

**EARLY ILLUSTRATED BOOKS; A
HISTORY OF THE DECORATION
AND ILLUSTRATION OF BOOKS
IN THE 15TH AND 16TH CENTURIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649118007

Early illustrated books; a history of the decoration and illustration of books in the 15th and 16th centuries by Alfred W. Pollard

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

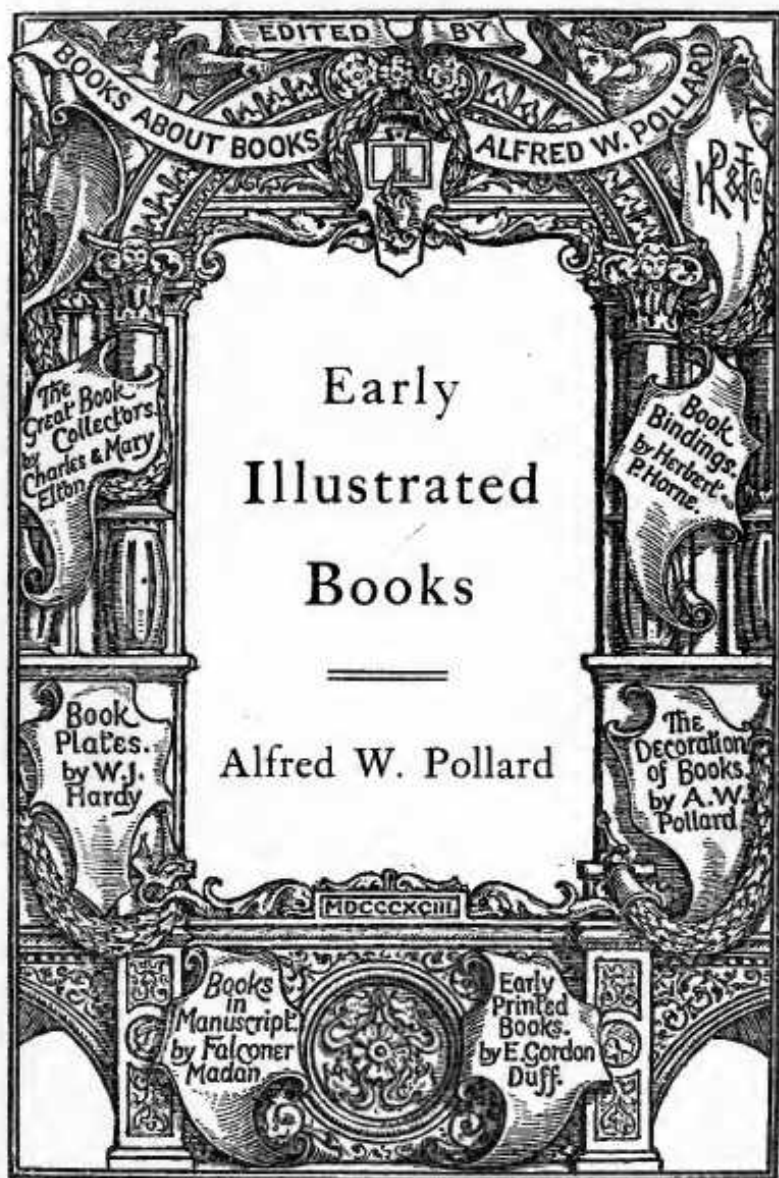
Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

ALFRED W. POLLARD

**EARLY ILLUSTRATED BOOKS; A
HISTORY OF THE DECORATION
AND ILLUSTRATION OF BOOKS
IN THE 15TH AND 16TH CENTURIES**



EDITED BY

BOOKS ABOUT BOOKS

ALFRED W. POLLARD

Early
Illustrated
Books

Alfred W. Pollard

The Great Book Collectors
by Charles & Mary Elton

Book Bindings
by Herbert P. Home

Book Plates
by W. J. Hardy

The Decoration of Books
by A. W. Pollard

MCCCXCIII

Books in Manuscript
by Falconer Madan

Early Printed Books
by E. Gordon Duff



FRONTISPIECE TO BREYDENBACH'S PEREGRINATIO. MENTZ, 1486.

Early Illustrated Books

A History of the Decoration and
Illustration of Books in the
15th and 16th Centuries

By Alfred W. Pollard



London

Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd.

MDCCCXCIII

Edinburgh: T. and A. CONSTABLE, Printers to Her Majesty

Preface

AS originally announced, the title of the present volume was to have been *The Decoration of Books*. The change of name has been made partly because it proved impossible within my limits to include, as I had hoped, the French *livres à vignettes* of the last century; partly because the title originally chosen suggested an encroachment on the forthcoming volume on Bookbindings by my friend Mr. Horne.

The object of the original title was to emphasise not only my abstention from any attempt to write a new history of wood-engraving, but also the possibility that a book may be very profusely and even very judiciously illustrated without being much the better for it decoratively. Though I have taken all possible pains to avoid ugliness, the present volume itself affords a sufficient example of the distinction which I wish to suggest. The pictures in it have been chosen as illustrations of the books of the past, not as a means of making my own book beautiful, and some of them are out of harmony with the size of the pages and the character of the types here used.

In a handbook like the present this is a necessary evil, but the evil is equally conspicuous in a great number of modern books in which the illustrations are introduced solely for their decorative value. In this matter we have much to learn from the old printers, in whose books paper, type, illustrations, initial letters, and borders were all so planned as to form a harmonious whole—a point to which I have endeavoured to draw attention in several places in my text.

Short as the present book is, I have incurred many obligations in writing it. My chief literary debts are to the monographs of Dr. Muther, Dr. Lippmann, the Vicomte Delaborde, the Duc de Rivoli, and Mr. Conway, to which specific references are made in the chapters for which they have been used. In attempting, I believe for the first time, to compress in a small compass a general view of the history of book illustration during the golden age of printing, I am not ashamed to confess that my book is deeply indebted to the works of these specialists, who often have devoted a lifetime to a subject to which I could give only a few pages. But I have missed no opportunity of examining for myself every book which I mention, and as the British Museum, despite a few gaps in its collection, is splendidly rich in illustrated books, I have been obliged to write at second-hand only in a very few cases.

Of more personal debts the heaviest is that which I owe to Mr. E. Gordon Duff, who has helped me on many points connected with early printing, and when illness in my family made it impossible for me to complete my book without a very serious delay, most generously came to my rescue by writing for me the chapter on English illustrated books, a special subject on which his knowledge so greatly exceeds my own that I can very heartily congratulate my readers on the change of pen.

I am also indebted to Mr. Fairfax Murray and Mr. William Morris for showing me their collections, to Mr. Weale and his able assistant, Mr. Palmer, for help given at the National Art Library, whose excellent arrangement and catalogues make its books trebly useful, and to Dr. Kristeller of Berlin, not only for the use of his published monographs and for private information, but for the loan of seven of the blocks from his forthcoming work on the Devices of the Italian Printers. Five other illustrations are from blocks previously used in my own *History of the Title-Page*. All the rest are new, and not the least of my obligations is to Mr. James Hyatt, of 47 Great Russell Street, for the pains he has taken in reproducing them.

ALFRED W. POLLARD.