

MANUSCRIPT 118

Bulstrode, Edward, 1588-1659

[Meditations on passages from the Bible.] Begins:
"2^o martij 1650. This manuscript composed
by my selfe..." Binder's title: Bulstrode's
Life.

BS 391 .B9 MS 118

England or Wales

1650

After attending St. John's College at Oxford, Edward Bulstrode entered the Inner Temple in 1605 and was called to the bar in 1613. He became a bencher (one of the senior members of the Inns of Court) in 1629, and in 1649 was made one of the justices of North Wales. In 1653 he was also employed as an itinerant justice, particularly in Warwickshire, where he had an estate at Astley, and was chief justice of the Anglesea circuit the same year. Bulstrode was the author of A Golden-Chain, or, a Miscelany of Divine Sentences of the Sacred Scriptures...Collected and linked together for the souls comfort (London, 1657) and the Reports...of divers resolutions and judgements... in the court of King's Bench in the time of the late reign of King James (London, 1657-59).

Like Bulstrode's Golden-Chain, this manuscript contains "a miscellany of divine sentences of the sacred scriptures." The text of the printed book is not available for comparison, but it may well be that the Golden-Chain was printed from

this manuscript, which is dated seven years earlier than the publication of the book. Bulstrode has simply collected a great number of Bible passages and, in many cases, added his own comments to the verses. No title is given to the collection; but in a note at the beginning Bulstrode explains: "This manuscript composed by my selfe, as a speciall Directory for the whole course of my life and written all of it with my own hand. I do hereby dedicate the same vnto my sonne Richard Bulstrode as a special Directory for him the which being often and carefully reade ouer by him will affoord him much comforte.... The Labour in the composure of it hath been mine but the comfort will be his by his often Reading and meditating thereon."

Richard Bulstrode (1610-1711), the author's second son, was an army officer and diplomat who was knighted for his services to the crown in 1675. After the Glorious Revolution he followed King James II to the court at St. Germain, where he continued to write and to remain active until his death in 1711 at the age of 101. Sir Richard's literary efforts, all published posthumously, cover varied areas: he wrote moralizing and religious essays, letters containing historical accounts of events in the Low Countries, poetry, etc. When over 80 years old he composed 185 elegies and epigrams in Latin verse.

4^o - 21 x 16 cm.

356 fols. - originally paginated.

Bound in cloth-covered boards. (new binding)

Purchased from a British dealer (? - see
catalogue entry on fol. 2r of MS) prior
to 1920.

23 January 1968
JoAnn L. Strateman