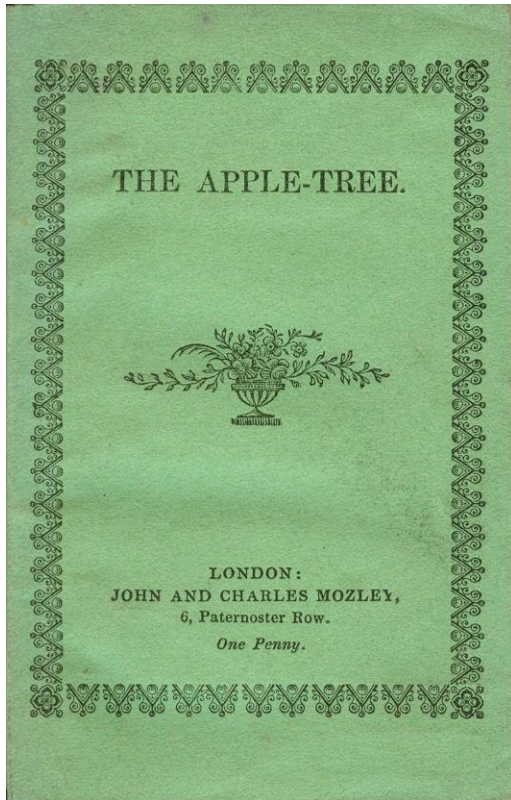


University Library, Special Collections & Archives
Highlight for October 2009



The apple-tree: London; John and Charles Mozley [c.1850].
Classmark: Children's book collection SPEC JUV.369

This miniature book from the children's collection is shown here near actual size: 6.5cm x 10.5cm. Its size, price (1d, as announced on the front cover), and content puts it in the category of "children's chapbook" – short moral tales aimed at children, an amalgam of the classic chapbooks containing tales of fable and adventure and the improving literature published in reaction to them.

The main characters, shown on the title-page below, are brothers: Tom, "a nimble, black-eyed little boy" and Billy, "a little, pale, shy boy" whose appearance belies their relative moral courage, as revealed in a 'scrumping' twist on the biblical story of the Fall.

The Apple-tree was part of a bequest of children's literature from May Rathbone (1866-1960), which includes a series of similar children's chapbooks, with titles such as *Amy's Earnings*, *The Conceited Pig*, *The Donkey-Boy*, *The White Kitten* and *The Bunch of Violets*. Neither the authors nor the dates of these are known, but the publishers, John and Charles Mozley, were part of a family of provincial printers-turned-publishers who were involved in producing children's literature for over a century.

In 1788, George Fisher's *The instructor: or, young man's best companion* (1788) was printed for J. Mozley in Gainsborough (Lincs), a printing business inherited by Henry Mozley (1773-1845) early in the 19th century. By 1819, the business had expanded into publishing, for example *Dr. Goldsmith's Roman history abridged by himself for the use of schools* 'printed by and for Henry Mozley, Derby, 1819'. 'Dr Goldsmith' being the well-known novelist Oliver Goldsmith (1728-1774), author of *The Vicar of Wakefield*.

Henry Mozley's twelve children included several daughters: Anne (1809-1891), the essayist and journal-editor, and possibly Mary Lucas Mozley whose name (spelled Mosley) and the date '10th July 1824' appears in an 1823 publication (not her father's): *Bird-catching; or The Northern adventures: being an account of several methods of taking birds in the Feroe Islands, and in some other places. Intended for children*.



By 1828, the expanding business had taken on one of the Mozley brothers - *The history of Greece, abridged for the use of schools by Dr Goldsmith* has the imprint 'Henry Mozley and Son' - and a second by 1835, as shown



in the imprint of *Little Sophy: a true story for little children*: 'Printed and published by Henry Mozley and Sons'. These two Mozley brothers, John and Charles, remained with the publishing business in Derby, publishing both religious and educational titles, for at least a decade: Lindley Murray's *Introduction to the English reader; or, a selection of pieces in prose and poetry, calculated to improve the younger classes of learners in reading* was published in 1844, with a

Mozley catalogue of school books bound in at the front of the volume. These schoolroom books were evidently useful: a former child owner of Mozley's 1834 *Abridgment of Murray's English grammar ... designed for the younger classes of learners* has left his name in his copy: "R. Dobson's Book Aged 11 November 7 1838."

Anne Mozley's editorship of *Magazine for the Young* (1842-) may have introduced her brothers' firm to the novelist Charlotte Mary Yonge (1823-1901), later the first editor of their periodical publication, *The Monthly Packet* (1851-1899). John and Charles Mozley had a London address: 6 Paternoster Row (as on *The Apple-tree*) from 1849, which appears on many of Yonge's stories, for example *Leonard, the lion-heart* (8th edn, 1870). The firm became 'Mozley & Smith' five years later, by the time this story was collected in *The Christmas mummers and other stories* (1876) and in 1879 Walter Smith succeeded to the business in his own right, expanding into Covent Garden and the Strand.

References:

Ellen Jordan, 'Mozley, Anne (1809–1891)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/19477, accessed 7 Oct 2009]

Elisabeth Jay, 'Yonge, Charlotte Mary (1823–1901)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, 2004 [http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/37065, accessed 7 Oct 2009]

Matthew Grenby, 'Chapbooks, Children, and Children's Literature', *The Library*, 7th series, vol. 8, no. 3 (September 2007)

Copies of all the titles mentioned in the highlight are part of the Children's book collection and available for reading in Special Collections & Archives.

