loyal to the crown who could assist with guiding the British forces and act as intelligence gatherers.

Carlos Lumsden owed his Spanish first name to his mother's side of the family. In 1874 his father had married Maria Magdalena Gordon, the fifth daughter of Carlos Pedro Gordon, 9th laird of Wardhouse and Kildrummie and 15th laird of Beldorney, in Aberdeenshire. Carlos Gordon had been born in Spain, part of the branch of the family known as the Spanish Gordons, who took refuge from persecution as Catholics in the mid-18th century, establishing along the way a successful sherry business. In 1866 he had returned to Scotland to assume his title and estates after the death of his nephew. One of his sons, Pedro Carlos, became a Jesuit, achieving fame as a teacher at Stonyhurst College; another, José Maria (later called Joseph), followed a military career which took him first to Ireland, then for health reasons to New Zealand and finally Australia, in 1880. He served in the South Australian government's military forces as a colonel, saw active service in the South African War and after the federation of Australia, in 1901, rose to the position of chief of general staff, with the honorary rank of major general. In 1892 he had married Eleanor Fitzgerald, daughter of Edward Fitzgerald, founder of the Castlemaine Brewing Company, in central Victoria.<sup>2</sup>

As a second son, Carlos Barron Lumsden had to find his own way in the world. He set himself to reading law at the Inner Temple in London, passing



Major Carlos Barron Lumsden before embarkation to France in 1916. First published in Francis Irwin, SJ, *Stonyhurst War Record: a memorial of the part taken by Stonyhurst men in the Great War*, Stonyhurst College, 1927, p. 145

his final exams just before turning 21, in 1899. Given his military connections it is perhaps no surprise that he saw active service in the South African War as a member of Roberts' Light Horse, a regiment formed by Field Marshal Lord Roberts from men who answered the call to arms from across the empire. He was awarded the Queen's South Africa Medal with five clasps for action at Kimberley, Paadeberg, Driefontein, Johannesburg and Diamond Hill, and according to a later school history he 'would have been rewarded with a commission but for a defect in his eyesight'.

It must have been at that time, through his uncle Joseph Gordon, that he met Geraldine Gertrude Fitzgerald, younger sister of Gordon's wife, and youngest daughter of Edward Fitzgerald, by then deceased. The encounter most likely took place in Melbourne, perhaps on a visit at the end of Lumsden's active service. The courtship was swift, for on 13 October 1902 Carlos and Geraldine were married, in St Mary's Cathedral in Aberdeen.

The bride came from an influential and wealthy family. Her father, Edward, one of five sons of a well-known Galway brewer, had emigrated from Ireland with his brother Nicholas, and together they had established one of the most successful brewing companies in Australia. Nicholas later became a member of the Victorian Legislative Council. Another brother, Gerald, pursued a career

in the British Civil Service, rising to the lofty position of accountant general of the navy in 1885 and being knighted in the same year. It was Sir Gerald Fitzgerald who stood in his brother Edward's place and hosted the wedding breakfast for the happy couple, while Australian newspapers breathlessly reported on the fortuitous union.<sup>3</sup>

Their first child, Carlos Gerald, was born on 6 December 1903 in Norwich, where the family had settled. Carlos Barron was practising law and soon entered public life. On Saturday 11 November 1905 the *Aberdeen Daily Journal* reported on an 'honour for an Aberdeenshire man': Lumsden had been elected sheriff for the City of Norwich and County of Norfolk. The article made note of the fact that he was the youngest man ever, and the first Catholic since the Reformation, to hold the office. In the speeches welcoming his appointment, aldermen mentioned his distinguished family and his service to the country in war. In his reply, Lumsden expressed gratitude that his parents could witness his elevation to high office.<sup>4</sup>

A second child, Geraldine Elizabeth May, was born on 4 August 1909. Her record of birth gives the address of her parents as Coireseunan Lodge, Clova, Kildrummie, in Scotland. The family had moved at some point prior to her birth from Norwich to live on the Lumsden family estate. Carlos Barron was engaged in his special project. He had set about writing a history of the English Reformation from a Catholic perspective, and *The Dawn of Modern England: being a history of the Reformation in England, 1509–1525*, published in 1910, was the first instalment. In Lumsden's words, it was 'the work of several years of toil'. He listed a very full bibliography, comprising 20 pages of close type and 557 titles, which he had 'read and studied', not merely consulted. His ambition was well expressed in the introduction: 'If health and life are spared, the author hopes to be able to carry on this work down to the execution of Charles I in 1649. This, of course, will take many volumes, how many it is impossible to say'.<sup>5</sup>

The reviews were not favourable. The *Sydney Morning Herald* described the book as 'a scholarly attempt to get at the true inwardness of the Reformation' and noted, 'He [Lumsden] claims to have read everything in a very extensive bibliography of the subject and his habit of quoting authorities is to be commended. But he is apt to lose his purpose in a mass of detail, with which we are already sufficiently familiar'. Mary Love, writing in *The Scottish Historical Review*, noted the 'highly polemical character' of the book. She continued,

The author speaks from the standpoint, not merely of a Roman Catholic, but of a determined apologist of medieval ethics, modes of thought, and ecclesiastical

standards. The philosophy of the Middle Ages is 'the greatest the world has ever seen'; the individualism which was the supreme and all-pervading tendency of the Renaissance is responsible for a few possible benefits and very many evils in succeeding centuries.

In Love's view, 'Mr. Lumsden [was] perhaps a little obsessed by this theory'. An anonymous critic in *The American Historical Review* was more scathing. While acknowledging that Lumsden had read widely, they expressed disappointment that the book was mostly polemic and that 'to him [Lumsden] indeed the Protestant Reformation brought almost unmixed evil'. The author found fault with his writing: 'His style lacks finish; his paragraphing is defective, and the English is often slipshod; for him the split infinitive has no terrors'. The review ended on a condescending note: 'Every page of Mr. Lumsden's book shows that he is young. He can therefore learn'.<sup>6</sup>

All three critics noted that further volumes were planned and expressed the hope that some of the deficiencies of the first might be rectified in those that were to follow. Unfortunately, their hopes were not realised. In the *Dundee Courier & Argus* of Wednesday 31 August 1912, the headline 'Information for creditors' announced the examination in the Sheriff Court, Aberdeen, of Carlos Barron Lumsden, barrister-at-law, on Monday 9 September, while creditors were advised to meet later, on 20 September, in the offices of Messrs Romanes and Munro in Edinburgh. Lumsden was clearly in financial difficulties, as an act and a warrant of sequestration had been issued on 27 August to Charles Romanes, the chartered accountant acting on behalf of Lumsden's 18 principal creditors. The examination of his affairs was delayed for over two months, taking place on Thursday 7 November 1912. The apparent reason was the absence of Lumsden himself; in his place his elder brother Hugh Patrick, his mother and his father were questioned about his affairs. This very public humiliation was gleefully reported in detail in the next day's edition of the *Aberdeen Daily Journal*, the same newspaper that seven years before had so favourably reported his elevation as sheriff of Norwich in front of his then proud parents.<sup>7</sup>

The 1911 Census shows that Carlos Lumsden and his family had four servants at Coireseunan Lodge. The story that emerged from the examination showed that this comfortable life was a facade built on extravagant spending and little if any earned income. Under questioning from Charles Romanes, Hugh Lumsden denied all knowledge of his younger brother's affairs, including the purchase of wine valued at £63 19s 6½d, diamond jewellery at £96 12s 6d and at £78, an electro-plated crocodile flask, and a seal muskrat coat costing £35 15s. Within the list of unpaid goods were hundreds of books. Romanes

pursued this with Hugh Lumsden: 'He bought upwards of 200 books. They were sent up to the Lodge about a year ago. Do you know what became of them?' Hugh's reply of 'No; if he had offered them as a present, I would not have accepted them' was met with scornful laughter by those assembled in the court. The humiliation continued. Lumsden's mother was examined as to her knowledge of his spending and the money settled on him and his wife at the time of their marriage. She denied all knowledge of his affairs and said he had an annual allowance from his family of £300 with perhaps £130 from his wife's family. Next on the stand was his father. Questioned about the marriage settlement and several cheques signed by him and countersigned by Carlos Lumsden in favour of the creditors, he also denied knowledge of his son's affairs. When asked what had become of certain books, he replied that 'he did not know and did not need to know'.<sup>8</sup>

From the evidence extracted in the examination it emerged that Lumsden's family believed he had cleared Coireseunan Lodge of all his possessions and left with his family in April 1912. His mother told the court he had written to them from a steamer and sent a cable to his father pleading with him to pay his debts. His brother revealed that he had heard from him six weeks before the examination and that he believed the family was in Australia. Significantly, his mother mentioned his book, *The Dawn of Modern England*, and the facts that he had given up his career at the Bar some time earlier to research and write it, and that his father had funded its publication. The purchase of books was most likely as research for the promised future volumes, but Lumsden's attempt to become a historian had left debts of £1849 and dishonour for his family, who bore the consequences and the shame.<sup>9</sup>

Lumsden and his family were indeed in Australia; they had arrived in Melbourne on 16 March 1912, on the *Moeraki*, from Wellington, New Zealand. The anomaly between this arrival date and the month of departure given at the examination may have been an honest mistake or possibly an attempt to throw the creditors off the scent. Lumsden clearly needed cash and was forced to sell his books. He could not afford the risk of discovery or the delay that a gentlemanly negotiation with a public institution might entail; at that time in Melbourne his best option was Cole's Book Arcade.

Founded in 1873 by Edward William Cole near the Eastern Market on Bourke Street Hill, in 1883 the store moved further down Bourke Street, to a prime location in the middle of the block between Swanston and Elizabeth streets. There, it achieved fame not just as a bookstore but also as a merchant selling china and art as well as offering entertainments, including a menagerie. In 1906 it was extended through to Collins Street, and its famous boast that it

housed two million books was easy to believe. The second-hand department was vast, and a contemporary photograph shows great piles of books and long, heavily loaded shelves. It is not surprising that some of Lumsden's books may have rested there for a decade or more.<sup>10</sup>

The visit to Melbourne was relatively brief. The family boarded the *Malwa* on 5 December 1912, bound for London. At this point Lumsden disappears from all public records. Evading detection from Charles Romanes, he still had income to live on from the marriage settlements, but his circumstances remained dire. On 9 September 1914, at the very outbreak of World War I, Lumsden, then 36, enlisted at 3 St James's Street in London as a private. His war service file noted his permanent address as the Caledonian Club in nearby St James's Square, although other records in the file suggested a series of cheap hotels in Hove and Brighton as home for him and his family. For Lumsden, active service offered regular pay and the opportunity to redeem his reputation. On 3 October, he joined the 10th (Service) Battalion of the Norfolk Regiment and on 10 December was promoted to temporary captain. In September 1915, he transferred to the 18th (Service) Battalion of the Highland Light Infantry. As the slaughter on the war front in France continued, he was further promoted, on 27 January 1916, to temporary major and company commander. The battalion landed in France on 1 February, and Lumsden went to the front, writing to Geraldine,

Here the shells are falling all around one; it is simply hell on earth; I had no idea of what it was. God only knows if I shall ever see home again; I doubt it very much; yet I have done my duty, and will do it to the end. I go to Confession and Communion very often. Send me a small strong rosary.

On 8 March 1916, after 48 hours of trench duty, he died of a heart attack brought on by exhaustion and exposure. He was buried in La Gorgue Communal Cemetery. In a letter to his widow Lumsden's colonel confessed, 'His death was a great blow to me and a great loss to the battalion and his company. He was most popular and a very keen officer'. Two weeks after his death the lord mayor of Norwich proposed at a council meeting a motion of sympathy for the widow and children of the city's former sheriff, and this was duly passed and sent in a letter to Geraldine Lumsden.<sup>11</sup>

It must have been cold comfort. On 10 April, barely a month after Geraldine's husband's death, her father-in-law, Hugh Gordon Lumsden, died at his home in Bath and was buried in Perrymead Catholic Cemetery with a large Celtic cross as his memorial; Carlos Barron Lumsden was acknowledged in an inscription on the edging of the grave. Hugh Lumsden's death saw his estate





Cole's Book Arcade, Bourke Street, Melbourne, albumen silver photograph, c. 1900  
 Pictures Collection H2014.1015. Photographer unknown

frozen, pending probate, halting all payments to Geraldine from the marriage settlement. To make matters worse, obituaries had alerted Charles Romanes, still acting as trustee for the sequestered estate, to Lumsden's death. He quickly established that Lumsden had died intestate and claimed any money owed to him by the army. After a reimbursement to the army for payments made after his death and making provision for taxation, this amounted to the princely sum of £115 2s. At a final meeting of the creditors, Romanes was thanked for his service and awarded £52, leaving a balance to settle the debts at 8 pence in the pound.<sup>12</sup>

Plunged into poverty, Geraldine took refuge with her children in the convent of the Sisters of La Retraite in Weston-super-Mare. From there she wrote to Sir John Boraston, secretary of the National Unionist Association, imploring him to help her to access her war widow's pension. Boraston lobbied Henry Forster, the member of parliament for Sevenoaks, and in time Geraldine received an intermediate officer's pension, as Lumsden had died on active service and not from injuries sustained in battle. This amounted to £105 per annum with an extra £20 each year per child.

In 1927 Lumsden's old school Stonyhurst published a book commemorating its war dead. Lumsden received a detailed entry, including a full-page photograph, taken probably just before he left for France. The entry recalled his 'energetic, vivacious temperament' and mentioned his career at the Bar, his service in the South African War, his term as sheriff in Norwich and the



Second-hand department of Cole's Book Arcade, Melbourne. From Henry Williams, compiler, *Cole's Book Arcade: Album of photographs*, 1923, p. 13. Papers of Edward William Cole, Australian Manuscripts Collection MS10111/PHO1

devotion of his 'considerable talents and literary abilities' to his book, *The Dawn of Modern England*, which in this account at least 'received high praise from competent judges'. There was no mention of bankruptcy. His death on the battlefield was recorded with full pathos, a sacrifice wiping away all faults. Until now this was his only biography.<sup>13</sup>

### III

Just how many books Carlos Lumsden sold to Cole's Book Arcade is impossible to determine. The journalist writing for the *Herald* in 1923 suggested that the number was significant. From a few surviving volumes in public collections it is possible to sketch something of the development and dispersal of the collection.

Robert Gordon Menzies, then a rising star at the Victorian Bar and later Australia's longest serving prime minister, bought Lumsden's copy of William Langland's 14th-century allegorical poem *Vision of William Concerning Piers the Plowman* in an 1869 edition. This is now preserved, with the rest of Menzies's library, at the University of Melbourne.<sup>14</sup>

Ernest Scott was another shopper at Cole's Book Arcade. He bought a 1570 edition of Polydore Vergil's *Anglica historia*, printed in Basel, Switzerland, by Thomas Guarin. The volume, which is a history of England up to the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII, was listed in Lumsden's bibliography in *The Dawn of Modern England* and so was used by him in his research for the

book. Scott noted the date of purchase, 21 June 1914, which was soon after his appointment as professor of history at the University of Melbourne. After his death in 1939, his widow gave his personal library of 13,000 books to the university library. This included his copy of *The Dawn of Modern England* but not *Anglica historia*; it arrived as a later purchase from AH Spencer's famous Hill of Content bookstore on Bourke Street Hill in Melbourne.<sup>15</sup>

The university library purchased directly from Cole's Lumsden's bound set of the first nine reports of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts (1870–83). There was a reference to these volumes in Lumsden's bibliography, and each has a library accession date stamp for 6 October 1917.<sup>16</sup>

Three other titles owned by Lumsden and now in the university library arrived by more circuitous routes. A copy of *The History and Antiquities of the Exchequer of the Kings of England* by Thomas Maddox, printed in London by J Matthews in 1711, has an accession date stamp of 4 September 1936 and was purchased by the university from the second-hand department of the bookseller Robertson and Mullens for 16 shillings. It bears no mark of intermediate ownership.<sup>17</sup> Lumsden's copy of Anthony à Wood's *Athenae Oxonienses: an exact history of all the writers and bishops who have had their education in the most antient and famous university of Oxford*, in a 1721 second edition, was cited in his bibliography and was initially purchased by Albert Sidney Devenish; his bookplate partly obscures that of Lumsden. Devenish was an Anglican priest and sometime genealogist who lived and worked in Caulfield in Melbourne. The book has an accession stamp for 17 December 1928, and this date is repeated in a note inside the back cover, which also has its price, 31s 6d, a discount of 10s 6d from an earlier price, of 2 guineas, inside the front cover.<sup>18</sup> The final volume in the university library has a more recent provenance. It is a 1907 edition of *The Earthly Paradise: a poem*, by William Morris, and came from the collection of Emeritus Professor Eugene Le Mire of Flinders University, Adelaide, compiler of *A Bibliography of William Morris*, published by Oak Knoll Press in 2006. The book has a little ticket inside the back cover indicating it was sold by the Times Book Club, 376 Oxford Street, London W. Lumsden was a member of this short-lived venture, championed by the famous newspaper; in the examination of his affairs the book club was mentioned as a creditor, suggesting he never actually paid for this book.<sup>19</sup>

Four of Lumsden's former books are in the Mannix Library, at the Catholic Theological College, Melbourne. *Clave historial con que se abre la puerta á la historia eclesiástica y política*, by Enrique Flórez, in a 1786 edition published in Madrid, Spain, is evidence of Lumsden's Spanish heritage. This account of the Spanish and French royal families and their relationship to

the church has the signature of a cousin on Lumsden's mother's side, Pedro Gordon, and bears the later stamp of Corpus Christi College, the Catholic seminary established in 1923 and located in Werribee, 30 kilometres south-west of Melbourne. Lumsden's copy of Paolo Sarpi's *History of the Council of Trent* in the 1676 English edition, as translated by Sir Nathaniel Brent, was in the Central Catholic Library in Melbourne before its transfer to the Mannix Library. It appeared in Lumsden's bibliography. The third book, *The State Papers of Sir Ralph Sadler, Knight, Banneret*, in an edition printed in Edinburgh in 1809, is a tribute to Lumsden's Scottish heritage. Sadler's role as ambassador to Scotland for Henry VIII, Edward VI and Elizabeth I was obviously of interest to Lumsden, but it did not appear in his bibliography, suggesting it was possibly a later purchase.<sup>20</sup>

The fourth Lumsden item in the Mannix Library has a direct link to his downfall and was definitely purchased after the publication of *The Dawn of Modern England*. It is seven uniformly bound volumes of works by the 17th-century English antiquarian William Dugdale. It incorporates the Latin second edition and English first edition of the *Monasticon Anglicanum*, along with *The History of the Antient Abbeyes, Hospitals, Monasteries and Collegiate Churches* and the second edition (in English) of Dugdale's famous *History of St Paul's Cathedral in London*, with illustrations inserted from the first edition, published in 1665, a year before the Great Fire destroyed the medieval church. The component volumes were published between 1661 and 1723, and all are illustrated with engravings by the 17th-century Czech printmaker Wenceslaus Hollar. Together they represent the most significant works of the author credited with establishing English medieval history as a field of study and as such must have held great attraction for Lumsden.

The attached bookplates show prior owners, with the earliest being Rogers Ruding, who lived from 1751 to 1820. He was a clergyman and antiquarian with a great interest in numismatics. He was the collator of the volumes, which he had expensively bound in a fine Regency binding. The next identified owner was James S Burra, a prominent Kentish banker and book collector. Following Burra's death his collection was sold by Sotheby's on 14, 15 and 16 December 1911. On the third day of the sale, the volumes were sold to a Mr Young for £4 5s. In the examination of Lumsden's affairs, Romanes put the following question to his brother Hugh: 'Your brother bought some hundreds of books from various dealers, and certain antique furniture. Mr Young, fine art collector, here claims £86/2/4d for goods supplied from September last year down to the date of the disappearance. Did you see anything of these antique goods?' The Dugdale volumes appear to have been part of the great haul of



Leaf showing the nave of Old St Paul's Cathedral, in William Dugdale and Wenceslaus Hollar, *The History of St. Paul's Cathedral in London, from Its Foundation*. This is one of the largest plates in the composite set of works by Dugdale that Lumsden sold to Cole's Book arcade. The text in this volume is from the English edition published in 1716. This illustration is from the first edition in Latin, published in 1658, eight years before the Great Fire of London destroyed the Cathedral. This volume is now in the Mannix Library of the Catholic Theological College, East Melbourne.

Image courtesy Mannix Library, Catholic Theological College, East Melbourne

books acquired, but not paid for, by Carlos Lumsden, the haul that his brother said he would have rejected as a gift, the response that drew scornful laughter in the court.<sup>21</sup>

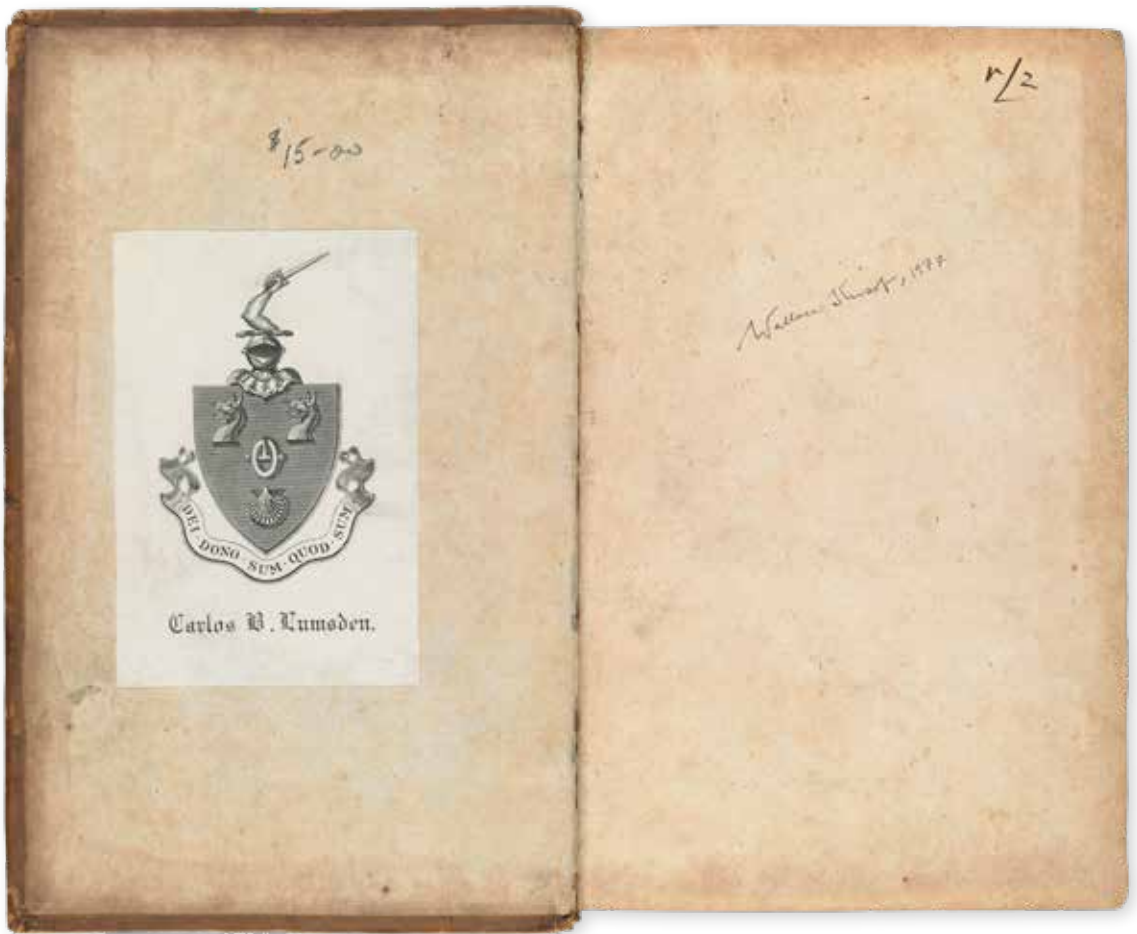
The Dugdale volumes also previously formed part of the collection of Melbourne's Central Catholic Library. Like the Corpus Christi Seminary, this was in the care of the Jesuits, or, to be more precise, one very particular Jesuit. William Hackett was 44 when, in 1922, he was sent by his superiors in Dublin to join the Irish Jesuit mission in Australia. His close association with Irish nationalists in the febrile climate after the establishment of the Free State had made it dangerous for him to stay in Ireland. In March 1923 he met Melbourne's Catholic archbishop, Daniel Mannix. Mannix commissioned Hackett to form the Central Catholic Library, and it became part of the bookish Jesuit's life for the next 30 years. It is easy to imagine Hackett picking over books in Cole's Book Arcade. Whether he purchased the books directly or received them as

gifts from supporters, the fact that his library encompassed the Dugdales and the 17th-century *History of the Council of Trent* was a tribute to his scholarly instincts. In 1942 he was appointed a trustee of the Public Library, Museums and National Gallery of Victoria, continuing as a trustee for the Library after the dissolution of the combined institution, in 1944, until his death, 10 years later.<sup>22</sup>

It would seem that not all of Lumsden's books travelled with him to Australia, and any remaining after his death were probably sold by his widow. Volumes identified through his bookplate appear in library catalogues in the United States and United Kingdom. Two books, both of which appeared in the bibliography for *The Dawn of Modern England*, are in distinguished American collections. Lumsden's 1709 edition of Christopher Saint German's *Dialogus de fundamentis legum Anglie et de conscientia* is in the Library of Congress, and Stephen Gardiner's *Explicatiô and Assertion of the True Catholique Fayth*, noted by Lumsden as a first edition, of 1551, is in the Beinecke Library at Yale University. And his copy of the fifth edition of Edward Moore's *Fables for the Female Sex*, published in 1783, is in the Cooper Abbs collection in the JB Morrell Library at the University of York.<sup>23</sup>

More volumes appeared in sales catalogues. Lumsden's rare Paris edition of Jean Gerson's *Opusculum tripertitum, eiusdem de preceptis decalogi, de confessione et de arte moriendi*, from the press of T Enguelart, appeared in a 1920 catalogue issued by Maggs Brothers, a famous London bookseller, for £4 4s and was most recently sold in a group of 13 theological titles by Sotheby's, New York, in June 2004. The book was in the bibliography for *The Dawn of Modern England*.<sup>24</sup> In 1946, at Parke-Bernet Galleries in New York, Lumsden's 1613 edition of Michael Drayton's poem *Poly-olbion* was auctioned. His 1521 edition of the letters of Erasmus, *Epistolae d. Erasmi Roterodami*, published by Johann Froben in Basel, was sold in Paris in October 2013, while his copy of Euripides' *Tragoediae octodecim*, published by Johann Herwagen, also in Basel, in 1537, was sold for £1500 as recently as September 2016, by Forum Auctions in London.<sup>25</sup>

Another book to appear recently was Carlos Lumsden's copy of the second edition of *Lumsden of the Guides*. Advertised on the Classic Books and Ephemera website of a bookseller in Lansdowne, Pennsylvania, the book was published in London by John Murray in 1900. It was written by Carlos's famous forebear Sir Peter Starke Lumsden and George R Elsmie and is the biography of his other famous forebear, Sir Henry Burnett Lumsden. Scrawled alongside Carlos Lumsden's bookplate is an inscription in his handwriting: 'Stolen from P. D. Hughes'.<sup>26</sup>

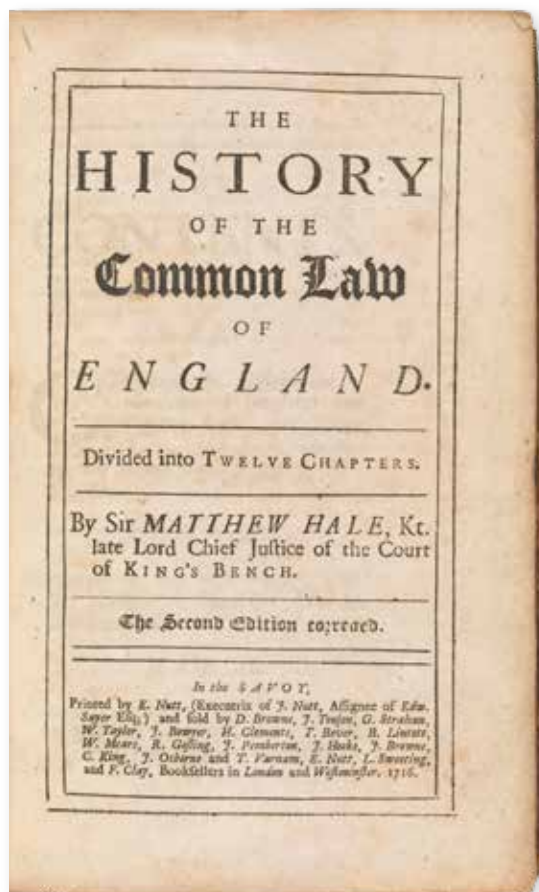


#### IV

A private collection, no matter how distinguished, usually ends its days distributed to the market through rare-book sellers or second-hand dealers. Books might circulate from collector to collector, and sometimes the cycle stops when a book is purchased by or given to a public library. Melbourne book historian and collector Wallace Kirsop has begun to transfer his collection to State Library Victoria, and one of his books is a volume from Lumsden's collection. It combines Sir Matthew Hale's books *History of the Common Law* and *Analysis of the Law* as published in 1716. Bought for \$15 in 1977, it is perhaps a survivor from Lumsden's abandoned legal career.

It is curious that only one Lumsden volume appears in the collections of the State Library of Victoria. A close examination of the accession registers for the Melbourne Public Library (now State Library Victoria) from 1912 to 1923 revealed that no books were purchased during that time from Cole's Book Arcade. There is a single reference to the deposit of 16 titles published by Cole on 15 August 1918, but the Library was simply not purchasing books from his store. On 5 April 1923 Albert S Devenish, who owned Lumsden's





Opposite: inside cover opening/endpapers showing Carlos B Lumsden bookplate.  
 Above: title page. From Matthew Hale, *The History of the Common Law of England: Divided into Twelve Chapters*, [London] in the Savoy: Printed by E Nutt, 1716. Rare Books Collection, RAREWK 340.570942 H134H (1716). This book was donated to the Library by Wallace Kirsop: the endpapers show his signature and the date he purchased it.

copy of *Athenae Oxonienses* (discussed above) sold five titles to the Library. Examination of the four of these books that remain in the collection showed that none previously belonged to Lumsden.

It is likely, however, that more Lumsden volumes will appear in public and private collections. Cataloguers have not always noted evidence of provenance in their records, although Lumsden's books are easily identified by his bookplate, which displays the family crest with the motto 'Dei dono sum quod sum', a verse from the first epistle of Saint Paul to the Corinthians, which can be translated 'By god's gift I am what I am'.<sup>27</sup> Whatever Carlos Barron Lumsden made of the gifts he was given, his book collection is perhaps his most enduring legacy. In the words of the journalist writing in the *Herald* in 1923, 'each volume holds some domestic confidence, and every leaf is a page in some family history'.<sup>28</sup>