Dibdin’s sense of humor is apparent in his use of the figure of the fool on the title page and throughout the book, which extols the risks of over-indulging the love of books. Dibdin was a major figure in bibliography, and helped to establish the principles of modern bibliography through his work on editions of the classics.

Horne’s critical textual scholarship was focused on sacred texts, and his three-volume work on Biblical manuscripts formed the foundation on which his bibliographical experience was based.