CATALOGUE OF SCARCE BOOKS

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Catalogue of Scarce Books by Various

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CATALOGUE OF SCARCE BOOKS



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THE FIRST DATED BOOK PUBLISHED BY THE ALDINE PRESS, JANUARY, 1495.

18 ALDINE. Theodorus, Introductivæ Grammatices, lib. IV.; ejusdem de mensibus opusculum; Apollonii grammatici de constructione, lib. IV.; Herodianus de numeris. Impressum Venetiis in ædibus Aldi Romani octavo calendas Januarias, MCCCCLXXXXV. (1495). "Concessum est eidem Aldo ab illustrissimo Senatu Veneto ne cui hune librum liceat imprimere sub pœna ut in gratia." Folio, magnificently bound in a mosaic romantic binding, by Thouvenix (signed).

*We believe that the present copy is of matchless beauty. We know two very fine copies in town. The present copy is one inch taller (12 x 8 in.) than the others. Besides being absolutely fresh and new inside, the binding of this copy may be regarded as a masterpiece of Thouvenin. This copy belonged once to the Duke of Hamilton and has his large armorial bookplate (8 in. x 6 in.).

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19 ALDINE. Benedetti, Diaria de Cello Carolino. Small 4to, bound in light brown full crushed levant extra, sides gilt with Aldine devices, gilt edges. Venetiis: Aldus, 1496

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THE EDITIO PRINCEPS OF THEOPHRASTUS.

20 ALDINE. Theophrasti, De historia plantarum libri X. Ejusdem de causis Plantarum libri IV. Folio, bound in the original old parchment binding. Absque ulla nota.

Venetiis: Aldus, 1497

*A monumental work from point of view of typography and the Editio princeps, the first printed edition of Theophras's history of plants, the great text-book of botany throughout antiquity and the Middle Ages. The present copy is in all probability the largest in existence. It belonged in 1801 to Mr. Weigel, who considered it a special Large Paper copy. A reference to this special copy is to be found in Renouard (2d edition, Vol. I., page 26). But, notwithstanding the fact that the margins actually measure 2½ inches, we are not inclined to believe that Aldus issued special Large Paper copies of his edition of Theophrast. The present copy is almost uncut, the fore-edge of the very title-page being entirely uncut, and we are inclined to believe it is simply a copy of his regular edition, but with exceptionally well-preserved margins.

— Martialis (Epigrammata). 12mo, bound in olive crushed levant, gilt edges, inside borders, gilt Aldine devices on sides.

Venetiis: In Ædibus Aldi mense Decembri, 1501
* A precious volume. In April, 1501, Aldas introduced the Italic
type, the Virgii being the first book printed in that type. This
Martial was printed in December, 1501, and it is therefore one of the
earliest volumes printed in Italics. This Italic type, as is well known,
meant not merely a typographical advance; it latroduced the 8vo and
12mo size volumes, which circumstance, of course, made reading
more convenient, transport less costly, and added, therefore, greatly
to the spread of knowledge and advance of culture. Sunderland
copy, in the original Aldine binding, sold for £175 (N. 8117). The
present copy is a very fine one. It has a few contemporary notes.

22 — Martialis (Epigrammata). Small 8vo, bound in crushed olive green levant, gilt edges, inside borders. Counterfeit Aldine, 1501

*A volume of superlative rarity, much rarer than the genuine Aldine Martial. Among the famous Aldine collections only the Sunderland library had a very imperfect copy of this edition. This counterfeit was printed in Lyons, and with such a skill that even famous bibliographers could not distinguish it from the genuine imprint. (See Renouard, Vol. II., pages 287-294.) The present copy is in excellent preservation and exceptionally tall, measuring 6¼ inches.

SOPHOCLES' EDITIO PRINCEPS, 1502.

23 ALDINE. Sophocles. Tragodiæ Septem. Small 8vo. Magnificent copy, bound in full crushed brown levant extra, gilt back and sides, gilt edges, by CLARKE & BEDFORD.

Venetiis: Aldus, 1502

*Beautiful and exceptionally tall copy (165 milim. by 100 mm.) of
the FIRST EDITION of this greatest of all classics. The price of the
first editions of Sophocles and similar books are rising rapidly from
day to day, and are very difficult to obtain in good condition even at
high prices. A copy that would have sold ten years ago for 200
francs sold by Olschai recently for 700 francs. Morgand prices a
good copy 4,000 francs (\$500). The present copy is exceptionally
fine and has all the blank leaves.

4 —— Valerii Maximi dictorum et factorum memorabilium libri novem, Small 8vo, half russia, Venetiis: Aldus, 1502

* Fine tall copy of the excessively rare first Aldine edition of Valerius Maximus. For full description see Renouard, pp. 86-87. Beckford's copy (Part IV., N. 50) £13.

XENOPHON ET HERODIAN EDITIONES PRINCIPES ON THICK PAPER, 1503.

Xenophontis omissa: quæ græca geste appellantur. Georgius Gemistus, qui Pletho dicitur... Herodiani a Marci principatu historiarum libri octo. Enaratiunculæ antiquæ, Small folio, printed on thickest paper, bouna in modern white vellum, full gilt back. Venetiis: Aldus, 1503
A most beautiful copy, printed on thickest paper, with exception-

ally large margins. The volume contains the first printed edition of Xenophon and Herodian. This edition is of greatest rarity. Copies not as fine as the present one have fetched high prices. The present volume is Dr. Heath's copy and sold three-quarters of a century ago for £9, 2s. 6d. Laire's copy sold for 450 francs, i. e., \$92. (See cuttings.)

DEMOSTHENES, EDITIO PRINCEPS, 1504.

Demosthenes Opera. Small folio, printed on thick paper, bound in olive green levant extra, sides gill, with Aldine devices, inside borders, gill edges. Venetiis: Aldus, 1504

* Magnificent copy of this great work and famous Aldine. It is the accurate issue of the first edition of the great orator's works. It ap-

pears from the preface that Aldus printed Demosthenes in a very limited number of copies. That explains the exceptional rarity of this book. Sunderland's copy sold in 1881 (N. 3797) for £25, 108. Quaritch sold a copy in 1883 for £30 (see cutting). We saw lately a quotation in an English catalogue (Pierson's, if we are not mistaken) pricing a copy £48.