

**CATALOGUE OF EARLY
PRINTED BOOKS PRESENTED TO
THE GROLIER CLUB , EXHIBITED
AT THE GROLIER CLUB 1894**

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Catalogue of early printed books presented to the Grolier Club , exhibited at the Grolier Club
1894 by David Wolfe Bruce

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DAVID WOLFE BRUCE

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Early Printed Books**

Presented to the Grolier Club

By

David Wolfe Bruce



Exhibited at the Grolier Club

1894

INTRODUCTION.

Title-pages were rarely used by the early printers. They began their books at once with the text proper, with only a heading briefly indicating the title of the book, and beginning, *Incipit, Here begins, etc.*

In this respect, as well as in the form of the characters and the general appearance of the book, the printer followed closely his predecessor the scribe, making his work resemble as nearly as possible the manuscripts hitherto in vogue.

Capital letters at the beginning of paragraphs and chapters are frequently omitted, a large space being left in which the letter might be painted, or filled in, by the illuminator or rubricator.

The text ends with a paragraph (colophon), again in imitation of medieval manuscripts, in

which the author's name and the title of his work frequently appear, as well as the printer's name and the date and place of publication. This in turn is sometimes followed by the printer's device or trademark.

The books of this collection are not exhibited merely as illustrations of early workmanship. Many of them are of historic value, for they contain the first notices in print of the invention of typography. It was with this end in view that they were carefully selected for the typographical library which Mr. David Wolfe Bruce and his father, the late George Bruce, were collecting for more than fifty years. The value of this collection will readily be inferred from a recital of the names of some of the printers of the books: Gutenberg, Peter and John Schoeffer, Mentelin, Koberger, Jenson, John of Speyer, Aldus, Keffer.

The Bruce library not only contained the incunabula here exhibited, but a great number of books on the literary history of typography. Its collection of specimen-books of types and of manuals of mechanical printing was certainly

the largest ever gathered on this side of the Atlantic. This library, which Mr. Bruce has frequently put at the service of his studious friends, has been lately divided, and generously presented to the book-makers as well as the book-lovers of New York. The specimen-books, grammars of printing, and all books that treat of the mechanics of the art, were given to the Typothetæ of this city; the incunabula, and all the valuable books on bibliography and literary history, were given to the Grolier Club. In recognition of the kindness of the giver and of the great value of the gift, the Committee on Publications has decided to make facsimiles of the more important pages or parts of pages that contain the notices concerning the invention of printing, and to publish them in a catalogue of larger size. It is believed that this collection of facsimiles, which has never before been attempted in one book, will be prized by every member of the Grolier Club, as a most useful addition to the literature of typography.

The historical notes in the following catalogue have been compiled mainly from two

recent writers on early printed books— Duff (“Early Printed Books”) and Brown (“The Venetian Printing Press”).

Among the other writers consulted are Bigmore & Wyman, Blades, Bouchot, Copinger, De Vinne, Hawkins, Hessels, Holtrop, Dr. Van der Linde, Madden, Pollard, and, of course, Panzer, Hain, Lowndes, and Brunet.

MAINZ.

Several towns claim the honor of being the birthplace of typography, but the weight of evidence favors Mainz, with John Gutenberg as the inventor of movable metal type.

Like many other inventors, Gutenberg was forced to call to his aid the capitalist, in the person of a professional money-lender, John Fust, in 1450; and, later, Peter Schoeffer was associated with them, probably as proof-reader or corrector.

They soon quarreled and separated, Gutenberg dying in poverty, while Fust and Schoeffer founded a prosperous printing-house.

Fust died in 1466, and Schoeffer continued the business to the end of the fifteenth century, printing many books.

The earliest specimen of printing from movable type known — the "Indulgence" of Nicholas V. — was printed at Mainz in 1454. Several editions were issued in this and the following year, the work of two different printers, one of whom doubtless was Gutenberg, while the other may well have been Schoeffer.

About this time two Bibles were printed at Mainz — one known as the Mazarine or forty-two-line Bible, the other as the Pfister or Bamberg (thirty-six-line) Bible. Gutenberg was doubtless connected with the production of both. In the Bruce Collection is a fragment of the Mazarine Bible, two leaves on vellum; and also two leaves, on paper, of the Bamberg Bible.

Schoeffer was also the printer of the first book with a printed date, the "Psalmorum Codex" of 1457. This is also the first book in which a printer's mark or device appears.

The mark of Fust and Schoeffer consists of two printer's rules on two shields, hanging from a stump.