A published bibliography determines not only what a collection contains but also what it lacks. And in so doing it provides the owner with a list of desiderata. At its simplest this process is straightforward: a work/edition/... is in the collection or it is not. At another level it establishes or clarifies, as already noted, the relationships between forms of a work, so that, for example, it may indicate — despite the claims of the title page — that the sheets of such-and-such an "edition" are the same as those of another, and thus that there is no need to acquire both unless absolute bibliographical (as opposed to textual) completeness is sought. That is, a bibliography of the nature of Todd/Bowden serves as an essential collection development tool.

The new bibliography has thus served to clarify the status of the three Baillieu copies of the first edition of _The Vision of Don Roderick_ (1811) (59Aa–59Ae). It is only now, with the details laid out, that all three copies can be categorised as "First, Quarto Edition, Third Impression" (59Ae): this impression differs from the earlier ones in having gatherings A–G reset and the remainder (H–O) re-imposed and re-impressed, during any of which processes textual variation may have been introduced. The comparison of the copy in hand against the published descriptions has therefore identified an unrecognised gap in the collection, and steps have already been taken to acquire a copy of 59Ah/c/d.

As the survey of the collection proceeds it is likely that other items will be added to the desiderata list. Prices of Scott have increased substantially in the past three decades or so, but with such an extensive initial collection a strong case can be made for actively seeking items not held — at least items which are known to have (or, as with Don Roderick, likely to have) textual significance.

Though progress on a "Melbourne supplement" is not, as yet, far advanced certain patterns are already emerging. Nothing is likely to be added to the Scott canon, but already — as the examples discussed reveal — there will be a number of additions to be made at the level of the issue or impression (and therefore requiring a separate entry in Todd/Bowden). Also there will be numerous additions or modifications in the detail of entries, in, in particular, the records of press figures and watermarks. Hence the Baillieu Scott collection, as a result of the publication of the new bibliography, is adding to our knowledge of the output of the author; and with the publication of a Melbourne supplement the basis will have been provided for further exploitation of the collection.

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### NOTES