MASTER OF GAME—continued

egrettes heronsewes her eiron or her berdes ye shul do vs to wite.

Also if the wardeyn or the liefteneaunt or ony other minister of the forest rewseth ony maisterfull bowes of the kinges okes or ony other tree in a vauntage for the sale rather than the sustenaunce of the kinges deere ye shul do vs to wite what harmes it is to the kyng.

Also if ther be ony man that hath oute of ony holow tree wex hony or swarm of been ye shul do vs to wete what it was worthe in value.

Also if ther be ony man that agistyth his wode in pannage time that is annext to the forest and maketh parcours that is to say if his swyn renne in to the forest in lettyng of the kynges agistement ye shul do vs to wite ho oweth hem and the price

Also if ther be ony man that felleth in his owne wode that is with in the bounde of the forest with out licence. Also many trees that he may stond on o stempne and telle .v. aboute him making that wast ye shal do vs to wite the name of that wode.

Also if he make wast in his owne wode of vnderwode with oute licence also moche as a wayne with viij. oxen ther in may turne a boute ye shal do vs to wete.

Also yf he haue licens to felle ye shal do vs to wete yf he make his copyes hegges therof acordyng to the assise of the forest that is to wete that a doo and he faune of .v. ny3t olde may lepe oute and In. Also ye shul do vs to wete if there be ony man that hath fysshed ony reuer with in the bounde. et cetera.

XVI. Bodl. MS., Digby, 182. Vellum, folio (111/4) $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches), ff. 58, early 15th century. "Maistre By Frampton's hand is what is believed to be the of Game" twice repeated. On a fly-leaf at the commencement is the name "M. Crofte," under- Henry IV. It forms part of an initial letter in neath it a list of birds, &c. On a fly-leaf at the end is the name "Joannes Lumleye miles Dominus Lumleye." The Digby MSS. were given to the Bodleian Library by Sir Kenelm Digby in

C.—CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY

XVII. MS. Ff. IV. 15. Paper, folio, ff. 60. Written in the first quarter of the 15th century. Incomplete at the end. In spite of several inquiries to the authorities at Cambridge, no information about this MS. was obtainable.

D.—LORD DENBIGH

XVIII. GENER. NR. 1506. Consult Catalogi librorum MSS. Angliæ et Hiberniæ (t. ii. p. 38): Librorum MSS. honoratissimi domini Basilii, comitis availed myself, inviting Mr. I. H. Jeayes, of the Denbigh catalogus. Werth (p. 110) says this MS. is "almost contemporary, 8vo, incomplete at the end." On writing (May 1899) to Lord dating from the middle of the 15th century. It is Denbigh for further details concerning this MS. he informs me that "he does not know the book and does not think he possesses it," so I am unable to give any further information about this copy of the "Master of the Game."

E.—SIR THOMAS PHILLIPPS

XIX. MS. 10,364. Vellum, folio ($10\frac{1}{2}$ by 7 inches), ff. 46. Incomplete. 15th cent. The property of the late Sir Thomas Phillipps, whose celebrated library is now being sold off gradually. His grandson, Mr. T. FitzRoy Fenwick, of Thirlestaine House, Cheltenham, allowed me to inspect this MS. amongst others. Seven of the initial letters have been cut out. "Maistre of Game" twice repeated. Last line: "Shulde strake ye assist vat longeth to ye herte slaine with strengthe."

There is some indication that yet another copy of our work was in existence when the above Catalogi Librorum MSS. Angliæ et Hiberniæ was compiled. for it refers to "an old English Book of Hunting called the Master of Game written temp. Henry iv., ff. 102." Of this copy I was unable to find any trace, so have not numbered it.

None of the above nineteen MSS. can make the least claim to be the original. This latter was possibly written by Richard Frampton, the King's scrivener and illuminator, and Wylie has collected some interesting details about his work. Thus we know that in 1408 he worked at a twovolumed portos for the King's own special use and was paid on July 17 (1408) £10—"pour p'chemyn et pour lymenere d'un nri portos" (Duc. Lanc. Rec. xi. 16, 113), the final payment of £25 14s. 6d. being made on Feb. 24, 1409. These two sacred volumes were placed in silk, satin, and damask bags for carrying them about from place to place. only existing genuine contemporary portrait of the book of Duchy Charters preserved in the Public Record Office (Wylie iv. 121).

At the last moment, when the above passages are already in print, my attention is drawn to the two following recent discoveries: MS. XVIII. in my list proves to be identical with MS. XIII., the former having been bought with other MSS. by the British Museum from Lord Denbigh in 1851.

This would reduce the number of existing MSS. by one were it not for an interesting discovery of an hitherto unrecorded MS. of the Master of Game in the library of Lord Ellesmere at Bridgewater House, where Mr. Strachan Holme came across it in the course of his labours in cataloguing that library. Captain Hart-Davis, who also knew of this interesting discovery, and who had proposed to publish an account of it, kindly obtained for me Lord Ellesmere's permission to inspect it, of which I gladly British Museum, to accompany me.

The MS. proves to be a very clearly written copy on vellum, the leaves being $9\frac{3}{4}$ by $8\frac{1}{4}$ in., and bound in brown calf with gold tooling of the beginning of the 17th century or the last years of the 16th century.

The arrangement of the chapters varies somewhat from that in the Vesp. B. XII. Up to the eleventh MASTER OF GAME—continued

chapter the sequence is the same, the further order being (the numbers in our Table, pp. 5 and 6. are used) as follows: 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. then comes the chapter omitted in the Table, setting forth "how a hunter should seek and find the hare," followed by the 35. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 20. 19. 21. 22. 23. 24. and 25. chapters. Chapter 36 in the Ellesmere MS. has a different heading to any in the Vesp. B. XII., i.e., "How a man shall speke among goode hunters off ye offyce of Venerye," and likewise chap. 37. which is entitled: "How a man shulde know a grete wylde bore and for to konne speke among the hunters off beyonde

The circumstance that there are 37 chapters in the newly discovered MS. is explained by a subdivision made in chapter 25. (according to our text), making two distinct chapters of the one, as our text has it.

At the end of the MS, there is a colophon reading: "Her endeth ye bokke of Venerye called ye Maystre off ye Game which sp(e)cyfyeth all ye nature off ye beestes of Venerye and of her huntyng." Below these lines, written in a hand and ink similar, if not actually the same, to that in the body, is penned: "Ardua lucra labor pariens non est honorosus

"Sepe dulcia gravi sub pondere munera crescunt." In the opinion of Mr. Jeayes the scrivener mistakenly wrote the word dulcia after Sepe instead of in front of it, thus marring what would have been a

good hexameter. It is not known how this MS. came into the Ellesmere Library, various changes, bequests, partitions, as well as the absence of old catalogues, making it impossible to trace it far back, but it is likely that it was acquired by the famous Lord Chancellor of Queen Elizabeth and James 1., Baron Ellesmere and Viscount Brackley, one of the few witnesses of the famous rencontre between Queen Elizabeth and Essex when the latter had his ears boxed for some insult he had offered her. From deeds that are extant it is to be inferred that this great legal luminary was very fond of hunting, and it was probably he that had the MS. bound in what were then sumptuous covers. Unfortunately the binder's knife played havoc with some marginal notes.

We need hardly add that the above list of MSS. is the result of individual researches, and as the first of their kind will probably be found incomplete by later students and wider research. It is hardly the fallaciousness of which it was high time possible that so few copies of what undoubtedly was once a very favourite work should have survived the vicissitudes of five centuries, however disastrous to old muniments they undoubtedly were.

VON DES HIRSZ WANDLUNG, Vienna, Court Library, MS. 2952, paper, 4°, ff. 98-105b, beginning of 15th century.

It was printed:

1. By T. G. v. Karajan, Vienna, 1859.

published together with Kaiser Maximilian 1. Geheimes Jagdbuch.

This treatise on the Hirsz Wandlung, or the hart's tracks, is but a fragment of a larger book on the chase of the hart.

Karajan, the editor, gives both the original and a modern translation, the latter is not entirely correct. E. v. Dombrowski has given an interesting and critical account of it in "Die Lehre von dem Zeichen " (Vienna, 1886).

AENEAS SYLVIUS (Piccolomini) subsequent Pope Pius II. d. 1464. Composed a book on hunting called "de Studio venandi," but no copy is now in existence; it is cited by Tritheme, Gesner, Possevin, Brillon, and several other writers (Souhart, p. 5). It was probably never printed.

THE BOKE OF SAINT ALBANS, supposed to have been written by Dame Julyana Bernes. It is the oldest printed book in English on hunting. Blades in his interesting introduction to his reprint of the first edition (1881) gives a list of editions known to him. We have augmented it with notes from Souhart and other later writers.

1. Issued at St. Albans in 1486 by an unknown printer; in the colophon to the second edition printed (see below) by Wynken de Worde, it is stated that the first edition was printed by the "Scolemayster of St. Albon," and this, in spite of the most persevering research, is all the positive information bibliophiles possess regarding the origin of the book. Concerning the authorship, the information that has been relied upon so generally as indicating Dame Julyana as the authoress, consists only in the words "Explicit Dam Julyans Barnes in her boke of huntyng," with which ends one of the four tractates, viz., the one on hunting, of which the whole work is composed. Round this meagre bit of evidence has been built by imaginative editors of later editions, amongst whom Hazlewood, Bale, and Dr. Chauncy occupy prominent places, a rich fabric of fiction. that Blades' scholarly treatise exposed.

2. 1496, printed by Wynken de Worde. The colophon to the book on Hunting has a word added and the spelling of the name is altered; it runs: "Explicit dame Julyans Bernes doctryne in her boke of huntynge." In this edition appeared for the first time the treatise on Fysshynge.

3. Published in 149—, printed by Wynken de Worde "at the Sygne of the Sonne."