

### **List of books of the Dowager Lady Newdigate, n.d (CR136/B576)**

June's Document of the Month explores a popular past time that many of us in lockdown are engaging with, which is reading. Whether it be magazines, newspapers, fiction books or non-fiction books. In addition to this, we also celebrated World Book Day and Women's History month in March.

This month's document combines these two themes with our popular lockdown activity to feature a handwritten list of books owned by Dowager Lady Newdigate. Through this list, we can explore the literary tastes of the Lady Newdigate and offer an insight into popular published books of the time such as "Beaumont & Fletcher's Plays" and 'Bellarmine's Art of Dying Well'.<sup>1</sup> These books were kept at the Newdigate's ancestral home of Arbury Hall in Nuneaton. The Hall is also known for being a site of significance for the novelist George Eliot, who made use of the library at Arbury Hall and later used it as a setting in her story 'Mr Gilfil's Love Story'.<sup>2</sup> Due to the fact that this document is not dated, it is uncertain which Lady Newdigate these books belong to.

The document itself spans across four pages, the first of which has been transcribed for you.

### **Newdigate's of Arbury Hall, Warwickshire**

The Newdigate's Baronetcy in Warwickshire was established in 1677, with Richard Newdigate, an English judge and politician, being the first to hold this title. Richard lived in his ancestral home of Arbury Hall in Nuneaton, where they had lived since 1586. Richard married Juliana Leigh, which produced a son, Richard. Richard became the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baronet and married Mary Baggot, who in turn also produced a son and heir named Richard. Richard the 3<sup>rd</sup> Baronet married Elizabeth Twisden. Twisden produced two sons, Edward, the 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet, and Roger, who became the 5<sup>th</sup> Baronet upon the death of his brother. Roger, a politician and antiques collector, died childless and subsequently was the last Baronet of Arbury. Warwickshire County Record Office holds an extensive collection relating to the Newdigate family, such as diaries, letters and interior designs for Arbury Hall.

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<sup>1</sup> Warwickshire County Record Office, *List of books of the Dowager Lady Newdigate*, CR136/B576.

<sup>2</sup> Our Warwickshire, George Eliot- Her Early Life,

<https://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/article/george-eliot-her-early-life>, accessed 14<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

List of Lady Dowager. Newdigates Books,

Folio's

M	Beaumont & Fletcher's Plays	—	1647	
	Whole Duty of Mans work	—	1695	
M	Common Prayer & Bible	—	1698	
M	Illustr <sup>n</sup> of <sup>2</sup> St. Scriptures <sup>2</sup> Vols.	—	1755	
	Burche's Expos <sup>n</sup> . Notes on the New Testament.	—	1749	
M	Rawlins Hist <sup>y</sup> of <sup>g<sup>r</sup></sup> World	—	1614	
	Seneca's Works	—	1614	
	Taylors Sermons	—	1673	
	Spencers Fairy Queen	—	1617	

Quarto

	Common Prayer	—	1702	
	Common Prayer & Bible	—	1630	Book
	Mings Dictionary Long Eng <sup>l</sup>	—	1679	
	Comm. Prayer & Bible	—	1683	Hayes
M	Denham's Coopers Hill	—	1655	

Octavo

	Stanhopes Sermons	—	1727	
	Cause of Decay of <sup>g<sup>r</sup></sup> Purit <sup>y</sup> by Author of W Duty of Man.	—	1667	
	Select Sermons of <sup>g<sup>r</sup></sup> Tillotson.	—	1749	
M	15 Sermons by A <sup>b</sup> of York	—	1709	
	Gollins Sermons	—	1725	
M	Wrot on The Resurrection	—	1747	
	Ans <sup>r</sup> to The Dissenters	—	1728	
	Bullarmine Art of Dying well	—	1723	
M	Bipes Beauty of Holines	—	1728	
	Practical Discourses	—	1714	Fiddes 3 Vols
	Common Prayer	—	1743	
	Book of Singing Psalms	—	1741	
	Darlingcourt on Death	—	1728	
M	Stanhope on <sup>g<sup>r</sup></sup> Ep <sup>l</sup> of Georp <sup>h</sup>	—	1706	
M	Thos. a Kempis	—	1711	
D. P.	Companion to <sup>g<sup>r</sup></sup> Feast of Feasts	—	1726	Nelson
	Thos Duty	—	1749	
	Gordons Geograph <sup>ic</sup> . Gram <sup>r</sup>	—	1702	
	Bible & Testament	—		