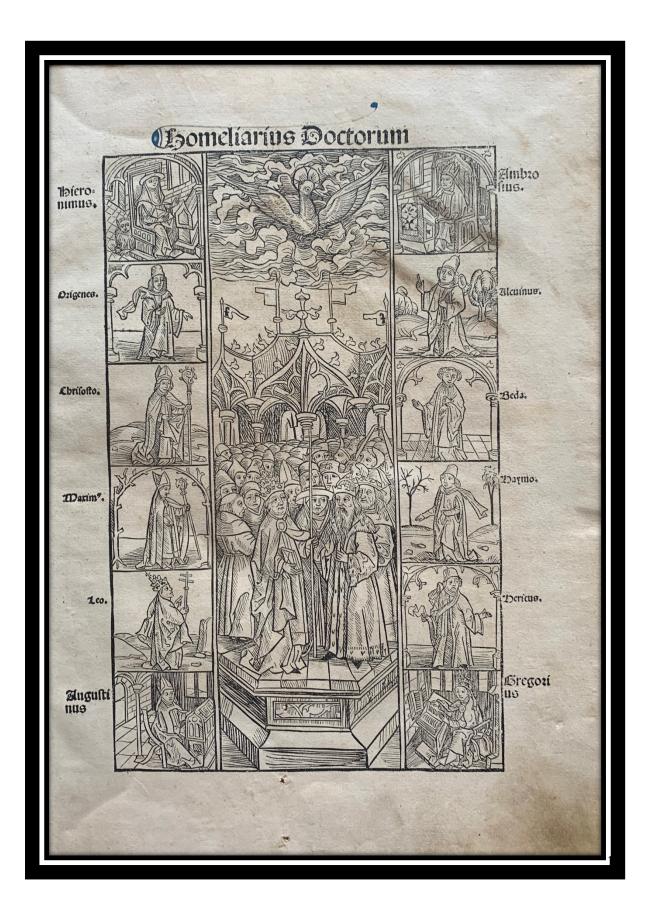
SYMONDS RARE BOOKS

CATALOGUE OF INCUNABLES

NEW ACQUISITIONS AND A SELECTION FROM STOCK





Foreword

Please, take a moment to look at our catalogue of new acquisitions and other selected incunables. Here you will find a fine selection of incunables, including a leaf from the Gutenberg Bible, a magnificently illuminated large folio edition of Pliny, Domenico Cavalca's Pungi Lingua and a richly annotated copy of the Sententiarum libri IV by Petrus Lombardus.

Thomas J. Symonds August 2020



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NEW ACQUISITIONS

4to (202 x 135mm), a-o⁸; 112, [2]. Roman type; woodcut illustration on title-page. Occasional light staining, part of the corner on i¹ missing and repaired tear to o¹ and o8 neither affecting the text. Manuscript inscription of previous owner on final verso (Bartholomei Corti[--]). Modern smooth calf gilt in period style; spine in compartments with raised bands; gilt label. Date at foot of the spine. Fine copy.

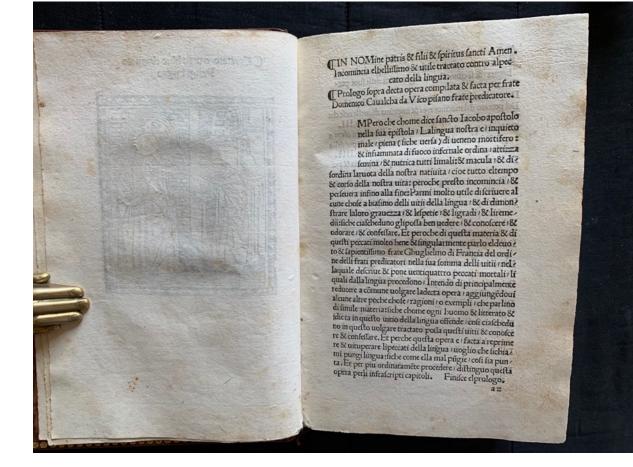
Domenico Cavalca (c. 1270 – 1342) was a Dominican friar and writer. He spent most of his life in the monastery of Santa Caterina in Pisa and he dedicated most of his life caring to the poor and the sick. In 1342, little before his death, he founded the convent of Santa Marta in Pisa; throughout his life he had dedicated much time to the nunneries in the area around Pisa. His literary works were mostly on religious and ascetic subjects. Cavalca sometimes drew from earlier Latin texts, for example the Summae virtutum ac vitiorum, which was written in the thirteenth century by the French Dominican friar William Perault.

This work is a fourteenth-century treatise in the vernacular on the use of one's tongue (in both senses, speaking and eating). It was written alongside the Frutti della lingua, on the virtues that come from the good use of the tongue. The Pungi lingua dedicated to the vices that come from the bad use of the tongue, in particular gluttony and the dangers of excessive talking.

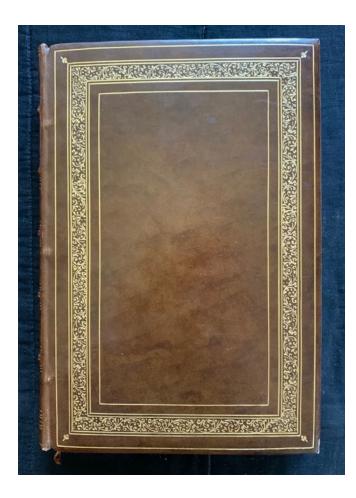
The woodcut depicts a friar that can be identified as the author, Domenico Cavalca, surrounded by a group of nuns. This could either refer to his lifelong dedication to the nunneries in the region of Pisa or to the foundation, in 1342, of the convent of Santa Marta.

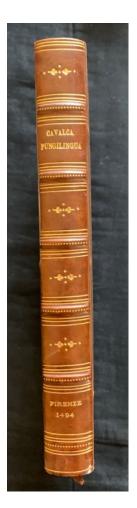
ISTC ic00341000; Sander 1852; Goff C341; BMC VI 650; GW 6412.











2. SURGANT, JOHANN ULRICH (ed.). *Homiliarius doctorum de tempore et de sanctis a Paulo Diacono collectus*.

Basel: Nicolaus Kesler, 30 September 1493.

£ 8,000

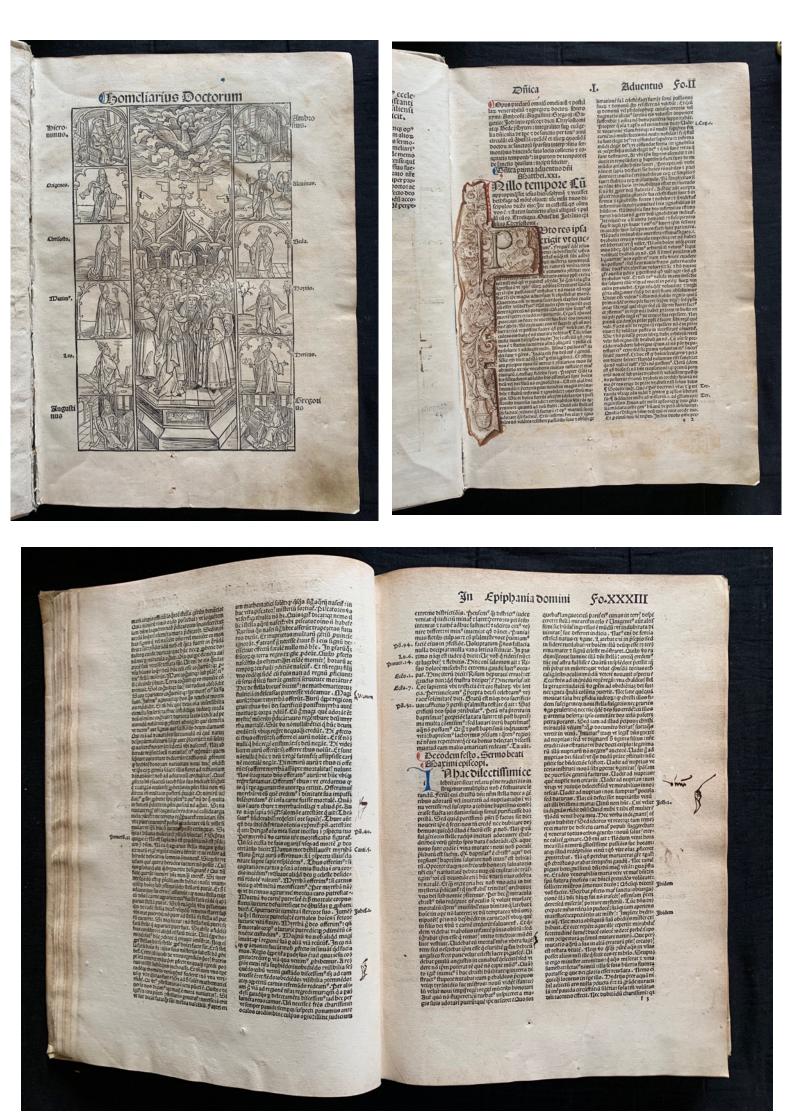
FIRST EDITION. Super-chancery folio (304 x 212mm); 248 leaves, a-z⁸, aa-ee⁸, A-M⁶. Full-page woodcut depicting Doctors of the Church on title page, printer's device at end. Gothic type; initials and paragraph marks alternating in red and blue. Initial letter P on a² with 17th-century penwork decoration with a winged putto and vegetable ornamentation; a few ms. guide-letters; occasional contemporary manuscript notes and manicules in margins (f², f³). Three small punctures in first few quires, not affecting the text. Light browning, title page faintly soiled in bottom right corner; torn bottom right corner on l⁴ and M⁵; few words deleted by a contemporary hand on dd², small internal tear in ee⁸ repaired on verso, small stains on B⁶; mis-numbered leaves throughout. 17th or 18th-century vellum; spine lettered in manuscript, neat repair at head of spine. Contemporary inscription erased from foot of second leaf; modern bookplate of Aldobrandino Malvezzi de Medici (1881-1961) on top pastedown.

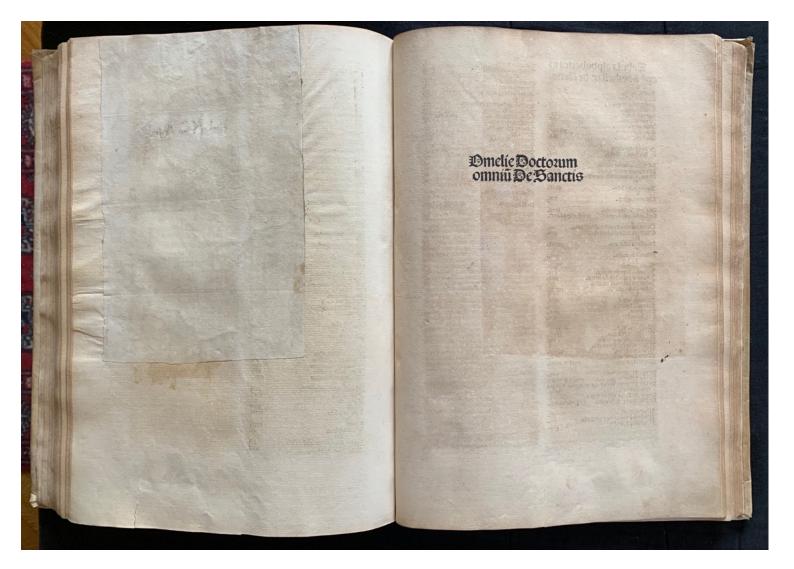
This is the first illustrated edition and the first edition edited by Johann Urlich Surgant (c. 1450 – 1503) from a manuscript he had recently found in the Basel Cathedral Library. It is the fourth edition overall of a collection of homilies by Saints Gregory the Great, Augustine, Jerome, Ambrose, Bede and others compiled by Paul the Deacon. The work provides readings for the night office of the liturgy, and it served as a manual of preaching for parish priests.

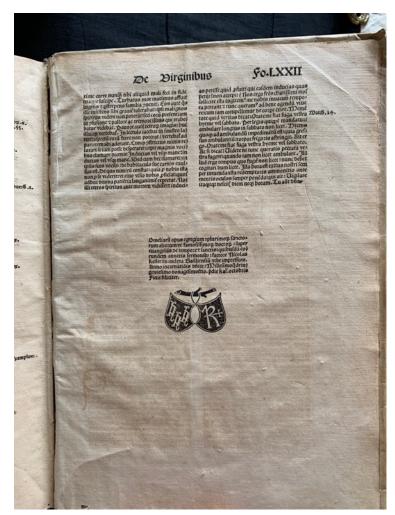
The woodcut on the title page is divided in three sections. The inner section represents the Church Militant; while in the two outer sections are represented figures of the four greater and of eight lesser Doctors of the Church, including Jerome, Ambrose, Augustine, Gregory the Great, Origen, Alcuin, John Chrysostom and Bede.

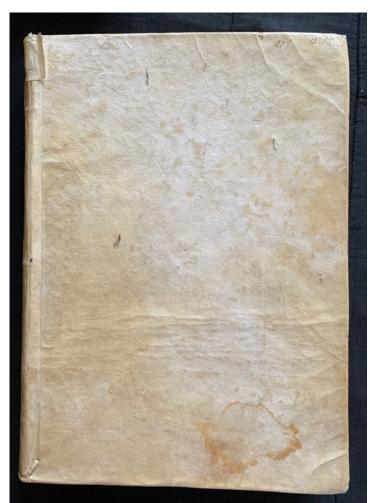
Kesler's device at the end of the book is the only he ever used, which first appeared in the 1485 Missale Basiliense. The arms probably represent kettle-hooks, alluding to Kesler's name.

ISTC ih00317000; GW 12929; Schreiber 4898; BMC III, 770; BSB-Ink H-325; Goff H-317.









3. [AMICUS ANIMAE] Amicus animae: sermones.

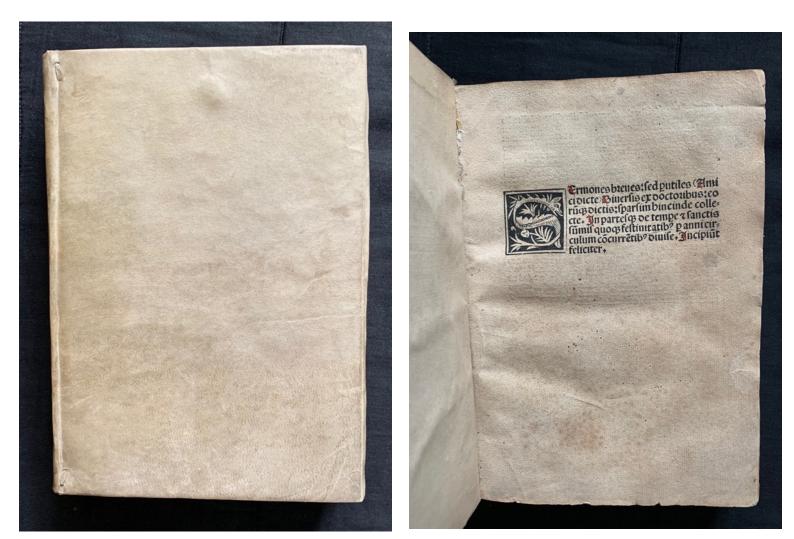
Basel: Nicolaus Kesler, 1495

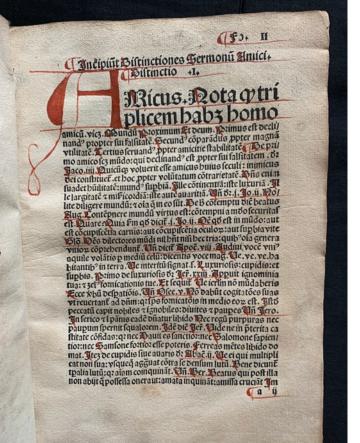
£ 5,000

4to (197 x 136mm.), a-k⁸, l-s⁸, t-v⁶; 156, [2]. Gothic type, one woodcut initial (dragon in the shape of an S), other initials manuscript and in red, red initial strokes and paraphs. Short manuscript notes in red throughout. Slight browning and foxing; some water stains on margins not affecting the text. Some pages mis-numbered: LII instead of LIII, LXXX instead of LXXV, XCI instead of XCII, CX instead of CXI, skips from CLXIIII to CLXV, skips from CLXVI to CLXXI, CLXIX and CLXX repeated twice, CLXIX followed by CLXXI, skips from CLXXII to CLXXIIII, skips from CLXXII to CLXXII. Small tear on right bottom margin of XXIIII. Bound in later vellum. Overall in excellent condition.

An anonymous compilation of sermons which in the past was erroneously attributed to Erhard Prunner (cf. H. Knaus: Amicus. In: Beiträge zur Inkunabelkunde 3. Folge 3. Berlin 1967, pp. 184-186).

ISTC ia00563000; Goff A563; BMC III 771; BSB-Ink A-481; GW 1616.





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OTHER SELECTED INCUNABLES FROM OUR COLLECTION

4. BIBLIA LATINA. A leaf from the Book of Jeremiah.

Mainz, Johann Gutenberg et Johann Fust, 1455.

Royal folio (369 x 256mm). Single leaf, on thick paper; 42-lines, double column; type: 1:140G. Bull's head watermark. Two initial 'I's, book headers and chapter numbers rubricated in alternating red and blue ink. Capitals highlighted with red strokes. Rubricator's guidelines in black-brown ink to upper blank margins in a neat German hand. Minimally dusty, very minor spotting to upper blank margin, tiny interlinear hole (f. 83r, lines 16-17); faint fading caused by the mount in the frame covering the outer margins by about 1 cm.

A remarkably clean, well-margined and rubricated leaf from the 1455 Biblia Latina – the first substantial European book to be printed with movable types and the symbol of the printing revolution. This Bible was produced in the course of five years, from 1450 to 1455, at the workshop of Johann Gutenberg and Johann Fust in Mainz, Germany. Each of the two volumes featured over 300 leaves of text in double column, the majority of which has 42 lines per page. Only 64 copies (several of which fragmentary) have survived out of approximately 158 to 180 originally produced, a quarter of which were probably printed on vellum. These copies all required the addition of initials and book headers by the hands of rubricators. In 1455, the then papal legate, and future Pope Julius II, wrote to the Cardinal Juan de Carvajal that he had seen quires from the Bible exhibited by Gutenberg in Frankfurt: "The script is extremely neat and legible, not at all difficult to follow. Your grace would be able to read it without effort, and indeed without glasses. [...] buyers were said to be lined up even before the books were finished".[1]

The present leaf features a section from the Old Testament of St Jerome's Vulgate: Jeremiah 25:19 to 27:6, mentioning the Seventy Years of Captivity of the tribe of Judah, Jeremiah being threatened with death and God's command that the tribe of Judah serve King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The leaf has been identified as vol. II, quire 9 (leaf 3), fol. 83; the Bull's Head (type I or II) watermark suggests this was a first setting.

This leaf – one of the 'Noble Fragments', so named by the book collector A. Edward Newton (1864-1940) – comes from an imperfect copy once in the Mannheim library of Carl Theodor von Pfalz-Sulzbach (1721-94), Electoral Prince of Palatinate and later Bavaria. In 1803, the copy was transferred, with Carl Thedor's other books, to the Royal Library of Munich. It was thence sold as a duplicate in 1832 and purchased by Robert Curzon, Baron Zouche (1810-73). Next sold at Sotheby's in 1920, the copy was acquired by Joseph Sabin and, subsequently, by the bookdealer Gabriel Wells. Wells removed the eighteenth-century binding with the gilt Palatine arms and subdivided the copy into smaller fragments or individual leaves. He sold these separately (several with initials replaced in facsimile), the great majority bound in gilt dark blue morocco and accompanied by A. Edward Newton's bibliographical essay, 'A Noble Fragment: Being a leaf of the Gutenberg Bible'. Many are now preserved in institutional libraries [2] (see White, Editio Princeps, p. 135). In the past few years, individual leaves, rather

than longer excerpts, have been offered for sale. The 'Noble Fragments' are the closest a dedicated bibliophile can get to acquiring of this monument of Western printing.

Bibliography: H *3031; BMC I, 17; GW 4201; Needham P-18; Goff B-526.

E. M. White, Editio Princeps: A History of the Gutenberg Bible (2017), p. 135
M. Davies, 'Juan de Caravajal and Early Printing' on The Library XVIII, 3 (1996), p. 196.

MARIA

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[Ulm], Johann Zainer, [14]76.

Royal folio (405 x 275mm). 269 leaves (of 271, without blanks). Gothic letters, doublecolumn text of 50 lines. Exquisite and extremely rare decorative woodcut border on the first leaf of text, very uncommon in printed version as this sort of foliation in early printed books was usually illuminated or rubricated by hand. Numerous fine and sumptuous 10-line printed initials at the beginning of each sermon. Smaller 3-line initials in the last section of the book. The opening border as well as the decorative printed initials have not been coloured, as was customary for other copies of the same work. Manuscript corrections to the misnumbering of the early numerical quiring printed in the centre at the head of the leaves. A few marginalia throughout. Early inscription at the top left corner of the upper pastedown regarding the influence of the moon over sea levels; and the unfortunate conjunction of Jupiter and Mars according to Albertus Magnus (see, Philosophia Pauperum, XXV). Early handwritten title in ink to the fore edge. Watermarks featuring a bull's head and a flower clearly visible on both pastedowns (cf. Briquet 14871-5). Some very small wormholes evenly scattered on first and final leaves, not affecting the text, and negligible soiling and thumb marks on page margins. Bound in contemporary Landshut blind-stamped pigskin over thick wooden boards [EBDB w000032]. Front cover magnificently decorated with tools showing deer, dragons, rampant lions and floral motifs on four concentric panels divided by double-fillet ruling. Minor loss of leather to foot and lower edge. Rear cover with a different floral decorative pattern. Spine in five compartments with four raised bands covering thick double sowing supports. Catches, metal centre- and corner-pieces have been removed, whilst the original clasps are still present. Despite the loss of most metal embellishments, the binding is remarkably well-preserved and the rich tool work is in near perfect condition. Faded name of the author inscribed on centre of front cover. This copy is incredibly fresh, clean, still crisp, and considerably wide-margined.

This popular collection of sermons in Latin was written by the Franciscan preacher Konrad [Conradus] Gritsch between 1440 and 1444. However, his book was published under the illustrious name of his brother, Johann [Johannes] (1409 – 1475), a famous preacher from Basel, who distinguished himself for his knowledge of canon law, natural science and exegesis.

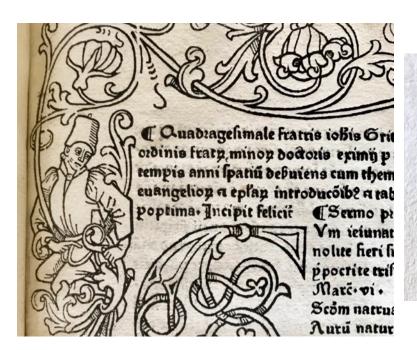
This copy is the third of twenty-four incunabular editions of this work, the second published by Johann Zainer from Ulm. Compared to Zainer's first edition, there are very few changes to the text or in the general outlook of the book. Gritsch's sermons were meant to guide the faithful through fasting and meditations of Lent, providing them with practical advice that were taken from the Bible and other secular sources including Ovid. The text is accompanied by an index with an interesting reference system that makes use of both numbers (referring to the Sundays within one year) and letters, dividing each sermon into smaller sections. This mnemonic device is duly described in the preface. The index is followed by fifty sermons in Latin regarding Lent (from 27a to 252b); a list of sacred readings for the main festivities of the year (from 253a to 268b) and a final list of meditations, with the unusual explicit at colophon, in which the date format is shortened to '76', hence omitting the millennium and the century.

The marvellous decoration of this book also appeared in other books printed by Johann Zainer's workshop and it was praised by William Morris as being one of the finest examples of woodcut decoration of the fifteenth century:

"It should here be said that, apart from their pictures, the Ulm and Augsburg books are noteworthy for their borders and letter decoration. The Ulm printer, John Zainer, in especial shone in the production of borders. [...] A very handsome border (or half-border rather), with a zany in the corner, is used frequently in J. Zainer's books, e.g. in the 1473 and 1474 editions of the Rationale of Durandus, and, associated with an interesting historiated initial O, in Alvarus, De planctu Ecclesiae, 1474. There are two or three other fine borders, such as those in Steinhowel's Büchlein der Ordnung, and Petrarch's Griseldis (here shown), both of 1473, and in Albertus Magnus, Summa de eucharistiae sacramento, 1474."

In the two editions of this particular work produced by Zainer, the usual jester of the border is skillfully substituted with a doctor sporting a tall hat instead of the jester's pointed one. As also recorded by Morris, this kind of printed decoration was rapidly dismissed in favour of new Renaissance layouts, making such decoration a true rarity. Furthermore, most of these borders and initials were often heavily painted. This book displays an exceptional state of preservation, which allows observing these decorations in their original, untouched state. Although the provenance of this book is uncertain, the lush decoration of the covers from the nearby city of Landshut also testifies of the high quality of this commission.

Bibliography: BMC II, 524; ISTC ig00491000; BSB-Ink G-392; W. Morris, 'On the Artistic Qualities of the Woodcut Books of Ulm and Augsburg in the Fifteenth Century' in Bibliographica: Papers on Books, Their History and Art, 1893; A. Munith, 'Jean et Conrad Grütsch de Bâle. Contribution à l'histoire de la predication franciscaine au XVme siècle', Freiburg 1940.



CPetite & accipietis. Chota totu. rir. B. D. Et tm de fcris in omuni ne

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6. (1) [ANON.] *Quadragesimale viatoris*. [with] (2) RAMPIGOLLIS, Antonius, and BINDO DE SENIS. Aurea Biblia, sive Reportatorium aureum Bibliorum. [with] (3) CHAIMIS, Bartholomaeus de. Confessionale sive Interrogatorium and Interrogationes faciende infirme morienti.

(1), (2) [Augsburg, Monastery of SS. Ulrich and Afra, c. 1475]. (3) [Nüremberg], Friedrich Creussner, 1477.

£ 20,000

Folio (311 x 205 mm). 3 works in 1 volume: ff. 48, blank, 116, blank, 111. Gothic letter from different sets of types. Capital spaces with large 6-line rubricated initials at the beginning of each work and paragraphs starting with 3-line rubricated initials. Entirely rubricated throughout with occasional underlining, strokes, attractive schematic diagrams and maniculae, also in red ink. Very occasional short manuscript notes on margins (among these, early numerical quiring in red marking the first leaf of a few initial gatherings). Some light marginal foxing and mild spotting at beginning and end. Two original contemporary parchment tabs separating the works. Early handwritten titles to fore- and lower edge of text-block. Early ms. inscription to head of first printed leaf: "Ex conventu Fr[atr]um min. reform. Bolsanensium" and bookplate of the Franciscan Friary of Bolzano, South Tyrol (Italy). Bound in contemporary blind-stamped calf over thick wooden boards, bevelled at central part of both hinges. Front cover decorated with four concentric panels divided by threefillet borders, each one filled with geometrical or floral motifs. The outer border shows interlaced cartouches inscribed with the name of the Virgin Mary. Rear cover with floral motifs and decorative arrangement of a different kind. No catches, only original metal clasps, probably cut from a unique piece of metal, etched with the name of the Virgin and flowers. Lacking bosses. Spine head refurbished, loss of leather at foot. Spine with remains of abraded library paper labels with ink lettering, split joints, four raised bands with double sewing supports visible and still holding the boards tightly together. An extraordinarily well-preserved copy in its original binding suggesting strong connections with the cult of Mary. The leaves are clean and wide-margined. A magnificently rubricated copy.

This volume brings together three early editions of Franciscan texts of the 15th century dealing with Christian morality.

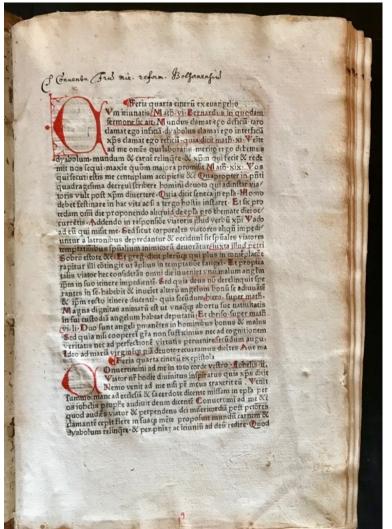
The "Quadragesimale" is an anonymous work and the earliest of only two editions recorded on ISTC. It was meant to be an aid for the faithful while enduring the observance of Lent, which originally involved fasting, abnegation and a strict discipline of prayers for forty days before the Easter Sunday. On the day of Easter, which symbolises the Resurrection and the Glory of Christ, fasting is traditionally over. By commenting on and making reference to the bible and other religious texts, this work provides explanations to the spiritual "traveller" (viator) who must imitate the example of Christ during his last days before the Crucifixion. It gives edifying help and advice, encouraging the believer during the harsh penance. This "Quadragesimale viatoris" is rare. The present edition has not been on the open market for more than forty years.

The second work was written by the monk Antonius Rampigollis, of the Order of Augustine Hermits in Naples, and Bindo de Senis. It is a famous compendium of virtues and vices found in the Christian Bible, which are listed in alphabetical order and fully expounded through diagrams and biblical references. A short prologue precedes the text. The rubrication of this work, with its curious schematic lists and simple diagrams, is outstanding. Rampigollis distinguished himself at the Council of Constance in 1418 by his disputations against the Hussites. He also wrote, for the use of the novices of his order in the monastery at Naples, another work that later, during the Reformation, was strongly censored by Antonius Possevinus. It was listed in the Index of Forbidden Books and was printed several times in Paris and elsewhere.

The third work is a treatise on the confessional and a guide to the administration of the last rites to dying people, according to their age, profession and social status by the Milanese monk Bartholomaeus de Chiamis, who was a pre-eminent figure in the Franciscan convent of S. Maria degli Angeli.

1) ISTC iq00001000; BMC II 340; Goff Q-1. 2) ISTC ir00013000; BMC II 340; Goff R-13. 3) ISTC ib00156000; BMC II 448; Goff B-156.





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7. TAULER, Johannes, Meister ECKHART. Sermon des grosz gelarten in gnade[n] erlauchte[n] doctoris Iohannis Thauleri predigerr ordens. Weisende auff den neheste[n] waren wegk. yn geiste czu wa[n]dern durch uberschwebe[n]den syn. Vnuoracht vo[n] geistes ynnige[n] worva[n]delt i[n] deutsch ma[n]che[n] me[n]sche[n] zu selikeit. [with] [MERSWIN, Rulman], Hystoria Thauleri.

Leipzig, Conrad Kachelofen, 17 March 1498.

£ 23,000

FIRST EDITION. Quarto. 290 leaves: 281 numbered leaves (ff. I – CCLXXXI); 8 unnumbered leaves (title-page and index). Gothic letter. Two 36-line columns. 8-line opening title on upper half of first leaf; 7-line capital space with a large rubricated initial at the beginning of the first sermon, several 3-line capital spaces with small printed guide-letters throughout. Completely rubricated with numerous painted Lombard initials, which were added on top of the printed guide-letters in bright red ink. Some occasional offsetting of red ink. Occasional marginalia in an early hand. Bound in contemporary blind-stamped pigskin over wooden boards, spine with three low-raised bands covering thick double sewing supports. Original brass clasp and catch, closing on the left board, both decorated with etched sphinxes. Geometrical frames on covers, lines arranged in a hatched or lozenge design within central panels, and imperial eagles tooled within the four-square sections at the corners. A nicely rubricated and clean incunabulum; only two small repairs to blank foot margins of title and second leaf. A fine copy.

This is the first printed edition of the Sermons of Johann Tauler (c. 1300 – 1361), one of the great Rhineland mystics of the fourteenth century. He was educated in the Dominican convent of Strasbourg, where Maister Eckhart was giving lessons in theology in the same years. After completing his studies, he returned to Strasbourg and started his career as a preacher for the Dominican convents of the city. As a result of the tensions between the papacy and the Emperor Louis IV, the Dominicans were forced to leave Strasbourg and Tauler found refuge in Basel. Here, he became acquainted with the 'Friends of God' (Gottesfreunde), a movement of priests and laymen for the spiritual renewal of the Church. Their teachings were taken from Eckhart's sermons and other mystics' such as Henry Suso and Mechthild of Magdeburg and they were deeply influenced by the Beghard movement, which was later regarded as heretic.

This book collects the complete sermons of Tauler, including four sermons by Maister Eckhart, also printed for the first time.[1] The sermons are followed by an account of Tauler's life probably written by Rulman Merswin (c. 1307 – 1382), the leader of the Friends of God.[2] In this short biography, the anecdote of the learned man's conversion to the more experiential spirituality of the Friends of God by the mysterious "Layman from the Oberland" is told for the first time. This will be later repeated in Merswin's autobiography The Story of the First Four Years of a New Life. Tauler's teachings remained popular throughout the fifteenth century and his undogmatic approach to spirituality was later taken up by Martin Luther. His writings are widely considered to be one of the best achievements in German prose of the fourteenth century. His sermons encouraged the faithful to find God's presence within themselves rather than looking outwards. He further implied that the adoption of a perfect lifestyle could lead to experiencing unity with God in this life.

HC *15346; GW M45246; BMC III, 628 (IA. 12345); Goff T-48; BSB-Ink T-62; ISTC it00048000.

[1] Cf. GW, M45246

[2] Cf. A. Chiquot, Jean Tauler et le "Meisters-Buoch" (Strasbourg, 1922)







8. [ANON.], Stella clericorum

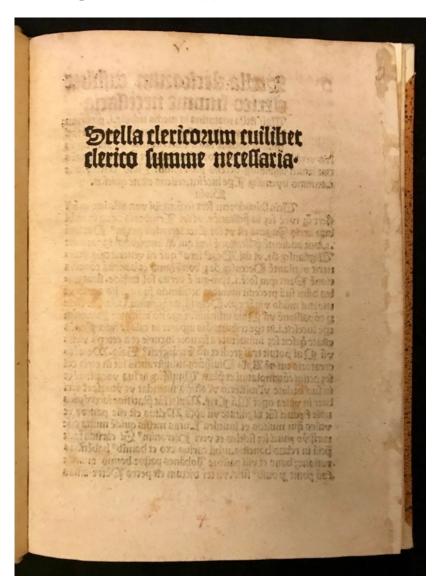
[Leipzig, Conrad Kachelofen] 1494.

£ 5,000

4to (19.3 x 14.2 cm.),14 fols., A8 B6, Gothic letter, 32–33 lines per page. B3 mislettered A3 and bound after the true A3, B4 misbound between A5/6. Occasional light spotting, some repair to blank edges, bound in modern half vellum boards, title on spine.

A popular manual for the use of clerics advising on how to carry out the priestly duties in the best way. The text is based on the works of the Saints Bernard of Clairvaux and Augustine. This may be a variant issue as comparison by an earlier cataloguer who has found differences between ours and the Cambridge copy (see Oates below), which has 30–3011., showing variations on sigs. B2 and B3. Kachelofen (d. 1528/9) was likely the second printer of Leipzig, and appears to be the first major publisher to set up in the city.

Goff S 779. Marston p .72. Voullième (B) 1323. Oates 1278. Not in BMC.



9. SANCTO GEORGIO, Johannes Antonius de. Oratio in exequiis Cardinalis Tornacensis.

[Rome, Stephan Plannck, after 16th October 1483.]

£ 3,500

FIRST EDITION. Chancery quarto ($20.4 \times 14.2 \text{ cm.}$), 6 unnumbered leaves including final blank, clearly integral because it shows on recto an offsetting from the previous page. A good copy in black, white and beige floral paper on boards.

One of two different editions from the same year of a funeral oration for Ferricus de Cluniaco (Ferri de Cluny), cardinal and bishop of Tournai, who died in Rome on 7 October 1483. Made bishop in 1473 and cardinal in 1480, he was a counsellor or emissary for Philip the Good and Charles the Bold of Burgundy, Emperor Maximilian and Louis XI of France. His funeral was held on 16 October 1483. Plannck, the printer, specialised in publishing orations in Rome, in this quarto pamphlet form. The speech-giver, Gianantonio de San Giorgio (1439–1509), was bishop of a suffragan diocese of Milan and was also a successful canonist and law teacher. He was promoted to cardinal in 1493.

Goff S 134. Hain 7597*. Mead 'Huntington' 2023. Not in BMC (the BL has a copy, IA.18342).

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10. PLINY THE ELDER; BEROALDO, Filippo sr. (ed.) Naturalis Historiae Libri XXXVII.

Parma, Andreas Portilia, 8th July 1481.

£ 60,000

Royal Folio. (40.2 x 28.1 cm.), A8 B6 C-E8 F6 G-H8 I-L6 M-Y8 Z6 &4 a-f8 g6 2a-2d8 2e6, lacking blanks at beginning and end. Roman letter in two sizes. First page of text (A2r) with a very large contemporary lavishly illuminated initial "L" (liquid gold and vivid green, blue and purple colours: a Venetian atelier?), spanning the width of 15 lines of text, without taking into account the extensive marginal foliation; at the foot of the same page, an illuminated heraldic shield, unidentified (noble Florentine family of Acciaiuoli? a rampant lion, slightly erased, within a shield at the centre of a laurel wreath on a shell-like blue background with two intertwined cornucopias containing fruits and plant leaves). C1r also carries an illuminated initial from the same time. Some light foxing, spotting and staining, particularly to margins, light scattering of wormholes towards beginning, mended snag to bottom margin of last leaf of text, owner's inscription almost completely removed from sig. a4r and very faded old stamp on recto of rear endpaper. A very good, clean and wide-margined copy, many pages of remarkable freshness, in early vellum (soiled, ties removed, top joint mended). Early shelf mark in ink on verso of initial blank. Contemporary or early marginalia in two hands, especially on the first page of the text.

A perfect copy of the third Parma edition of Pliny's Natural History. In his work on natural science, Pliny discusses geography, ethnography, anthropology, human physiology, zoology, botany, mineralogy, sculpture and painting. As "a purveyor of information both scientific and non-scientific, Pliny holds a place of exceptional importance in the tradition and diffusion of culture" (DSB).

This book was illuminated for an aristocratic owner and includes early annotations by two different hands. The first belonged to a scientist commenting on natural phenomena; the second hand drew notes of a philological or historical nature. Chapter 10 of Book 28 dealing with the obtainment of medicines from animals, shows the interest in this topic by one of the owners, who left plenty of annotations about this subject. At bb8r (Book 35) is a reference to the humanist Lorenzo Valla (1405–1457), concerning Pliny's arguments regarding the deceptive power of painting in relation to birds.

The editor of this incunable is Filippo Beroaldo the Elder, who was a teacher in humanities at the University of Bologna and an editor of classical texts. Beroaldo normally edited works for the Bolognese publisher Ugo Ruggeri.

BMC VII, 937; BSB-Ink P-604; Goff P 793; Hain 13094*; HC 13094; ISTC ip00793000; Oates 2573; Rush Hawkins 339.

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11. PLATINA, Bartolomeo. Vitae pontificum.

Treviso, Johannes Rubeus Vercellensis, 1485.

Folio. 136 leaves. A10 B-Q8 R6. Roman letter. 52 lines, headlines, capital spaces without guide-letters. Slightly trimmed, but good wide margins; thumb marks on lower corner of first leaf; some heavy damp-staining on first two leaves and throughout the first half of the book at foot of pages, no affection the text. Some small wormholes throughout the last three quires, with minimal text loss. Copious early ms. annotations, mostly names of popes for reference. Blank verso of first leaf with extensive Italian vernacular ms. note written in 1522, commemorating the momentous return to Europe of Capitan Juan Sebastian Elcano on the ship Victoria, completing the circumnavigation of the globe for the first time ever in history. The journey had started three years earlier under the leadership of Ferdinand Magellan, who died in the Philippines on the way back from the Pacific. This annotation mentions also the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V as the patron of this expedition. Autograph of 17thcentury owner, the nobleman Lucrezio Palladio degli Olivi, from Friuli (once Republic of Venice), dated "1670" on top of second leaf's verso. Handwritten foliation; ms. indexing on last leaf, probably by the same early hand that wrote most annotations; loose sheet with 18th-century ms. list of the following popes, from Paul II up to Pius VI, consecrated in 1775. In vellum over thick boards. Ink date to spine plus reference numeration. A lovely copy in good condition.

This incunable is the third edition of Platina's The Lives of the Popes (first printed in 1479). This work is the first systematic handbook of Papal history. Composed by the Italian humanist, theologian, and historian Bartolomeo Platina and presented to Sixtus IV in manuscript form at the end of 1474, the original copy is still held at the Vatican Library.

BMC VI, 897; Goff P770; HC 13048*; Oates 2465; Polain (B) 3188; Proctor 6498.

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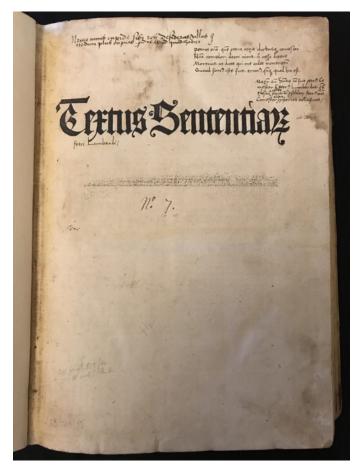
Basel, Nicolaus Kesler, 1486.

Folio. a-h8.6 i8 k-p8.6 q-r6 (a1r title, a1v blank, a2r Books I-II, r8 blank); s-x8.6 y-z6 (s1 Book III, z6 blank); A-F8.6 G6 H8 (A1 Book IV, H8v colophon and device); I8 K10 (I1r alphabetical index, K10 blank). 232 leaves. 54 lines and headline, marginalia. Types: 1:180G (title), 2:82AG (text), 2:82BG (marginalia). Printer's woodcut device (Davies 8). 2- and 3-line capital spaces, most with printed guide letters. Later rubrication in quires t-x only. A few short marginal tears, light dampstaining at end, final blank leaf torn and repaired. Contemporary German blind-stamped calf over wooden boards, sides with central saltire panel, the compartments decorated with diamond-shaped fleur-de-lys stamps and smaller circular fleurs-de-lys framed with alternating large rosettes and the larger fleurs-de-lys, two brass fore-edge catches on lower cover and remnants of leather clasps on upper cover, lower pastedown from two 13th-century manuscripts on vellum, one relating to a Gospel, the other a scholastic text, title lettered on fore-edge (rebacked preserving original backstrip, front endpapers renewed); numerous deckle edges preserved.

The book is copiously annotated in a small neat cursive hand, apparently by a single contemporary owner, a second hand appearing in Book IV, chapters 31-32 (F1-F2). A note on the title by the principal annotator clarifies the difference between Petrus Lombardus and Petrus Comestor (according to legend they were brothers), explaining that one was the commentator of the Psalms and Pauline Epistles, while to the other was due the history of the early church. After first encountering opposition and attempts at censorship, Peter Lombard's Sententiae became the standard textbook of Catholic theology during the later middle ages. This is the probable seventh of 21 recorded fifteenth-century editions. At the death of Bernhard Richel in 1482 his son-in-law Nicolaus Kesler, or Kessler, a native of Bottwar, took over the press. Under Kesler's management the shop became one of the most important in Basel, making use of a rich variety of typographic material, and printing predominantly theological, homiletic and canonical texts, along with a few humanist works. This copy was part of the Nakles Collection (Christie's, New York, 2000).

HC 10190*; BMC III, 763 (IB. 37573); BSB-Ink. P-382; CIBN P-241; Harvard/Walsh 1204; Polain(B) 3117; Pr 7654; Goff P-484.







III

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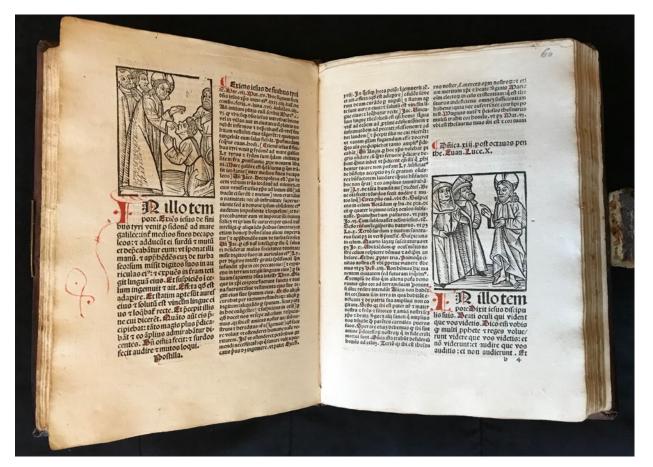
13. GUILLERMUS PARISIENSIS, Postilla super epistolas et evangelia.

Basel, Nicolaus Kesler, 1492.

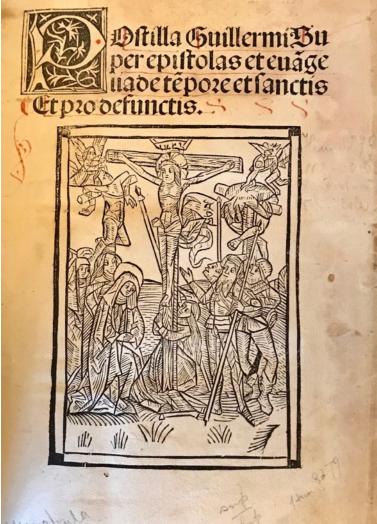
4to. 162 unnumbered leaves, A-M⁸ N⁶ a-f⁸ g-h⁶, including two blanks (fols. [102] (n6) and [162] ((final) h6)). Gothic letter. Floriated initials, capital spaces with nicely rubricated guide-letters, rubrications throughout. Title-page with large woodcut of Crucifixion, 52 smaller woodcuts in text. Some light soiling and staining, a few wormholes to blank margins towards beginning, fols. [73] (k1) and [80] (k8) remargined in blank (the latter also with a small paper flaw, affecting two words on verso), fol. [76] (k4) with repair to blank outer margin, overall a good copy. In original blind-stamped calf over wooden boards with vellum bifolia of fifteenth-century breviary as end-leaves. Large brass clasp, rebacked, cracks to spine, small tear to head. Contemporary ownership inscription on f.f.e.p. recto. A fine copy.

Illustrated guide to the excerpts from the Epistles and Evangelists read at church services throughout the year (the Lessons). The text was first issued in 1437. The importance of the book is shown in the fact that more than 100 incunabular editions were produced (if a reasonable estimate of 400 copies per edition is accepted, this suggests over 40,000 copies in circulation!) The book's naïve woodcuts, some of considerable charm, appeared in a Basle edition of 28 July 1491. The 'British Museum Catalogue', describing this earlier printing, suggests that the pictures were copied from earlier Lyons editions. Schreiber, writing about this present edition, suggests the influence of the Strassburg 'Plenarium' of 1482.

Goff G 682; BMC III 770; Schreiber 4147; Schramm XXI, 19 pl. 725-767; Weisbach 39, n. 17; Hain 8279. The Kraus copy, Catalogue 182, number 85.







Conditions of Sale

Books can be returned for any reason within two weeks. All prices are net and do not include postage and packing. Invoices will be rendered in GBP. Title does not pass to the purchaser until the invoice is paid in full. Major credit cards accepted.

