

**CATALOGUE OF THE WILLIAM
LORING ANDREWS COLLECTION
OF EARLY BOOKS IN THE
LIBRARY OF YALE UNIVERSITY**

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Catalogue of the William Loring Andrews Collection of Early Books in the library of Yale University by William Loring Andrews

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WILLIAM LORING ANDREWS

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CATALOGUE OF EARLY PRINTED BOOKS

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subject more deeply it offers an excellent body of the original material upon which any serious study must of necessity be based.

The two fine fifteenth century MSS. at the head of the collection, far from serving a merely ornamental purpose, like their own illuminated initials for example, are a needful introduction. It is obvious that from such sources the first printers got the models of their types, and the MSS. in which Jenson found the prototypes of his famous roman characters, which in the judgment of some are still unsurpassed, could not have been very remote from these. Some of the more striking features which distinguish the early printed books from the later were not original with them, but only survivals from the MSS. The abbreviations and contractions in which both abound were the labor-saving devices of the copyists, adopted without hesitation by the printers who used the MSS. as copy and only slowly abandoned. The copyist left spaces in his MS. for initials to be supplied by the illuminator, without which his work was not considered complete, and for about a hundred years the printer continued to do the same. If the copyist saw fit to attach his name to his work, we look for it at the end of the volume and there also the printer placed his colophon. Signatures and catchwords, to guide the binder in the arrangement of the sheets, did not come in with the printed book, but had long been in use in the MSS.

Although out of the hundreds of presses active during the first century only a score are here represented, leaving wide gaps in the series, it is better, because more nearly in the natural line of development, that the books should be ranged under the country, the locality and the press to which they severally belong, than that they should be kept in strict chronological order. A general chronological order underlies the geographical even where it does not come to the surface. By right of seniority Germany stands at the head, and Mainz, the

birthplace of printing, is followed by the other German towns in the order of their press age. Next come the presses of Italy, France, Holland and England, arranged in like order. To prevent, however, too wide a departure from the chronological succession which would result from the strict application of this rule, the later, i.e., the sixteenth century, Venice and Paris books are separated from the earlier and transferred to the end of the list, where in point of development they properly belong. Placed in the order thus indicated, the books, as befits so small a total, are numbered consecutively in one series. The conspectus, which brings into one view the titles, dates, places and printers' names, will serve also as a sufficient index.

While we are here most concerned with the genealogy and family history of the books, or in other words with their press relationships, the personal history attaching to them—*habent sua fata libelli*—is not without interest. The Zeno MS. and the Philo, printed on vellum, are the dedication copies, not merely set apart, but specially prepared for this use. In a few of the volumes are found the names or the arms of early owners. The Livy MS. and one-half of the printed books are from the library, dispersed in 1886, of Michael Wodhull (1740-1816) of Thenford, Northamptonshire, the first translator into English verse of all the extant works of Euripides, the most assiduous and painstaking and in some departments of bibliography the best equipped among the book collectors of his day. It was his custom (well illustrated in the present collection) to enter on the fly-leaf of each purchase the source and the cost, adding as a separate item the binding, often by Roger Payne, and to affix his name and the date. His *visé* "Collat: & complet:" is seldom wanting and often bibliographical notes and references to authorities are added. Justinian's *Novellae*, printed by Schoeffer, and all the Aldine press books save one are from the library gathered at Syston Park, Lincolnshire,

by Sir John Thorold and his son, Sir John Hayford Thorold, between 1775 and 1831 and sold in 1884.

One valued mark of ownership, common to all the volumes, is the *ex libris* of the lover of choice books who united them in one family, not again to be separated, and gave them into the keeping of the University Library.

The accompanying list of Authorities, as will be apparent, is intended to supply merely the details necessary to complete the references of the catalogue.

Acknowledgments are due from the compiler to his associates in the Library and the University for assistance in the catalogue.

ADDISON VAN NAME, *Librarian Emeritus.*

Yale University Library, September, 1913.

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