

**SUPPLEMENT TO  
*THE CORRESPONDENCE OF ROBERT BOYLE***

**Note:**

This section comprises the texts in chronological order of all letters to or from Boyle that have come to light since *The Correspondence of Robert Boyle* was published in 2001, together with information about lost letters that was not included in the edition.

The most significant source of extant letters is the Dopping Collection at Armagh, which was unfortunately overlooked during the preliminary search for materials for this edition. These letters form part of a three-volume collection of Anthony Dopping's papers which in the eighteenth century came into the possession of the collector, Michael Ignatius Duggan. From him they passed to Dr John Lodge, remaining in the Lodge family until they were purchased for the Public Library in Armagh in 1865. They are published here by kind permission of the Governors and Guardians of Armagh Public Library.

A further 'new' letter, from Boyle to Samuel Clarke, which is now in the collection of the Royal Irish Academy, has clearly come from an autograph collection, probably of nineteenth-century date: it seems likely that further scattered items that have survived as part of autograph collections will come to light in due course.

References by volume and page number are to the *Correspondence*.

**Vol. 1:**

Lost Letters:

The following lost letters are recorded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Cork's diary (Chatsworth, Lismore MS 33), over and above those recorded in vol. 1:

17 June 1651, 9 April 1654 and 6 July 1654.

In the case of the letter dated 9 April 1654, the following details are given: 'I this day sent letters for my brother Robbin by Coll: Roches footeman and in them an abstract of my fathers diary touching Robbins land in Leinster'. Boyle was at this point in Dublin. 'Coll. Roche' is presumably Colonel David Roche of Glenanote who served in the Irish Confederate army; there was a price on his head in May 1652 so it seems unlikely that he was himself at liberty in Ireland in 1654, but this does not preclude Cork's having contact with one of his servants: see Robert Dunlope, *Ireland under the Commonwealth* (2 vols., Manchester, 1913), i, 46, 207. Various entries in the Great Earl of Cork's diary deal with lands inherited by Boyle in Kildare, Wicklow and Meath (i.e., in Leinster): see A.B.Grosart (ed.), *The Lismore Papers (First Series)* (5 vols., London, 1886), iii, 93, 129; iv, 74-5, 107, 172.

A letter from Peter du Moulin to the Countess of Cork dated 10 November 1658 (Chatsworth, Lismore MS 30, no. 42) refers to letters that Boyle had 'lately' received from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Cork. None is recorded in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl's diary between 12 June and 23 November that year (see

vol. 1, p. 246), so du Moulin evidently refers to additional lost letters. For du Moulin, see vol. 1, p. 269, n. a.

## Vol. 2:

Lost Letters:

In a notebook entry dated 1664, Bodleian Library, Oxford, MS Locke f. 27, p. 2. John Locke wrote: 'Dr Borrichius writt 2 letters to Mr Boyle, but hath not heard from him, says Mr Collins'. The reference is presumably to Samuel Collins (see vol. 2, p. 92, n. a), and one of the letters concerned is evidently that from Borrichius to Boyle of 30 March 1664 printed in vol. 2, pp. 254-66. The other, however, is evidently lost. (We are grateful to Peter Anstey for this reference.)

In Henry Miles's 'List of Titles as I sort em Feb. 10. 1742/3' (Boyle Papers 36, fols. 141-3, 163-4), no. 84 comprises 'Letter of Dr Beale of Art of flying June 3 1665 3 sheets'. This was perhaps a treatise in epistolary form. The same may also have been true of the next item in the list, no. 85, 'Defect. of Thermom. from the same 1665'. See Michael Hunter and Lawrence M. Principe, 'The Lost Papers of Robert Boyle', *Annals of Science*, 60 (2003), 269-311, on p. 302.

## Vol. 3:

BOYLE to SAMUEL CLARKE,<sup>1</sup> 20 January 1666

From the original in hand E, signed by Boyle, at the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, MS 3/D/8/3. Fol/1, written initially across the page and then down it.

Stanton.<sup>2</sup> Jan: 20th 1665/6

Sir

Having newly receivd from an Ingenious Person at London a Letter of the cheife part whereof the Inclosed <Paper> is a Transcript,<sup>3</sup> my absence from Oxford hindering mee from waiting on you and Mr Seaman about it, I am obleigd to take this way of communicating it to you, desiring that when you have showd the paper to Mr Seaman you will enable mee to give the Ingenious Writer of the Letter as clear & full an Answer to the particulars as you think you may safely doe. Seignior Warner<sup>i</sup> being dead, there seemes noe danger to our intended worke, especially since it appears not that he had soe much as begun the Version of the New Testament, &<sup>ii</sup> for the Translation of the old; as these Freinds of his at Amsterdam, (who are both of them men of note

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<sup>1</sup> Samuel Clarke (1625-69), orientalist and the University of Oxford's 'Architypographicus' from 1658 onwards.

<sup>2</sup> Boyle was at this time living at Stanton St John: see vol. 2, p. 581.

<sup>3</sup> The enclosed paper is not extant and the 'ingenious person' from whose letter it was extracted has not been identified, though this could be a lost letter from Henry Oldenburg, with whom Boyle had discussed the death of Warner in a letter of 18 Nov. 1665: vol. 2, p. 584.

& Worth) seeme to desire, an information about the Inclosed Particulars, but <that> they may the better conforme their Edition to Mr Seaman's;<sup>4</sup> soe, that the promoting of soe good a worke whereby the whole Bible will be extant in the Turkish Tongue; may receive from your Informations the furtherance that is wishd for in Holland, is <both> the hope & the desire of

Sir

Your Affect: Freind  
& humble servant.

Ro: Boyle.

<sup>iii</sup>Pray present my humble service to Mr Seaman

These  
To my highly Esteemd  
Freind Mr Samuel Clark  
Present  
At his house in Holywell  
In Oxford

The following words are underlined, evidently by the recipient of the letter: 'Seaman', 'Seignior Warnero', 'Version of the New Testament', 'Translation', 'old', 'Amsterdam', 'Mr Seaman's', 'Bible' and 'Turkish Tongue'.

Endorsed on verso, in ink, 'No. 3177', and in pencil, 'The famous Philosopher', possibly in William Upcott's hand. Adjacent to the address, at right-angles to it, in an early nineteenth-century [?] hand: 'Joshua Radford'.

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#### **Vol. 4:**

#### Lost Letters:

In a letter to Henry Oldenburg of 2/12 June 1669, the diplomat and traveller Francis Vernon (?1637-77) wrote: 'Pray my humble Respects to Mr Boyle to whom I sent a Letter & I doe not know whether hee hath received it' (*Oldenburg*, vi, 6). Since Vernon had previously written to Oldenburg on 1/11 May (*ibid.*, 507-8), the letter to Boyle presumably post-dated that.

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<sup>4</sup> The German scholar Levinus Warner (1619-65) had translated the Bible into Turkish, but due to his death it was not published till the nineteenth century. For the anxiety that it might be a threat to the plan of the English orientalist, William Seaman (1607-80), to produce such a translation, see above, vol. 2, pp. 309, 327, 341, 430, 581, 584. The Amsterdam contacts referred to were probably Peter Serrarius (1600-69: see vol. 2, p. 328n.) and Laurens de Geer (1614-66: see vol. 1, p. 381n.)

## Vol. 5:

### Lost Letters:

In a letter of 20 September and 13 October from John Locke to the French scholar, Nicolas Toinard (1628-1706), Locke mentions in connection with an observation of Jupiter that Toinard had sent him, 'j'ecrivois a Mr Boyle pour l'en informer et par ce moien alarmer tous nos Canoniers celests de la Societé Royal qui croient y avoir interest'. See E.S.de Beer (ed.), *The Correspondence of John Locke*, 8 vols (Oxford, 1976-89), ii, 115. No letter from Locke to Boyle survives between 16 June 1679 and 30 Sept./10 Oct. 1687 (see vol. 5, pp. 158-60, and vol. 6, p. 236).

BOYLE to [HENRY JONES], 22 August 1681

Armagh Public Library, Dopping Collection, No. 13<sup>iv</sup>  
Hand: Warr, signed by Boyle. 4<sup>o</sup>/2.

London Aug: the 22<sup>th</sup> 1681

My Lord,

In my last Letter (to which I have not been yet so happy as to receive an Answer)<sup>5</sup> I acquainted your Lordship, that there wanted but the last sheet of our Irish Testament to be printed off: and now I must add, that, thanks be to God, tis at last finishd & brought me home bound. So that now I shall want only Directions how I may best transmit it, & a conveniency to execute those Directions. But because I find by a Letter written me by the Learned Library Keeper at Oxford, Mr Hyde, that the worthy Provost of the Colledge at Dublin complaind to him, that he has not been able to procure in & about that City but four Irish Testaments in all, which are by far too few for the number of Students God has been pleasd to excite to the study of that Language; I have causd thirty or forty to be bound with designe to send them away by the first conveniency for the use of the Collegiates & those other Persons that your Lordship shall judge likeliest to make a good /fol. 1v/ and speedy use of them.<sup>6</sup> After these I intend, God willing, to send over as many as will make them up four hundred; which I chuse to send in quires, both for conveniency of Transportation, and that your Lordship and those other charitable persons that concerne themselves in the disposal of them, may have the liberty to cause as many Copies as you shall thinke fit, to be bound up with the Common Prayer in case the Designe your Lordship acquainted me with of publishing it in the Irish Tongue come to be actually accomplish'd.<sup>7</sup> But I send not the Bookes over in quires to save the charge of haveing them well bound in good Sheeps

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<sup>5</sup> This must be the letter of 'two moneths past' to which Jones replied on 3 September ( vol. 5, p. 263)

<sup>6</sup> For Thomas Hyde, see vol. 5, p. 2. No letters from Hyde to Boyle survive between 1679 and 1683. For the Provost, Narcissus Marsh's, initiative in encouraging students to learn Irish, see vol. 5, pp. 253-4.

<sup>7</sup> For the proposal to reprint the Book of Common Prayer in Irish at this time, see vol. 5, p. 208.

Leather, as, if I mistake not, the Welch Bibles were;<sup>8</sup> for having pitchd upon a price with the Bookebinder here, who is thought to deal very reasonably with me, because the number of Bookes makes a small gaine in each of them considerable; I intend /fol. 2/ to accompany the Bookes I send over in quires with a Bill for as much money, as would serve to bind them here; & I hope you have Leather as cheap, if not cheaper, at Dublin than at London. I have at length for 'twere not before yesterday, got Mr Reyly to bring home his Irish Version of as much of the Jansenists Preface to their French Edition of the New Testament, as has been thought necessary or convenient to be prefixt to ours.<sup>9</sup> And I designe that it shall accompany the first Bookes that are sent over, that your Lordship & worthy Doctor Sall may judge if there be any thing fit to be added concerning the Translation & the present Edition of the New Testament in Irish And together with Mr Reyley's Papers, I send the French it selfe, that if there be any Person at Dublin, as I suppose there is, that is a sufficient master of both Languages French & Irish, he /fol. 2v/ may judge whether the Version of the Preface be faithfully & skillfully made, and mend it where there is need, in case it shall be found not to be so. I have been oblig'd to make this dull Letter so tedious already, that I shall add nothing to lengthen it, except an humble desire to receive assoon as your Conveniency will permit, your Lordships Directions (about the disposal of the Bookes) which God granting me Life & health will be readily obeyd by,

My Lord

Your Lordships most Humble  
& most faithfull  
Servant

Ro: Boyle.

Endorsed: 'From Mr Ro. Boyle. Aug. 22. 1681'.

SENT VERSION of BOYLE to JONES, 17 September 1681

Armagh Public Library, Dopping Collection, No. 14<sup>v</sup>  
Hand C, signed by Boyle. Fol./2.

This version is dated, 'Knights Bridge Sept. 17<sup>th</sup>' and has the signature, 'Ro: Boyle;' Otherwise it differs from the BL version printed in *Correspondence*, vol. 5, pp. 268-71 (dated 27 September on the basis of Jones's reply, *ibid.*, p. 271) only in punctuation and spelling, except that it has the following postscript, wholly lacking in the BL version:

Postscript

Of the 3 books that are Guilt <&> in Turkey Leather, one is design'd for the Lord Primate & Chancellor, another for the Lord Arch Bishop of Cashell,<sup>10</sup> & the 3d for your Lordship, who is humbly requested to accept of it, & present the other two with my most humble service, according to the Direction, adding a word of Apology for my not haveing address'd them my

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<sup>8</sup> For the Welsh Bible, see vol. 5, p. 204.

<sup>9</sup> See vol. 5, p. 220 and *passim*.

<sup>10</sup> I.e. Michael Boyle, vol. 5, p. 203n, and Thomas Price, vol. 5, p. 134n.

selfe to each of Their Graces, I not being at London when the bookes were brought to my Lodgeings, & thence sent away. Of the 7 that are bound in Calves Leather with Gilt Backs, I desire one may be presented to the worthy Provost of the Colledge of Dublin, another (which should have been <more> richly<sup>vi</sup> bound) to the Library there, a 3d to my Reverend & Learned Friend Dr Sall, & the other 4 to such persons of note, & well wishers to the conversion of the Irish, as Y[our] L[ordship] shall think fit. And now I must give Y[our] L[ordship] notice, that I have sent also by the <same> Carrier, 350 Irish Testaments, which together with the newly mention'd 50 already bound, make up 400 bookes. I send not the whole Impression, which amounts in all to about 500, because tis thought fit to keep some number on this side the water, partly for the use of the Isle of Man, where Irish is spoaken, partly for some of the Scotch HighLanders that use the same Language, & partly for other purposes.<sup>11</sup> /fol. 2v/ And for those that are sent over in Quires, I shall, God permitting by the first conveniency send as much money as would here pay for their binding,<sup>vii</sup> at the rate I pay'd for each of the most of those 40, that were sent over plain bound.

Endorsed: 'Mr Robert Boyle. Sept. 17 St.'  
Rd. 22.

BOYLE to SALL, 21 January 1682 [referred to as lost in *Correspondence*, vol. 5, p. 287]

Armagh Public Library, Dopping Collection, No. 11<sup>viii</sup>.  
Hand C, signed by Boyle. 4<sup>o</sup>/2.

London, Jan: the 21<sup>st</sup>

Sir

The news of the death of the Good Bishop of Meath,<sup>12</sup> tho his Age kept it from being surprizeing, was yet very unwelcome, especially to those who with you & me heartily wish the conversion of the Popish natives of Ireland. And therefore it concerns us to be mindfull, of that of Our Saviour, that the greatness of the harvest & the Paucity of the Labourers, ought to ingage us to be supplicants to the Great Lord of the Harvest. I am sorry to find that your zeal for this precept, has been hitherto so little encourag'd by those that ought to mind the promoteing of such works. But I hope that in Gods good time, which is always the best, he will make the light of his Gospell dispell all interposeing Clouds & impediments, & shine gloriously upon those that as yet sit in darkness in our poor Country. I have shewn your Letter to my sister R.<sup>13</sup> who continues to be much your Friend, & will not faile to shew her selfe such when she shall meet with a Opertunity. She /fol. 1v/ Thinks she may have some Interest in the new Bishop of Meath, who is related to the family, whereof her son is now the head, & she intends to improve that Interest, to

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11 For the distribution of Bibles in the Scottish Highlands, see vol. 6, passim. This is the earliest reference to such an interest on Boyle's part. The idea of distributing them in the Isle of Man is not otherwise documented.

12 Henry Jones: see vol. 5, p. 203. He died on 5 Jan. 1682.

13 I.e. Lady Ranelagh. The letter referred to is perhaps that of 13 Dec. 1681, vol. 5, p. 279

dispose him to promote the good work you are engag'd in.<sup>14</sup> I am troubled that Mr Higgins is no more consider'd by those in Power, & the rather because the late Bishop of Meath intimated to me a good while agoe, that there would be at Dublin a maintenance settled for him, by way of Annual contribution, till he could be better provided for.<sup>15</sup> I do not wonder that the Bishop of Meath should exhort you to inlarg upon the recommendation of the Scripture, that being a booke which<sup>ix</sup> deserves the highest Elogiums, & will recompence the most serious & asiduous study. (upon which accompts, I <formerly> ventured to write a Tract of the style of the Scriptures).<sup>16</sup> Mr Rely wishes that the Printing of the Old Testament in Irish, might be begun as soon as is possible, because he says, that otherwise he knows not whether he may not be cald hence to some other Employment, before the Impression be compleated.<sup>17</sup> Your Præface to the New Testament. (which is very well liked by those I have yet shewn it to) should have been sent before this time, but that I could not get a safe convenicy [sic], & therefore I intend to send next week 400 copies of it to Chester by /fol. 2/ The Carrier, being unwilling to hazzard them by long sea in this Tempestuous season, wherein almost every day brings us News of Shipwracks.<sup>18</sup> That they may come safe to your hands, & prove serviceable to the purposes you designed in them, are the hearty wishes of

Sir

Your very Affectionate  
Friend & very humble  
Servant

Ro: Boyle.

I find by a letter from your worthy Dr Marsh, that their [sic] is a short Irish Grammar drawn up <by him> at Dublin, & that he is to seek how to get it Printed, I may probably be able to assist him in that work, if I knew what the charge will amount to for Printing 500 copies of it, & therefore you will obl[ige me]<sup>x</sup> to intimate it in your next.<sup>19</sup>

These/ To the Reverend Doctor

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14 Anthony Dopping: see vol. 5, p. 286. Lady Ranelagh's son was Richard Jones, 1st Earl of Ranelagh (see vol. 5, p. 207). For his instrumentality in getting Dopping appointed, see Lady Ranelagh to Dopping, 14 Jan. 1682, Dopping Collection, no. 10. Dopping was related to the Ranelaghs in that his maternal grandmother, Margaret (d. 1615), wife of Gilbert Domville, was born Margaret Jones and was the sister of Roger Jones, 1st Viscount Ranelagh (d.1643), who was Lady Katherine's father in law and the 1st Earl's grandfather: see G.E.Cokayne, *Complete Peerage* (new ed., 14 vols, London, 1910-59), x, 730-1, and A.P. Burke (ed.), *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Landed Gentry of Ireland* (London, 1904), p. 258.

15 For Higgin, see vol. 5, p. 253-4. It is not clear what 'maintenance' is referred to.

16 I.e., *Style of the Scriptures*, published in 1661.

17 For Reilly, see above. For a reference to 'Employment lately proffer'd me in the Country', see Reilly to Sall, 23 Feb. 1682, Dopping Collection, no. 18; its nature is unclear.

18 For Sall's preface, see vol. 5, pp. 274-5.

19 For Marsh's grammar, see vol. 5, p. 281 and passim.

Andrew Sall/ Present<sup>xi</sup>  
To be left with Mr John Reeves liveing near St Mary Abbey  
at Dublin/ To be delivered as above/ directed

Seal: three fleur-de-lys on a shield, surrounded by a wreath.

Postmark: IA/24

Endorsed: '1681. Mr Rob. Boyle, Jan. 2'

BOYLE to ANTHONY DOPPING,<sup>20</sup> 25 April 1682

Armagh Public Library, Dopping Collection, No. 22.<sup>xii</sup>

Hand: Warr, signed by Boyle. 4<sup>o</sup>/2.

London April the 25<sup>th</sup> 1682

My Lord

I find by a Letter of your Lordships to my Sister Ranelagh, that you are pleasd to desire my thoughts about something that relates to the Publication of the Old Testament in Irish.<sup>21</sup> I fear it would be tedious to trouble your Lordship with what you may, with less exercise of your patience, receive a particular account of, from the worthy Provost of Trinity Colledge, Doctor Marsh; who can acquaint your Lordship with what had passd about this Affair, wherein he has himselfe had a very laudable part.<sup>22</sup> I am frequently promisd (and that by more than one Person) the Formularyes of Subscriptions, by which the printing of the Welsh Bible was not long since very successfully carryed on in this Kingdome. If any of those Persons keep their word, I shall, God permitting, dispatch over the Papers to Dublin; where I hope they may prove usefull Precedents.<sup>23</sup> But I confess I do not see why, if these cannot seasonably be procurd, the worke may not happily /fol. 1v/ proceed without them. And I am the more encouraged to thinke so, by seeing so good a worke, so forwardly ownd by such a Patron as your Lordship, whose zeale will, I hope, as it deserves to do, prove very exemplary. And because in undertakeings of this kind, the first steps are commonly much the most difficult, I am willing to breake the Ice in England also, by laying downe fifty pound towards the common stock; that there may be a beginning, if not also some progresse, made, of the Edition of the Old Testament, whilst the Subscriptions of others with you in Ireland are procureing. I scarce<sup>xiii</sup> doubt but there is before now arriv'd at Dublin the first sheet of Genesis printed off; by which your Lordship may judge of the Paper and Inke, that the Printer & Corrector designe to employ: and if that Pattern be well approv'd of, I wish that no avoidable delay may be made of setting the Press on worke; in regard the Printer /fol. 2/ will not undertake under a penalty to compleat it in less time than a year; and Mr. Reyley, the sole Corrector, desires not be engagd beyond that time, because he doubts whether his

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20 See vol. 5, p. 286.

21 See Dopping to Ranelagh, 25 March 1682, Dopping Collection, no. 19.

22 See vol. 5, p. 290 and passim.

23 For the Welsh proposals see vol. 5, p. 204.

occasions will allow him to be so.<sup>24</sup> I should need your Lordships pardon for troubling you with so long a Letter, if I had not thought it was made a kind of Duty to do it; partly in compliance with your Lordships Kindness for that Pious worke you are engaging in; and partly to acknowledge my sense of the Honour your Lordship was pleas'd to do me, by requiring the weake Thoughts of,

My Lord,  
Your Lordships most Humble  
& most Obedient  
Servant

Ro: Boyle.

Fol. 2v blank except for the endorsement: 'Apr: 25: 1682. Mr Rob: Boyle. Answered Aug: 3'.

BOYLE to DOPPING, 15 August 1682

Armagh Public Library, Dopping Collection, No. 23.<sup>xiv</sup>

Hand: Warr, signed by Boyle. 4<sup>o</sup>/2 + 2 (i.e., Boyle's letter is on 4 sides, with a separate cover sheet, blank on its inner sides).

London Aug: the 15<sup>th</sup> 1682

My Lord,

The Honour of your Lordships Letter needs not the Endearment of Earliness to make it welcome.<sup>25</sup> The worthy Provost of Trinity Colledge I presume acquainted your Lordship with what I writ to him by the three last posts. Whereby you will perceive in what forwardness we are here to begin the Impression of the Irish Old Testament.<sup>26</sup> And I am very glad to find that your Lordship is so hopefull of being, by supplies from Ireland, able to carry it on; which I am the more dispos'd to expect when I consider whose worke it is we have the honour to be engag'd in.<sup>27</sup> I am also glad, that your Lordship dos not thinke it necessary, no more than I do, to stay for the formularies of subscriptions for the Welsh Bible, since all the Endeavours I have hitherto used to procure them, almost as much to my wonder as trouble, prove fruitless, & give me no great hopes that they will for the future be seasonably successfull. Your Lordship is pleas'd to ascribe much more to my poor Endeavours, to promote the good Worke now on foot, than I /fol. 2v/ have either a Right or the Vanity to pretend to And therefore tis the more obligeing in your Lordship to vouchsafe to call for my Opinion about the difficulty propos'd in your Letter. I acknowledge it to be considerable, but hope it will not prove insuperable. For it is not propos'd,

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24 For Reilly's putative job, see previous letter.

25 See Dopping to Boyle, 3 Aug. 1682, vol. 5, pp. 318-9.

26 See Boyle's letters of 1, 5 and 12 August, vol. 5, pp. 316ff.

27 For Dopping's attempts to raise subscriptions, see Dopping Collection, nos. 24-33. For the Welsh proposals, see vol. 5, p. 204.

that the Subscribers should part with their money gratis; but the Charge of the whole Impression being computed, & also the number of the Copies to be printed at that Charge viz: five hundred, 'twill be easy to determine pretty near the matter, what every compleat Copy will cost; & so every body will have more or fewer Copies in proportion to the Summe he subscribes. Which Copies he may afterwards either dispose of to the Booksellers if he please, or, if his Charity lead him to do so, he may give away gratis /fol. 3/ all, or as many as he thinks fit. And whereas what I advance in Ireland & here, amounting to a full third part of the Charge as tis computed; I may justly expect a third part of the Copies; my Intention is to reserve only a few for my selfe & some of my Friends, and dispose of the rest gratis, as shall appear to me to be most convenient, for carrying on the designe of enabling the Irish to read the word of God in their owne Language. Those that are engaged in this Worke have undertaken to be very diligent in carrying it on; but they declare, as they well may, that twill be impossible for them to do with the expedition desired by us & promised by them, unless /fol. 3v/ they be seasonably, and from time to time, supplied with Copy out of Ireland; which they therefore earnestly solicit; & upon the same account, their Request is also made that of

My Lord

Your Lordships most  
Humble and  
most Obedient  
Servant

Ro: Boyle/ fol. 4v/

These/ [To]<sup>xv</sup> the Right Reverend/ Father in God the  
Lord Bishop of/ Meath/ Present/ at Dublin.

Seal: TDR/Reilly.

Postmark: AV/22. MS postal marking 'IN' adjacent to address.

Endorsed by Dopping on fol. 1: 'Aug: 15 1682. Mr Robert Boyle. Irish<sup>xvi</sup> Bible'.

ALLEN MULLEN [?] to BOYLE, 27 Feb. 1683

Boyle quoted a lengthy extract from this letter, headed '*Dublin, Feb 27. 1682*', in his *Experimenta et Observationes Physicae* (1691), *Works*, vol. 11, pp. 406-7. The possibility that the letter is from Mullen is canvassed there. For Mullen, see above, vol. 5, p. 298n. Presuming that the letter *is* from Mullen, it would be likelier to date from 1683 than 1682 (and it is likely that the date of the letter is old style in any case), since Mullen was only introduced to Boyle in June 1682: see *ibid.*, pp. 297-8.

**vol. 6:**

Lost Letters:

For a possible lost letter from Boyle to Huntington dated early December 1685, see Appendix.

BOYLE to his STEWARD, 22 January 1685

In his 'Life' of Boyle (*Works* (1744), i, 88, reprinted in *Works* (1772), i, cxxxix-cxl), Birch records the following, otherwise lost, letter:

It appears likewise, by a letter of his to one of his stewards in *Ireland*, dated January 22, 1684-5, that he had ordered a former steward to set aside every year about a fifth part (rather more than less) of the clear annual income of his tythes and impropriations, to be employed for pious uses. The orders to the new steward run thus: "I must desire you at every half year's rent day, or when the rents then due shall be paid in to you, to lay aside, till you receive contrary orders, the full fifth part of what you judge you receive for me *de claro* upon the account of tythes and impropriations, to be disposed, &c.

It is unclear who the steward in question was. For the impropriations, see above, vol. 4, *passim*.

BOYLE to HUNTINGTON, 14 July 1685, with covering letter from HUNTINGTON to DOPPING, 21 July 1685

Armagh Public Library, Dopping Collection, no. 45.<sup>xvii</sup>  
Scribal copy of Boyle's letter (on fol. 2), with holograph covering letter from Huntington. Fol/2.  
The scribe uses a curious form of punctuation in the form ' ; ', which has been reproduced here.

London July the 14<sup>th</sup> 1685

Worthy Sir

I Received yesternight with great Contentment the assurance you give me that the drawing up the preface to the Irish old Testament is undertaken by a Prelate so able to performe it well as the Bishop of Meath,; whose question about the preface<sup>xviii</sup> to be printed also in another Language then Irish seems very pertinent,;<sup>28</sup> And of the two Languages mentioned in your Letter,; tho the Latine be the more generall,; yet in regard the booke is like to fall into few hands, besides Irish ones that doe not understand English,; and many of those that do may be unacquainted with the Romane tongue,; perhaps it might procure the booke more friends, and helpe it to benefit more

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<sup>28</sup> This letter is not extant, and neither is Dopping's preface; for the reasons for the latter loss, see below, Boyle to Huntington, 13 May 1686.

persons, if they be addressd to in a language they best understand, and those few books that shall be thought fit to be presented as Rarities to Libraryes or great persons in other Countries may have a Latine Version of the preface prefixt instead of the English,: But these things I only offer to Consideration, leaving you upon the place at liberty to determine as you shall thinke fit,: As to what is intimated about adding the Apochrypha if there were but one reason to disswade it, that also is such that it would suffice, for haveing for trials sake caused a booke to be bound with care, to see what bulke it would be of,: tho it were extraordinarily well beaten, and wants the preface,: yet amounting to above eleven hundred pages, it is already so thick and heavy, that all that can be hoped for is, that when the preface, shall be added; it will want a litle, tho but very litle, of being Cumbersome or unweildy; so that the present edition is altogether incapable of so voluminous an Appendix as the Apocrypha Books would amount to,:<sup>29</sup> I intend to make use of the liberty you give me to address my selfe to Mr William Hussey to desire his advice and if need be his assistance in order to the transportation of some of the books when they shall be compleated by a preface which is much Longed for by

Worthy Sir

Your most affectionate and  
Most Humble Servant  
Ro: Boyle

You will oblige m [sic] to give my most humble service to those learned Prelats that are pleasd to concern themselves in our work. And as to your most worthy predecessors designe of an Irish Grammer I shall be very glad to receive some more particuler information about it, and an Estimatt what bulke it will be of.<sup>30</sup> /fol. 2v/

HUNTINGTON'S COVERING LETTER:

July the 21 –85

My Lord

Before the Receipt of Mr Boyles Letter this afternoon I was to wait upon your Lordship, but came it seems a day after the Fair;<sup>31</sup> & thought my self oblig'd to make an Excuse, if the Transcript I now send you had not warranted me the Privilege of writing. Were I not to go to the Visitation of the Dukes School at Kilkenny next week, I should very likely beg your pardon in person;<sup>32</sup> But I am sure you can bestow it at a distance, & if it comprehends your Ladyes also, twill be doubly acceptable to

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29 See vol. 6, p. 137. For Hussey, see vol. 6, p. 177.

30 For Marsh's grammar, see vol. 5, p. 281 and passim.

31 A colloquialism meaning 'too late'.

32 A grammar school was founded at Kilkenny at this time by James Butler, 1st Duke of Ormonde (1601-88), who issued a charter for the school as Lord Lieutenant in 1684. See T.U. Sadleir, 'Register of Kilkenny School (1685-1800)', *Journal of the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland*, 54 (1924), 55-67,

My Lord  
Your most humble & Obedient Servant  
Robert Huntington

To The Right Reverend Father in God  
Antony Lord Bishop of Meath  
At Ardrachan/ near/ the Navan

Seal: Helmeted classical figure with pitchfork over arm and shield.  
Postmark: IY/21

Endorsed on fol. 2v (partly hidden by mount): 'Dr Huntington..... Concerning the Irish bible together with Mr Boyles Letter. Answered'.

HUNTINGTON to DOPPING, 10 October 1685, quoting BOYLE to HUNTINGTON, early October 1685

Armagh Public Library, Dopping Collection, No. 46.<sup>xix</sup>  
Holograph. 4<sup>o</sup>/2.

October the 10<sup>th</sup> –85

My Lord

My Boyle acknowledges the Receipt of your Preface with very honourable & just Expressions of its Author, & great Returns of Thanks for the same: His following words will deserv your notice – I dare not take upon me to be so knowing in the circumstances of your Irish Affairs as were requisit to make me competent Judg of a Paper drawn up by such a hand as his Lordships; & therefore I do not presume to offer at any alteration in it, Tho, if I durst propose any, it should be the mollifying 2 or 3 expressions, that may seem somewhat severe to the Romanists. I said this with an *IF*, becaus you upon the place may see more reason than I do at this distance, to imploy a *Stile* somewhat pungent, to awaken the Romish Clergy & People, to consider more seriously the things that concern them in the highest degree. And I hope so brave & rational a discours, will, by the blessing of God, hav some impression on such of them as Prejudices & Interests do not altogether indispose to entertaine the Truth –

I took the confidence, my Lord, to tell him by this Packet, that I presum'd you would submit the fitness of expression to his great Judgment: However that I would this very Post give your Lordship his sens of it in his own words; & if you thought fit to add or alter any thing, that I would immediately transmit to him. For I reckon it my honour to be employd in so good a Concern & to approve my selfe

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152-69, on p. 55. Dopping's wife, referred to in the next sentence, was Jane Molyneux (b. 1648); they were married by license issued 27 Dec. 1670: see Burke, *Genealogical and Heraldic History* (above, n. 14), p. 258.

Your Lordships most dutyfull & Obedient Servant  
Robert Huntington. /fol. 2/

To the Right Reverend Father in God Anthony  
Lord Bishop of Meath/ near/ the Navan

Seal: shield, *fretty on a chief three mullets*.  
Postmark: OC/10. Also, MS marking adjacent to address.

Endorsed on fol. 2v (otherwise blank): 'Dr Huntington Oct: 10: 85 to alter some things in the præface to the Irish testament. Answered'.

BOYLE to HUNTINGTON, 13 May 1686, with Huntington's covering letter to Dopping of 10 June 1686

Armagh Public Library, Dopping Collection, Nos. 57-8.<sup>xx</sup>  
Hand: Warr, signed by Boyle. 4<sup>o</sup>/2, enclosed in Huntington's letter, which is also 4<sup>o</sup>/2 but on larger paper, with the address on fol. 1.

London May the 13<sup>th</sup> 1686

Worthy Sir,

I was somewhat surpriz'd to receive two dayes since from your ingenious friend, Mr Hussey, a Letter wherein he calls upon me for the Preface to the Irish Testament, as a peice, the want whereof kept the Booke from comeing forth.<sup>33</sup> For if my memory do not very much faile me, twas but a very little while after I received the Copy of it, I return'd it without takeing upon me to make any alteration in it, but left you to do it upon the place if you thought fit. Only I ventur'd to offer it to Consideration, Whether the mention made of the Irish Clergy & their Averseness from haveing the People inform'd, might not be somewhat mollify'd To which, if I mistake not, twas answerd from Dublin, that such sharpness was requisite to awaken & excite the Irish Romanists, whom their Clergy had laid very fast asleep. In which Answer I that was a stranger to the /fol. 1v/ present state of those Parts, thought my selfe oblig'd to acquiesce. I remember also that I told you that I agreed with you in thinkeing that some account of the Care that had been taken to make the Version faithfull & the Edition as Correct as Circumstances would permit, might very well be brought in when the intended Irish Grammar should come forth.<sup>34</sup> I did then, & still do, take it for granted, that of a Writeing of such moment as the Preface; you kept a Copy by you, & could easily get it translated into Irish & printed in both Languages at Dublin. And therefore I was only solicitous to procure a dispatch of the Title Page, which accordingly was printed here both in English & Irish, and sent several weekes agoe /fol. 2/ to Mr Hussey, who

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33 See Hussey to Boyle, 8 May 1690, vol. 6, pp. 177-8.

34 For Marsh's Irish Grammar, see above.

very civilly sometime before invited me to leave it in his hands, by a Promise that he would speedily & carefully transmit it. This being all the Account I can give you of that Preface; I hope you will be pleas'd, with what convenient speed you can to cause that Paper to be printed at Dublin at my charge, & with it the Version of it in Irish, in case you can get it well done there, as I presume you may, and thinke it expedient for the Information of the Natives. The Circumstances of this Time, as well as the good use that I hope will (at least by some Readers) be made of the Booke, make the long delay'd Publication of it fit to be dispatch'd in the Opinion of

Worthy Sir  
Your most Humble  
& Affectionate  
Servant

Ro: Boyle.

<sup>xxi</sup>P.S. I hope you have Irish Letters enough at Dublin to print the Preface in that Language, but if that should require too much time, perhaps twere better to let the Booke come out with the English Preface only, as, I thinke twas first proposd at Dublin.

Endorsed by Dopping on fol. 2v: 'Mr Robert Boyle<sup>xxii</sup> May 13. 86 concerning my præface and the Irish version.

#### HUNTINGTON'S COVERING LETTER

June the 10<sup>th</sup> -86

My Lord

You will by the Inclosed discover the miscarriage of your Preface to the Irish Bible: And tho I doubt not but your Lordship has a Copy of the same, yet whether you will not make some alterations or additions, I leav to your father consideration. Moreover I guess they have no Irish Letter here, & therefore recours must agen be had to London if any thing more shall be done in that language. Otherwise it may be bound up with the Title Page only: And therein allso, whether it were not enough to express the Translation to have bin made with great care & faithfulness, without mentioning any ones name, but leaving that to some more convenient place, may employ your 2<sup>d</sup> thoughts. I have Titles according to the number of the Copyes, 50; & know not whether those will be made use of in hast: For I have many lying bound by me, without any prospect of disposing them where they will be read. If there are in your Dioces who desire to have them gratis as Mr Boyle dispenses them, let them give directions to

Your Lordships very humble & Obedient Servant  
Robert Huntington.

To the Right Reverend Father in God Antony  
Lord Bishop of Meath at Ardrachan/ near the/ Navan

Seal: as No. 45.

Postmark: IV/10. Also MS postal marking by address.

Endorsed by Dopping on fol. 4v: 'Dr Huntington June 10: 86. Concerning my præface to the Irish bible: and the version of it. Answered'.

## APPENDIX

The Dopping Collection contains other letters relevant to the Irish Bible project which it has not seemed appropriate to include here since they are neither to nor from Boyle. Some of these have been referred to in the footnotes above. However, there are two letters which it seems desirable to deal with here. One of them, no. 48, is a draft of a letter from Dopping to Huntington, dated 14 December 1685, which was printed in *Correspondence*, vol. 6, pp. 451-3, from the original surviving in the Boyle Letters. The other is no. 47, a letter from Huntington to Dopping, dated 12 December, to which that letter is a reply. Partly because of its significance in elucidating the letter already printed, and partly because it appears to summarise a lost letter from Boyle, it is printed in full here. In addition, a collation is offered of Dopping's draft of his letter to Boyle with the version actually sent.

HUNTINGTON to DOPPING, 12 December 1685

Armagh Public Library, Dopping Collection, No. 47.<sup>xxiii</sup>  
Holograph. 4<sup>o</sup>/2.

Dec. the 12<sup>th</sup> –85

My Lord

You'l see by the Enclosed, which came to my hands last night, an Account of what it is Mr Boyle desires; & also the occasion of why I could not so well understand his meaning in a Letter, I told your Lordship of, which he wrote to a Correspondent here:<sup>35</sup> For the return'd Preface he speaks of never came to me so that if any thing were intimated as to alterations or additions, tis all lost but what may be conjectur'd from what he writes here.<sup>36</sup> How far you shall think fit to govern yourself by his Notices, what larger Account to give, & whether you'l put the Preface into Irish: or els whether you dont think him a proper Judg, to determin in this whole Affair; is not a proper subject for my Consideration; as too much above it. However let me entreat your Lordship to send me a speedy Resolv which way you intend to proceed, that I may write accordingly: And if farther Compositions or Versions shall be made here; that they may be concluded in as small a Bulk as may be; since there will be no time left to expect a privat messenger, but they must be sent to him by the Post.

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<sup>35</sup> Perhaps a reference to Boyle to Marsh, 28 Nov. 1685, vol. 6, pp. 136-8, though this seems an elliptical way to describe Marsh. The enclosed letter is missing.

<sup>36</sup> For the preface, see vol. 6, p. 137n., and above, Boyle to Huntington, 13 May 1686.

My Lord, if you'l give me leav to present my Respects to your Lady, & my Good Wishes to your Children; Ile ease you of any farther trouble at present,<sup>37</sup> & remain your Lordships most Obedient Servant Rob<sup>t</sup> Huntington. /fol. 2v/

To the Right Reverend Father in God Antony  
Lord Bishop of Meath/ at Ardrachan/ near the /Navan

Seal: as no. 46  
Postmark: DE/12.

Endorsed on fol. 2v: 'Dr Huntington Dec: 12: 85 concerning the Irish translation of the Bible.  
Answered Infra.

NOTE ON DOPPING COLLECTION, NO. 48, DRAFT OF DOPPING TO HUNTINGTON, 14  
DECEMBER 1685

The original of this letter, which survives as Boyle Letters 4, fols. 69-70, is printed in *Correspondence*, vi, 451-3. This draft overlaps with that version, except that it entirely lacks the final two paragraphs, and has the following differences in wording earlier in the letter (references are by line number in the *Correspondence* text):

- l.3: draft lacks 'inclosed in it'
- l. 4: draft has 'what relates to' before 'the title page'
- l. 5: draft lacks 'Concerning it'
- l. 6: draft has 'transmitted unto' for 'sent'
- ll. 7-8: the draft is much revised here, though much of the wording appears in redistributed form in the final version. It lacks 'had not your letter to mee Imported, that the presse stayed for it'
- l. 9: draft has, after 'my hands': 'and few here, are able to translate with that accuracy that the Irish Idiome doth require'
- ll. 12-13: draft has 'the Irish language' for 'the language of my owne Country', after which it adds: 'nor compared it with the originalls'
- ll. 15-16: draft lacks bracketed phrase
- l. 18: draft lacks 'for the benefit and instruction of the natives'
- ll. 19-20: draft has 'was much for it' for 'being for the affirmative', and 'as much against' for 'opposing'
- ll. 23, 31: draft has 'language' for 'tongue'
- ll. 24-5: draft has Bedell's title rather than his name; it also has 'judged' for 'thought' and lacks the bracketed phrase, the phrase after which is slightly differently phrased
- ll. 27-8: draft has 'to have some skill in the Irish tongue' for 'to accompany the minister in reading his part of the service'
- l. 30: draft has 'when he returned to his diocese' for 'accordingly'
- l. 32: draft lacks identification of Ussher
- l. 33: draft has 'Dr' for 'Mr' and 'one' for 'Mr'

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37 For Dopping's wife, Jane, see above, n. 32; there were six children by the marriage (see Burke, *Genealogical and Heraldic History* (above, n. 14), p. 258).

I. 34: draft lacks inserted phrase

II. 36-7: in the draft, this bracketed phrase, which is slightly differently worded ('who was excellently learned in the Hebrew, Greek and Latin, as he was not lesse experienced in the Irish languages'), appears earlier in the sentence (following 'Tuam in Ireland'), and is deleted.

I. 40: draft lacks 'the translator, (who survived him) and was'

II. 41-3: draft lacks 'Dr. Henry Jones', Sall's Christian name, and 'your predecessor', and has 'who gave it' for 'by him communicated'

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<sup>i</sup> altered from *Warnaro*. After *especialy* later in the sentence, the text continues at right-angles.

<sup>ii</sup> followed by *as* deleted.

<sup>iii</sup> written upside down at head of text.

<sup>iv</sup> In pencil, *No. 10*, with *10* crossed through and replaced by *11*.

<sup>v</sup> In pencil, *No. 12*.

<sup>vi</sup> Altered from *richlyer*. Five words later, *there* altered from *the 3d*.

<sup>vii</sup> altered from *banding*.

<sup>viii</sup> In pencil, *No. 9* and *1681/2*.

<sup>ix</sup> Altered from *that*.

<sup>x</sup> Paper cut away.

<sup>xi</sup> Up this point, the address is in Boyle's hand; the rest is added in the hand of Warr.

<sup>xii</sup> In pencil, *No. 20*.

<sup>xiii</sup> Altered in composition from *scarse*.

<sup>xiv</sup> In pencil, *No. 21*, with *21* altered from *20*.

<sup>xv</sup> Partly hidden in binding.

<sup>xvi</sup> Followed by *Testa* [?] deleted.

<sup>xvii</sup> Pencil marking *No. 43*.

<sup>xviii</sup> Followed by *also* deleted.

<sup>xix</sup> In pencil, *No. 44*.

<sup>xx</sup> In pencil, *Nos. 53-4* and *June 10. 1686*. On Boyle's letter is written *No. 54* [altered from 2] (*enclosed*).

<sup>xxi</sup> Written in margin at right-angles to text.

<sup>xxii</sup> Followed by *June* deleted.

<sup>xxiii</sup> In pencil, *No. 45*.