TWICI—continued

Henry in the last years of his life intended to issue a new and corrected edition of his treatise, but this unfortunately he never carried out.

His close intimacy with that most remarkable of bibliophiles of the first half of the last century, Sir Thomas Phillipps, during the very ately. time when he was amassing his great collection, made his account of long-bygone antiquarian events most interesting.1 Amongst other facts related to me by Sir Henry was that he himself set up the type of the first page of the first reprint of Twici (see above, No. 1) for the small handpress at Middle Hill, Worcestershire, so I value the last but one remaining copy in his possession which he gave me. Copies of this exceedingly rare sheet are very difficult to get, the last one offered at a public sale fetched, I believe, £5, but more would have to be paid now.

3. Le Venery de Twety from the Cottonian MS. Vesp. B. XII., transcribed about 1420, in Reliquiae Antiquae 1841, vol. i. p. 149, published by Thomas Wright and I. O. Halliwell. This is the print of the English "translation" already referred to as MS. III. The author (Thomas Wright) is the first to remark that the rhymes prefixed to the tract do not belong to it, being of a later date.

4. Le Art de Venerie; en France (Paris) 1883. This is a very carelessly executed reprint of MS. I., published by the frères Pairault of Paris. Only 35 copies, of which issued. Copies are now very scarce. It was only after ten years' search that I was able to obtain one.

At least six treatises on Twici have been written by German and French students; they are: M. Paul Meyer's account in the October 1884 number of the "Romania"; Dr. Paul Sahlender's three little works: "Der Jagdtractat Twici's," Leipzig, 1894; "Englische Jagd, Jagdkunde and Jagdliteratur im 14. 15. & 16. Jahrh." Leip. 1895; "Das englische Jagdwesen in seiner geschichtlichen Entwicklung," Dresden excellent and quite indispensable "Altfranzösische Jagdlehrbücher," Halle 1889, a book which in the course of many years' researchwork, during which I have constantly con-

sulted it, I have found to be most extraordinarily accurate; and lastly, Baron Christoph Biedermann's scholarly "Ergänzungen zu Werth's Altfranzösischen Jagdlehrbüchern," published in "Zeitschrift für Romanische Philologie," 1897, Heft 4, and also separ-

The following summary will enable the reader to follow our subsequent remarks regarding the Twici literature. MS. I. is the oldest of the two French versions, MS. II. of Cambridge having been written about a quarter of a century later. It differs from MS. I., and was not copied from the latter, or from the same original from which MS. I. was taken. The so-called translation (MS. III.), which is bound together with our MS. of the "Master of Game" in the British Museum MS. Vespasian B. XII. (it precedes it), was written by the same hand that copied our text in or about the year 1420. It does not deserve to be called a translation at all, for it differs in many respects from either MS. I. or II., whole phrases being left out, and containing, on the other hand, some passages which are not incorporated in either of the French versions. Indeed, when this "translation" speaks of hare-hunting, it says the very contrary to what MS. I. and II. do, for it says that "all men may blow at her," whereas the others say that you "can not blow at her as at other beasts." There is also a curious mistake in translating the word chevereaus (roe deer) as were it chevalier into "knyghtis," saying, "The knyghtis be not enchased or gathered," thereby clearly demonstrating that the scrivener who took upon himself to translate this treatise knew nothing the first five were printed on parchment, were taking into account the transposition of sentences of venery. There are five other errors without or omissions. Sir Henry Dryden sums up the relation of these MSS. in the following words: "From these differences and errors it appears certain that the French MS. (MS. I.) is not the original treatise, though not more recent than 1400, that it was carelessly transcribed by some one who knew little of venery; that the Cotton MS. (the translation) is either a translation of an extinct copy of Twici's work, by a person who did not understand the original, or at all events that it was inaccurately copied from an original translation of an extinct copy."

In this English version appears for the first time a second name as joint author, that of Johan Gyfford und Leipzig, 1898; Dr. Hermann Werth's or Giffarde, the passage where the former spelling is found being in the beginning: "Maystere Johan Gyfford and William Twety, that were wyth Kyng Edward the secunde." In the colophon we have: "Explicit le venery de Twety, and of Mayster Johan

TWICI—continued

Who this mysterious Gyfford is who makes his first appearance in a MS. written at least ninety, and probably one hundred, years after the original was penned, it is not easy to say, and in any case we cannot accept him as joint author without some reserve. The learned Thomas Wright, who, as we to discover his identity, but found that the Patent Rolls and different Inquisitions examined by him gave no clue connecting a Gyfford or Giffarde with Edward 11.'s hunting establishments. The diligent researches of Werth and Sahlender came to the same negative result, and our own efforts were only partly successful in so far as we are able to show that if this Gyfford be not a creation of the scribe who made knights of roe deer, it is probable that he was identical with a John Gyfford mentioned several times as King's clerk, who accompanied Queen Isabella (widow of Edward II.) on her journeys abroad, and who, towards the end of his life, was keeper of the hospital of St. Leonards at York (Pat. Rolls, 10 Ed. III.). True, we find another John Gyffard in the service of Edward II. in a military capacity, two Close Rolls entries of Oct. 8 and of Novb. 12, 1318, showing that grants were made to him in reward of his military services. In view of the illiteracy of even the highest nobles at that epoch and the fact that few persons not scriveners themselves could have written or translated a treatise, it is very unlikely that this warrior Giffard had anything to do with our treatise.

Of Twici himself we know, unfortunately, also very little indeed; we hear from a Close Roll entry that he was in receipt of a daily wage of seven pence halfpenny (Memb. 32), which is perhaps worth quoting, as it seems to have escaped the previous

"July 21, 1322. To the Sheriff of Lancaster. Order in favour of William Twyt, huntsman, whom the King is sending to take fat venison in the forests parks and chaces of Thomas, late Earl of Lancaster, in that county, with Little William the Lardener, Gilbert Scot and Richard Blount, berners, William de Firth, John Rotur, Roger de Sentele, and Richard de Berkeswell, veutrers, William Buffard, page (pagio) and 20 greyhounds and 40 staghounds (cerverectar'), paying to the said huntsman $7\frac{1}{2}d$. a day for his own wages, 2d. for each page and $\frac{1}{2}d$. a day for each greyhound and staghound." The lardener's wages are not given in this instance, but we know from other records that their usual wages were 2d. a day.

Between the date of this interesting document and that of the next, Twici seems to have been called away to other and more elysian hunting fields, his demise occurring evidently in the peaceful retreat of the Abbey of Reading, whence he had probably retired at a good old age as a pensioner of the King. The Close Roll entry is dated March 13, 1328 (Memb. 34), and states that Alan de Leek is sent to the Abbot and Convent of Redings to receive such maintenance as William Twiti had enjoyed in the Abbey. Alan de Leek appears from

an earlier entry (Mem. 27) to have been also a huntsman of Edward II., and it is interesting to note that it seems to have been customary that the King's pensioned hunt-servants were to retire to this Abbey (founded by Henry II.) as a home for their declining years. Almost a century earlier (1240) a poem on the keeping of hawks and on fowling, have heard, published Nr. 3 reprint, made researches written in Norman French (MS. Harl. 978), was, according to Sir Fred. Madden, written in this Abbey.

Summarising these records, it can be concluded that William Twici died in or before the year 1328, and that he wrote or what was more likely dictated his treatise, if not to Johan Gyfford, to some monkish scrivener more capable of wielding the pen than he was. As the French language was then and for nearly a century more the tongue in use at the English courts, and up to 1362, in English lawcourts, it is quite natural that Twici wrote his treatise in that language, and that this by no means indicated, as many modern commentators have suggested, that a Frenchman was its author. (See Appendix: Errors in English Literature.)

As to the position held by Twici, it may be remarked that all writers from Wharton downwards persistently speak of him as Grand Huntsman, and some indeed as Master of Game to Edward II. This elevation was quite undeserved, indeed it is questionable whether it is right to call him even Chief Huntsman (as we have done), for as we know that contemporary hunt officials, such as John Lovel, Thomas de Borhunte, William de Balliolo, Robert Squyer, and David Frampton, were one and all in receipt of twelve pence a day, and Henry de Braundeston was paid nine pence a day (see Appendix: Hunt Officials). The fact that Twici received only seven pence halfpenny would indicate that the ascription to him of a superior position than the one that is claimed for him in the different MSS., i.e., Veneur or huntsman, is unwarranted.

Regarding the spelling of Twici's name, a few remarks may be made in conclusion. Of the five different ways: Twici, Twety, Twiti, Twyt, and Twich, used in the different documents we have quoted, Sir Henry Dryden selected the first, though probably had he been aware at the time he wrote of the Twich in the Cambridge MS. (II.), and of the Close Rolls instances, Twyt and Twiti, he would have been more loth to disagree with Thomas Wright's argument, that "t" was more correct of the veutrers and berners, id. a day for the than "c." This is what Dryden says when advocating "Twici":

> "As the two MSS. differ in the spelling of the huntsman's name, a doubt may arise as to the proper one; but as the writer of the Cotton MS. (the translation) has miswritten estorches for escorches, it is not improbable that he has made the same mistake in the name, and that Twici, according to the French MS. (I.) is correct."

> Wright, on the other hand, in his Reliquiae Antiquae, in attempting to prove the "t" theory, says: "It may be observed that in the Cottonian MS. the 't' is clearly distinguished from the 'c,' and no doubt can exist on the orthography of the word Twety, troched, &c."

Both writers fail to convince one by their argu-

¹ Sir Thomas Phillipps, who was born in 1792, was the only son of a wealthy manufacturer, and he collected throughout his long life on a truly gigantic scale. It was stated at the time of his death in 1872 that "there never was such a collector since the world began." His library was left to his youngest daughter, Mrs. Fenwick, for life with remainders to her children. One of the stipulations attached to this bequest was that no Roman Catholic should