

EARLY PRINTED BOOKS

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Early Printed Books by E. Gordon Duff

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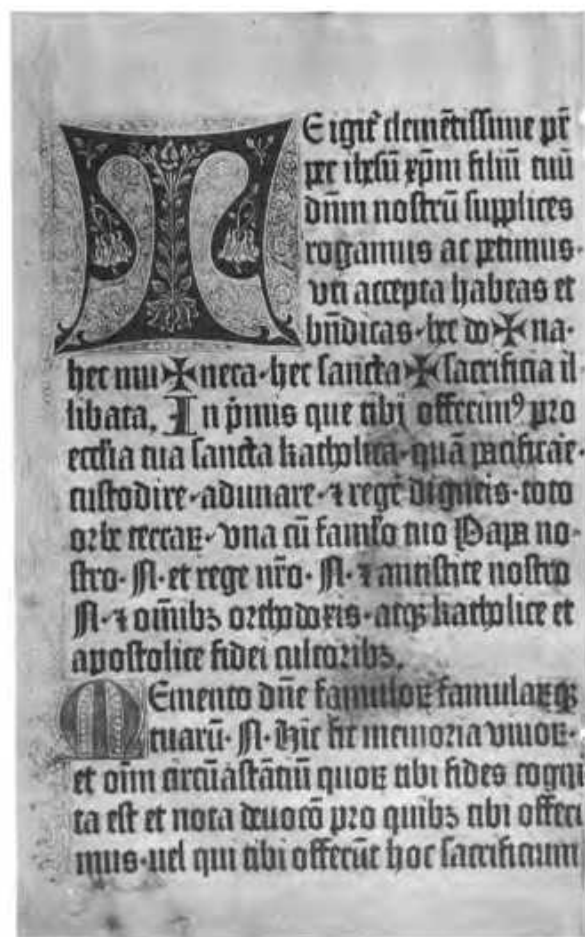
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E. GORDON DUFF

**EARLY
PRINTED BOOKS**



FROM SCHOEFFER'S CANON OF THE MASS

Early Printed Books

By

E. Gordon Duff



London

Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co., Ltd.

MDCCCXIII

TO
THE MEMORY OF
HENRY BRADSHAW

ἀποθανὼν ἔτι λαλεῖ

Preface

IN the following pages I have endeavoured to give a short account of the introduction of printing into the principal countries and towns of Europe, and to bring our information on the subject as far as possible up to date.

Small books on large subjects are for the most part both superficial and imperfect, and I am afraid the present book forms no exception to this rule, but my excuse must be that I have attempted rather to draw attention to more out of the way information than to recapitulate what is already to be found in the majority of bibliographical books.

Above all, I have tried as far as possible to confine myself to facts and avoid theories, for only by working from facts can we help to keep bibliography in the position, to which Henry Bradshaw raised it, of a scientific study.

And, in the words of a learned Warden of my own college, 'if any shall suggest, that some of the

inquiries here insisted upon do seem too minute and trivial for any prudent Man to bestow his serious thoughts and time about, such persons may know, that the discovery of the true nature and cause of any the most minute thing, doth promote real knowledge, and therefore cannot be unfit for any Man's endeavours who is willing to contribute to the advancement of Learning.'

I must express my best thanks to two friends, Mr. F. J. H. Jenkinson, University Librarian, Cambridge; and Mr. J. P. Edmond, Librarian to the Earl of Crawford and Balcarres, for very kindly reading through the proofs of the entire book and making many useful suggestions and corrections.

E. G. D.

March 1893.

Contents

	PAGE
CHAPTER I	
STEPS TOWARDS THE INVENTION,	1
CHAPTER II	
THE INVENTION OF PRINTING,	21
CHAPTER III	
SPREAD OF PRINTING IN GERMANY,	39
CHAPTER IV	
ITALY,	59
CHAPTER V	
FRANCE,	78
CHAPTER VI	
THE LOW COUNTRIES,	95
CHAPTER VII	
SPAIN AND PORTUGAL—DENMARK AND SWEDEN,	113
CHAPTER VIII	
WESTMINSTER: CAXTON—WYNKYN DE WORDE—JULIAN NOTARY,	125

	PAGE
CHAPTER IX	
OXFORD AND ST. ALBAN'S,	147
CHAPTER X	
LONDON: JOHN LETTOU — WILLIAM DE MACHLINIA — RICHARD PYNSON,	160
CHAPTER XI	
THE SPREAD OF THE ART IN GREAT BRITAIN,	174
CHAPTER XII	
THE STUDY OF BOOKBINDING,	185
CHAPTER XIII	
THE COLLECTING AND DESCRIBING OF EARLY PRINTED BOOKS,	201
INDEX OF PRINTERS AND PLACES,	213