



BOOKS AT BROWN

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FRIENDS of the LIBRARY OF BROWN UNIVERSITY: PROVIDENCE, R. I.

FIFTEENTH CENTURY BOOKS IN THE JOHN HAY LIBRARY

SOME YEARS may elapse, perhaps many years, before we shall know which of the books in European libraries have survived, and which have been lost in the fiery cauldron of the war. If only one copy of a book is known to be in this country, it may prove to be unique in the world today. We can only wait to know. Meantime, whether truly unique or not, it is the only copy available to American scholars at the present time.

According to the 1940 census of incunabula, there are three such books in the John Hay Library — the 1485 French translation of an encyclopedia of knowledge, the *De Proprietatibus Rerum* of Bartholomæus Anglicus; the Florentine edition of the *Formularium Diversorum Contractuum*, printed by Francesco de Dino about 1487; and the 1496 Augsburg edition of the *Calendarium* of Regiomontanus. Each of these has the distinction of being the only registered copy in North America.

But rarity of course is not the sole criterion by which even rare books should be judged. Subject-interest is of importance. Of the thirty-six books of the fifteenth century which are in the John Hay Library, about half relate to the religious concerns and the churchmen of their day. Among these are the 1496 edition of the Bible concordance compiled by Conradus de Alemania; the second issue of the 1476 Basel edition of the *Constitutiones* of Pope Clemens V; and the *Epistolæ Familiæ* of Pope Pius II, which was printed in Nuremberg on May 17th, 1496.

The remainder of the books in the Library's fifteenth century collection relate to the revival of Classical interest and the incoming Renaissance. The first dated edition of the *De Potestate et Sapientia Dei* of Hermes Trismegistus, Treviso, 1471, stands upon the shelves with Boccaccio's *Genealogia Deorum*, Venice, 1495, rich in mythological lore. Close beside them are early editions of the writings of Aristophanes, Horace, Livy, Sallust, and Plutarch. There is a Strassburg edition of Rolewinck's *Fasciculus Temporum* printed about 1490, a chronicle

which is a veritable *Who's Who* record of the great personages, who lived from the time of the world's creation to the invention of printing, midway in the fifteenth century. And near at hand are three, early printed editions of the monumental compilations of Roman law compiled at the instigation of Justinian — the *Digestum novum*, the *Institutiones*, and the *Novellæ Constitutiones post Codicem*.

Thus, from varied angles, these thirty-six books combine to give some conception of the interests and of the knowledge current among scholars at the time when books began to be printed mechanically.

Several of the incunabula at the John Hay Library had been offered to the Annmary Brown Memorial. And these offers were not only gracious, but logical on the part of the owners, for the Annmary Brown Memorial's collection of fifteenth century books stands among the great collections of the world. Since, however, the Memorial's collection is closed to additions, it was recommended in each instance that the books thus offered should be given to the University.

The presence of these books on the campus, close to the highly specialized collection at the Memorial, enhances the prestige of Providence as a center for the study of the thought and life of the fifteenth century, as well as its position as a center for the study of the early history of the printing art. It is to be hoped, therefore, that other early printed books will from time to time be given the University by its FRIENDS.

Margaret B. Stillwell, '09

CURATOR

THE ANNMARY BROWN MEMORIAL

Books at Brown was extremely fortunate to have Margaret B. Stillwell, '09, a ranking authority in the field of incunabula, contribute the foregoing article. A FRIEND in many ways, Miss Stillwell has been directly responsible for several important additions to the collection of early books in the John Hay.

The editor had a sneaking suspicion that the FRIENDS might be

DESIDERATA

LINCOLN NEEDS —

Barrett, J. M. <i>Life of Abraham Lincoln</i> , . . . Wessen variant A. \$5.00	
<i>Who Endorsed the Helper Book! Who Were the Inciters to Bloodshed.</i> ca. 1861.	17.50
(Debates) Warren No. 9.	7.50
Kellogg, Hon. F. W. <i>Speech of June 12, 1860.</i> Detroit, Tribune Tract No. 7.	2.50
Lincoln, A. <i>Letter to the Missouri Radicals and Speech of S. T. Glover</i> . . . Oct. 17, 1863.	27.50
Lincoln, A. <i>Message.</i> July 4, 1861. Washington.	25.00
McClure, James B. <i>Anecdotes von Abraham Lincoln</i> . . . Chicago, 1888.	2.00
Rauch, F. W. <i>Lincoln Grand March.</i> 1860. Cincinnati.	4.50
(Ottolengul, D.) <i>Behind the Seams.</i> 1945. N. Y.	2.50
<i>The President's Usurpations.</i> 1864.	27.50
(Reaper Case) In the Supreme Court of the United States. No. 84. Dec. Term 1857 . . . 1858. Wash.	2.50
Scott, Dr. Elizur P. <i>The Last Call.</i> 1864. Cincinnati.	15.00
Sharpe, Rev. C. W. <i>Hymns Used at the Lincoln Memorial Service</i> . . . Hancock, N. Y. Apr. 16, 1865.	2.00
<i>The Tragedy of A. Lincoln</i> . . . 1881, N. Y.	7.00

GENERAL —

Benesch, Otto. <i>Artistic and Intellectual trends from Rubens to Daumier</i> , as shown in book illustration. Cambridge, Department of printing and graphic arts, Harvard College Library, 1943.	7.50
Fokker, Timon H. <i>Roman Baroque art</i> . . . N. Y. Oxford University Press, 1938. 2 vols.	35.00
French, Hollis. <i>Jacob Hurd and his sons, Nathaniel and Benjamin, silversmiths, 1702-1781.</i> Boston, Riverside Press, 1940.	10.00
Hague, Eleanor. <i>Latin-American music, past and present.</i> Santa Ana, Cal., Fine Arts Press, 1943.	6.00
Laurie, Arthur P. <i>The brushwork of Rembrandt and his school.</i> N. Y. Oxford University Press, 1932.	4.00
Scott, Ernest. <i>A history of the University of Melbourne.</i> Melbourne, Melbourne University Press. 1936.	2.50
Smythe, James P. <i>Rescuing the Czar.</i> San Francisco, California Printing Co., 1920.	2.00
Solve, Marvin T. <i>Shelley; his theory of poetry.</i> Chicago, University of Chicago Press, 1927.	3.00

interested in knowing how some of the other early books came to our library. Unfortunately there is no information available on the very early acquisitions for prior to 1850 the University librarian did not keep an accessions book.

We do know that five books came from the library of John Carter Brown, class of 1816. In this group is a *Corpus Juris Civilis* of Justinian, printed at Venice in 1477 by Nicholas Jenson, and described by Dibdin as "a tall and sumptuous copy." Another edition of the *Corpus*, published in Venice in 1497, was presented by Halsey W. Wilson, a FRIEND.

The *Quaestiones* of Duns, Scotus, came to the John Hay as part of the Ives Gift, the bequest of Hope Brown Russell.

Three editions of *Horace* published before 1500 are a part of our William E. Foster ('73) Collection, and another edition, published at Florence in 1482, unusual for it contains Tasso's manuscript notes, was presented by Dr. Charles L. Nichols, '72.

In the Chambers' Dante Collection, presented to the Library by Henry D. Sharpe, '94 in honor of Professor Courtney Langdon, there is the *Genealogia Deorum* by Boccaccio.

Harry B. Sherman, a FRIEND, has within the last few years added two early books to the Library's collection, one of which is the *Calendarium* described in the first part of Miss Stillwell's article.

The *Plutarch* in the collection, published at Rome in 1472, was donated by the Class of 1821.

Other donors to this collection have been Mrs. Henry S. Burrage (a volume from the library of her husband, Henry S. Burrage, '61); Hezekiah Conant; Moses Brown Ives, Class of 1812; Dr. George V. Kellen, '72; Mrs. George W. H. Ritchie; The Reverend Thatcher Thayer (trustee 1860-94); and Dr. James E. Sullivan.

Among the early books purchased through University funds is a *Sallust*, published at Venice in 1481. This was acquired at the Jarvis sale in New York City, 1851, for the stupendous sum of eighty cents.

In 1925 there occurred the legal transfer of the library of Philip Darrell Sherman, '02, Professor of English at Oberlin College. This library which will come to Brown on the death of Professor Sherman and will be known as the Harry Lyman Koopman Collection contains the following incunabula:

Original leaves from the *Gutenberg Bible*, the *Catholicon*, and the presses of Caxton (seven different examples), *Wynkyn de Worde*, *Machlinia* (much rarer than Caxton), *Fust* and *Schoeffer*, etc.

Petrarch's *Trionfi* (1473), with illuminated title page bearing portrait of Petrarch. A leaf of a *Block Book*, "The Apocalypse of St. John," containing the message to the Seven Churches.

P. F. G.

WITH APPRECIATION

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