

**A BRIEF HAND-LIST OF ORIGINAL AND  
EARLY EDITIONS OF SOME OF THE  
POETICAL AND PROSE WORKS OF  
ENGLISH WRITERS FROM LANGLAND TO  
WITHER, EXHIBITED AT THE GROLIER  
CLUB, MAY 11 TO 25, 1893**

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A brief hand-list of original and early editions of some of the poetical and prose works of English writers from Langland to Wither, exhibited at the Grolier Club, May 11 to 25, 1893 by Grolier Club

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# GROLIER CLUB

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 The Grolier Club  
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From The  
Grotier Club



## INTRODUCTION.

THE present exhibition is designed to illustrate bibliographically the poetical and prose works of English writers from Langland to Wither, and it is hoped that it will be interesting as well as instructive not only to the collector, but to the student and lover of books. Bibliography, too often ignored by the student, is nevertheless a most valuable accompaniment to the proper study of literature, particularly of the earlier periods, when so little has come down to us of the lives of many writers whose works contribute largely to the body of our literature. An intimate knowledge of such writers is hardly to be obtained except by a comparison and study of the original editions, and this presupposes some acquaintance with the bibliography of the time.

The period of English literary history illustrated by the books in this exhibition is from Edward III to James I, almost three hundred

years. Langland was born in 1332—later than Gower and earlier than Chaucer; but his *Vision of Piers the Plowman*, which was probably written as early as 1362, marks the beginning of English poetry and places Langland in point of time before the two greater poets of that period, when the English language, after its battle with the Latin and the French, became not only the fixed tongue of the people, but began to be the language of society and literature. Nearly a century was yet to pass before the invention of printing, and it was not until 1550 that Langland's work was given to the world as a printed book, although there were editions of the works of both Chaucer and Gower printed in the fifteenth century.

Wither, whose name marks the other boundary to this collection of books, was born in 1588, and lived for nearly ninety years. His first works were published early in the seventeenth century, and show clearly the influence of the Elizabethan age. His later works are not included in this exhibition, for the reason that they more properly belong to another period.

There has been no attempt to exhibit in the present collection the dramatic literature of



the period, but it is expected that the golden age of the drama will be adequately represented in an exhibition at another time.

In order that the books here exhibited might be properly described, a special committee has prepared, and the Club is now about to issue, an exhaustive bibliographical catalogue. This is offered to the members as a contribution to the bibliography of early English literature, and will, it is believed, be a valuable book of reference as well as an example of beautiful typography. It contains full collations and notes, numerous plates and facsimiles of frontispieces and title-pages, and makes a large octavo volume of more than 250 pages, printed on Van Gelder paper.

The numbers in the present hand-list correspond with those of the large catalogue, so that the detailed description and collation of each book may be readily referred to. As a matter of convenience, the books in this exhibition are arranged by authors, in alphabetical order; and there are shown also a few books of the same period not accessible while work on the catalogue was in progress.



### BRIEF HAND-LIST.

ALEXANDER, SIR WILLIAM (1567-1640).

- 1 A Paraenesis to the Prince.  
Quarto. First edition. 1604.
- 2 Aurora. Containing the first fancies of  
the Authors youth.  
Quarto. First edition. 1604.

ALLOT, ROBERT.

- 3 Englands Parnassus: Or the Choysrest  
Flowers of our Moderne Poets.  
Octavo. First edition. 1600.

ASCHAM, ROGER (1515-1568).

- 4 The Scholemaster.  
Quarto. First edition. 1570.
- 5 The Scholemaster.  
Quarto. Second edition. 1571.
- 6 The Scholemaster.  
Quarto. Third edition. 1579.