

THE CONCHOLOGICAL WRITINGS OF CAPTAIN THOMAS BROWN.

By C. DAVIES SHERBORN, F.Z.S.

Read 16th June, 1905.

CAPTAIN THOMAS BROWN is credited with the following works on conchology :—

1. "The Elements of Conchology." London, 1816. 8vo; pp. viii, 168, 9 pls.

(Also advertised as "speedily will appear" in 1845, but unknown to me.)

2. "Illustrations of the Conchology of Great Britain and Ireland." Edinburgh, 1827. 4to; text of fly-leaves between the 52 plates.

In the British Museum (press-mark 443 i 16) are No. 1 (pls. xviii, xxiii, xxiv, xxxix), No. 2 (pls. iii, iv, vi, viii), No. 3 (pls. x, xiii, xxi, xxvii), each with accompanying fly-leaves. A note in the catalogue says "all published," but perfect copies are to be seen in the Bodleian, the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), and the Sykes Libraries. There has never been any question of the date of this book, so far as I am aware, and we can take it as it is dated, 1827.

- 2a. *Idem*, ed. 2. London, 1844. 4to; pp. xiii, 144, 59 pls. Printed in double columns. Many figures were added upon the old plates.

This book presents many difficulties; at pp. 14 and 21 the setting of the type alters. It was published in parts, of which nothing is known but the following information kindly supplied by Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co., the publishers: "We find that 15 parts of 'Recent Conchology,' numbered 1 to 11 and 16 to 19, appear to have been issued, and that parts 1 to 4 were received by us for sale in 1837 and part 5 in 1839." In the "Elem. Foss. Conch." the advertisement says—"to be completed in 16 parts (62 pls.), of which 14 are out. 1843."

3. "The Conchologist's Text Book." Glasgow, 1833. 12mo; pp. x, 11-180, 19 pls.

3a. *Idem*, ed. 2.

3b. *Idem*, ed. 3.

3c. *Idem*, ed. 4 (called 5th on the boards). Glasgow, 1839. 12mo; pp. x, 11-180, 19 pls.

3d. *Idem*, ed. 5 (called 4th on title-page). Glasgow, 1839. 12mo; pp. x, 11-180, 19 pls.

3e. *Idem*, ed. 6. Edinburgh, 1845. 12mo; pp. 232, 21 pls. Edited by W. Macgillivray, and often called his 'Text Book.'

In eds. 1, 3, and 5 (4) the word 'striæ' is misprinted 'stræ' on p. 167, line 8; the editions are identical with the exception of ed. 6.

4. "Illustrations of the Fossil Conchology of Great Britain and Ireland." London, 1849 (i.e. 1837-1849). 4to; pp. 273, 98 pls.
- 4a. "Illustrations of the Fossil Conchology of Great Britain and Ireland." Edinburgh, 1834. 4to; parts 1-12. (Engelmann.)
- 4b. "Fossil Conchology of Britain and Ireland." London, 1839. 4to. 25 numbers, of which 1-14 were issued by Messrs. Smith, Elder, and Co. in 1839. (Engelmann.)

We can take these three entries together: 4 is the correct one, 4a seems to be an error of Engelmann's, 4b seems to be a muddle. In Mr. Sykes' Library and also in the British Museum are preserved a series of numbers in the original wrappers. From them we learn the collation which follows:—

No.	Pages.	Date.	No.	Pages.	Date.
1	1-4	1837	16	65-68	1843
2	5-8		17, 18	69-80	
3	9-16		19, 20	81-88	
4	17-20		21	89-108	
5	21-24		22, 23	109-116	
6	25-28		24, 25	117-124	
7	29-32		26, 27, 28	125-136	
8	33-36		29		
9	37-40	1838	30		1844
10	41-44		31		
11	45-48		32		
12	49-52		33		
13, 14	53-60	1839	34		1845
15	61-64	1843 ¹	35		

The numbers in the British Museum were most of them dated in pencil as received, the year coming first, then the month, then the day, then the press-mark, but more exact information being forthcoming by the kindness of Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co., I shall give that. Moreover, it appears that Nos. 1-12 were published in Edinburgh, and sent to Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co. for sale, while the later numbers were published in London by Messrs. Smith, Elder, & Co. themselves. They write me under date May 30th, 1905: "'Fossil Conchology' extended to 35 parts, of which parts 1-8 were received in 1837, parts 9-12 in 1838, parts 13 and 14 in 1839, and parts 25 to 28 in 1845." To these I can add, No. 15 received by the British Museum March 6th, 1843, No. 21 on November 17th, 1843, Nos. 22 and 23 on July 9th, 1844, Nos. 24 and 25 on April 18th, 1845. The dates affixed to the parts given above are therefore approximately correct, and we must wait further evidence before being able to define them more exactly. At page 53 the setting of the type slightly alters. In the "Elem. Foss. Conch.," 1843, the advertisement says—"to be completed in 25 parts, of which 22 are out."

5. "The Elements of Fossil Conchology." Edinburgh, 1843. 12mo; pp. 1-138, 12 pls.

¹ Probably earlier; on p. 64 the Trans. Manch. Geol. Soc., i, 1841, is quoted.

6. "Illustrations of the Land and Fresh-water Conchology of Great Britain and Ireland." London, 1845. 8vo; pp. xi, 142, 27 pls. In which book is advertised:—
 - 6a. "Illustrations of the Land and Fresh-water Conchology of the British Islands." 8vo; 27 pls. And:—
 - 6b. "Illustrations of the Land and Fresh-water Shells of Ireland." 8vo; 18 pls., both as "published."
- These three seem to be different advertisements of the same work, of which the first (6) appeared.
7. "A Catalogue of the Recent Conchology of Great Britain and Ireland." Price one shilling.
 8. "A Catalogue of the Land and Fresh-water Shells of Great Britain and Ireland." Price sixpence.

These two last are for the purposes of labelling collections.

It is curious how rarely any contemporary reference is found to these books. The same remark applies to their author. Captain Brown's history is so imperfectly known that it would be difficult to string together any running story. He is not referred to in the Dictionary of National Biography, and this not merely by oversight so far as the Supplement is concerned. The putting together of these notes must be regarded as a first attempt, and no one will welcome further information more gratefully than the writer.



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