



University Library, Special Collections & Archives
Highlight for November 2009



John Cam Hobhouse, Baron Broughton, *A journey through Albania and other provinces of Turkey in Europe and Asia, to Constantinople, during the years 1809 and 1810*: London; James Cawthorn, 1813.
Classmark: Printed books (chronological sequence) SPEC Y81.5.155

A first edition of the account of his travels in Albania, Greece and Turkey by John Cam Hobhouse (1786-1869), politician and classical scholar. Hobhouse had become a close friend of the poet Lord Byron during their time at Cambridge, and Byron accompanied him on this journey, during which he was writing *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage*.

Hobhouse, who was to be one of Byron's executors, later published *Historical illustrations of the fourth canto of Childe Harold: containing dissertations on the ruins of Rome; and an essay on Italian literature*. During their travels, his anthology *Imitations and Translations from the ancient and modern classics, together with original poems* was published, which contained several poems by Byron.

There were two editions of the Albanian travels in the first year of publication, each published in both single and two-volume versions, but the so-called 'second' edition was simply a duplicate of the first with a new titlepage. After Hobhouse's retirement from parliament and active public life in 1852, Byron's publisher John Murray brought out two revised, smaller format 'new editions' in 1855 and 1858, under the title *Travels in Albania*.

The illustrations, apart from the frontispiece and maps, are hand-coloured aquatints of notable sights (the Stadium at Delphi, the Valley of the Plistus, Athens, Hadrian's Temple, Acropolis and Parthenon, Marathon, a Turkish bath, Hellespontine Phrygia, Tophana, the first gate of the Seraglio, and the new barracks of the Bombardiers and Miners) and costume-plates (a dancing girl, an Albanian, a Greek lady in her walking dress, a Turkish female slave, a Turkish woman, a Sultana, and a Colonel of the Janissaries). The Appendix includes inscriptions, poems, and prose in Greek and English, a facsimile of a letter from Ali Pasha of Albania, with whom Hobhouse and Byron stayed in October 1809, Greek music, and a section on the Albanian language.

The copy in Special Collections at the University of Liverpool has a contemporary binder's label for Jacques, of Chichester, and the early twentieth-century bookplate of Philip H. Ashworth.



Copies of Hobhouse's work were owned by two of the great collectors of travel literature: J.R. Abbey, in his comprehensive catalogue of *Travel in aquatint and lithography 1770-1860*, based on his own library, records his own copy of Hobhouse's *Journey through Albania*, the 2-volume first edition, with the contemporary bookseller's label of T. Muncaster, 26 Church St., Liverpool; a copy was also owned by Henry Myron Blackmer II, the great collector of books on Greece and the Levant.

The recent acquisition of Hobhouse's *Journey through Albania* adds to the existing strength of the University of Liverpool's travel literature collections, particularly in the Balkans. Other notable illustrated titles in the collections include:

- Sir William Gell, *The geography and antiquities of Ithaca* (1807)
- Thomas Smart Hughes, *Travels in Sicily, Greece and Albania* (1820).
- Edward Lear, *Journals of a landscape painter in Albania, &c.* (1851)
A masterpiece of Victorian travel illustration.
- Edmund Spencer, *Travels in European Turkey* (1853).
- David Roberts, *The Holy Land, Syria, Idumea, Arabia, Egypt, & Nubia.* (1855) 6 vols.
The lithographic illustrations are based on Roberts's own drawings made on the spot.

References:

Peter Cochran, 'Hobhouse, John Cam, Baron Broughton (1786–1869)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University Press, Sept 2004; online edn, May 2009 [<http://www.oxforddnb.com/view/article/13404>, accessed 2 Nov 2009]

John Roland Abbey, *Travel in aquatint and lithography 1770-1860 from the library of J.R. Abbey. A bibliographical catalogue*, Privately printed at the Curwen Press, London, 1956-1957

Copies of all the titles mentioned in the highlight are part of the early printed books collection and available for reading in Special Collections & Archives.