

XLVI. Monk's House Papers/B.2n. (Sussex)

What is particularly interesting about this notebook are the two tables of contents listing works that appear not in this volume but elsewhere. Most of the entries can be dated from the end of 1927, through 1928, to the beginning of 1929. During this period Woolf was writing articles on Lord Chesterfield, on Meredith, on Sterne's *Sentimental Journey*, on Dorothy Osborne's *Letters*, on Julian Hawthorne's *Shapes that Pass*, and on "Dr. Burney's Evening Party," all of which are mentioned or noted in this notebook. Several of the essays originally written at this time were then revised for inclusion in *The Common Reader: Second Series* (1932). In 1928, moreover, she was reading for her "book on fiction," which finally appeared as "Phases of Fiction" in 1929, and preparing the lectures on women and fiction that became *A Room of One's Own* (1929). Given the large amount of reading, rereading, writing, and revising that Woolf did for all of these works, it is not surprising that her notes from this period are scattered among several notebooks, including Volumes XIII, XIV, XXV, XXVI, and XLVIII.

More specifically, on December 20, 1927, Woolf noted that she should be reading Lord Chesterfield's letters (B.1; *D*, III; *L*, III, 1843), probably in connection with her review of *The Characters of Lord Chesterfield*, published originally in the *TLS*, March 8, 1928 ("An English Aristocrat," Kp. C298). The notes on Meredith's novels and letters (B.5–9) were made in preparation for "The Novels of George Meredith," *TLS*, February 9, 1928 (Kp. C297). Although she mentions writing about Meredith on January 17, 1928 (*D*, III), she wrote on February 12 that she "was forced to read all Meredith in a week. I did get through three of them" (*L*, III, 1859). The entries on Sterne (B.11–14) were part of her preparation for her essay on *A Sentimental Journey*, first published in the *New York Herald Tribune*, September 23, 1928 (Kp. C303); in July, she had recorded a desire to write on Sterne (*D*, III, July 7).

On May 31, 1928, Woolf noted that she wanted to write both her book on fiction, which she had been working on intermittently since September 1926, and "Dr. Burney's Evening Party" (*D*, III). The entries on novels in this volume almost certainly reflect her revival of interest in "Phases of Fiction" once *Orlando* was done. (For the history of "Phases of Fiction," see Volumes XIII and XIV; other notes appear in Volume XXV.) She had read *Udolpho* (B.4) in August and September 1927 (*L*, III, 1803, 1807), but the notes in this volume, general observations only, were probably made during the summer of 1928. On August 12, 1928, she was "[scribbling] down whatever I can think of about Romance, Dickens, &c. must hastily [?] gorge on Jane Austen tonight & dish up something tomorrow" (*D*, III); Dickens and Austen are noted in B.16 and B.18, respectively. A reference to "Dostoevsky" (B.19) on August 31 (*D*, III) would suggest that she was reading or had read him recently. "Phases of Fiction" was finally published in *Bookman*, April, May, and June 1929 (Kp. C312).

"Dr. Burney's Evening Party" was also published in 1929 (*New York Herald Tribune*, July 21 and 28, 1929; Kp. C313), but Woolf began to read for the essay during the summer and fall of 1928. She first mentioned the essay on May 31, 1928 (*D*, III), collected books for it in August (*L*, III, 1913), complained that she could not find the time to read them in the beginning of October (*L*, III, 1937, 1940), and finally declared that she would "open Fanny Burney's diaries, & work solidly at that article" on October 27 (*D*, III; see also *L*, IV, 1981, 1985, 2005, for references to writing the essay). The notes on *Fanny Burney and her Friends*, *Thraliana*, and *The Anecdotes of the Late Dr. Johnson* (B.17, 20, 21) are part of this work; other notes on the Burneys appear in XIII, B.9–15.

Several of the “missing” items listed in the second table of contents (A.2) help both to date the notebook and to provide Party” (*D*, III). The entries on novels in this volume almost certainly reflect her revival of interest in “Phases of Fiction” once *Orlando* was done. (For the history of “Phases of Fiction,” see Volumes XIII and XIV; other notes appear in Volume XXV.) She had read *Udolpho* (B.4) in August and September 1927 (*L*, III, 1803, 1807), but the notes in this volume, general observations only, were probably made during the summer of 1928. On August 12, 1928, she was “[scribbling] down whatever I can think of about Romance, Dickens, &c. must hastily [?] gorge on Jane Austen tonight & dish up something tomorrow” (*D*, III); Dickens and Austen are noted in B.16 and B.18, respectively. A reference to “Dostoevsky” (B.19) on August 31 (*D*, III) would suggest that she was reading or had read him recently. “Phases of Fiction” was finally published in *Bookman*, April, May, and June 1929 (Kp. C312).

“Dr. Burney’s Evening Party” was also published in 1929 (*New York Herald Tribune*, July 21 and 28, 1929; Kp. C313), but Woolf began to read for the essay during the summer and fall of 1928. She first mentioned the essay on May 31, 1928 (*D*, III), collected books for it in August (*L*, III, 1913), complained that she could not find the time to read them in the beginning of October (*L*, III, 1937, 1940), and finally declared that she would “open Fanny Burney’s diaries, & work solidly at that article” on October 27 (*D*, III; see also *L*, IV, 1981, 1985, 2005, for references to writing the essay). The notes on *Fanny Burney and her Friends*, *Thraliana*, and *The Anecdotes of the Late Dr. Johnson* (B.17, 20, 21) are part of this work; other notes on the Burneys appear in XIII, B.9–15.

Several of the “missing” items listed in the second table of contents (A.2) help both to date the notebook and to provide information about the sources for *A Room of One’s Own*. “Shapes that Pass. Hawthorne” (A.2) refers to Julian Hawthorne’s reminiscences, which Woolf reviewed in November 1928 (“Memories,” Kp. C305.2); she appears to have read the book in France at the end of September (*L*, III, 1932). On September 17, 1928, she was reading Dorothy Osborne (A.2), whose “Shepherdesses singing” played a role in her evocation of a country wedding five days later (*D*, III); her review of *The Letters of Dorothy Osborne to William Temple* was first published on October 24, 1928 (Kp. C304). The notes on this work are found in Volumes XLVIII and LII. Dorothy Osborne’s letters also appear in *A Room of One’s Own*, along with an allusion to Fanny Burney’s habit of sewing in the morning and writing in the afternoon. This habit is recorded in Woolf’s notes on *Fanny Burney and her Friends*, B.17.

A Room of One’s Own evolved from the two lectures on women and fiction that Woolf first mentioned in her diary on January 17, 1928 (*D*, III) and delivered in late October 1928. By early November, she was thinking of transforming the lectures into a book on women (*D*, III); she began to write this work almost immediately and had completed it by May 12, 1929 (*D*, III). With this in mind, the “Miss Davies” in A.2 can probably be identified as Emily Davies—a reference to *Emily Davies and Girton College* by Barbara Stephen. Woolf had reviewed this book in April 1927 (“Two Women,” Kp. C282); on October 7, 1928, however, while writing her lectures, she asked Margaret Llewelyn Davies to lend her “a copy of [her] Aunt’s life” (*L*, III, 1936), and later quoted from this work in *A Room of One’s Own*. Moreover, the “Quotation from Life and Letters” referred to in A.2 is almost certainly the one that appears in *A Room of One’s Own* as an example of the kind of criticism still applied to women writers: “If, like the reporter, you believe that female novelists should only aspire to excellence by courageously acknowledging the limitations of their sex (Jane Austen and, in our own time, Mrs. Virginia Woolf have demonstrated how gracefully this gesture can be accomplished).” (In her book, Woolf omitted the reference to herself.) Woolf commented on “the condescending phrase used

about women novelists ‘limitations’ in *Life and Letters*” in her diary on September 10, 1928 (*D*, III); the source was a review of H. du Coudray’s *Another Country* in *Life and Letters* 1, no. 3 (August 1928): 221–222. (The same reporter responsible for this comment reviewed *A Room of One’s Own* eighteen months later in *Life and Letters* [“New Novels,” vol. 3, no. 19 (December 1929): 551–554]. The article begins with the reviewer’s horror at finding himself quoted “amid acid commentary” in Woolf’s book, when “curiously enough, my unhappy sentence was inspired by a wholehearted admiration of Mrs. Woolf.” He then spends most of the next three pages defending his position.) Similarly, the “Quotation about Lady Dudley” (A.2), which appears without identification among the entries in this volume (B.22), finds a place in her book.

The table of contents listed below as A.2 appears on the second page of the notebook and was probably made close to the time the notes were made; it is written in blue ink. The table of contents that appears on a label on the cover of the notebook, A.1, is typed, and is closer to the actual contents of the notebook; it was probably made at a later time. Most of the entries are in blue or blue-purple ink.

A. TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Lord Chesterfield Letters

Udolpho

Merediths Novels

Sternes Letters

Sentimental Journey

Bleak House

Pride and Prejudice

Woolf omitted the reference to herself.) Woolf commented on “the condescending phrase used about women novelists ‘limitations’ in *Life and Letters*” in her diary on September 10, 1928 (*D*, III); the source was a review of H. du Coudray’s *Another Country* in *Life and Letters* 1, no. 3 (August 1928): 221–222. (The same reporter responsible for this comment reviewed *A Room of One’s Own* eighteen months later in *Life and Letters* [“New Novels,” vol. 3, no. 19 (December 1929): 551–554]. The article begins with the reviewer’s horror at finding himself quoted “amid acid commentary” in Woolf’s book, when “curiously enough, my unhappy sentence was inspired by a wholehearted admiration of Mrs. Woolf.” He then spends most of the next three pages defending his position.) Similarly, the “Quotation about Lady Dudley” (A.2), which appears without identification among the entries in this volume (B.22), finds a place in her book.

The table of contents listed below as A.2 appears on the second page of the notebook and was probably made close to the time the notes were made; it is written in blue ink. The table of contents that appears on a label on the cover of the notebook, A.1, is typed, and is closer to the actual contents of the notebook; it was probably made at a later time. Most of the entries are in blue or blue-purple ink.

A. TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Lord Chesterfield Letters

Udolpho

Merediths Novels

Sternes Letters

Sentimental Journey

Bleak House

Pride and Prejudice

The Possessed

Moby Dick

Thraliana

Anecdotes of Dr Johnson

Small House at Allington

1 p., on cover. Typed.

2. 1 Life in Fiction

2 Udolpho

3 Bleak House.

4 Letters of Lord Chesterfield.

5 De Quincey's Diary.

6 Meredith.

7 Sterne Letters

8 Miss Davies

9 Swan Song. Galsworthy

10. Bleak House.

11 Tristram Shandy

12 Quotation from Life & Letters

13 Dorothy Osborne's Letters

14 Shapes that Pass. Hawthorne.

15 Thraliana—Anecdotes of Dr. Johnson.

16 Quotation about Lady Dudley

17 The Small House at Allington.

1 p., not numbered, appearing also as B.2, below.

B. ENTRIES

1. "L^d Chesterfields Letters.": 1 p., numbered 1 by VW. The first part of the entry consists of notes on Lord Mahon's "Preface," written in 1845. Among the notes on Mahon is the quotation, "Tyrawley & I have been dead these two years, but we don't choose to have it known!" The passage is annotated by Woolf "Boswell's Life of Johnson, April 3, 1773," and is quoted by Mahon, p. xxiv, n. More notes on this work appear in XIV, B.7.

Chesterfield, 4th Earl of [Philip Dormer Stanhope]. *Letters*. Ed. Lord Mahon. Vol. I [of V]. Lippincott, 1892.

2. "1 Life in Fiction": 1 p., not numbered. Table of Contents. See above, A.2.
3. "Being Like Life in fiction": 1 p., not numbered. General notes on "belief" and "reality" in the novel, beginning, "The truth is Belief is the only test. If we can [?film] a tiger, it is right."

4. "Udolpho.": 1 p., not numbered. 5 lines only, reading, "The extreme vagueness of language is necessary. The wonderful: it is quite easy to believe in a certain amount of wonder. Scenes of peasants dancing; all in groups: statuesque, distant. no dialogue." More notes on the novel appear in XIV, B.3, and XXV, B.29.
 Radcliffe, Ann. *The Mysteries of Udolpho. A Romance*. [1794].
5. "Richard Feverel. Mer. Vol 1": 4 pp., not numbered.
 Meredith, George. *The Ordeal of Richard Feverel*. 3 vols. Chapman & Hall, 1859.
6. "Beauchamp's Career. Meredith.": 2 pp., not numbered. The notes end with a general comment, beginning, "Given up at Vol. 1 because of the intolerable long windedness."
 Meredith, George. *Beauchamp's Career*. Vol. I [of III]. Chapman & Hall, 1876..
7. "Harry Richmond Meredith": 5 pp., not numbered. The entry includes general notes on Meredith's strengths and weaknesses.
 Meredith, George. *The Adventures of Harry Richmond*. [1871].
8. "Meredith Egoist": 3 pp., not numbered.
 Meredith, George. *The Egoist*. Kegan Paul, 1880.
9. "Meredith's Letters": 1 p., not numbered. Marginal notation, "Vol 2." For notes on Vol. I, see XXVI, B.34.
 Meredith, George. *Letters*. Ed. by his Son [William Maxse Meredith]. Vol. II [of II]. Constable, 1912.
10. "That his optimism is wrong.": 1 p., not numbered. General notes on George Meredith. See above, B.5–9.
11. "Letters of L Sterne": 1 p., not numbered. More notes on this work appear below, B.13.
 Sterne, Laurence. *Letters*. Oxford: Shakespeare Head Press, 1927.
12. "Sterne. Sentimental Journey/(Crosses Life.": 2 pp., not numbered. (1st page, 7 lines only; 2nd page, 3 lines only.)
 Cross, Wilbur L. *The Life and Times of Laurence Sterne*. Vol. II [of II]. New Haven: Yale Univ. Press, 1925.
13. "Letters": 1 p., not numbered. The entry begins on the second page of B.12, headed "Crosses Life." More notes on this work appear above, B.11.
 Sterne, Laurence. *Letters*. Oxford: Shakespeare Head Press, 1927.
14. "Sen¹ Journey": 3 pp., not numbered. Source unidentified.
 Sterne, Laurence. *A Sentimental Journey Through France and Italy*. [1768].
15. "24/Middle Way/NW11": 1 p., not numbered. (Heading only.) The entry appears on the reverse of the first page of B.14.
16. "Bleak House.": 3 pp., not numbered. More notes on this novel appear in XIV, B.5 and B.10. The entry consists largely of general notes on the novel and Dickens' technique. One note begins, "This is what one may call a parent idea: upon which his characters are buds or shoots."
 Dickens, Charles. *Bleak House*. Chapman & Hall, 1905. Vol. XI of *The Works of Charles Dickens*. Authentic Edition.

17. "Fanny Burney & her Friends.": 1 p., not numbered. 4 lines only, reading, "29 FB. never indulged herself with reading or writing except in the afternoons; always scrupulously devoting her time to needlework till after dinner."
[Burney, Fanny.] *Fanny Burney and her Friends. Select Passages from her Diary and Other Writings*. Ed. L. B. Seeley. Seeley, 1890.
18. "Jane Austen. P & Prej": 1 p., not numbered.
Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. Dent, 1906. Everyman Edition.
19. "~~Turgenev. Lear of the Steppes~~/Dostoevsky. The Possessed": 1 p., not numbered. More notes on this novel appear in XIV, B.14.
Dostoevsky, Feodor. *The Possessed*. Trans. Constance Garnett. Heinemann, 1916.
20. "Thraliana": 1 p., not numbered. (3 lines only.)
Hughes, Charles. *Mrs. Piozzi's Thraliana. With numerous extracts hitherto unpublished*. Simpkin, Marshall, Hamilton, Kent, 1913.
21. "Anecdotes of Dr Johnson.": 2 pp., not numbered. The entry begins on the same page as B.20.
Piozzi, Hester Lynch [Mrs. Thrale]. *Anecdotes of the Late Samuel Johnson, LL.D., during the last twenty years of his life*. Cadell, 1786.
22. "With quick/decision she assumed/at once the reins of management of/large estates & the part/of a devoted wife": 1 p., not numbered. (Heading only.) The entry appears on the reverse of the second page of B.21. In the original, the last word is "nurse," not wife.
"Georgina Lady Dudley." Obituary. *The Times*, February 4, 1929, p. 17.
23. "Small House at A. Trollope.": 2 pp., not numbered. The first page consists of 6 lines of general notes on the novel, reading, "The thing is that perhaps the highest qualities of a novelist are shown in scenes like the [?scholar] one—small things about people—low in tone—a natural liveliness—no emphases—all true of T."
Trollope, Anthony. *The Small House at Allington*. 2 vols. Bell, 1906. Vols. V and VI of The Barsetshire Novels.
24. "W & F. 150": 1 p., not numbered. The entry appears on the reverse of the first page of B.23, and consists of a list of figures, probably of money earned for her articles.