

**BIBLIOGRAPHIANA NO. 3:
ON THE ENGLISH
TRANSLATIONS OF THE
"IMITATIO CHRISTI"**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649739783

Bibliographiana No. 3: On the English Translations of the "Imitatio Christi" by W. A. Copinger

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

W. A. COPINGER

**BIBLIOGRAPHIANA NO. 3:
ON THE ENGLISH
TRANSLATIONS OF THE
"IMITATIO CHRISTI"**

ON THE
ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS
OF THE
"IMITATIO CHRISTI,"
BY
W. A. COPINGER.

T
C

Thomas à Kempis



No. 3.

ON THE ENGLISH TRANSLATIONS OF THE

"Imitatio Christi,"

BY

W. A. COPINGER,

LL.D., F.S.A., F.R.S.A.,

OF THE MIDDLE TEMPLE, BARRISTER-

AT-LAW, PROFESSOR OF LAW IN

THE OWENS COLLEGE AND

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY, AND

SOMETIME PRESIDENT OF THE

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

✦✦

PRIVATELY
PRINTED.

✦✦

Manchester.

1900.



42702
19.8.4

INTRODUCTORY NOTE.

AMONGST the many works which have been written upon the "Imitatio Christi" it is somewhat strange that none has appeared treating of the English translations and adaptations, and that no attempt has hitherto been made to classify the various editions still current in the present day. The Author has endeavoured to bring together some information which it is hoped may pave the way for an exhaustive examination on the part of some admirer of this world-renowned treatise.

Four hundred MSS. of the "Imitatio" are supposed to exist in the various libraries and private collections of Europe. Our own country is somewhat poor. In the British Museum there are six. Two amongst the Harleian MSS., Nos. 3216 and 3223, both written on vellum 8vo., one dated 1464 and the other 1478. The first bears no name, the second is attributed to JOHANNES GERSON, Chancellor of Paris. A third MS., a 4to. on paper, is in the Burney

Collection, No. 314, without date, and is assigned also to Gerson. A fourth MS. is on vellum and is preserved in the Royal Collection, No. 8 C. vii., without either date or name, and contains the first book only, and that not quite complete. A fifth, written on paper, is amongst the additional MSS., No. 11,497, without date. It contains the first two books only, and is attributed to the Chancellor of Paris. The sixth is a folio written on vellum, and is in the Royal Collection, No. 7 B. viii. It is without either date or name and contains the first three books only. The title is "The book of Internal Consolation which is called '*Musica Ecclesiastica*.'" At Oxford there are five MSS., four in the Bodleian and one in Magdalen College Library. Only one of the MSS. in the Bodleian contains the whole of the "Imitatio," two are entitled "*Musica Ecclesiastica*," one of these contains the first book only, and the other all except the first chapter and a little of the beginning of the second. This last bears the date 1469. The Magdalen copy, which is of the three books only, is also entitled "*Musica Ecclesiastica*," and is written by JOHN DYGON and another scribe, and dated 1498. There are three

MSS. in Cambridge, one in the University Library, which is an English translation, one in Emmanuel College, and the third in St. John's College. All three are entitled "*Musica Ecclesiastica*," and are without dates. Two are at Lambeth Palace Library, one a small 12mo. beautifully written, and the other a small 4to. in very inferior writing. Both are entitled "*Musica Ecclesiastica*," and contain the first three books only. One MS. was in King Henry's School at Coventry, but this MS. has disappeared, and one was in the library of the late Sir Thos. Phillipps, but it was unimportant, having been written at the end of the sixteenth or beginning of the seventeenth century.

The present writer has seven MSS., most of which came from the Collection of the late Mr. EDWARD WATERTON. One is the "*Codex Buxheimensis*" from the Carthusian Monastery of Memmingen and is dated 1471, the very year that THOMAS À KEMPIS departed this life. The work too is in this MS. attributed to him. This MS. is written on 94 pages of paper in double columns of 40 lines each. The order of the books is that usually adopted, making the Book of the Sacrament the last. The treatise

is in the middle of other theological works in a folio volume bound in oak covered with stamped leather having brass bosses and clasps.

The second MS. is a quarto volume written on vellum in a most beautiful hand, and is also from the Buxheim Monastery. It is written in red and black, on 304 pages in long lines, having 21 of such to a page, and the first page is charmingly illuminated in gold and colours. The four books are in the usual order, the Book of the Sacrament being the fourth. The volume is bound in oak and covered with old brown stamped leather, having bosses and two clasps, both of which are gone. The MS. is without date, but written according to Sir E. MAUNDE THOMPSON in the year 1480.

The third MS. is an 8vo. volume on paper, and is also from the Buxheim Monastery. It is written on 67 pages in long lines, 24 of such to a page. This MS. is of the first book only, and is bound in oak originally covered with leather which has now disappeared. It had at one time two clasps, one only is left. The date is about 1460 or 1470.

The fourth MS. is dated 1501, and is that referred to by the late Mr. LEONARD A.