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A catalogue on the works of one of the most influential scholars of the Northern Renaissance

Dutch Humanist and Christian theologian Desiderius Erasmus (ca. 1466–1536).

Desiderius Erasmus was one of the foremost scholars of the Northern Renaissance and a pivotal figure in the intellectual life of early modern Europe. In essence, he devoted his life to the writing of books, letters, and commentaries; Erasmus wrote more than 100 books and wrote or answered up to 40 letters per day, corresponding with over 1900 individuals in his lifetime. In a broader sense, he devoted his life to moderate church reform, ethics, education and learning, and language and philology, all going back to the original sources of Christianity and the works of classical authors in Greek and Latin. His erudition, wit, and elegant Latin style made him one of the most widely read and influential authors of his age.

Since he was educated in both Humanistic and religious principles, Erasmus promoted the study of Greek and Latin texts as a means to purify Christian thought and reform the Catholic church from within. The Praise of Folly (*Moriae Encomium*, 1511), his most celebrated work, combined satire and moral critique to expose the follies of clerics, scholars, and society alike. His edition of the Greek New Testament (1516), accompanied by a new Latin translation, laid the foundations for modern biblical scholarship and profoundly influenced the course of the Reformation.

Erasmus was born in Rotterdam in 1466 or 1467, and educated in monastic schools before joining the Augustinian canons. After his ordination as a priest in 1492, he pursued advanced studies in Paris and later travelled extensively throughout Europe, residing for periods in England, Italy, and Switzerland. Though sympathetic to calls for reform, Erasmus remained committed to unity and moderation during the religious upheavals of the 16th century. He corresponded with many of the leading thinkers of his time, including Thomas More and Martin Luther, though he ultimately distanced himself from the extremes of both Protestant and Catholic sides. Erasmus spent his final years in Basel, where he continued to edit and publish until his death in 1536.

The works of Erasmus circulated widely in his lifetime, thanks to the then newly flourishing art of printing, and continue to be prized today for their intellectual vigour, stylistic grace, and humane spirit. The 70 works presented in this catalogue bear witness to the enduring legacy of a man who sought to harmonise faith and reason, and whose pen reshaped the landscape of European thought.

Humanist edition of Seneca's tragedies

O1 **SENECA, Lucius Annaeus and Desiderius ERASMUS and others (editors).**

Tragoediae pristinae integritati restitutae... explanatae diligentissime tribus Commentariis...

Paris, Jodocus Badius, 5 December 1514. Folio. With a woodcut border and printer's device on the title page, printed in red and black, and numerous woodcut decorated initials. 18th-century gold-tooled mottled calf, both boards show a gold-tooled armorial centre piece (incorporating the arms of the city of Nevers or the arms of the Conflans family from the Champagne region), blind-tooled board edges, marbled edges.

€ 3750

1514 Paris edition of Seneca's tragedies, printed and edited by the Humanist printer Jodocus Badius (1462–1535), with contributions from Erasmus and others. Although Erasmus had permitted Badius to use his preparatory work, in his autobiographical letter to Botzheim, he reflects on the painstaking effort that went into this preparation and subtly expresses his irritation at seeing Badius "nostra cum alienis miscuisse" (that is, having mixed Erasmus' contributions with those of others). The present work comprises nine dramatic works and extensive scholarly commentary by leading Renaissance philologists.

With a printed book plate and a manuscript note dated 1828 on the front pastedown. An 18th-century manuscript inscription on the first free endpaper. The binding shows some signs of wear, the outer half of both boards is slightly faded from sun exposure. The lower margin of the title page and the outer margin of the sixth preliminary leaf have been reinforced. The final privilege leaf has been mounted on the recto of the adjacent blank flyleaf. The first and last leaves are slightly water stained, and the upper margins have been cut somewhat short. Otherwise in good condition.

[6], CCLXVII, [1] ll. *De Reuck* 497; *Moreau and Renouard* 967; *Renouard (Badius)* III, 252–53; *USTC* 144361; *Vander Haeghen* II, 49; not in *Kossmann*. [More on our website](#)



The 1515 Leuven edition of Erasmus' first Psalm commentary

02

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Enarratio in primum psalmum davidicum potissimum iuxta tropologiam. Martini Dorpii ... ad eundem epistola, de moriae encomio, deque novi testamenti ad graecos codices emendatione. Erasmi ad Dorpium suos labores defendentis copiosa & plae-nae eloquentiae apologia ...

Leuven, Thierry Martins, October 1515. 4°. With the title page printed in red and black, 2 decorated woodcut initials, and a full-page woodcut printer's device at the end of the work. 19th-century gold-tooled half brown morocco.

€ 4500

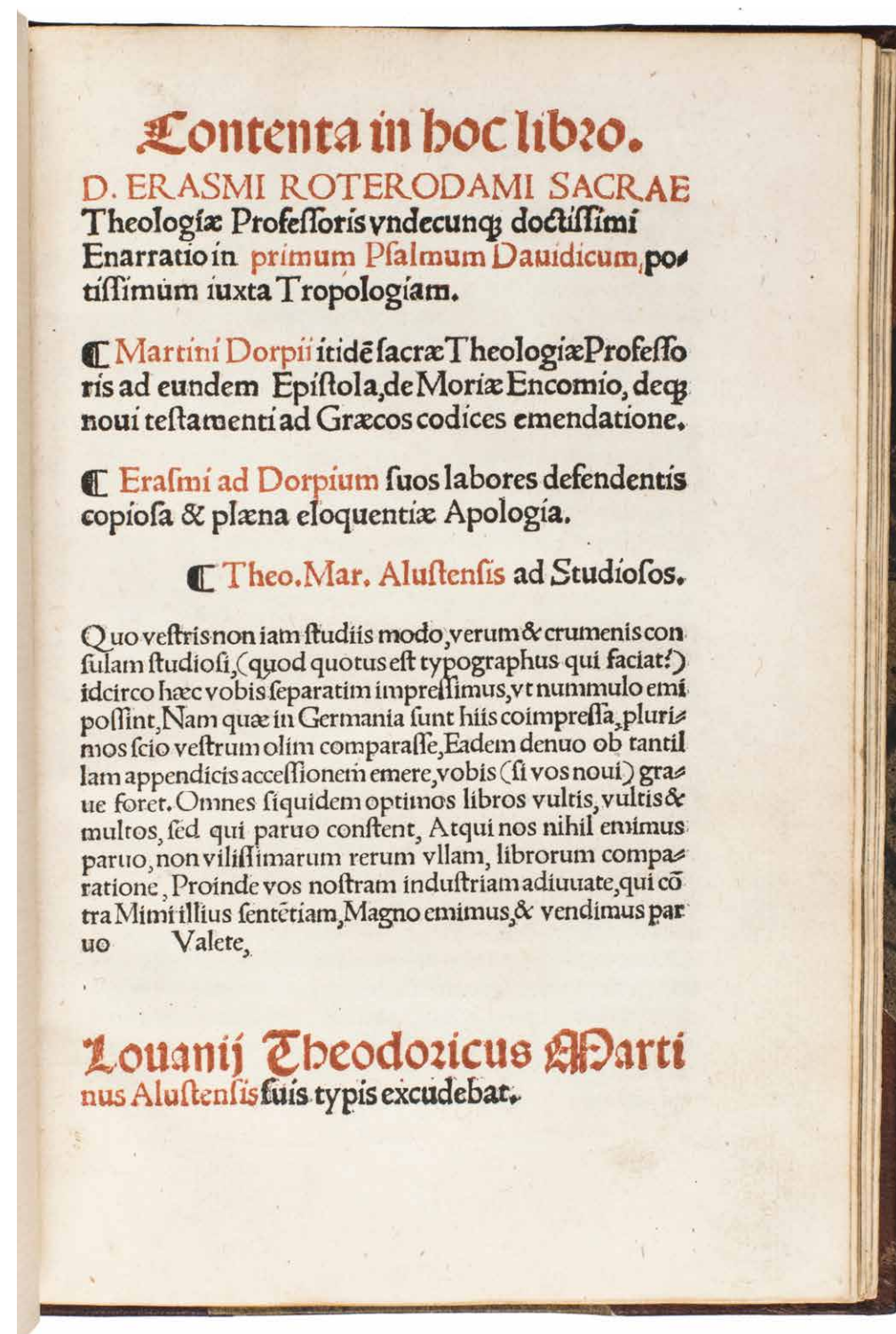
Early edition of Erasmus' first Psalm commentary; the first of what would become a series of commentaries on eleven psalms written by Erasmus between 1515 and 1533. Here, Erasmus interprets the first psalm, *Beatus vir*, primarily according to its tropological (moral) sense, emphasising personal ethical transformation and inner devotion.

The volume opens with an epistle by the Humanist Martini Dorpius (1485–1525), discussing *The Praise of Folly* (*Moriae Encomium*), and Erasmus's emendation of the Greek New Testament. This is followed by Erasmus' robust and eloquent *Apologia* in defence of his scholarly work.

An early and influential example of Erasmus' "Philosophia Christi", this commentary urges the reader to live a life of piety, humility, and active charity, warning against vanity and superficial religiosity. It reflects many of Erasmus's hallmark themes: Christian ethics, a personal application of Scripture, and a call for inner reform. The present edition is the first by Martins, and the second overall, following the Strasbourg printing by Schürer in September 1515. This Leuven edition is notable for including Erasmus's correspondence with Maarten van Dorp, material absent from the Schürer edition.

With a contemporary annotation in the margin. Otherwise in very good condition.

[44] ll. Adams E-359; BM STC Dutch, p. 71; Colón 11, no. 121; Erasmus Online 3285; Nijhoff-Kronenberg 814; USTC 400347; Vander Haeghen 1, 161. [More on our website](#)



Seneca's complete works, edited by Erasmus

03

SENECA, Lucius Annaeus and Desiderus ERASMUS (editor).

Lucubrationes omnes, additis etiam nonnullis, Erasmi Roterodami cura ... repurgatae

Basel, Johann Froben, July–August 1515. Folio. With the title set in a woodcut frame, woodcut decorations in the fore-edge and gutter margins of the table of contents, and another elaborate woodcut frame on the first page of the dedication. Further with some woodcut initials, and Froben's large woodcut device below the colophon on the last page. Contemporary blind-tooled calf, with brass and leather fastenings, professionally re-backed, with later blank pastedowns.

€ 3500

Seneca's complete works, here carefully prepared by Erasmus and printed by the renowned Basel publisher Johann Froben, are remarkable both for its scholarly rigor and its historical significance. The present work represents one of the earliest Renaissance printings of Seneca's writings, presenting essays, letters, and philosophical dialogues that guide the reader toward virtue, wisdom, and a well-examined life. Erasmus' thorough editorial care ensured that the texts were largely purged of errors, making this edition an important reference for both Humanist scholars and students of classical literature. In addition to the main works, this volume includes a number of supplementary writings added by Erasmus, reflecting his deep engagement with Seneca's philosophy. The work titled *Ludus de morte Claudii Caesaris* includes marginal commentary by German Humanist and friend of Erasmus, Beatus Rhenanus.

With a printed bookplate mounted on the front pastedown, manuscript waste visible between the front and back endpapers, a few manuscript annotations in the margins, and some of the text underlined. The binding shows signs of wear, the pages are cut slightly short at the head, and some occasional slight staining and browning. Otherwise in good condition.

[1 blank], 643, [25], [1 blank] pp. *BM STC German* p. 808; *USTC* 667432; *Vander Haeghen* II, 49; *VD 16 S5758*; not in *Bezzel*; *De Reuck*. [More on our website](#)



The method and morals of learning: an early Erasmus collection

04

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

De ratione studii ... Officiu[m] discipulorum ex Quintiliano ...

(Colophon) Strasbourg, Matthias Schürer, April 1516. 4°. With a woodcut decorated title frame and 3 woodcut decorated initials. Modern brown pigskin.

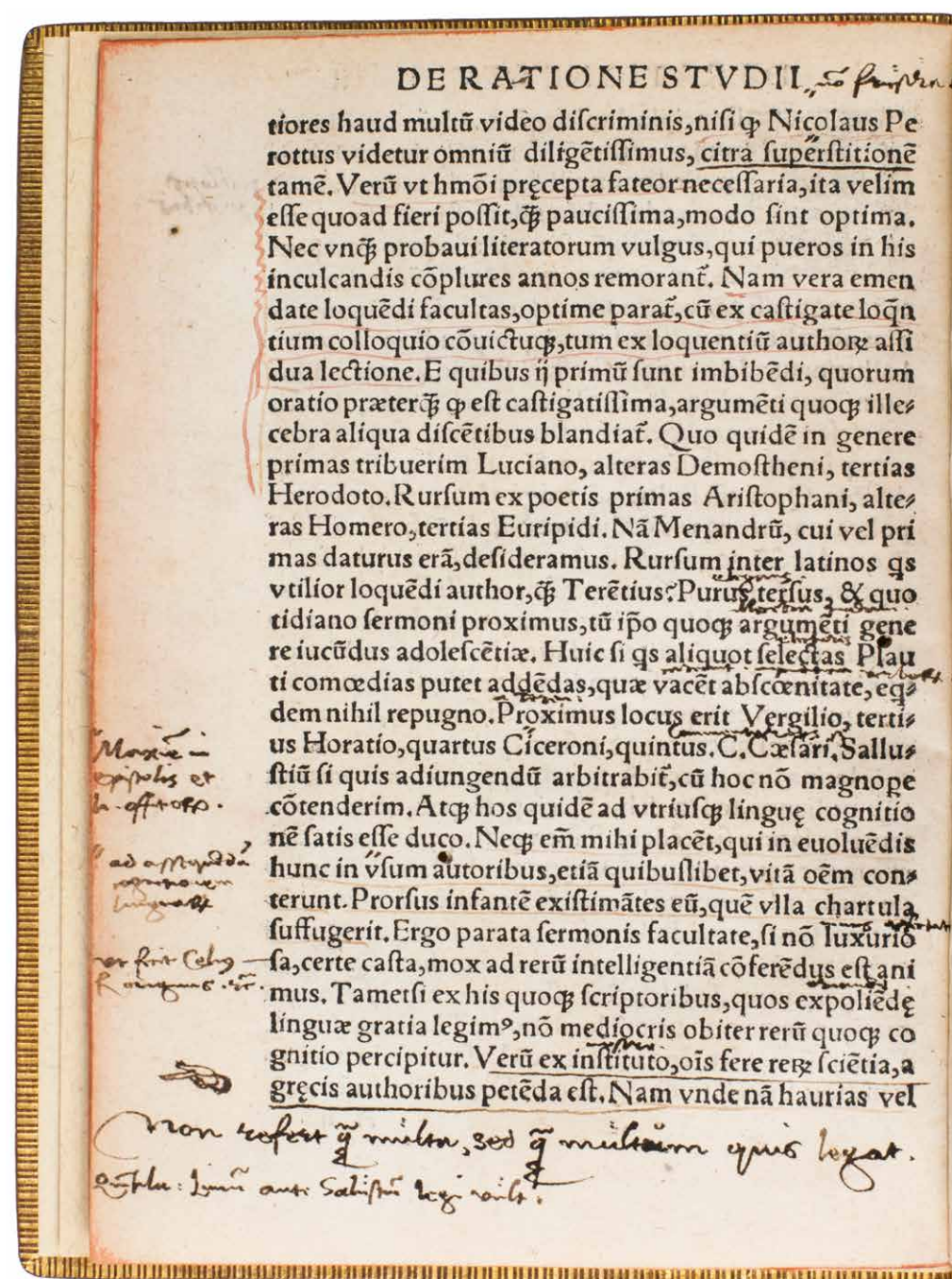
€ 7500

Early edition of Erasmus' seminal educational treatise *De ratione studii*, here presented alongside several other influential pedagogical and devotional texts. It further includes: *Officium discipulorum ex Quintiliano* (The duties of students according to Quintilian), including a section on the first stages of learning to read, also derived from Quintilian, a sermon on the child Jesus by Erasmus, intended for delivery at the Colet School in London, a lament of Jesus addressed to mankind, and a collection of school poems.

Of particular note is Erasmus' endorsement of an instructional technique that became central to Renaissance Humanist pedagogy: the use of structured annotation. In *De ratione studii*, he recommends that students classify selected passages under thematic headings, a mnemonic device that aids both retention and retrieval. This principle would go on to shape the methods of early modern teaching and note-taking. It also reflects Erasmus' broader educational reforms, where rhetoric and moral philosophy intersect. His engagement with progymnasmata (preliminary rhetorical exercises), especially those of Aphthonius, favoured for their clear organisation into theory and examples, demonstrates his commitment to practical and accessible instruction for young learners.

With some contemporary (and later?) underlining and annotations. Two minor worm holes througout, barely affecting the text. The gutters between, leaves V-VI; VII-VIII; XX-XXI; and after leaf XXIII have been reinforced in the gutter with linen tape, slightly browned throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

XXIII, [1 blank] ll. Adams E 346; Bezzel 1709; USTC 653250 (9 copies); Vander Haeghen I, 169; VD16 E 3534; not in BM STC German; De Reuck; Kossmann. [More on our website](#)



Collection of Latin fables from classical and Renaissance authors

05

AESOP, Desiderius ERASMUS, and others.

Fabularum quae hoc libro continentur interpretes atque authores
Sunt hi ... Aesopi vita ex Max. Planude excerpta.

Strasbourg, [Johann Prüss, ca. 1516]. 4°. With woodcut title border.
Modern half vellum, sprinkled paper sides.

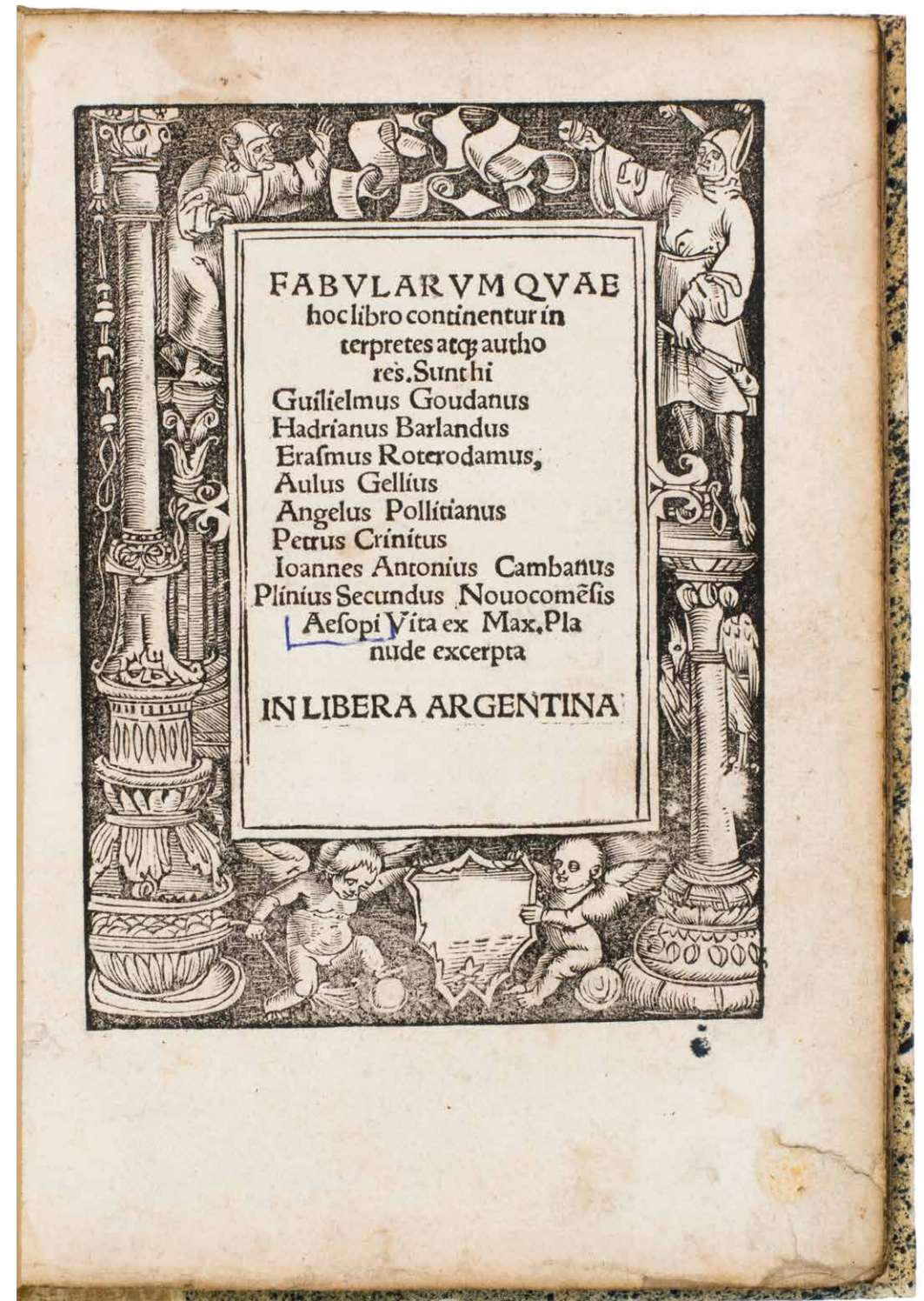
€ 2500

A counterfeit edition of a moralising anthology of Latin fables compiled from both classical and Renaissance sources. The collection includes stories attributed to or adapted from authors such as Aulus Gellius, Erasmus of Rotterdam, Hadrianus Barlandus, Pliny the Elder, Angelo Poliziano, Petrus Crinitus, and others, along with the *Life of Aesop* excerpted from Maximus Planudes. Each fable is presented in Latin prose, typically followed by a brief moral (Morale) distilling the ethical message of the story. Intended primarily for moral instruction and Latin education, such collections were common in Renaissance Humanist curricula, often printed in centres such as Strasbourg ("libera Argentina") or Basel during the 15th–17th centuries. The present edition is of Dutch origin and, in addition to contributions by Gulielmus Goudanus, Hadrianus Barlandus, and Erasmus, named on the title page, it also includes a letter by Martinus Dorpius and a hendecasyllabic poem composed by Petrus Aegidius.

As a counterfeit, it closely follows the Matthias Schürer edition of 1515, even reproducing the title border almost identically. However, it was likely not published by Schürer himself, as he would not have misspelt the names of Politianus and Campanus on the title page, among other details.

With manuscript annotations in the margins and modern underlining of the word "Aesopi" on the title page. The boards are slightly rubbed, with some loss of material on the back. The work is occasionally foxed, the edges of the leaves are browned and occasionally frayed, a few small ink stains on some of the leaves, minor water staining in the margins of the last few leaves. Otherwise in good condition.

[35], [1 blank] ll. *Bibl. Belgica A156; BM STC German p. 6; not in Adams; Bezzel; de Reuck; cf. for the edition by Schürer: Proctor 10265; Vander Haeghen II, 3.* [More on our website](#)



First edition of Erasmus' call for reform of the Catholic Church

06

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Sileni Alcibiadis ... Cum Scholijs Ioannis Frobenij, pro graecarum uocum & quorundam locorum apertiori intelligentia ad calcem adiectis.

(Colophon:) Basel, Johann Froben, April 1517.

Including: **IDEM.** Scarabeus. Cum scholijs[!], in quibus Graeca potissimum, quae passim inserta sunt, exponuntur.

(Colophon:) Basel, Johann Froben, May 1517. 2 parts in 1 volume. 4°.

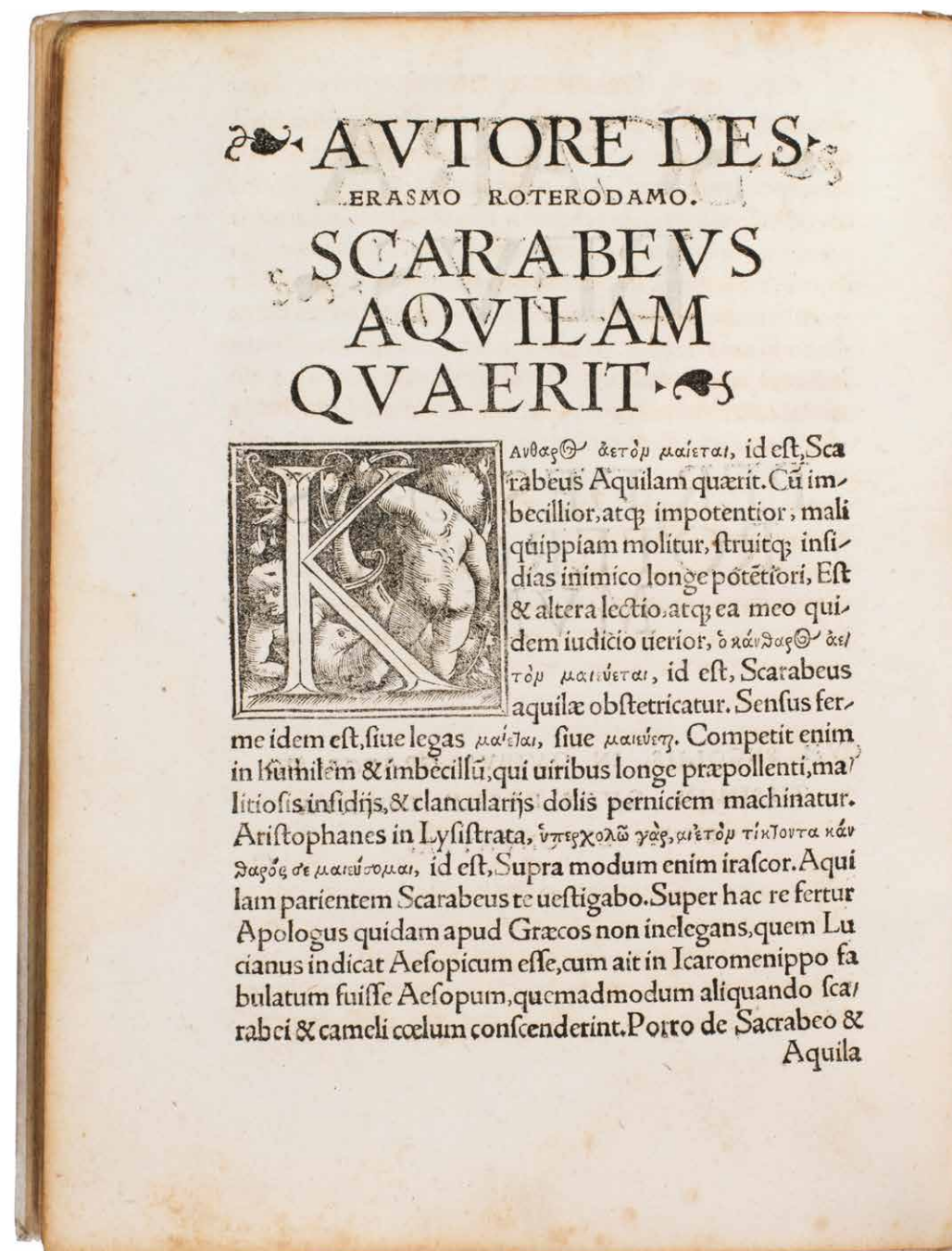
With 4 decorated woodcut initials, and a woodcut printer's device at the end of each part. Late 19th-century or early 20th-century boards, red edges.

€ 4000

First separate edition of an influential work by Desiderius Erasmus, which is a call for reform of the Catholic Church. It uses the Ancient Greek figure Alcibiades (ca. 450–404 BCE) and the mythical characters known as the Sileni as an allegory for looking beyond appearances in order to perceive someone's (or the Church's) true nature. Erasmus wrote the text as part of his compilation of proverbs, the *Adagia*, in particular for the revised 1515 edition, where it became one of the most popular entries. It was then published by Froben as a separate work in 1517, together with his scholia. The present copy also includes the *Scarabeus*, a similar essay from the *Adagia*, with scholia from Beatus Rhenanus. Although these two works are now rarely found together on the market, the *Scarabeus* was clearly intended as the second part of the *Sileni Alcibiades* for the present edition, as both the pagination and collation continue between the two works.

The boards are slightly soiled. The work is slightly browned throughout, with water stains in the margins of some of the leaves, and numerous annotations in the margins of the first part by at least 2 different hands. Otherwise in good condition.

42 ll. *Bibl. Belgica E 259; BM STC German p. 277; USTC 693955; ad 1: Adams E 833; Erasmus Online 3579; Vander Haeghen I, 176; VD16 E 1990; Ad 2: Adams E 830; Erasmus Online 3574; Vander Haeghen I, 175; VD 16 E 1986.* [More on our website](#)



Marriage and medicine: Erasmus' bold defences in the 1518 Froben edition

07 ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Encomium matrimonii.

(Colophon:) Basel, Johann Froben, 30 August 1518. 4°. With an elaborate woodcut frame on the title page, 3 large and 1 small woodcut decorated initials, and a small woodcut illustration incorporating Froben's device on the verso of the otherwise blank final leaf. Modern gold-tooled half reddish-brown calf.

SOLD

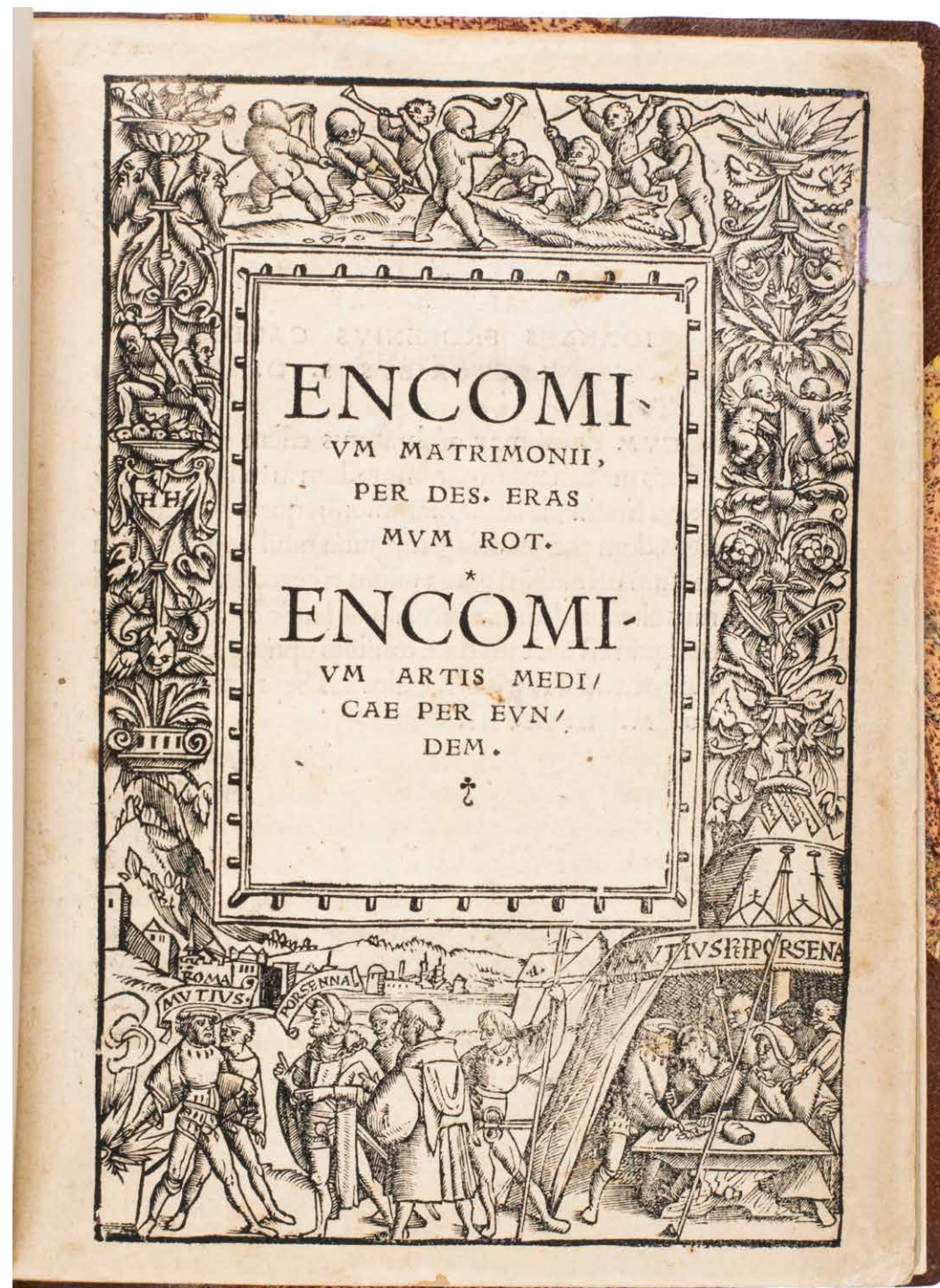
First edition of a work including two of Erasmus' most spirited and provocative works: *Encomium matrimonii* (In praise of marriage) and *Encomium artis medicae* (In praise of medicine), both appearing for the first time in print.

In the *Encomium matrimonii* Erasmus argues, with characteristic wit and erudition, that marriage is honourable, natural, and necessary, no less virtuous than celibacy. When finally published, this seemingly harmless *encomium* ignited fierce controversy. The theologians of Louvain and Paris saw in it an implicit attack on clerical celibacy and monastic ideals, and accused Erasmus of heresy. The resulting debate made the *Encomium matrimonii* one of Erasmus' most discussed texts.

The *Encomium artis medicae* was written some twenty years earlier and is a Humanist celebration of the healing arts. It extols medicine as a "nearly divine" discipline, one that preserves life, restores health, and unites moral purpose with practical skill. The physician, Erasmus argues, is God's instrument on earth: he assists at birth, sustains life through wisdom and diet, and rescues the dying through the gifts of nature.

With several underlinings and annotations. Most of the written annotations are found in *Encomium matrimonii*. With a small hole in the fore-edge margin of the title page, which has been restored. Otherwise in good condition.

54, [1 blank], [1] pp. Adams E 369; Bezzel 900; BM STC German p. 275; Erasmus online: 1813; Rupke, "Reflections on the place of medical history," *Philosophia Scientiae*, no. S2 (1998–1999), pp. 181–197, see p. 183; USTC: 650527; Vander Haeghen 1, 84 and 1, 85; Van der Poel, "Erasmus, Rhetoric and Theology: the 'Encomium matrimonii'," in: Sacré, D.; Tournoy, G. (ed.), *Myricae, Essays on Neo-Latin Literature in memory of Jozef Ijsewijn*, (2000), pp. 207–227, see pp. 213–220; VD16 E 2809; not in De Reuck. [More on our website](#)



First Erasmus edition of Curtius' biography of Alexander the Great, making Roman rhetoric available to Renaissance readers

08

CURTIUS RUFUS, Quintus and Desiderius ERASMUS.

De rebus gestis Alexandri Magni regis Macedonum. Cum annotationibus Des. Erasmi Roterodami.

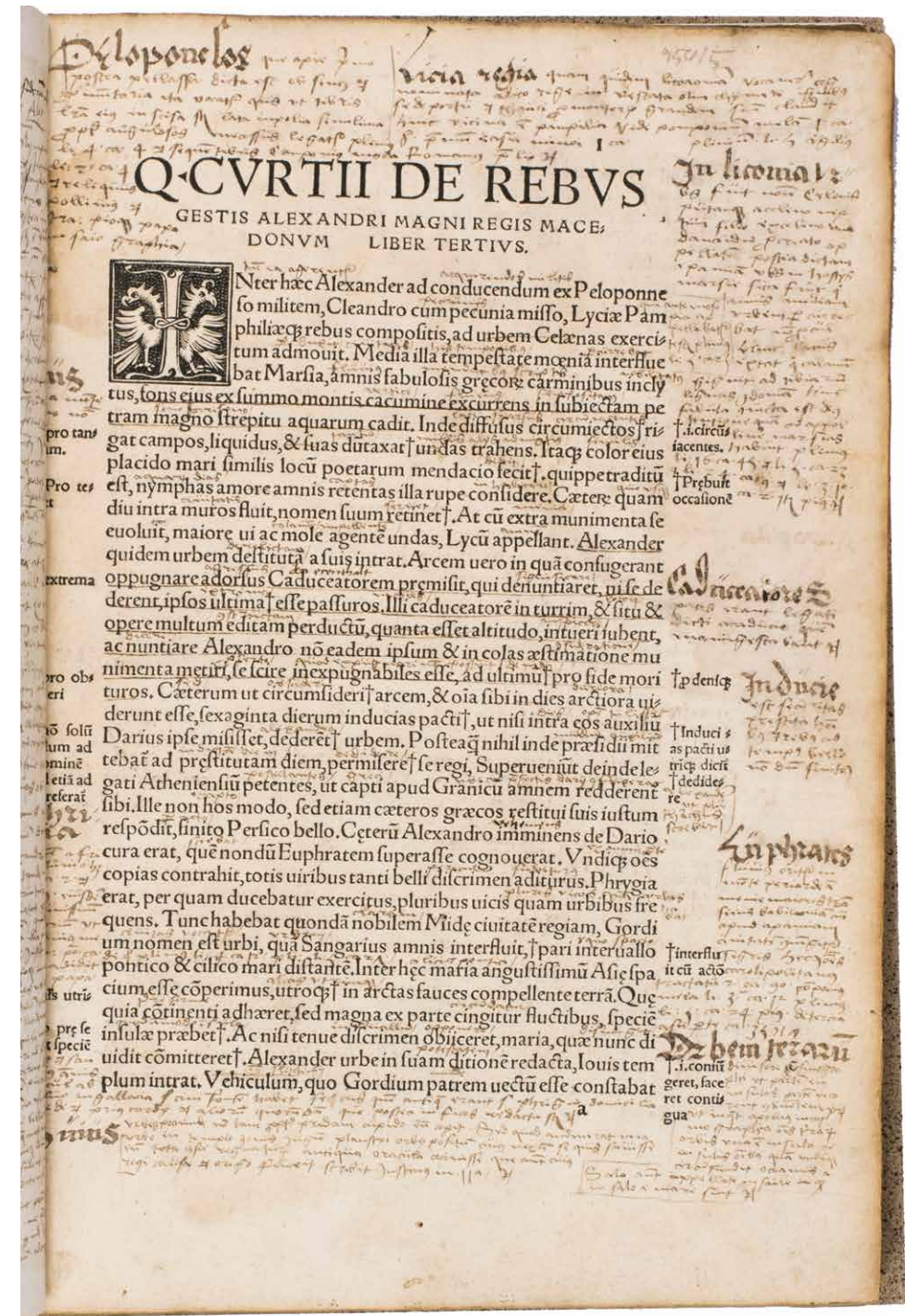
(Colophon:) Strasbourg, Matthias Schürer, June 1518. Folio. With an elaborate woodcut title border by Urs Graf, and 9 decorated woodcut initials. Modern quarter calf.

€ 2750

First Erasmus edition of *Historiae Alexandri Magni* by Quintus Curtius Rufus, printed in 1517. Notably, this is the only strictly historical text Erasmus ever edited, and in his preface, he makes his position unmistakably clear: he has little admiration for Alexander the Great. Curtius' *Historiae Alexandri Magni* is the only extensive biography of Alexander the Great written in Latin to survive from antiquity. Likely written during the reign of Emperor Claudius or Vespasian in the 1st century CE, the work originally comprised ten books, though only eight remain complete. The first two books are entirely lost, likely containing an introduction and autobiographical material, while parts of books 5, 6, and 10 are also missing. As a result, the surviving narrative begins abruptly in 333 BCE, as Alexander's campaign against Persia is already underway. Despite the gaps, Curtius' biography became one of the most influential portrayals of Alexander in Western literature.

With contemporary and later marginal and interlinear annotations on nearly every page. The marginal notes are often identifying people and places mentioned in the text. The first quire has been washed, with a water stain in the lower margin, the corners of the first two leaves have been professionally restored, the work is somewhat browned throughout, with water stains in the fore edge margins of some of the leaves, lacking the final blank. Otherwise in good condition.

[4], LXXXIX ll. Adams C 3119; BM STC German p. 233; De Reuck 414; Proctor 10252; USTC 689523; Vander Haeghen II, 23; VD16 C 6462. [More on our website](#)



A Renaissance Latin edition of Plutarch's Opuscula, translated by Erasmus and others

09

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Plutarchi Chaerone[n]s opuscula ...

(Colophon:) Basel, Johann Froben, September 1518. 4°. With a woodcut decorated frame on the title page, the first page of the dedication, the first page of the text (A3r), and the first page of the text by Stephanus Niger (H2r), 18 woodcut decorated initials, and a small woodcut illustration incorporating Froben's device. 19th-century richly gold-tooled quarter red morocco.

€ 3750

An early edition of selected *opuscula*, short philosophical and moral treatises, by the Greek author Plutarch of Chaeronea (ca. 46–120 CE), best known for his *Moralia* and *Parallel lives*. The present work brings together Latin translations by multiple Renaissance scholars, Erasmus, Melanchthon (1497–1560), Pirckheimer (1470–1530), Barbato, and Niger. It forms part of the earliest wave of Humanist publications aiming to make classical Greek thought accessible to Latin readers. Included are four treatises translated by Erasmus himself, including his famous version of *De tuenda bona valetudine praecepta*. Particularly notable is Melanchthon's translation of the *Conviviale quaestiunculam de notis Pythagoricis*, a short platonic dialogue dealing with Pythagorean symbols and moral enigmas.

With a small catalogue excerpt mounted on the front pastedown including a small modern manuscript note, an oval black stamp on the verso of the first free flyleaf, and the small stamp of the binder on the recto of the second free flyleaf. With some contemporary marginal annotation and underlining of the text. The binding shows slight signs of wear, mainly around the corners of the boards, slightly browned throughout, with minor water stains in the upper outer margins towards the end, and brown staining in the upper margins from pages 115 to 169. 3 of the 4 woodcut frames are slightly shaved at the lower margin. Further with a small wormhole in the outer margin from page 127 onward, not affecting the text. Overall in good condition.

194, [2] pp. Adams p. 1653; BM STC German p. 706; Vander Haeghen II, 46; USTC 684264; VD 16 P 3748; not in: Kossmann; Meyers; De Reuck. ➤ [More on our website](#)



Saint Jerome through Erasmus' eyes: selected letters with commentary, printed in 1518

10 HIERONYMUS, Eusebius Sophronius and Desiderius ERASMUS (editor).

Divi Hieronymi epistolaeres ab Erasmo Roterodamo recognitae ... [Cologne, Johann Gymnic, 1518]. 4°. With the title set with in a frame built up from 4 (or possibly 6) woodcut illustrations including printer's initials and the date 1518, and 10 woodcut decorated initials. Modern faux-leather-patterned paper with a grey paper label on the spine with the author's name lettered in silver ("Erasmus v. Rotterdam").

€ 1950

Selection of three letters by the Church Father Jerome of Stridon (Saint Jerome, ca. 342/47–420 CE), edited and annotated by Erasmus. Erasmus felt a profound connection to Jerome. He saw in the ancient Church Father not only a kindred spirit but also a mirror for his own intellectual and spiritual journey. Included in this volume are three letters: first the epistle to Heliodorus on the praise of the solitary life (de vita solitaria), a stirring defence of ascetic withdrawal from the world; second the epistle to Heliodorus on the misery of human life (de miseria vitae humanae), a sombre reflection on the fleeting nature of earthly existence; and third the epistle to the monk Rusticus on avoiding familiarity with women (de mulieribus evitandis), a warning shaped by both monastic ideals and Jerome's personal convictions. Additionally, a short fourth letter addressed to Onasus is included at the end of the volume, though it does not appear on the title page. In this letter he satirically addresses the priest Onasus, who had a deformed nose, and his feeling of being unjustly attacked and being made a fool of in other letters and writings by Jerome.

With early manuscript annotations in the margins, occasional underlining of the text, and a 0.5 cm worm hole in the gutter margin, not affecting the text. Occasional foxing and browning, and some water staining in the fore-edge margin of several leaves. Overall a good copy.

[48] ll. BM STC German p. 440; USTC 640603 (3 copies); Vander Haeghen II, 29; VD 16 ZV 7938; not in Adams; De Reuck. [More on our website](#)



A life in letters: Erasmus' Vita of Saint Jerome

11

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Eximii doctoris Hieronymi Stridonensis vita, ex ipsius potissimum literis contexta.

Basel, (Colophon) Johann Froben, May 1519. 4°. With a woodcut decorated frame on the title page and on page 3, a small woodcut illustration incorporating Froben's device on the verso of the last leaf, and with 1 woodcut decorated initial. Modern beige paper boards.

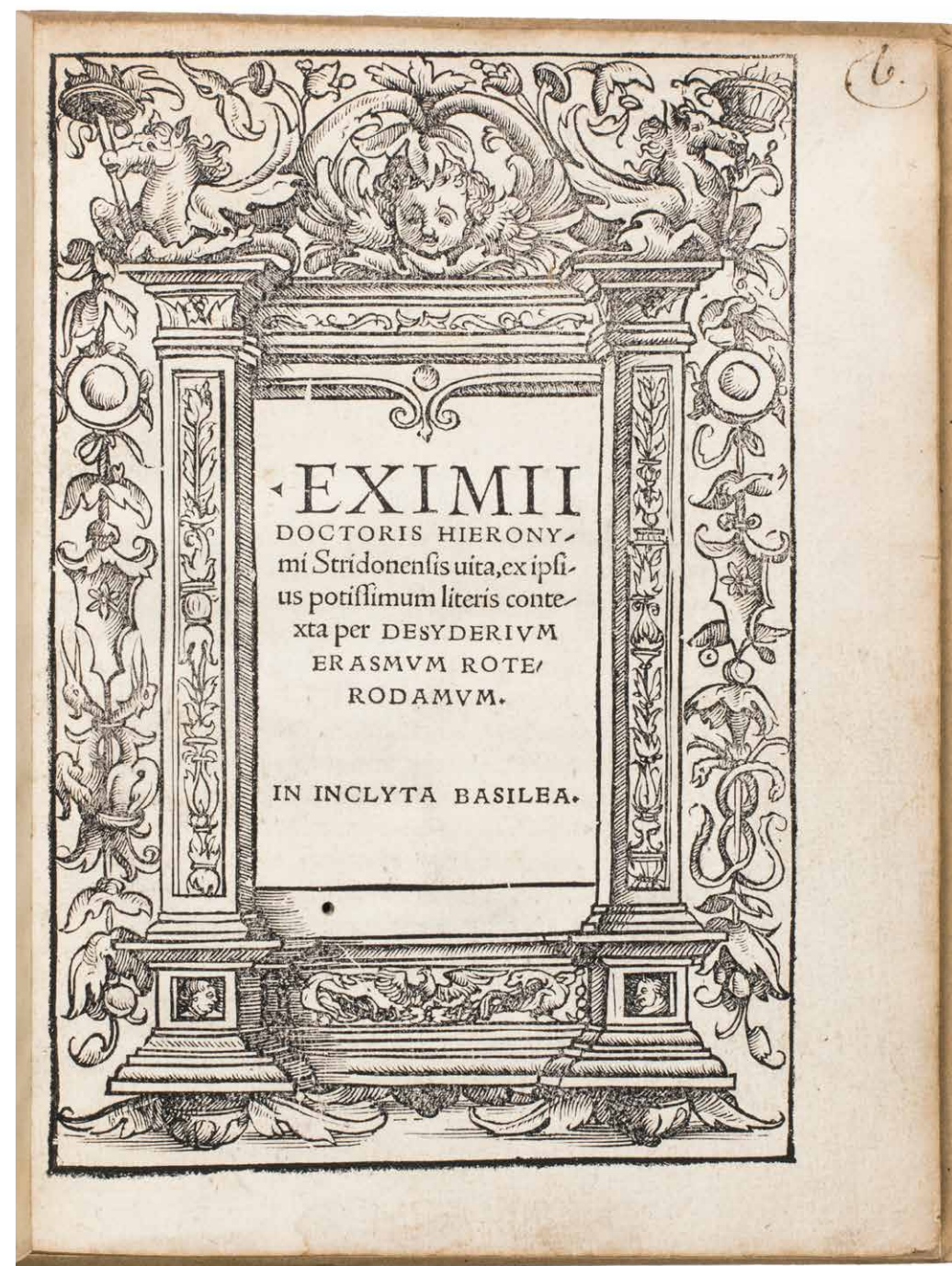
€ 4500

Second edition of Erasmus' *Vita* (The life of the excellent doctor Jerome of Stridon), this work introduced the monumental edition of Saint Jerome's *Opera omnia*. It was Erasmus' attempt to present Jerome as a relevant historical and intellectual figure, instead of him remaining a remote saint cloaked in legend.

Rather than relying on apocryphal sources or pious legend, Erasmus built this work almost exclusively from Jerome's authentic correspondence. This method marked a clear break with traditional hagiography. He rejected fictitious episodes attributed to figures like Cyril of Jerusalem (ca. 315–386 CE), Eusebius of Cremona (5th century CE), and pseudo-Augustine, which had long coloured the popular image of Jerome. Instead, Erasmus offered a critical and philologically grounded portrait, both admiring and analytical, aligning Jerome with the ideals of Christian humanism.

With a small wormhole affecting all leaves, though without significant impact on the text, a small hole in the outer margin of pp. 45–46, not affecting the text, light marginal water-staining and some browning throughout. Overall in good condition.

70, [2] pp. Béné, "Marulic et Erasme, lecteurs de saint Jérôme," *Colloquia Maruliana*, Vol. 10, (2001), pp. 29–45, see p. 31; Bezzel 1058; BM STC German p. 282; De Reuck 362; Julián, "Erasmio, biógrafo de san Jerónimo: Hieronymi Stridonensis Vita (1516)," *Mirabilia: electronic journal of antiquity and middle ages*, (31), (2020), pp. 411–443, see pp. 412–3; USTC: 655432; Vander Haeghen I, 182; VD 16, E 2968; not in Adams. [More on our website](#)



First edition of the preface to Erasmus' Latin translation of the New Testament, illustrated by Hans Holbein the Younger

12

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Paraclesis, id est, adhortatio ad sanctissimam ac saluberrimum Christianae philosophiae studium, ut videlicet evangelicis ac apostolicis literis legendis, si non sola, saltem prima cura tribuatur. (Colophon:) Basel, Johann Froben, February 1519. 4°. With an elaborate woodcut title border by Hans Holbein, a decorated woodcut initial, and a woodcut printer's device on the last page. Modern marbled boards, red edges.

€ 3950

First separate edition of this important treatise, with a beautiful title border by Hans Holbein the Younger (ca. 1497–1543). The work was first published as a preface to Erasmus' *Novum instrumentum omne* (1516). Written in the form of a letter, its purpose was to persuade the "pious reader" to undertake a serious study of the New Testament, the primary source of the philosophy of Christ. It stresses the importance of reading the Gospels and the Apostolical Letters, especially those of St. Paul. It also propagates the translation of those texts in the vernacular, so that everyone would be able to read them. The present first edition, which was printed in both an octavo and quarto format, is rare. We have not been able to find any other copies of the present quarto issue in sales records of the past hundred years.

With contemporary marginal and interlinear annotations, the woodcut border and printer's device have been partially coloured in red by a later hand. The fore edge margin has been cut slightly short, with the loss of a few letters of some of the annotations, the first two leaves are slightly foxed and stained, two small holes and a short tear in the title page have been professionally restored, and the head margin has been reinforced, a small wormhole in the outer margin throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

19, [1] pp. Adams E 728; Bezzel 1396; BM STC German p. 283; Erasmus Online 2834; USTC 682527 (9 copies); Vander Haeghen I, 140; VD 16 E 3273; not in De Reuck. [More on our website](#)



Mosellanus' oration for the Leipzig Disputation in 1519, with Erasmus' letters and Langius' closing speech

13

MOSELLANUS, Petrus. De ratione disputandi, praesertim in re theologica ...

[Augsburg], (colophon:) Sigmund Grimm & Marcus Wirsung, 1519. 4°. With title, printed in red and black, set within an elaborately decorated woodcut frame, and 3 large and 4 smaller woodcut decorated initials. Modern, gold-tooled half calf.

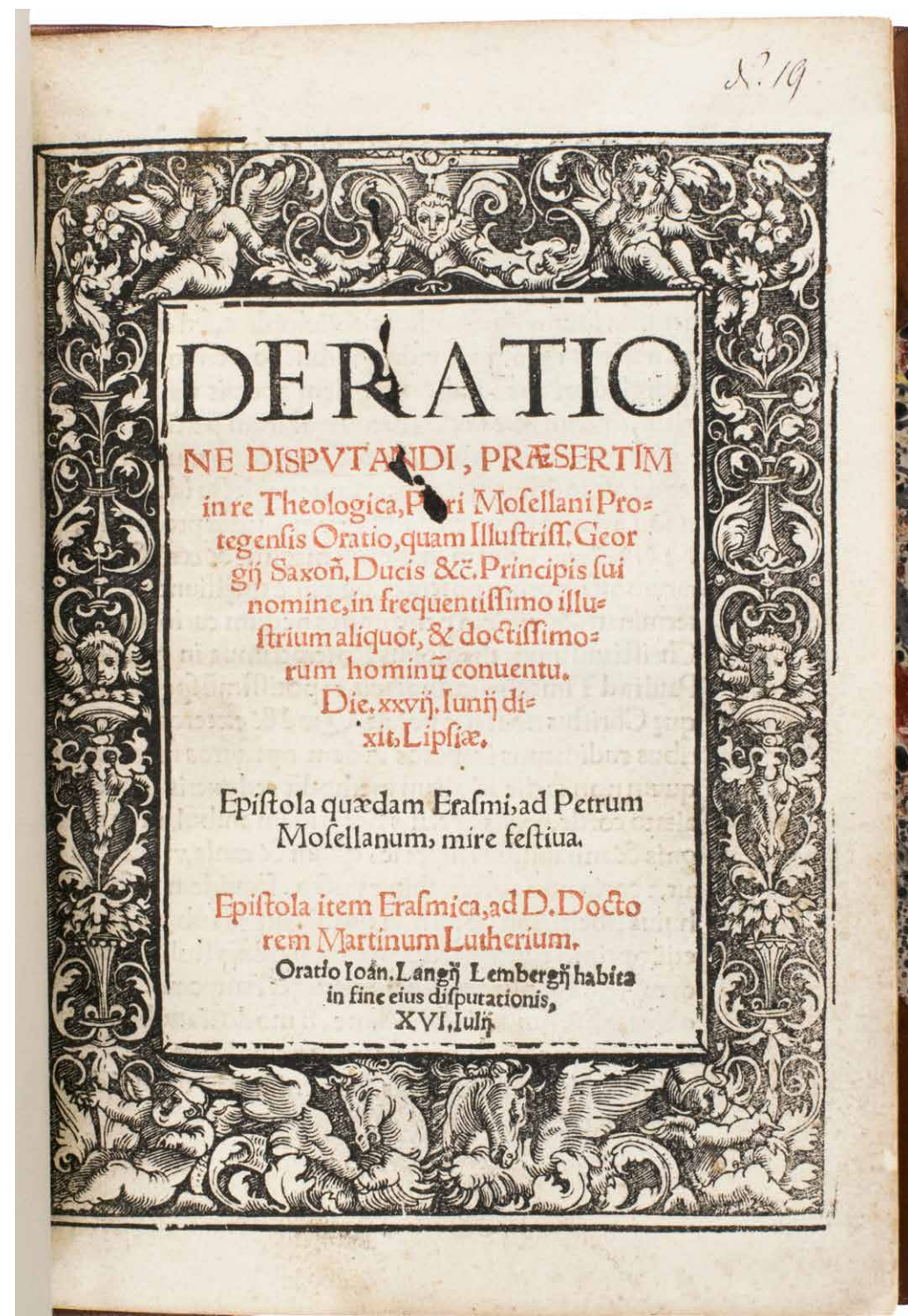
€ 3750

Early edition of the Latin oration delivered by Petrus Mosellanus (or Peter Schade, 1493–1524) at the opening of the Leipzig Disputation, 27 June 1519, commissioned by George, Duke of Saxony (1471–1539). This work offers a contemporary witness to one of the defining theological events of the early Reformation: the public disputation between Martin Luther (1483–1546), Andreas Karlstadt (1486–1541), and Johann Eck (1486–1543). Trained in Cologne and later professor and twice rector at the University of Leipzig, Mosellanus was a prominent Humanist, philologist, and Catholic theologian. In his oration, he advocated moderation and the use of classical philosophical reasoning in theological discourse.

Although his address made little immediate impact on the disputants, it reflected Erasmusian ideals and marked the apex of Mosellanus' academic career. In the book are two important letters by Erasmus, both written from Louvain in 1519: one to Mosellanus (22 April), encouraging him in his Humanist efforts, and another to Luther (30 May), reflecting Erasmus' growing concern over the escalating theological tensions. A second oration, delivered by Johannes Langius Lambergius (1485–1565) at the conclusion of the disputation on 16 July 1519, further frames the historic event. It concludes with a laudatory poem praising the intellectual exchange between the three principal disputants.

With a small manuscript annotation on the title page ("N. 19"). The title page is somewhat (dust) soiled and shows an ink stain (slightly affecting the text), the head margin is very slightly browned. Otherwise in very good condition.

[27], [1 blank] ll. *USTC: 631219; Vander Haeghen III 53; VD16 S 2171; not in Adams; BM STC German; Jackson; Knaake; Kossmann; Kuczynski.* [More on our website](#)



Rare, lifetime editions of Erasmus' paraphrases of the Pauline epistles and his manual on prayer

14

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Paraphrases in epistolas Pauli, ad Timotheum duas, ad Titum unam, et ad Philemonem unam ... (Colophon:) Basel, Johann Froben, March 1520.

With: (2) **IDEM.** Paraphrases in Epistolam Pauli ad Ephesios, Philippenses, et Colossenses, et in duas ad Thessalonicenses ... (Colophon:) Basel, Johann Froben, March 1520.

(3) **IDEM.** Modus orandi deum.

(Colophon:) Strasbourg, Johann Knobloch, March 1525.

(4) **IDEM.** Consilium in caussa evangelica.

[Leipzig, Michael Blum], 1526. 4 works in 1 volume. Small 8°. With a decorative woodcut border on the title page of each work, a woodcut printer's device at the end of the first 2 works, 9 decorative woodcut borders in the text, 16 decorative woodcut initials, and 4 woodcut headpieces. Later blind-tooled pigskin over bevelled wooden boards, metal fastenings.

€ 14 000

Compilation of first or early editions of four of the most important religious works by Desiderius Erasmus, all printed during his lifetime. The texts, which were incredibly popular in his own time, were written to promote a more accurate understanding of the scriptures, and make them more accessible to the public. Lifetime editions of these four works are quite rare on the market.

With 2 manuscript notes on the title page, a few contemporary annotations in the margins, in 2 different hands. The pigskin has been washed, with later clasps, a few worm holes on the spine. The work is lightly browned throughout, with water stains on some of the leaves, mostly in the margins, a brown stain on the title-page of ad 3. Otherwise in good condition.

141, [3]; 167, [1]; [91], [1 blank]; [14], [2 blank] pp. See our website for the list of references.

➤ [More on our website](#)



Erasmus' defence of his translation of the New Testament, with an important tract on marriage, from the collection of John Evelyn

15

ERASMUS, Desiderius. Responsio ad annotationes Eduardi Lei ... (Colophon:) Antwerp, Michael Hillenius Hoochstratanus, April 1520.

With: (2) **IDEM.** Liber tertius Erasmi Roterodami quo respo[n]det reliquis annotationibus Eduardi Lei.

(Colophon:) Antwerp, Michael Hillenius Hoochstratanus, May 1520.

(3) **IDEM.** Apologia ... (de) In principio erat sermo.

[Antwerp, Michael Hillenius van Hoochstraten], (colophon:) 1520.

(4) **IDEM.** Apologia ... ad ... Iacobum Fabrum Stapulensem.

[Strasbourg, Matthias Schürer, 1518].

(5) **IDEM.** Encomium matrimonii ... Encomium artis medicae.

[Strasbourg, Matthias Schürer, 1518].

(6) **IDEM.** Apologia pro declamatione de laude matrimonii.

(Colophon:) Basel, Johann Froben, May 1519. 6 works in 1 volume.

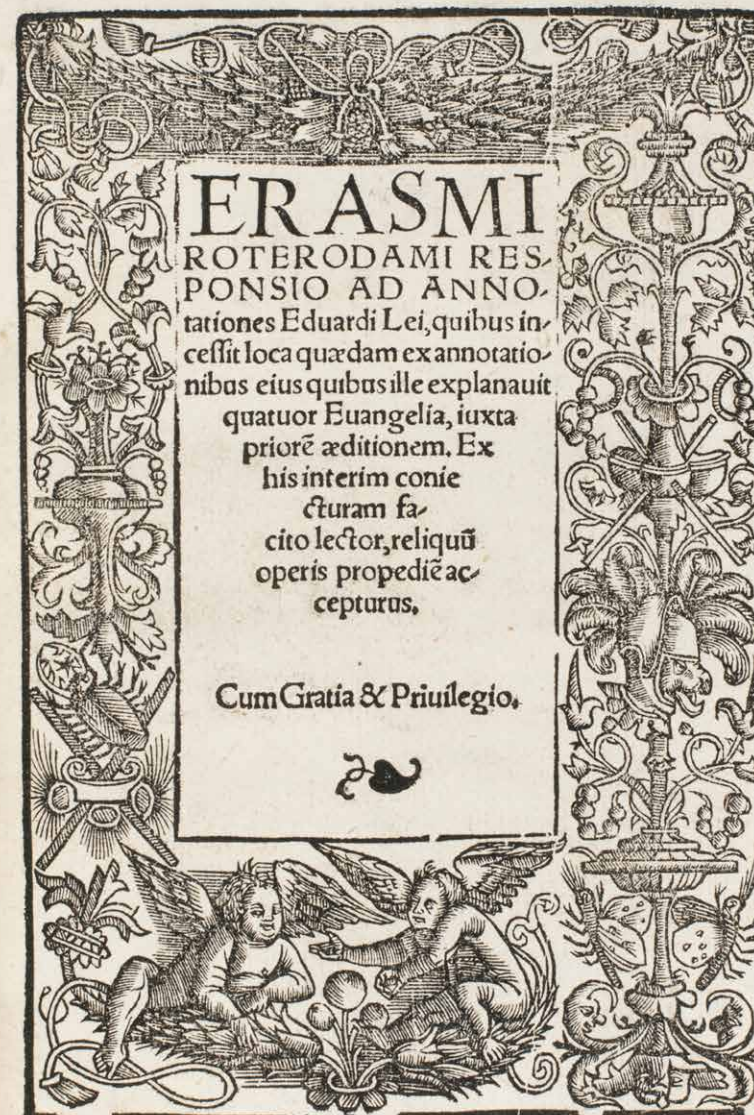
4°. The titles of ads 1,2, 4-6 are set within a woodcut border, ads 4 and 6 with a woodcut printer's device at the end, 8 woodcut initials. 17th-century gold- and blind-tooled mottled calf.

€ 38 000

Compilation of six important and controversial tracts by Desiderius Erasmus, in which he defends his revolutionary edition of the Greek New Testament from 1516, as well as his thoughts on marriage. The tracts are all present in either the first or a very early edition, and are all in very good condition, with wide margins. The present compilation was part of the library of the English writer and bibliophile John Evelyn (1620-1706).

With a round label mounted at the head of the spine, the bookplate mounted on the front pastedown, and a later annotation on the second free fly leaf. The corners of the boards are somewhat scuffed, the boards and spine have been slightly rubbed, with the loss of small parts of the title labels. Some leaves are somewhat water stained, but otherwise internally clean. Overall in good condition.

[72]; [72]; [16]; [64]; [22]; [8] ll. See our website for the list of references. [More on our website](#)



Defending Erasmus against the accusations of Archbishop Edward Lee

16

GERTOPHIUS, Johannes and Hermann von dem BUSCHE.

Recriminatio ... adversus furiosissimum Sycophantam Edoardum Leum Anglum, qui ausus est primus Erasmus candidissimum luto aspergere. Epigramma extemporale sed felicissimu[m], Hermannii Buschii, in eundem Leum.

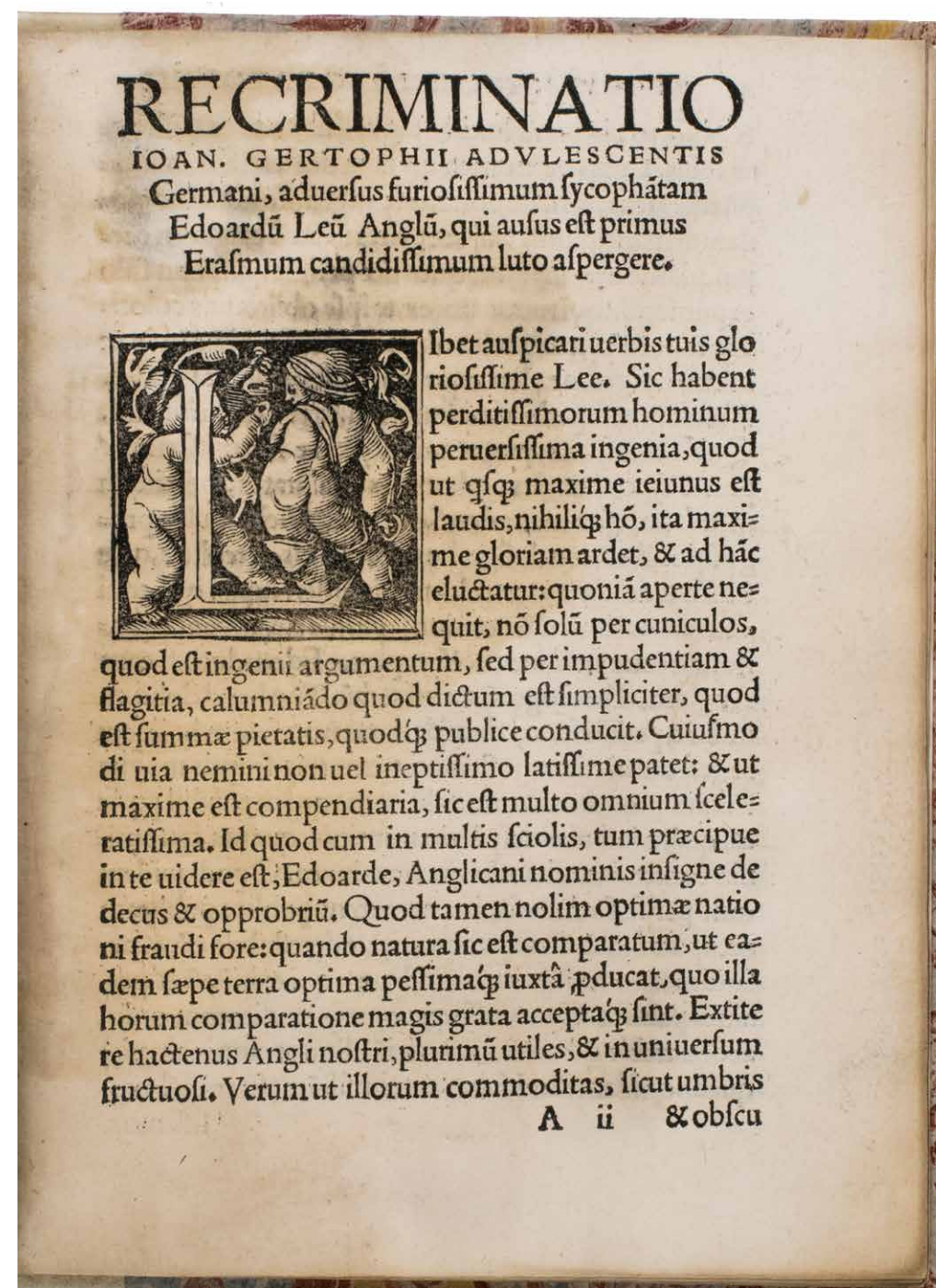
[Basel], (colophon:) Andreas Cratander, June 1520. 4°. With an elaborate woodcut title border, a decorated woodcut initial, and a woodcut printer's device on the final page. Modern quarter vellum in older style.

€ 2500

First and only edition of a work defending Erasmus against the accusations of Edward Lee, Archbishop of York. Lee had repeatedly complained about Erasmus's translation of the New Testament, criticising not only his knowledge of the Greek language, but also accusing him of heresy, and of stealing Lee's own ideas. In response, Erasmus and his friends, including Johannes Gertophius (dates unknown), ridiculed him on several occasions, such as in the present work. The title refers to the author as an "adolescens Germanus", but nothing more seems to be known about him. Other than a defence of Erasmus's New Testament against Lee's charges, the present work also includes a satirical poem, consisting of eleven distichs, by Herman von dem Busche (1468–1534).

The boards have been somewhat rubbed. A water stain on the leaves, which decreases in size towards the end of the work. Otherwise in good condition.

25, [3] pp. *Adams G 511; BM STC German p. 948; USTC 690074; VD 16 G 1635.* [More on our website](#)



A call for reform in the Catholic Church, printed by a Cologne printer who had a very limited production

17

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Sileni Alcibiadis. Cum scholiis in calce libri adiectis.

(Colophon:) Cologne, Servas Kruffter, May 1520. 4°. With an elaborate woodcut border on the title page, and a decorated woodcut initial. 19th-century marbled boards.

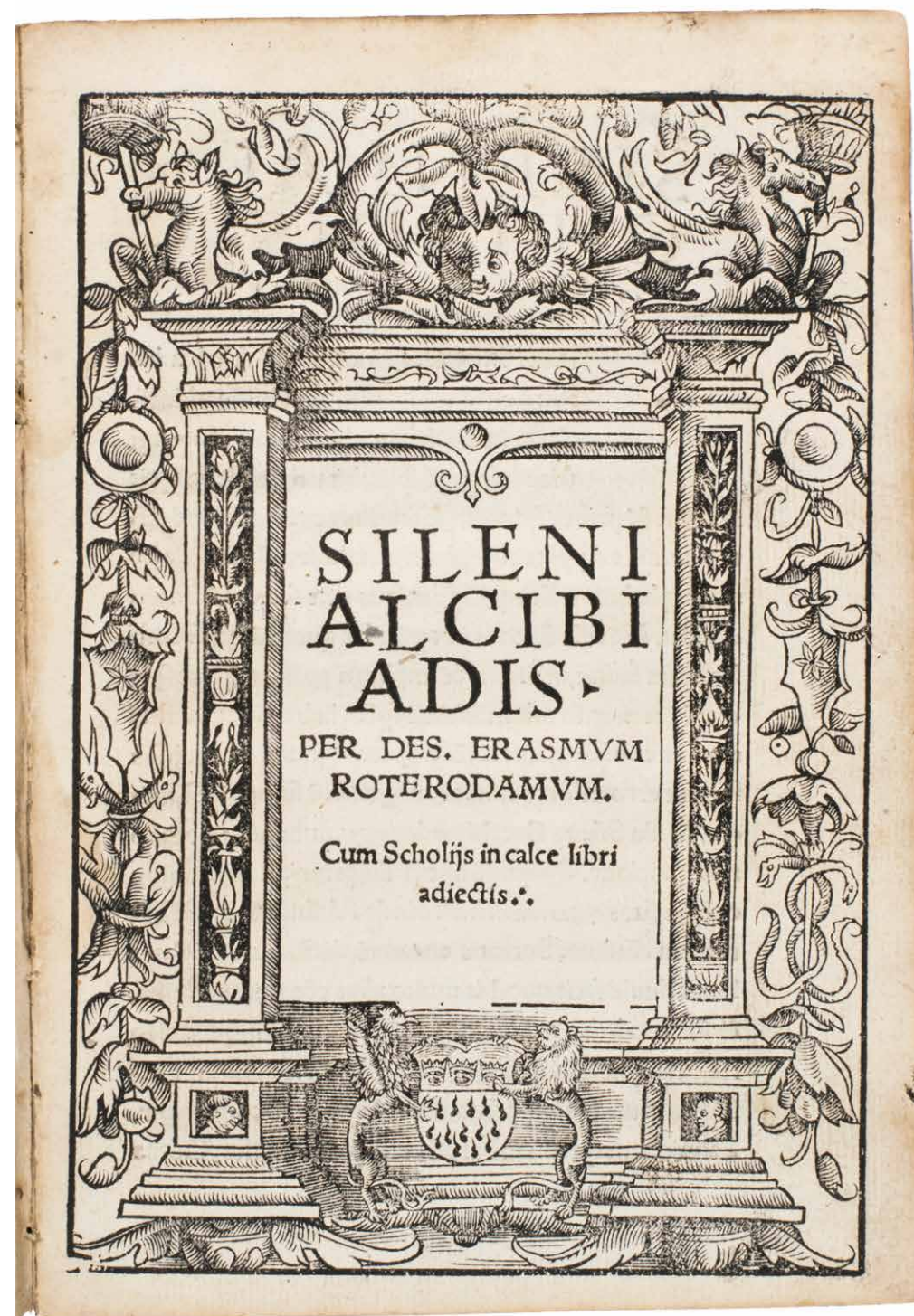
€ 3500

Rare, early edition of an influential work by Desiderius Erasmus, which is a call for reform of the Catholic Church. It uses the Ancient Greek figure Alcibiades (ca. 450–404 BC) and the mythical characters known as the Sileni as an allegory for looking beyond appearances in order to perceive someone's (or the Church's) true nature. Erasmus wrote the text as part of his compilation of proverbs, the *Adagia*, in particular for the revised 1515 edition, where it became one of the most popular entries. It was then published by Froben as a separate work in 1517, with his scholia. The present edition is the fourth or fifth overall, but the first by Servas Kruffter (fl. ca. 1520–1538), and is of considerable scarcity, with only five copies recorded in institutions and none in sales records. The Cologne printer Kruffter was repeatedly restricted by censorship and even put in jail several times. Only a comparatively small number of books from his limited production has survived.

With the bookplate of the Oberherrlingen Library, dated 1839, mounted on the verso of the front board, together with two typed descriptions of the work. The boards are somewhat rubbed, lacking most of the spine. The work is somewhat browned throughout, with a water stain in the inner margin, not affecting the text. Otherwise in good condition.

[18] ll. *Bibl. Belgica* E 261; *Erasmus Online* 3582; *USTC* 693956 (4 copies); *Vander Haeghen* I, 176; *VD 16* E 1991; *WorldCat* 763214270, 150404098 (5 copies); not in *Adams*; *Bezzel*; *BM STC German*; *De Reuck*.

➤ [More on our website](#)



Early defence of Luther

18

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Ad Reuerendissimu[m] Moguntinen[sium] praesulem: at[que] illustrissimu[m] principem, epistola, nonnihil D. Martini Lutheri negocium attingens.

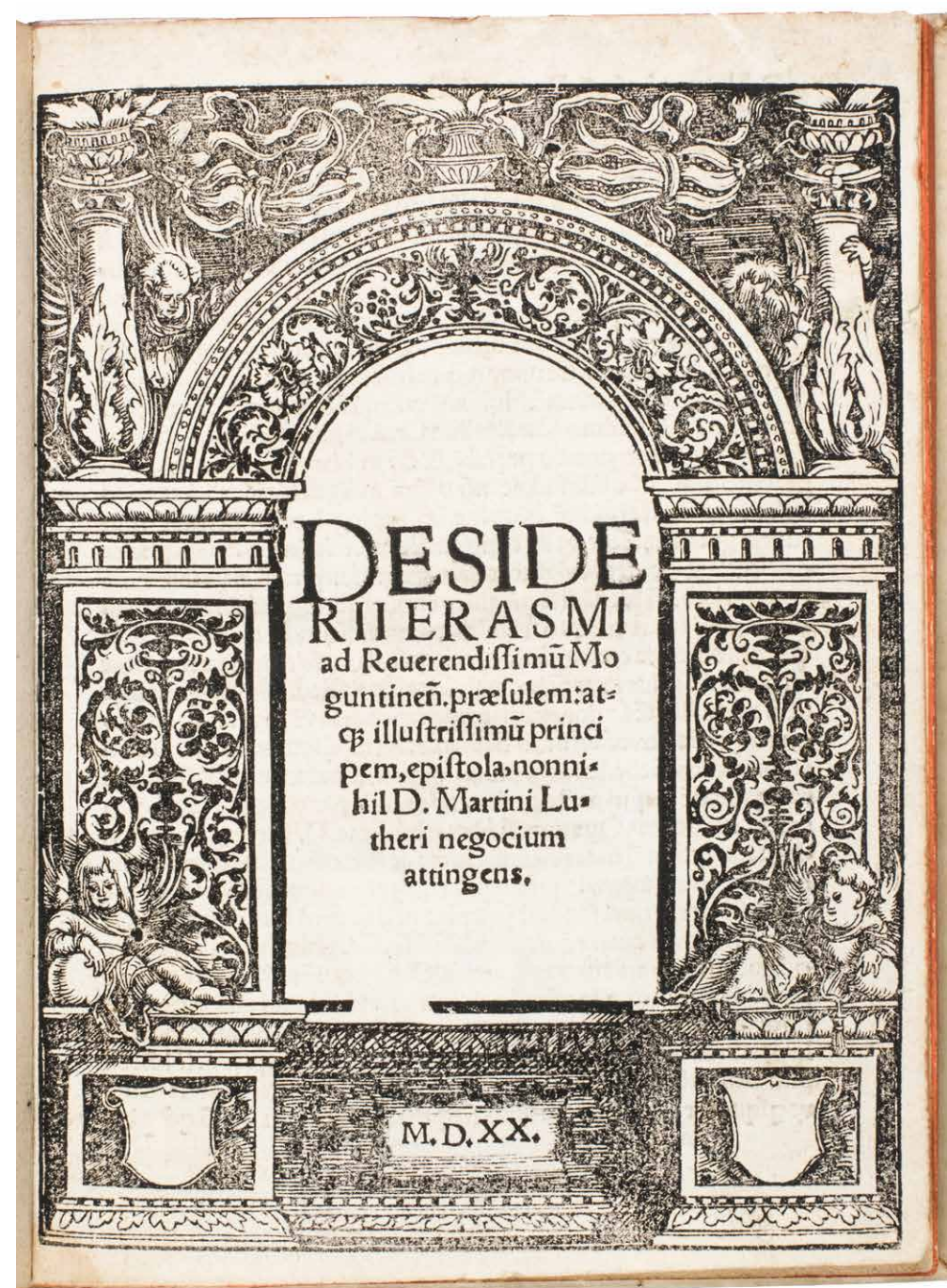
[Augsburg, Sigmund Grimm and Marcus Wirsung], 1520. 4°. With an elaborate woodcut title border by Hans Weiditz. 19th-century gold-tooled vellum.

€ 2750

Early print of the letter Erasmus wrote to Cardinal Albrecht of Brandenburg, Archbishop of Mainz, in October 1519, with statements about Luther. In it Erasmus recommends to hear Luther, whom he defends in several instances, and suggests to help him where he errs. The letter was delivered by Ulrich von Hutten (1488–1523) and likely published without Erasmus's consent. The present edition is one of seven unauthorised editions published in the same year. It was printed by Marcus Wirsung (ca. 1460–ca.1520) and Sigmund Grimm (ca. 1480–1530), whose printing office was the most important publication centre for Humanist literature in pre-Reformation Augsburg. Their edition includes a beautiful title border by Hans Weiditz (1495–ca.1537), and is among the rarest of the seven, with only five copies recorded by the Universal Short Title Catalogue (USTC). The present copy was auctioned at Sotheby's in 1955 and 1980, and is one of only two copies that we have been able to trace in sales records.

The boards are somewhat warped. The work has been bound with 25 blank leaves. Otherwise in good condition.

[4] ll. Adams E 871; Allen, *Opus epistolarum Erasmi* IV, 1033; Bezzel 28; BM STC German, p. 276; Erasmus Online 1957; Proctor 10920; USTC 635546 (5 copies); Vander Haeghen I, 93; VD16 E 1887; not in De Reuck. [More on our website](#)



One of the earliest German translations of Erasmus' exhortation to study the Bible in the vernacular

19

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Paraclesis Teütscht wie ein teürberlich unaussprechlich schatz und klainet sey das Ewangelium und haylig wort gottes.

[Augsburg, Johann Schönsperger the Younger, 1520]. 4°. With a large woodcut bust of Christ on title page. Modern gold-tooled half calf.

SOLD

When the *Paraclesis* first appeared in 1516, it was not meant to stand alone. Erasmus had written it as an introductory treatise to his famous edition of the *New Testament*. In this passionate preface, Erasmus appealed for a renewed and diligent study of Scripture through direct engagement with the ancient languages.

His ambition was to present a new Latin translation of the New Testament based not on the traditional Vulgate, but on carefully examined Greek manuscripts, seven in total. This approach challenged centuries of ecclesiastical authority and provoked fierce opposition among theologians, who denounced the work as unsanctioned and dangerous. Yet Erasmus argued fervently that the Gospel should be accessible to every believer, in every tongue, so that the Word of God might speak directly to the hearts of all. This early German edition answers that call, and is among the first German translations of the *Paraclesis*. Despite occasional deviations and amplifications from the original text, it resonated deeply with its audience. Between 1520 and 1521 alone, it was printed at least eight times.

Some occasional browning in the margins, and the lower outer corners of leaves C4 and C5 have been reinforced. Otherwise in very good condition.

[14] ll. Bezzel, 1424, 1425, 1429; De Reuck 293; USTC 653263 and 653266; VD16 E 3309 and E 3310.

[More on our website](#)



Uniting four Pauline Epistles: the first edition of Erasmus' collected paraphrases

20

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Paraphrases in epistolas Pauli apostoli ad Rhomanos, Corinthios & Galatas, quae co[m]mentarii vice esse possunt.

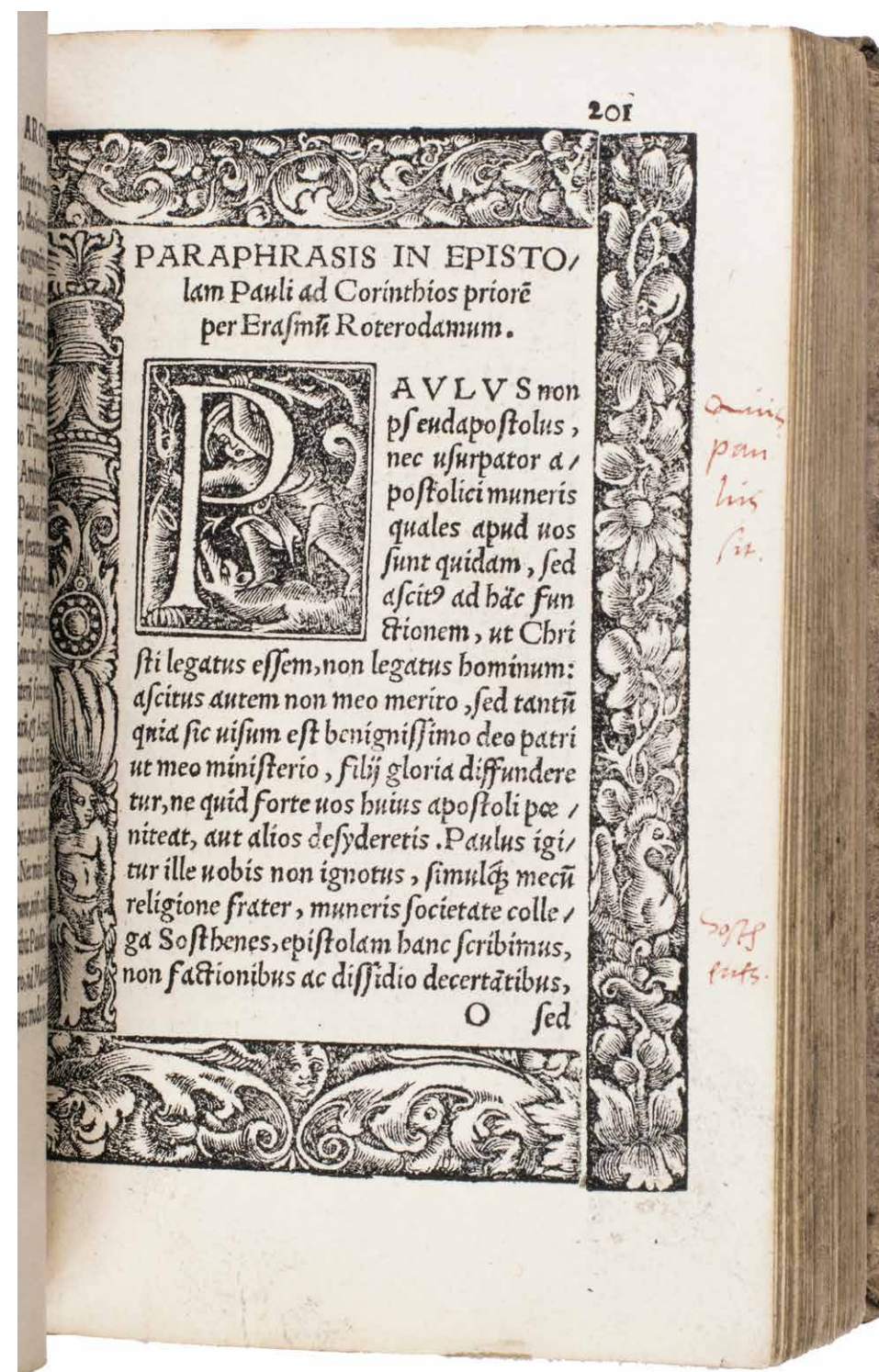
Basel, Hieronymus Froben, January 1520. Small 8°. With 5 woodcut frames, 10 woodcut decorated initials, 3 woodcut ornaments, and a small woodcut illustration on the last page. Contemporary blind-tooled pigskin, with a paper label at the head of the spine, and with remnants of four pairs of red closing ties.

€ 4500

First edition of Erasmus' collected *Paraphrases* on the Pauline Epistles, Romans, 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, and Galatians. Each paraphrase had appeared separately between 1517 and 1519, and this collected edition, printed at Basel, presented them together for the first time in a single work. Erasmus' paraphrase on Romans was the earliest of the four. Completed during the summer of 1517, he initially intended it for publication by Froben in Basel. Concerned, however, that Froben's press was overburdened, Erasmus entrusted the work instead to Dirk Martens in Louvain, where he was then residing. Shortly thereafter, Froben produced his own Basel edition in January 1518 and the work was an immediate success. The paraphrases on 1 and 2 Corinthians followed in early 1519. The paraphrase on Galatians completed the present Pauline collection later that same year. Finally, in January 1520, Froben gathered these works together into one volume. With a purple round stamp on the title page, and one blue round stamp from the same library on p. 97. With some contemporary underlinings and annotations. A difficult to read manuscript note on the last leaf, and on the back pastedown. Front pastedown detached from the boards revealing the printer's waste used in the binding. The binding is somewhat stained and rubbed, affecting the clarity of some of the stamps on the front board. Some occasional water staining in the margins. Otherwise in good condition.

"465" [= 495], [1] pp. Adams E 790; Bezzel 1163; BM STC German p. 115; Sider, *Collected works of Erasmus* volume 42, p. XXI; USTC 682544 (6 copies); Vander Haeghen I, 144; VD16 E 3060; not in De Reuck.

➤ [More on our website](#)



Moral philosophy and counsel to kings: Erasmus' translation of Plutarch

21

PLUTARCH and Desiderius ERASMUS (translator and editor).

Ex Plutarcho versa per Des. Erasmum Roterodamum ...

Basel, Johann Froben, (colophon:) September 1520. 4°. With the title set within an elaborate woodcut frame, a smaller woodcut frame on the verso of the title page and the first page of the first text. Further with 9 woodcut decorated initials, woodcut headpieces, and a small woodcut illustration on the last page. Modern gold-tooled half calf.

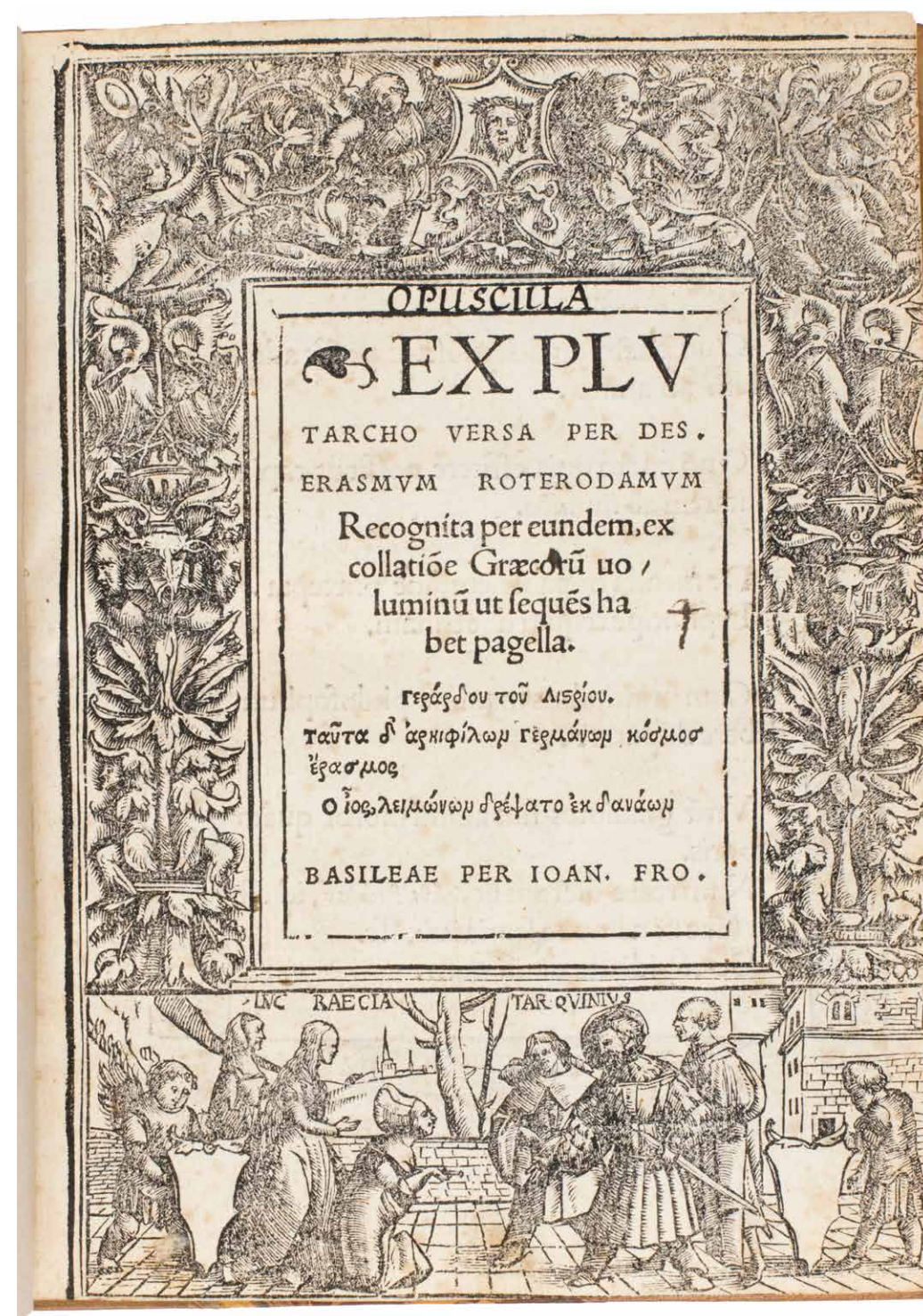
€ 1500

This finely printed 1520 Basel edition presents a collection of Erasmus' earliest translations from the works of the Greek moral philosopher Plutarch. The volume presents eight of Plutarch's shorter treatises, addressing themes such as friendship, health, and the nature of the human soul.

One of the most notable inclusions is *De discrimine adulatoris et amici* (How to tell a flatterer from a friend), a treatise Erasmus translated during his time in Cambridge and dedicated to King Henry VIII. The text, which explores the subtle art of distinguishing true friendship from sycophancy, resonated in an era when rulers were often surrounded by flattering courtiers. With characteristic tact, Erasmus hoped the work might serve both as philosophical instruction and as a gentle warning to the young English king, particularly in light of those who had encouraged Henry's war with France. Furthermore, the present work includes two of Plutarch's important medical treatises in Erasmus' translation. Other works included concern reflections on transforming enmity into wisdom and personal growth; the necessity of wisdom and education in a prince; a meditation on the philosopher's role in advising those in power; on the meaning of the maxim *lathe biosas*; and a discourse on avarice and the moral corruption born of greed.

With a small manuscript note added above the title and a 17th- or 18th-century inscription below the colophon on the final page. Slightly foxed and browned throughout, the fore-edge and lower margins are cut slightly short, barely affecting the printed marginalia. Otherwise in good condition.

167, [1] pp. Adams p. 654; Ledo pp. 260–66; USTC 655014 (6 copies); Vander Haeghen II, 46; VD 16 P 3718; not in BM STC German; De Reuck. [More on our website](#)



First Erasmus edition of the works of Saint Cyprian, an important work in the Humanistic rediscovery of the early Church Fathers

22

CYPRIANUS, Thascius Caecilius and Desiderus ERASMUS.

Opera divi Caecilii Cypriani episcopi Carthaginensis ...

Basel, Johann Froben, 1520. Folio. With an woodcut border on the title page and on the first page of the dedication. Further with a small woodcut illustration on the verso of the last leaf, numerous woodcut decorated initials, and some ornamental woodcut headpieces. Contemporary richly blind-tooled calf over wooden boards, with brass fastenings, manuscript waste pastedowns, re-backed.

€ 4000

First edition of the works of Thascius Caecilius Cyprianus (Saint Cyprian, ca. 210–258 CE), edited by Erasmus. The present work is a landmark in the history of Humanist scholarship and a cornerstone of Erasmus's lifelong effort to restore the authentic voice of the Early Church Fathers. Working in Basel, Erasmus devoted himself to what he regarded as his highest calling: presenting these foundational Christian sources to a wider audience and revealing the truth of the Gospel in its original simplicity.

More than a critical edition, the present work embodies the spirit of Christian humanism itself: rigorous scholarship in the service of faith. It stands as one of Erasmus' most significant achievements and a defining moment in the recovery of patristic learning in the Renaissance.

With manuscript waste pastedowns, three stamps of the Roman Catholic Saint Maria-Magdalena church in Zaandam on the title page, occasionally some (near contemporary?) manuscript annotations in the margins and some of the text has been underlined. The work has been re-backed, lacking the backstrip of the original binding, the edges of the leather around both boards is slightly damaged revealing the wooden boards below, the spine is somewhat rubbed. The edges of the first and last few leaves are slightly frayed, some occasional water staining in the fore-edge margin (not affecting the text), some slight staining and dust soiling throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

[24], 515, [1 blank], [32] pp. *Allen* 1000; *De Reuck* 416; *Huizinga* VI p. 148; *USTC* 679667; *Vander Haeghen* II, 23; *VD 16 C* 6508; not in *Adams*; *Bezzel*; *BM STC German*. [More on our website](#)



First German edition of Erasmus' influential guide to Christian piety, promoting inner devotion over ritual, at the dawn of the Reformation

23

ERASMUS, Desiderius

Enchiridion oder handbüchlin eins Christenliche[n] und ritterlichen lebens ...

(Colophon) Basel, Adam Petri, 1520. 4°. With an elaborate woodcut border by Hans Franck on the title page, 5 half-page woodcut illustrations (including 1 repeat) in the text, Petri's device by Urs Graf below the colophon, and several large decorated woodcut initials. The text is rubricated throughout. Modern overlapping vellum, grey endpapers.

€ 16 000

First German edition of Erasmus's *Enchiridion militis christiani*, one of his most celebrated and influential works, here translated by the Strasbourg Humanist Johannes Adelphus (ca. 1480s-ca. 1523). Erasmus began writing the *Enchiridion* around 1501 in Paris while fleeing from the plague, and completed it some years later in Leuven.

Originally conceived as a personal moral guide for the troubled nobleman, the text promotes a life of inner devotion and ethical integrity, urging Christians to cultivate sincere faith rather than rely on outward ritual. Though modest in origin, the work became a cornerstone of Christian Humanist thought and was widely reprinted and translated.

The translator, Joannes Adelphus Müllich (or Müling), was physician of the town of Schaffhausen; he made the translation at the request of Beatus Rhenanus. The present 1520 Basel edition, handsomely produced by Adam Petri with rich woodcut ornamentation, brought the *Enchiridion* to a broader German-speaking audience at a time of intense religious ferment.

With a small manuscript annotation on the title page. The title page has been strengthened in the gutter margin and with elaborate restorations in the fore- and bottom edges. The tear in the bottom outer corner of leaf 73 has been restored, barely affecting the text. Otherwise in good condition.

[10], CXIII ll. Bezzel 882; BM STC German p. 281; Erasmus Online 1708; USTC 650319; Vander Haeghen I, 80; VD 16 E 2787; not in Adams. [More on our website](#)



Erasmus on the Latin language: two foundational works in a very attractive contemporary binding

24

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

De duplici copia verborum ac rerum commentarii duo.

(Colophon): Mainz, Johannes Schoeffer, August 1521.

With: (2) ERASMUS, Desiderius. *Parabolae sive similia.*

(Colophon:) Basel, Johannes Froben, July 1521. 2 works in 1 volume.

8°. Ad 1: with the title in woodcut border, and 6 woodcut initials.

Both works set throughout in italic types. With 1 initial coloured by hand. Ad 2: with the title in a woodcut border, first page of the dedicatory letter by Erasmus to Petrus Aegidius on back of the title page with a border made of woodcut strips, Froben's large woodcut device on the last page, and 2 decorative woodcut initials. German contemporary blind-tooled calf sewn on 3 double cords, in a panel design. Titles in ink written on the spine (partly upside down) and the fore-edge; later paper spine label; 2 holes near the fore-edge of each board from fastenings now lost.

€ 12 000

Ad 1: Good, scholarly edition of Erasmus's famous guide to writing and speaking style in Latin, designed to provide the student of Latin with a wide range of words and expressions.

Ad 2: A collection of similes, or comparisons, composed along the same lines and with the same intentions as those that had brought Erasmus much success in his *Adagia*. In a sense the *Parabolae* are an addition to and continuation of the *Adagia*.

With some contemporary annotations. In very good condition, with only a few minor marginal smudges or chips. Binding lacking fastenings, and with damage to the spine and edges, but still in good condition, with most of the tooling very clear.

[16], 247, [1 blank]; 191, [1] pp. *See our website for the list of references.* [More on our website](#)



First edition of an early Reformation pamphlet: Johann Eberlin von Günzburg's Bundesgenossen VI, referencing Erasmus

25

[EBERLIN VON GÜNZBURG, Johann].

Erasmus von Rotherodam ein fürst aller gelerten zu unseren zyte[n], schreibt im buch gena[nn]t Encomion morias, vom predigen der ba[e]ttel münch. Ein jeden ich hie früntlich bit, Das er mich la[e]ss und lach nit. Der. VI. bundtsgnosz.

[Basel, Pamphilus Gengenbach, 1521]. 4°. With 1 large woodcut portrait of Erasmus on the title page, 2 decorated woodcut initials, and a woodcut tailpiece below the end of the text. Modern marbled calf.

€ 4500

First edition of the sixth pamphlet in the Reformation series *Die Bundesgenossen* (*The Confederates*) written by Johnn Eberlin von Günzburg (1470–1533). It was printed in Basel by Pamphilus Gengenbach (1480–1524), a printer, writer, and publisher who played a pivotal role in shaping the early protestant movement in Switzerland.

Gengenbach was a passionate advocate for religious and political reform. He recognised the powerful potential of the printed word to incite change. His publications, written in the vernacular and full of references to current events and debates, show how cleverly he used print to spread his message. *The Fünfzehn Bundesgenossen*, which Gengenbach chose to publish individually over time, was never officially compiled into a single collected edition. As a result, this sixth pamphlet has survived as a separate, standalone piece. It directly references Erasmus and his satirical work *Encomion Moriae* (*The Praise of Folly*), which critiques the preaching of mendicant friars.

In very good condition.

[5] [1 blank] ll. *Berger pp. 5–6; USTC 653274; VD16 E 103; Von Günzburg p. 1; not in Adams; BM STC German.* [More on our website](#)



Second Erasmus edition of Saint Cyprian's works, with manuscript annotations

26

CYPRIANUS, Thascius Caecilius, and Desiderus ERASMUS


Opera divi Caecilii Cypriani episcopi Carthaginensis ...

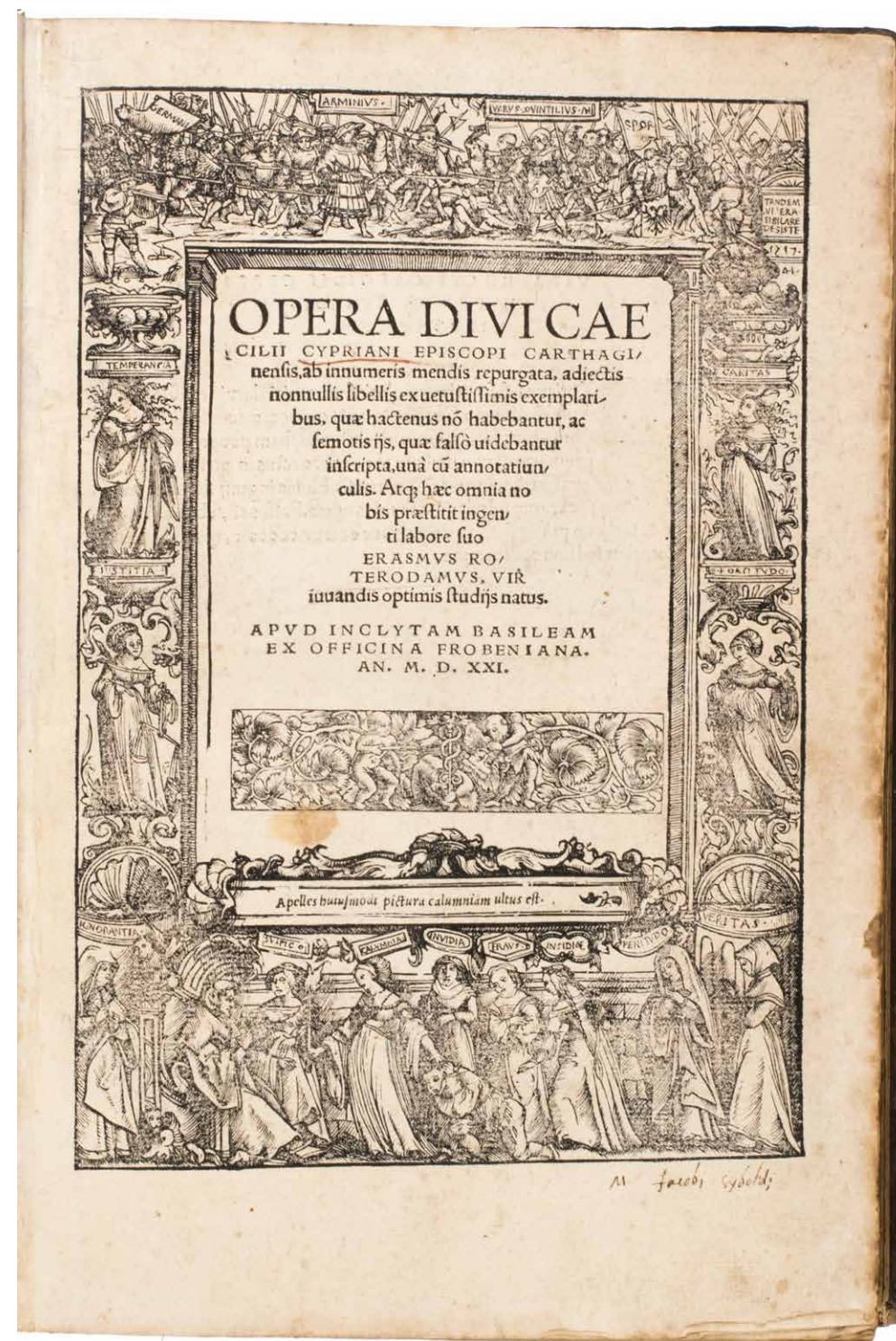
Basel, Johann Froben, 1521. Folio. With a woodcut border on the title page and the first page of the dedication. Further with a small woodcut illustration on the verso of the last leaf and with woodcut decorated initials throughout. Contemporary blind-tooled pigskin over wooden boards, with brass catch- and anchor plates, lacking the clasps.

€ 3500

Second edition of Saint Cyprian's works as edited by Erasmus, published by Froben one year after their first edition. Between 1516 and 1521, Erasmus worked closely with Johann Froben, the Humanist printer in Basel, on a series of editions of the Latin Church Fathers: Jerome, Augustine, Ambrose, Hilary, and Cyprian. Erasmus' aim was to purify the texts of the Fathers from medieval corruptions, to restore their authentic doctrine by returning to the original sources, and to present the Early Church as a model for a purer form of Christianity, a theme that directly reflected his theological-Humanist ideal.

With small strips of manuscript waste visible in the gutters of the pastedowns, a small owner's inscription in the upper outer corner of the first blank flyleaf along with elaborate manuscript annotations on the recto of that same leaf, numerous contemporary and later annotations in three different hands throughout, and some of the text underlined. The leather around the top and fore-edge of the front board has been restored, the leather on the back board is somewhat damaged, some small worm holes in the leather reveal the wooden boards below. The binding is rubbed, the clasps are lacking, and the head and foot of the spine are somewhat damaged, the structural integrity of the binding nevertheless remains intact. The first blank flyleaf has been restored in the gutter margin, the last leaf has been restored in the fore-edge margin, the edges of the leaves are somewhat browned. Otherwise in good condition.

[24], 515, [1 blank], [32] pp. *Adams C3150*; *BM STC German* p. 234; *De Reuck* 417; *USTC* 679668; *Vander Haeghen* II, 23; *Huizinga* VI p. 148; *VD 16 C* 6509; *not in Bezzel*.  **More on our website**



First complete edition of Erasmus' correspondence, beautifully illustrated by Urs Graf and Ambrosius Holbein

27

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Epistolae ad diversos, & aliquot aliorum ad illum ...

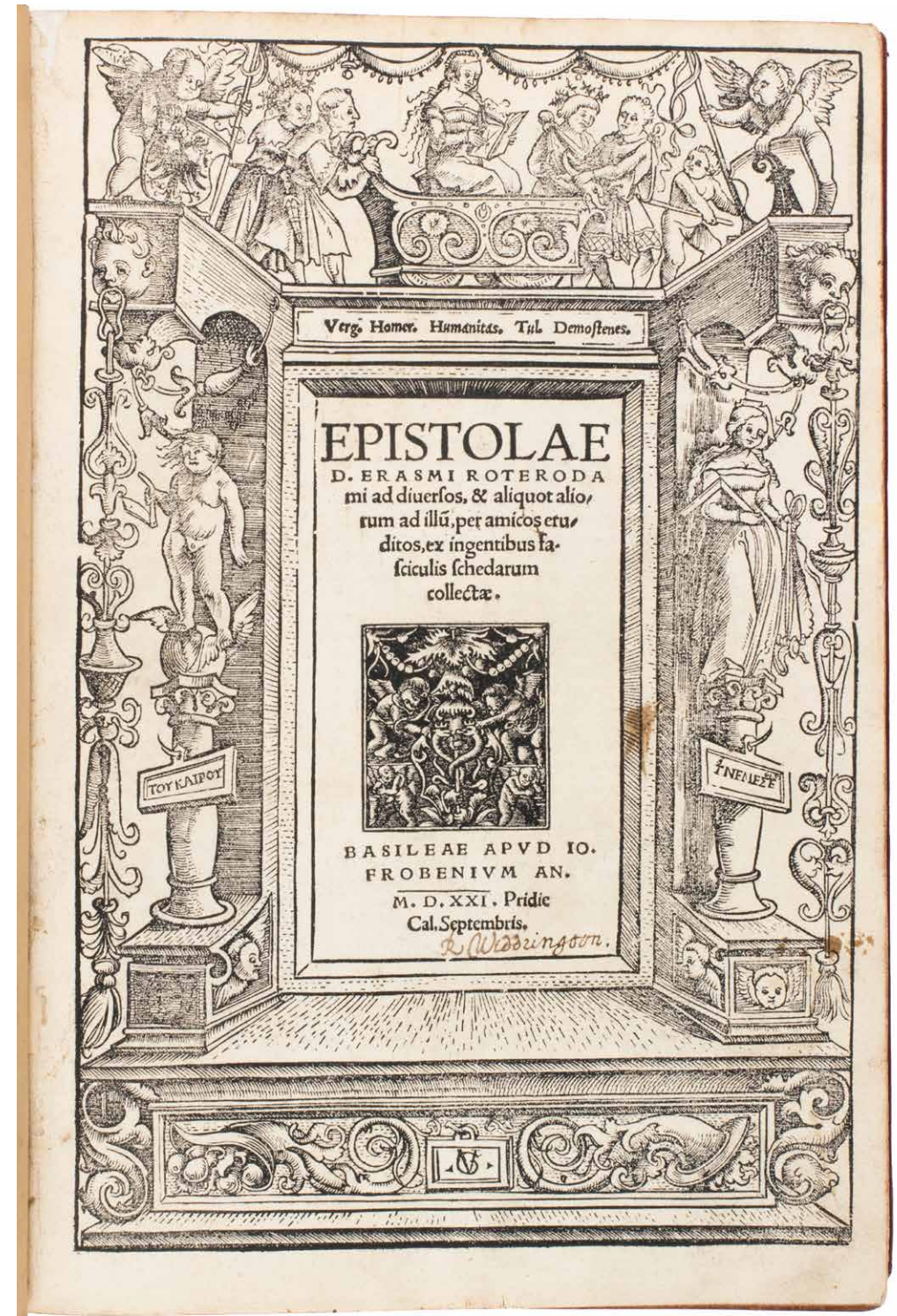
Basel, Johann Froben, 31 Aug. 1521. Folio. With a woodcut border on the title page, 2 woodcut borders in the text, numerous woodcut initials, and a woodcut printer's device at the end of the work. Modern blind-tooled red morocco.

€ 8500

First complete edition of the letters of Desiderius Erasmus, containing 171 letters which had never been published before, with correspondence with many of the most prominent figures of the 16th century. The work has been beautifully illustrated with a splendid large woodcut title border by Urs Graf (ca. 1485–1528), known as "The triumph of Humanitas", and two fine borders by Ambrosius Holbein (ca. 1494–1519). The present copy has been annotated in several contemporary hands, and was owned by Ralph Widdrington (d. 1688), the Regius professor of Greek at Cambridge University. The *Epistolae ad diversos* contains 617 letters in total and is far larger than any of the earlier collections of Erasmus' correspondence, namely the *Epistolae aliquot* of January 1518 (52 letters), the *Auctarium* of October 1518 (63 letters), and the *Farrago* of November 1519 (333 letters). The present letter collection is also the first with a preface by Erasmus. The majority of the letters date to 1519–1521, but some are earlier, with the first dated to 11 July 1513. They reflect Erasmus' changing stance towards Luther and Protestantism, but also continue his attacks on friars and the theologians of Louvain. Erasmus later made many editorial changes to the letters, making the present edition of particular importance.

With a later ownership annotation on the title page. The binding is very lightly soiled. The work is slightly browned throughout, with contemporary and later manuscript annotations in the margins in three different hands, a vertical tear in the upper part of the first errata leaf, without loss of text. Otherwise a very good copy with ample margins.

12, "668" [=618], [6] pp Adams E 852; BM STC German p. 276; Erasmus Online 2069; USTC 651629 (34 copies); Vander Haeghen I, 99; VD 16 VD16 E 2925. [More on our website](#)



Very rare edition of a forgotten bestseller of its time: Erasmus' handbook of the Christian soldier

28

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Enchiridion militis Christiani, saluberrimis praeceptis refertum ...

Including: IDEM. Paraclesis, id est, adhortatio ad sanctissimum, ac saluberrimum Christianae philosophiae studium ...

[Paris], Gilles de Gourmont, [after 1518 (and before 1522?)].

8° (10.3 × 16.2). With both titles set within an identical woodcut architectural frame and several woodcut decorated initials.

Modern half vellum.

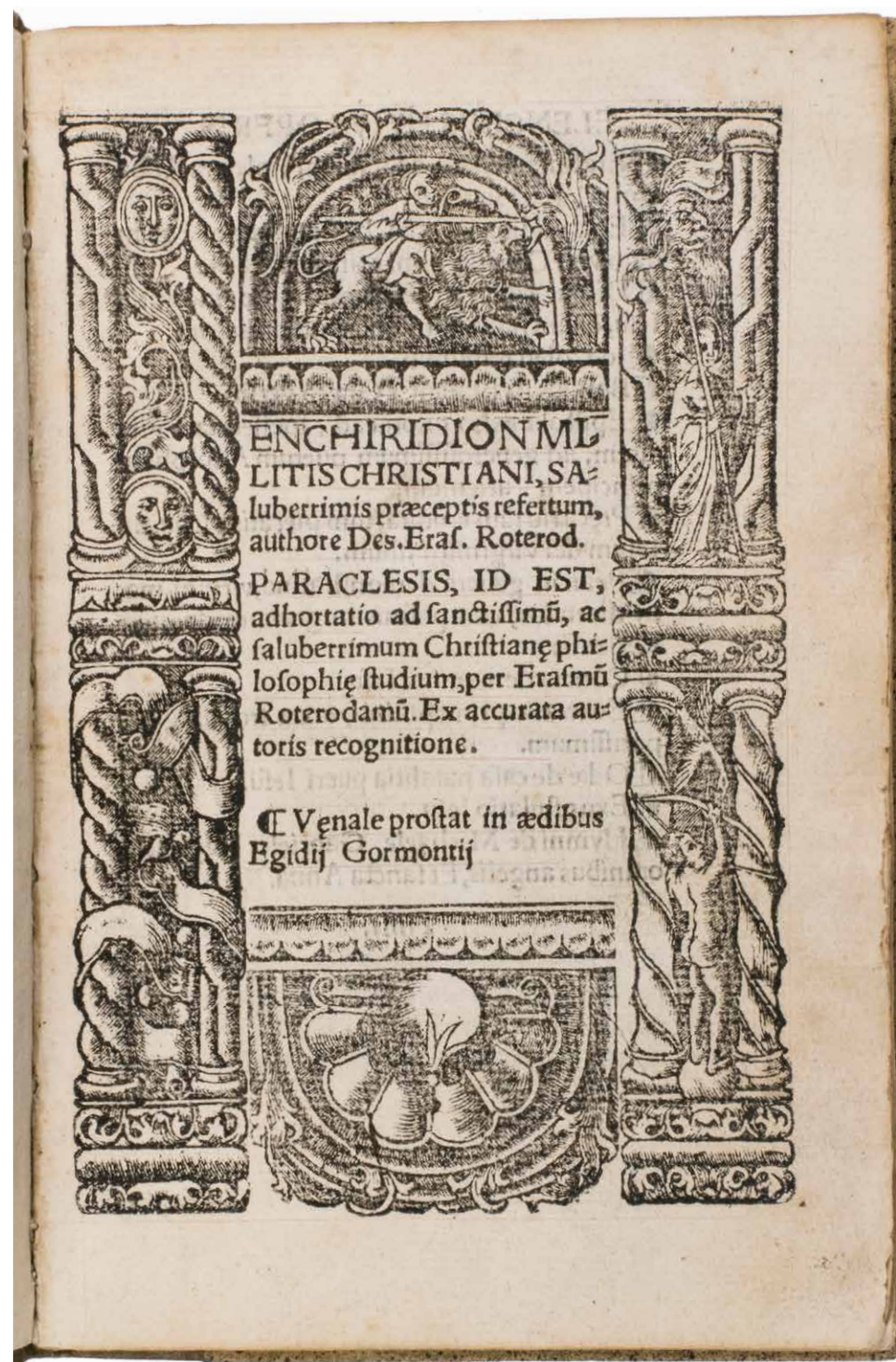
€ 3950

Very rare Paris edition of Erasmus' *Enchiridion militis Christiani*, including a short text urging readers to study Christian philosophy. Before Erasmus became a household name for his satire *The Praise of Folly*, or for his Latin translation of the *New Testament*, he authored a lesser-known yet deeply personal work "The handbook of the Christian soldier". Written in 1501, the *Enchiridion* is a passionate call to return to a pure, Christ-centred faith, one grounded not in ritual or church hierarchy, but in inner devotion and practical piety. With urgency and sincerity, Erasmus wrote not for scholars or clergy, but for ordinary believers striving to live a holy life.

Between its first publication and Erasmus's death in 1536, the *Enchiridion* was printed in over fifty Latin editions, becoming one of his most widely read works across Europe. This relatively early French edition is rare, with few known copies surviving. We have traced only two other copies in sales records of the past 100 years.

With occasional (near-) contemporary manuscript annotations in the margins and underlining of some text, and in the same hand a short note on the blank verso of the last leaf, most likely a philosophical reflection or content-related note. Most pages contain a simple frame, ruled in red after printing, the edges of the last quarter of leaves are slightly frayed, minor water staining in the fore-edge margin and somewhat browned throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

[106], [10] ll. See our website for the list of references. ➤ [More on our website](#)



A key moment in an early 16th-century religious debate

29

STUNICA, Jacobus Lopis.

Jacobi Lopidis Stunicae libellus trium illorum voluminum praecursor quibus Erasmicas impietates ac blasphemias redarguit. (Colophon:) Rome, Antonium Bladum de Asula, 1522. 4°. With Stunica's (House of Zúñiga) large woodcut coat of arms on the title page, and 2 woodcut decorated initials. Modern gold-tooled half calf.

SOLD

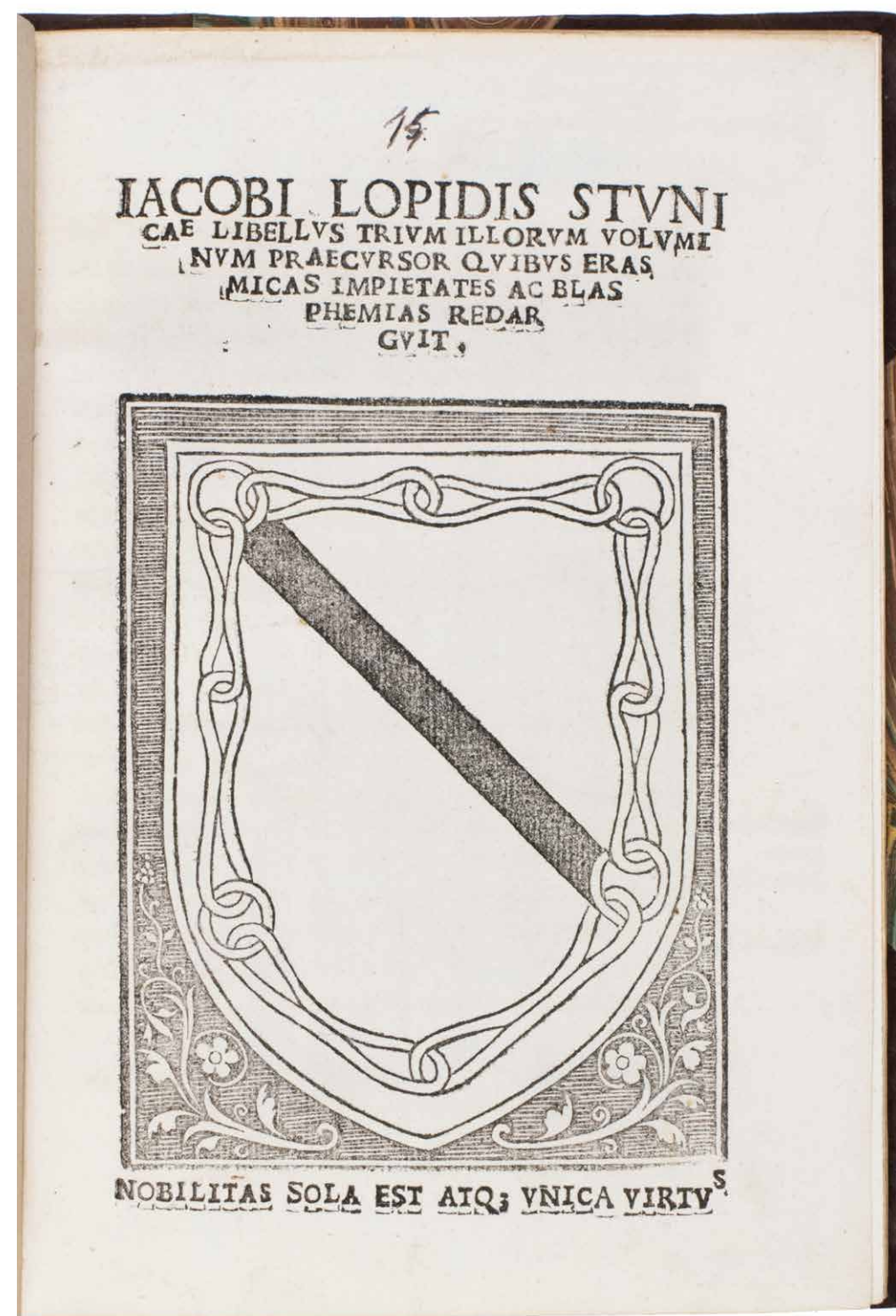
First edition of Diego López de Zúñiga's (Jacobus Lopis Stunica, 1470–1531) polemical pamphlet titled *Libellus trium illorum voluminum praecursor*. The long and acrimonious dispute between Erasmus of Rotterdam and the Spanish theologian was one of the most intense intellectual confrontations of the early 16th-century. What began as a debate over philology, the accuracy of Erasmus' translation of the New Testament into Latin, soon escalated into a full-blown theological and moral polemic. It was a clash not only of minds, but also of visions for Christianity's future: Humanist reform versus traditional orthodoxy.

In 1522, Stunica published this sharply worded *Libellus*, a "little book" which served as a prelude to a larger, three-volume refutation he had planned. Its full Latin title can be translated as: "A little book by Jacobus Lopis Stunica, precursor to the three volumes in which he refutes the impieties and blasphemies of Erasmus". In this pamphlet, Stunica isolates three passages from Erasmus' *Annotationes* on the New Testament. He invites the reader to judge for themselves: is the Dutch Humanist more dangerous for his irreverence or for his ignorance?

Stunica's attack did not go unanswered; Erasmus replied swiftly with his *Apologia ad prodromon stunicae*, published later that same year by Johann Froben in Basel.

The binding is lightly rubbed and/or stained, some pages are very lightly browned. Overall in very good condition.

[29], [1 blank] ll. Chaparro Gómez, "Erasmus de Rotterdam y Diego López de Zúñiga: una polémica áspera y prolongada," *Ágora. Estudios Clásicos en Debate* 16 (2014) pp 157–187; Fumagalli no.8 p.3; OPAC SBN IT\CCU\UBOE\026472 (7 copies); USTC 838610 (8 copies). [More on our website](#)



Early Erasmus edition of Arnobius, bound in a contemporary Cologne armorial binding

30

ARNOBIUS and Desiderius ERASMUS (editor).

Arnobii aphri ... scriptoris in omneis palmos co[m]mentarii ...

Including: ERASMUS, Desiderius. Commentarius in psalmum, quare fremuerunt gentes.

Cologne, Eucharius Cervicornus, 1522. 2 parts in 1 volume. 4°. With a woodcut frame on the title page, and 2 smaller woodcut frames on the first pages of the texts, and 5 woodcut decorated initials. Contemporary blind-tooled calf, with remnants of 4 pairs of green closing ties, re-backed.

€ 3500

Second edition, printed in the same year as the first, of Erasmus' version of the *Commentaries on the psalms* attributed to Arnobius the Younger, a Christian priest active in 5th-century Gaul. Arnobius interprets the psalms allegorically, relating their content to Christ and the Church. The present work contains Erasmus' preface, the commentary of Arnobius on the psalms and Erasmus' own extensive commentary on psalm 2. The present copy is bound in a contemporary Cologne binding, attributed to an anonymous binder active circa 1510. Both boards feature a panel-stamped frame, including three armorial shields of, the city arms of Cologne, the arms of the Archbishopric of Cologne, and a diagonally banded shield, likely the binder's own mark.

With two book plates mounted on the front pastedown, a small manuscript cypher on the title page, and Erasmus' commentary contains manuscript annotations in the margins and on the final blank page by a near-contemporary hand. The binding has been re-backed, the head of the spine is slightly damaged, the corners of the boards are slightly damaged, the original blind-tooled leather on the boards is somewhat dry and cracked, affecting the clarity of the stamps and with some small scratched in the leather on the front board. Some occasional browning and (water-) staining in the margins. Otherwise in good condition.

[166], [36] ll. *Bezzel* 554; *Goldschmidt* 57; *Jenkins* 2.1; *USTC* 613135; *Vander Haeghen* II, 10; *VD 16 B* 3132 (and *VD 16 E* 2460); not in: *BM STC German*, *De Reuck*. [More on our website](#)



First edition of Erasmus' letter advocating moderate church reform

31

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Ad reverendum in Christo p. et illustrem principe[m] Christophoru[m] episcopum Basiliensem, epistola apologetica ... Erasmi Roterodami, de interdicto esu carniu[m], deq[ue] similibus hominu[m] constitutionibus ...

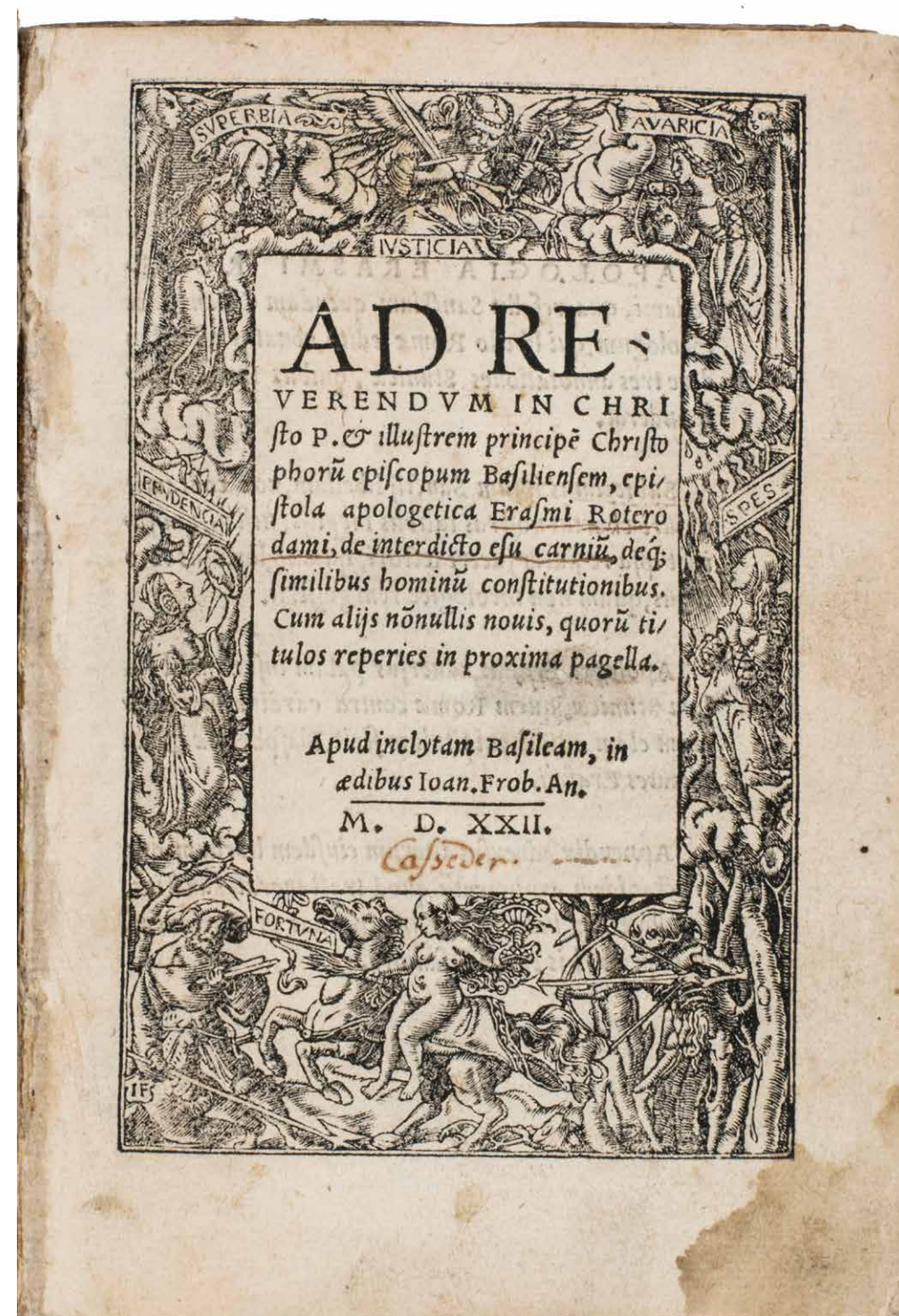
Basel, Johann Froben, August 1522. 8°. With a woodcut decorated frame on the title page and the recto of the second leaf, a small woodcut illustration on the verso of the last leaf, 10 woodcut decorated initials, and 2 woodcut decorated ornaments. 19th-century paper boards.

€ 4000

First edition of a letter by Erasmus, written on 21 April 1522, proposing practical reforms within the Church. In this bold missive, Erasmus calls for moderate but meaningful reform. The "certain other new things" announced on the title page in fact make up the greater part of the work. Chief among them are two extensive polemical additions, not included in some later reprints of the letter to the Bishop of Basel that followed shortly after this *editio princeps*. The first polemic targets the theologian Bartolomé Carranza (1503–1576). It incorporates several annotations by Carranza, who attempts to defend his own work *Tunicae* against Erasmus by citing three passages from Erasmus' *Annotationes*. Though claiming to treat these passages in a scholastic spirit, Carranza spares no effort in launching a full-scale attack on Erasmus. The second polemic is directed against Diego Lopez Stunica (Jacobus Lopis Stunica, 1470–1531), an early critic of Erasmus.

With an annotation on the recto of the first flyleaf and a small owner's inscription in brown ink on the title page. First 10 leaves with mild water staining in the lower outer corner, not affecting the text, some early underlining and marginal annotations. The binding is somewhat rubbed and stained, mainly along the extremities and along the hinges, some slight loss of material on the spine. Otherwise in good condition.

[160] ll. See our website for the list of references. ➤ [More on our website](#)



A rare sammelband containing four significant early 16th-century theological texts, reflecting the intellect and doctrinal turbulence of the Reformation

32

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Enchiridion militis Christiani ...

Strassburg, (Colophon:) Johann Knobloch, April 1523.

With: (2) **IDEM.** *De immensa Dei misericordia ...*

Including: **IDEM.** *Virginis et martyris comparatio.*

[Nürnberg, Johann Petreius, 1524].

(3) **IDEM.** *De libero arbitrio diatribè, sive Collatio.*

[Nürnberg, Johann Petreius, 1524].

(4) **HENRY VIII, King of England.** *Assertio septem sacramentoru[m] aduersus Martin. Lutherum ...*

[Mainz, Johann Schöffer, 1522?]. 4 works in 1 volume. 8°. With a woodcut frame on the title pages of ads 1 and 4, Knobloch's woodcut device on the verso of the last leaf of ad 1, several woodcut initials throughout. Contemporary elaborately blind-tooled pigskin over wooden boards, remnants of brass anchor plates.

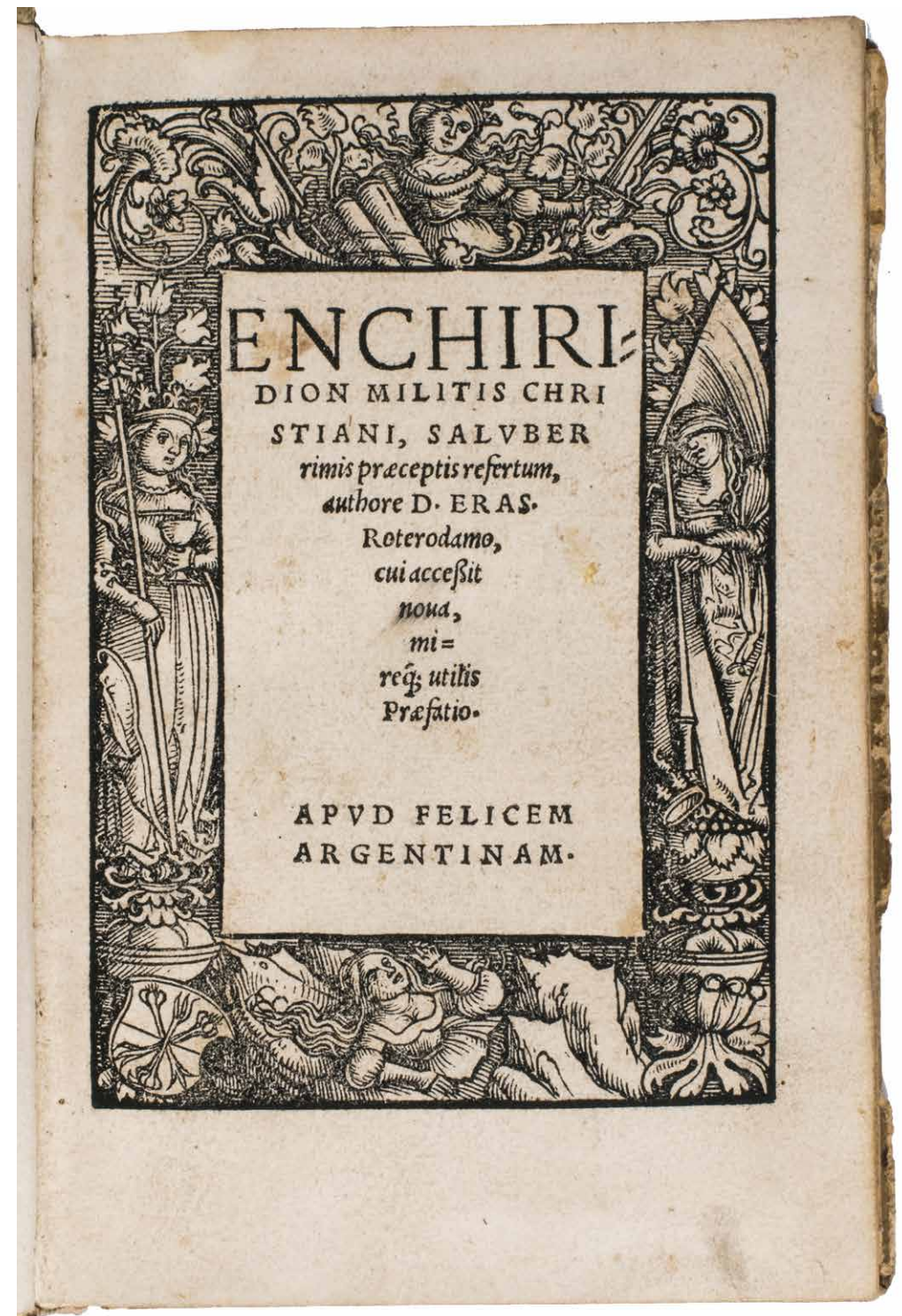
€ 18 000

Four significant early 16th-century works that illuminate the intellectual and theological tensions of the Reformation. It includes a practical manual for inner reform and devout living.; 2 homilies on divine mercy and comparing virginity and martyrdom; a direct challenge of Luther's doctrine of predestination in a pivotal treatise on free will by Erasmus; and an early – and apparently rare – edition of Henry VIII's *Assertio septem sacramentorum*, a fierce rebuttal of Luther's *De captivitate Babylonica*.

Ad 1 with some of the text underlined. Ad 2 with manuscript annotations in the margins. Ad 3 with some marginal annotations and some of the text underlined. Ad 4 with a manuscript inscription on the title page and a few annotations in the margins. The binding shows signs of wear, ads 2 and 3 with some minor (worm) holes in the paper, barely affecting the text, some staining and browning in places. Otherwise in good condition.

106; [57], [1 blank]; [49], [1 blank] ll.; 158 pp. See our website for the list of references.

➤ [More on our website](#)



First edition of Stunica's 1523 pamphlet attacking Erasmus

33

STUNICA, Jacobus Lopis.

Conclusiones principaliter suspecte et scandalose que reperiuntur in libris Erasmi Roterodami per Jacobum Lopidem Stunica excerpte. (Colophon:) Rome, [Marcello Silber], 1523. 4°. With the title set within a decorative woodcut frame, and 1 woodcut decorated initial. Modern gold-tooled half calf.

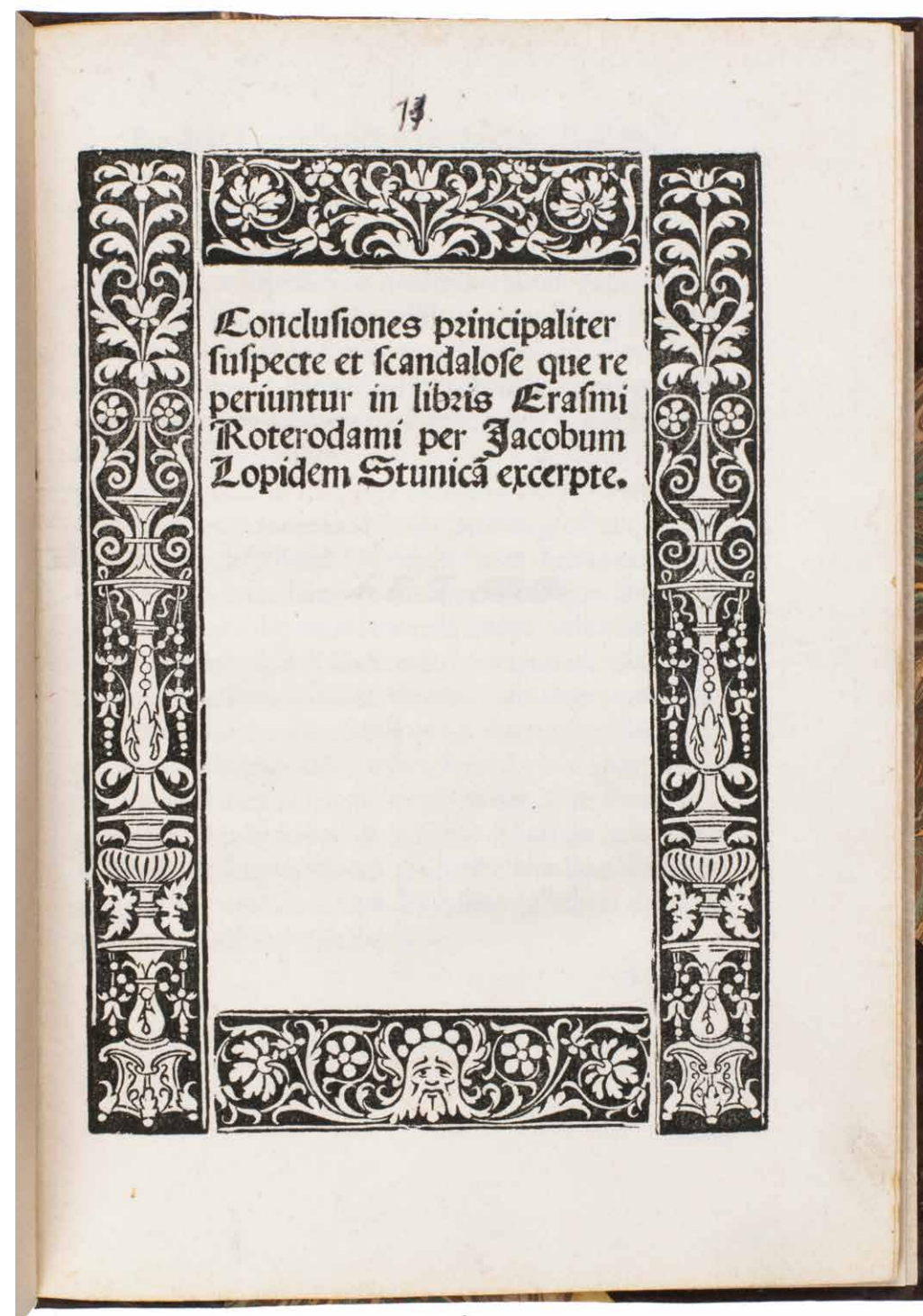
€ 2500

First edition of the pamphlet *Conclusiones principaliter suspectae et scandalosae quae reperiuntur in libris Erasmi Roterodami*, a sharp attack accusing Erasmus of heresy. Published in Rome in 1523 and circulated subversively during the interregnum after Pope Adrian VI's death, the work listed forty-two theological positions drawn from Erasmus's writings. Stunica presented each as suspect or outright scandalous, implying a dangerous alignment with Lutheran heresy.

Unlike his earlier scholarly critiques, this was an act of polemical theatre: anonymous, sharp, and designed for mass impact. According to Erasmus' later account, the pamphlets were handed out on the streets of Rome by vendors who also sold eggs and mushrooms. Erasmus, who received a copy in January of 1524, responded with his *Apologia ad Stunicae conclusiones*. It was his fourth direct reply to Stunica and in it he took a more defensive tone. He accused his opponent of relying on outdated editions, decontextualizing quotes, and deliberately misreading his intent. He also reminded readers that some of the statements had been made before Luther was even known, and that his views had since evolved.

The binding is slightly rubbed and/or stained. Otherwise in very good condition.

[4] Il. *Censimento nazionale delle edizioni italiane del XVI secolo*, 56424; Chaparro Gómez, "Erasmus de Rotterdam y Diego López de Zúñiga: una polémica áspera y prolongada", *Ágora. Estudios Clásicos en Debate* 16 (2014) pp. 157–187; OPAC SBN, IT\ICCU\CNCE\056424 (2 copies); USTC 838606 (2 copies, same as OPAC SBN). [More on our website](#)



Rewriting Luke: Erasmus' 1523 paraphrases dedicated to Henry VIII

34

ERASMUS, Desiderius

In evangelium Lucae paraphrasis Erasmi Roterodami ...

Basel, Johann Froben, September 1523. Small 8°. With 2 small woodcut illustrations on the title page and the verso of the final leaf, a woodcut headpiece above the dedication, and 2 woodcut decorated initials. Modern blind-tooled marbled calf.

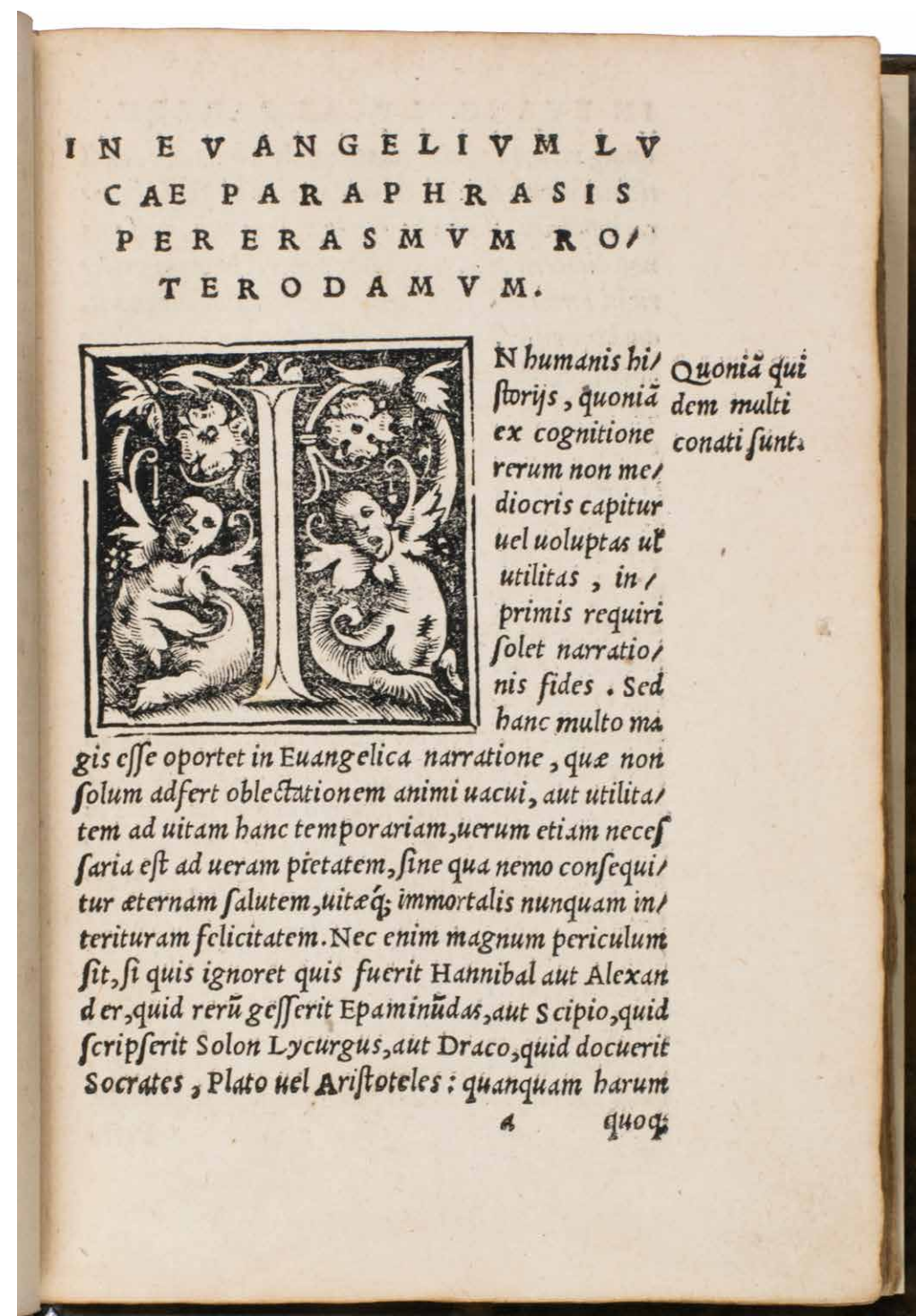
€ 2250

First edition of Erasmus' *Paraphrase* on the gospel of Luke. Unlike his paraphrases on the gospels of Matthew, Mark, and John, each dedicated to rulers of France or the Holy Roman Empire, this work was addressed to King Henry VIII of England. The lengthy dedicatory preface, which spans the first twelve leaves, takes the form of a personal letter from Erasmus to the king. The *Paraphrase* on Luke was also unique in its format: it was the only one of the gospel paraphrases to be first published in octavo.

The *Paraphrases* themselves were a novel form of literature at the time: more than mere translations or commentaries, they were interpretative retellings of the gospels, aiming to clarify the theological and moral meaning of Scripture for a wider audience. Despite Erasmus' towering knowledge of the Church Fathers and his editorial work on patristic texts, his method in the *Paraphrase* on Luke was not one of direct quotation from memory. Instead, as Jan Bloemendal states, Erasmus likely worked with various compilatory sources on his desk, texts such as Bede's commentary on Luke, the *Glossa Ordinaria* (a medieval annotated Bible), and Aquinas' *Catena Aurea*, which gathered together centuries of Christian interpretation. Through these sources, Erasmus was able to channel the voice of the early Church while crafting something new and distinctly his own.

With some contemporary underlinings and annotations, a later bibliographical annotation in brown ink at the head of the title page, and a small bookbinder's label mounted on the recto of the final blank flyleaf. Some small wormholes in the first 5 leaves, slightly affecting the text, the title page is slightly (dust) soiled). Otherwise in good condition.

[275] ll. See our website for the list of references. [More on our website](#)



First edition of a collection of patristic writings, including Eucherius, Basil, and Jerome, with annotations by Erasmus

35

EUCHERIUS; Desiderius ERASMUS; Basil of CAESAREA; Petrus GERARDUS (editor).

In hoc libello haec in sunt ... Intelligentiae spiritualis formulae ...
(Colophon:) Paris, Claude Chevallon, [ca. 1523]. 8°. With Cevallon's woodcut device on the verso of the final leaf, the title is printed in red and black, and 10 woodcut decorated initials. Modern half vellum and beige paper sides, blue sprinkled head- and fore-edge, manuscript author and title on the spine in brown ink.

€ 2950

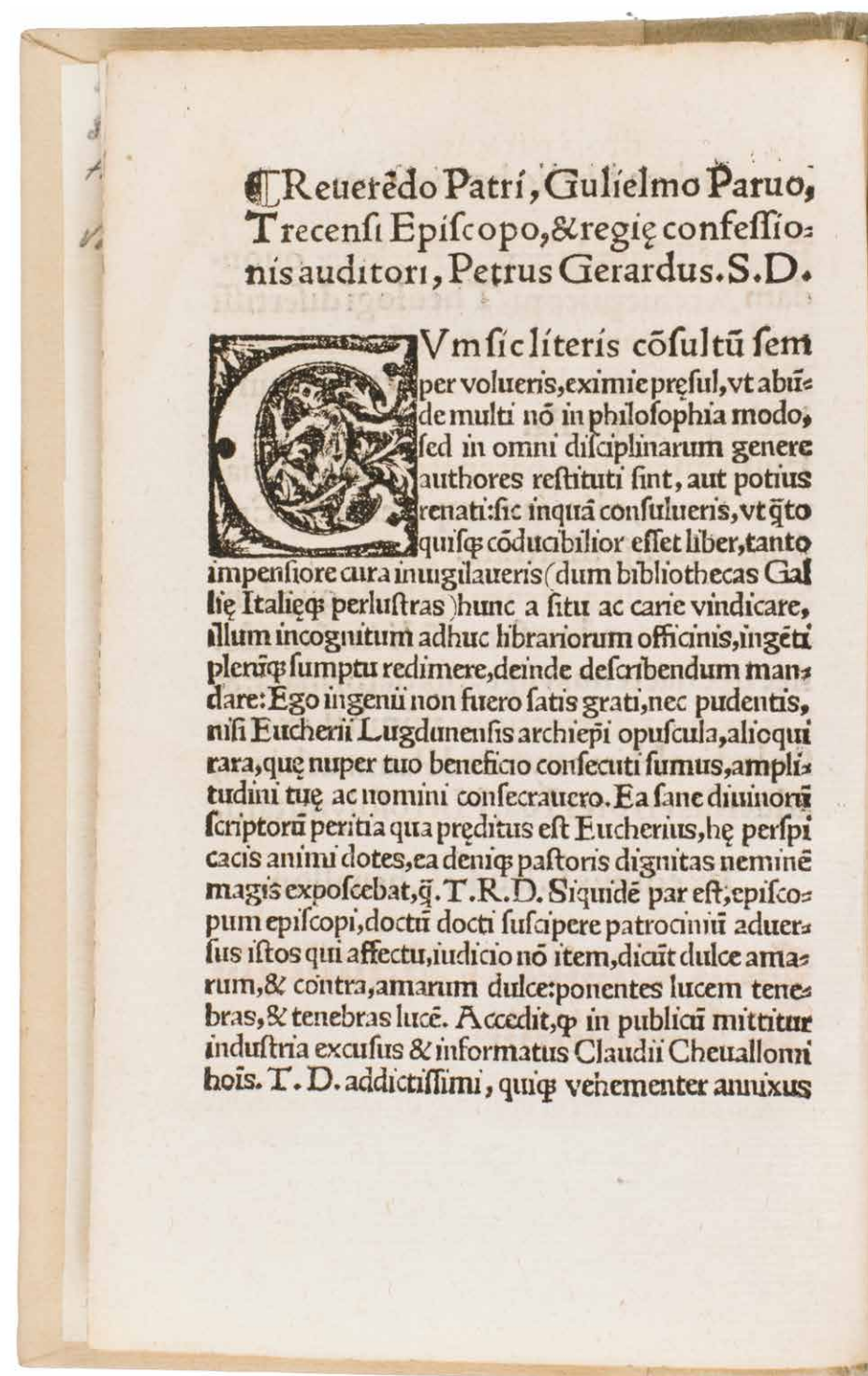
Collection of patristic writings, many of which appear here in print for the first time. The book opens with the spiritual writings of Eucherius (ca. 380–ca. 449 CE), Archbishop of Lyon, including his *Intelligentiae spiritualis formulae* and two instructional treatises, both of which are printed here for the first time. At the heart of the volume is Eucherius' paraenetic letter to Valerianus, a moral exhortation encouraging the rejection of worldly distractions and the pursuit of true Christian wisdom. Although this letter had been printed previously, it is presented here together with annotations by Erasmus. Also included is a consolatory letter by Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea (330–379 CE), intended to support believers facing the hardships of earthly life. Like the instructional works of Eucherius, this letter also appears here in print for the first time. The final text is a fragment from a letter by Saint Jerome (ca. 342/7–420 CE) to Pammachius (d. 410 CE), defending the doctrine of the resurrection of the flesh and refuting the teachings of John of Jerusalem.

The exact date of publication remains uncertain, but it is unlikely that the book appeared before 1520, the year when Chevallon first began using his "soleil d'or" printer's device.

The pages show some browning and water staining throughout. Overall in good condition.

[6], CVII, [1] ll. *BMSTC French* p. 157; *Erasmus Online* 4203; *Vander Haeghen* II, 25; *Moreau & Renouard* III, 498; *Renouard, P. Marques* 176; *USTC* 184320; not in *Adams*; *De Reuck*; *Kossmann*; *Meyers*.

➤ [More on our website](#)



Erasmus' first work

36

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

De contemptu mundi epistola.

Antwerp, Michiel Hillen van Hoogstraten, 1523. 8°. With a decorative woodcut border on the title page, and 2 decorated woodcut initials. Later vellum.

€ 12 500

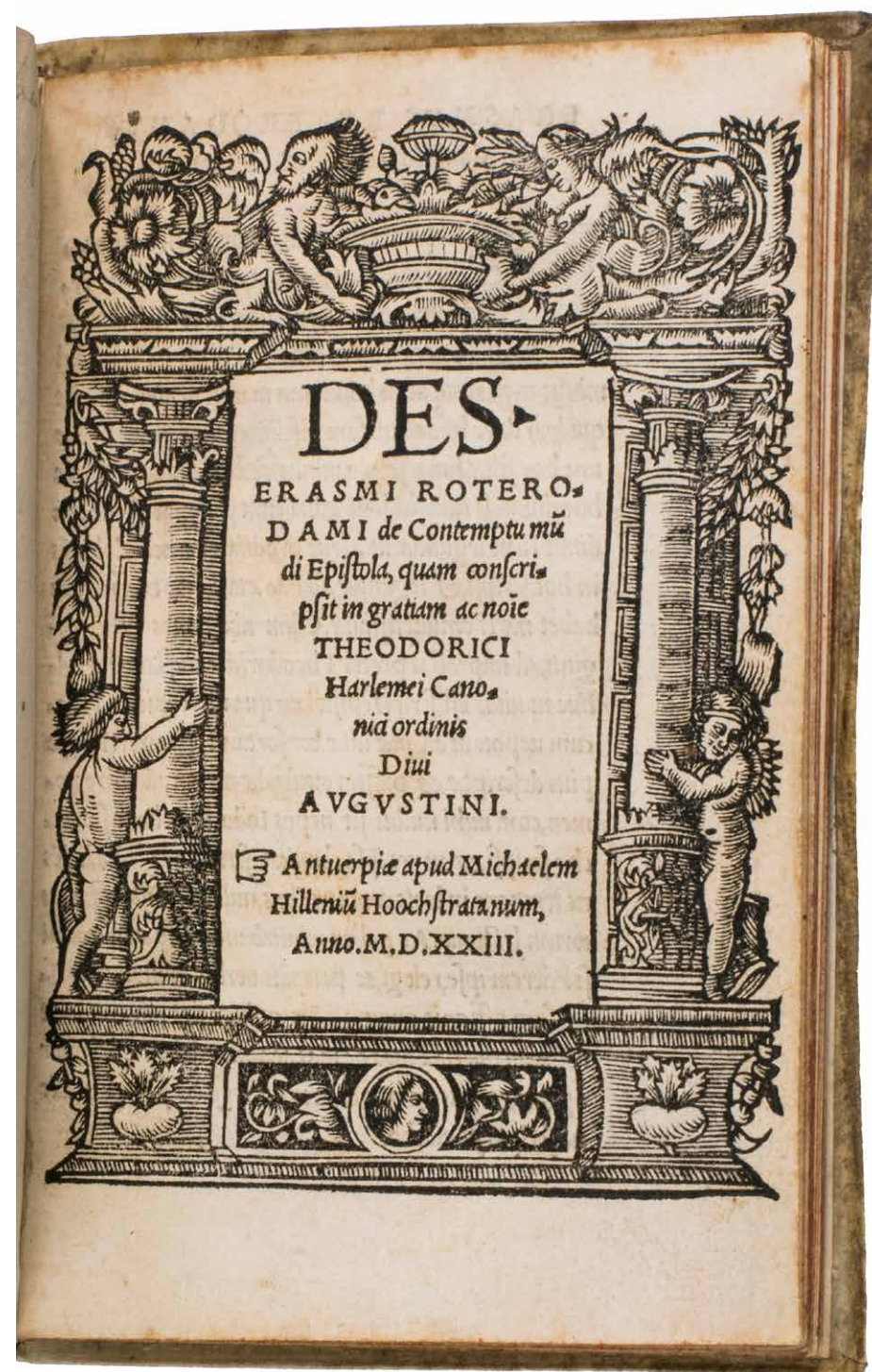
Very rare early edition of Erasmus' first written work, a letter in praise of monastic life, which was only published later in his career. Erasmus wrote it in 1488 or 1489 when he was 20 years old, at the request of Theodoricus of Haarlem, a fellow canon at the Augustine monastery at Steyn, in order to persuade his nephew to join the order. It circulated in manuscript form for many years, and was likely used to entice prospective candidates to enter the order of Canons Regular of St. Augustine.

The work is divided into three parts: the first seven chapters focus on the evils of this world; chapter eight through eleven on the pleasures of the religious life; and chapter twelve on the ultimate choice between the material world or the religious state. This final chapter appears to counteract the rest of the work as it advises Theodoricus' nephew to carefully consider whether he truly wanted to enter a religious order, since being a Christian is enough in itself. As such, it has been suggested that Erasmus rewrote the text before its publication, adding the 12th chapter, but as he apologises for his adolescent writing style in the preface, the work was likely mostly unedited.

The first edition was published in Louvain in 1521, more than 30 years after it was written. The present edition is the first by Michiel Hillen van Hoogstraten, and one of four printed in 1523. It is exceptionally rare on both the market and in institutions, as only four copies have been recorded in libraries, and we have not been able to find any others in sales records of the past century.

The vellum is slightly soiled. The work is slightly browned throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

[32] ll. See our website for the reference list. ➤ [More on our website](#)



First edition of Erasmus' pivotal response to Luther

37

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

De libero arbitrio diatribè, sive collatio.

Basel, Johann Froben, September 1524. Small 8° (ca. 10 × 16 cm). With a decorated woodcut initial, and Froben's woodcut printer's device on the title page and final page. Modern vellum.

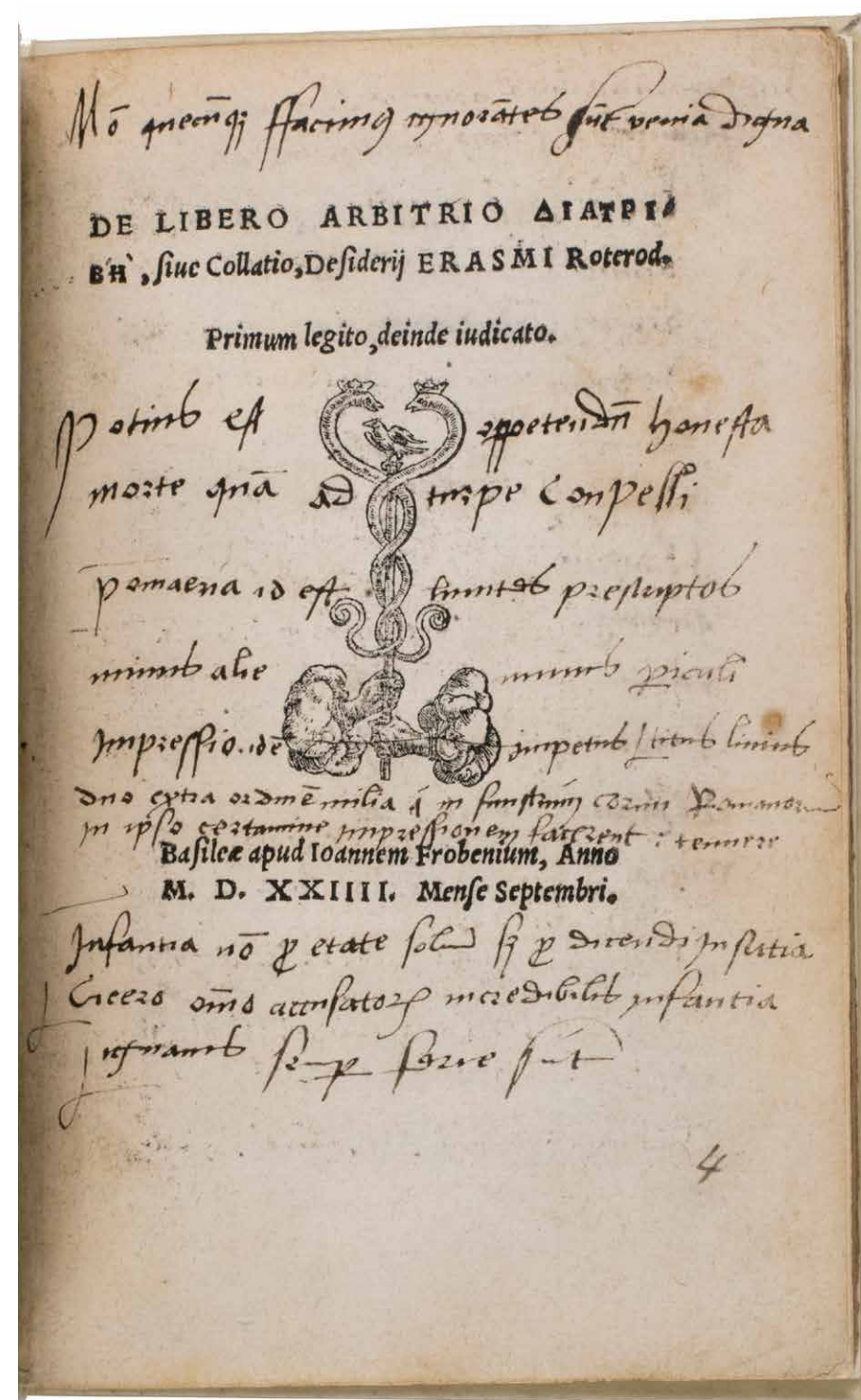
€ 9500

First edition of one of the most important and controversial works by Erasmus of Rotterdam, marking his decisive rupture with Martin Luther, and a turning point in the Reformation debate on the nature of free will. Written in response to Luther's deterministic theology, particularly his denial of human free choice, Erasmus's *Diatribè* or *Collation on Free Will* offers a powerful Humanist critique, couched in an objective and irenic tone. The present copy includes several contemporary annotations, including a series of moral and philosophical maxims on honour, speech, and free will on the title page, which draw on classical sources and reflecting the Humanist themes central to Erasmus's argument. The annotations on the title page offer a fragmented Latin reflection on pastoral care.

Erasmus had long resisted engaging directly with Luther, aiming instead to reform the Church from within through scholarship and moderate theological discourse. However, by 1524 he felt compelled to respond, in part to maintain credibility with Catholic patrons such as King Henry VIII, to whom he sent an early draft. Though Erasmus claimed to have written the text in just a few days, its composition was in fact the product of extended reflection and preparation. The final version was published by Johann Froben in Basel in early September 1524, as Erasmus wrote to Henry VIII: "the die is cast: the booklet on the free will has seen the light." The work provoked a fierce reply from Luther in his *De servo arbitrio* (1525), setting the tone for the bitter theological battles that would follow.

With contemporary annotations, on the title page, final page, and in the margins, in 2 different hands, and several underlining's in the text. The work is slightly browned throughout, and lightly water stained on the verso of the title page and final leaf. Otherwise in very good condition.

[48] ll. Adams E-595; Bezzel 1263; De Reuck 152; Erasmus Online 428; USTC 630368; Vander Haeghen I, 20; VD 16 E 3147. [More on our website](#)



From doctrine to diction: Stunica's 1524 pamphlet against Erasmus

38

STUNICA, Jacobus Lopis.

Assertio ecclesiasticae translationis novi testamenti a soloecismis quos illi Erasmus Roterodamus impegerat p laco bum lopidem stunicae.

(Colophon:) Rome, Marcello Silber, 1524. 4°. With Stunica's large woodcut coat of arms on the title page set together with the title within a woodcut decorated frame, and 1 woodcut decorated initial. Modern half calf, half marbled.

€ 2000

First edition of Diego López de Zúñiga (Jacobus Lopis Stunica, 1470–1531) polemical attack on Erasmus. In 1524, he published the *Assertio ecclesiasticae translationis novi testamenti a soloecismis quos illi Erasmus Roterodamus impegerat*, again in Rome, a pamphlet that marked a shift from theological confrontation to linguistic warfare.

The *Assertio* focused narrowly on grammar and style. Here, Stunica directly challenged a list Erasmus had appended to the second edition of his Latin New Testament (1519), where the Dutch Humanist highlighted solecisms (grammatical errors) in the Vulgate. Though Erasmus read the *Assertio* in July 1524, he chose not to respond publicly at the time. Privately, he ridiculed it. It wasn't until his move to Freiburg that he published a formal rebuttal, *Epistola apologetica adversus Stunicam*, dated June 8, 1529.

This first edition thus represents a key moment in the broader controversy between Erasmus and Stunica, where the focus moved from matters of doctrine to the authority of language in sacred texts.

The binding is very slightly rubbed and quire D is slightly browned. Otherwiseverall in very good condition.

[21], [1 blank] ll. Bedaux, *Jan, De correspondentie van Desiderius Erasmus. Deel 15. Brieven 2082–2203*, (2017), p. 238; *Censimento nazionale delle edizioni italiane del XVI secolo*, 48685; Chaparro Gómez, "Erasmus de Rotterdam y Diego López de Zúñiga: una polémica áspera y prolongada", *Ágora. Estudios Clásicos em Debate* 16 (2014) pp. 157–187; OPAC SBN IT\ICCU\VEAE\138702 (3 copies); USTC 838604 (3 copies, same as OPAC SBN); not in Adams; BM STC Italian; Panzer.

[More on our website](#)



Important work on confession, from the library of one of Thomas More's students

39

ERASMUS, Desiderius. *Exomologesis sive modus confitendi ...*
Including: (2) IDEM. Paraphrasis in tertium psalmum ...

(3) **IDEM.** *Duo diplomata Papae Adriani sexti cum responsionibus.*

(4) **IDEM.** *Epistola de morte.*

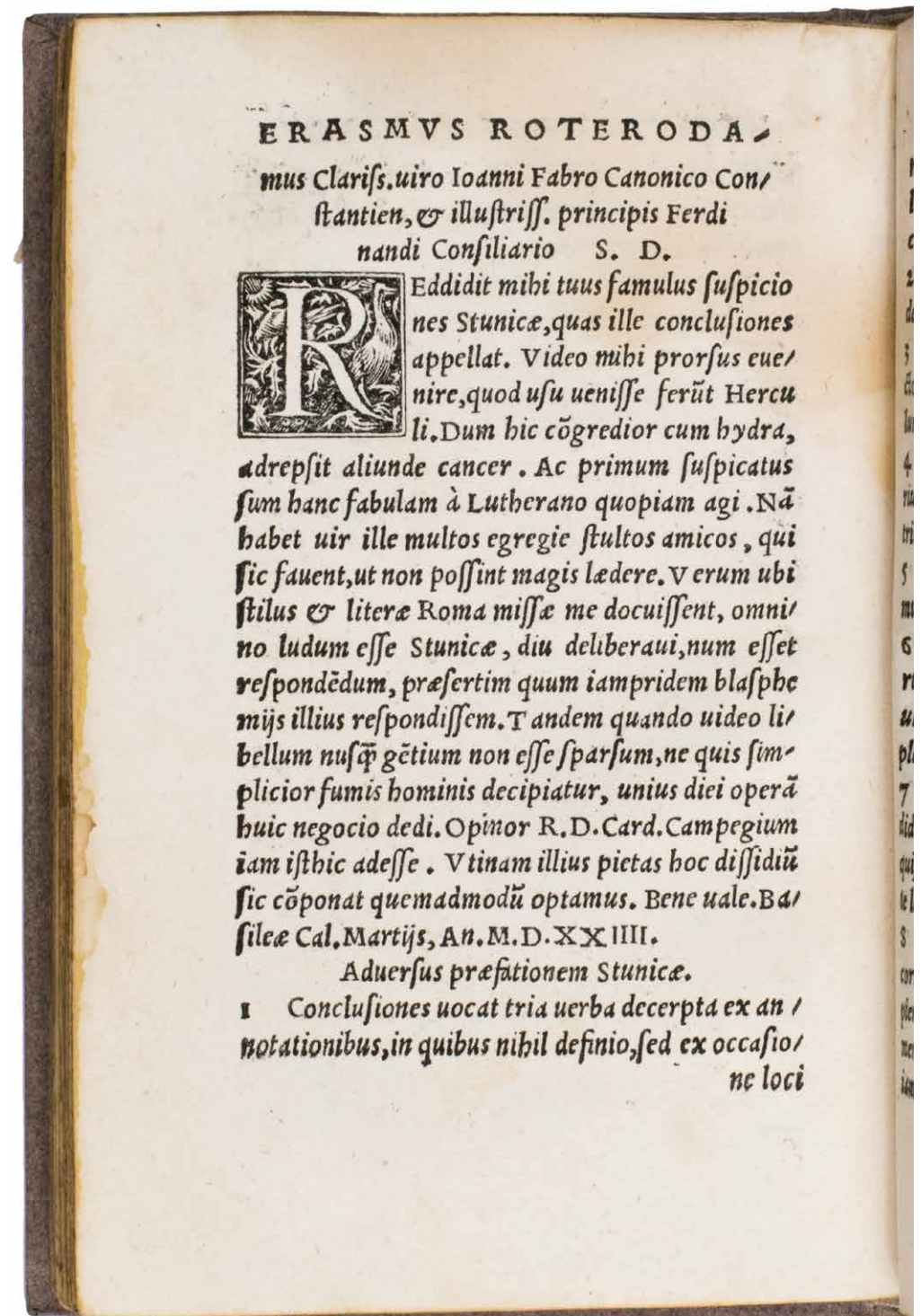
(5) **IDEM.** *Apologia ad stunicae conclusiones.*

Basel, Johann Froben, 1524. 5 parts in 1 volume. 8°. With Froben's woodcut printer's device on the title page and last page, and 10 decorated woodcut initials. Modern greyish brown boards, with the manuscript author and title on the spine.

SOLD

First edition of one of Erasmus' most important treatises on the sacrament of confession. He accepted this sacrament halfway, finding a balance between orthodoxy and the Reformation, and received criticism from both sides because of it. The treatise has been combined with Erasmus' short paraphrase on the third Psalm, his letter to Joost Vroye van Gavere (d. 1533) concerning sudden death, and an exchange of correspondence with Pope Adrian VI on Erasmus' disputes with the Louvain theologians. The final tract concerns Erasmus' ongoing dispute with Diego López de Zúñiga (ca. 1470–1531), who was very critical of Erasmus' New Testament translation. Ten editions of the work appeared in 1524, but the edition by Froben is considered the first. According to Allen, it may have been rushed to be ready in time for the Frankfurt Spring Fair as it contains several misprints, such as "Adirano" instead of "Adriano" on the verso of leaf [40]. With a contemporary ownership annotation on the title page and a slightly later annotation in the head margin of the second leaf. The work is somewhat browned, a water stain in the upper third of the page throughout, a few wormholes in the first few leaves, not affecting any text. Otherwise in good condition.

[72] ll. Adams E 373; Bezzel 1060; BM STC German p. 282; De Reuck 227; Erasmus Online 2157; USTC 655449; Vander Haeghen I, 104; VD 16 E 2970; cf. Allen, *Opus epistolarum Erasmi*, vol. V, 1426, 1427, 1310, 1329, 1347 and 1428. [More on our website](#)



Erasmus' praise of medicine, combined with a famous manual on hygiene

40

AEGINETA, Paulus. Salubria de tuenda valitudine praecepta. Guilielmo Copo Basileiensi interprete ...

Including: ERASMUS, Desiderius. Encomium artis medicae.

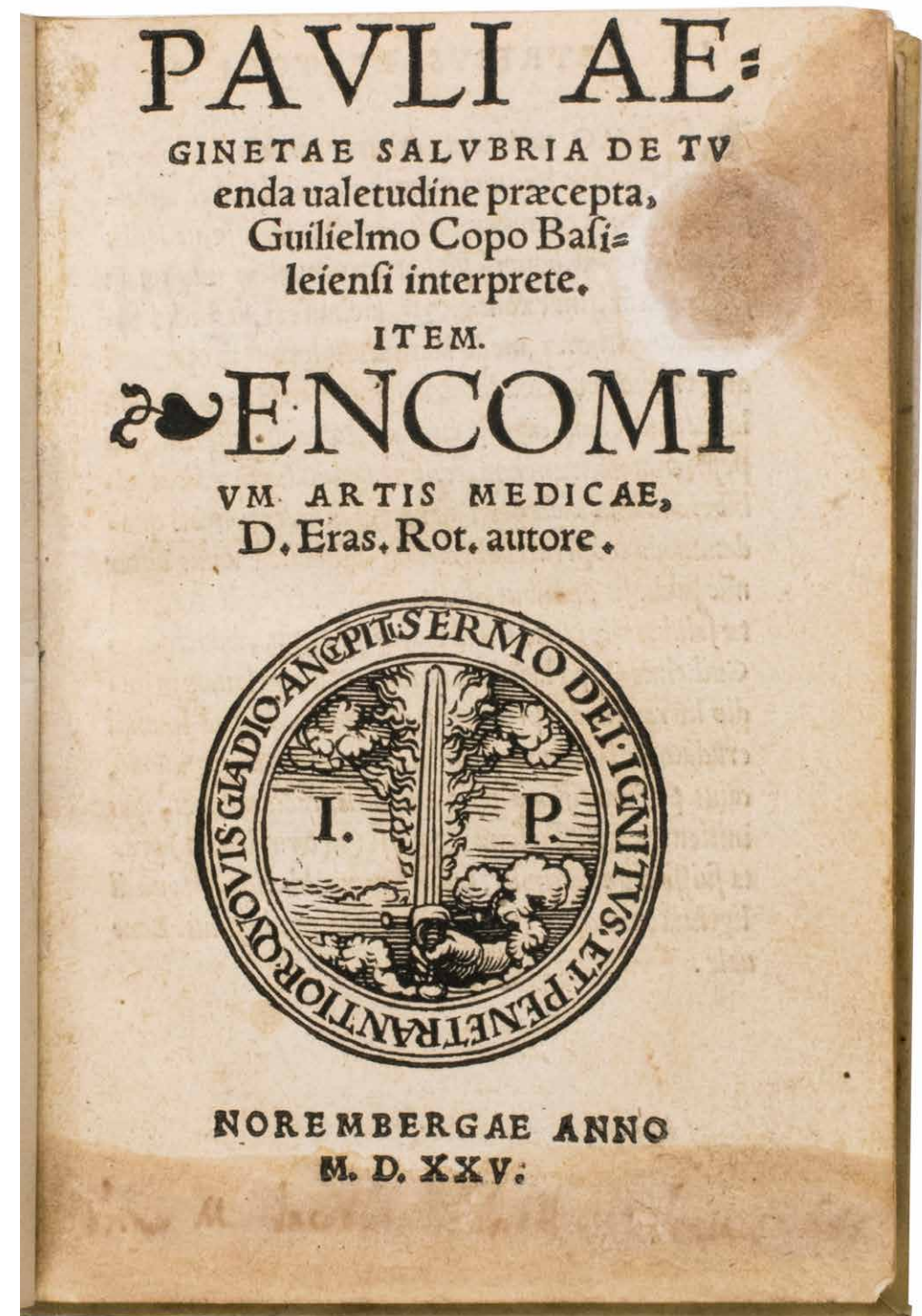
Nuremberg, (colophon:) Johann Petrejus, February 1525. Small 8°. With a woodcut printer's device on the title page, and 2 decorated woodcut initials. Later vellum with a red morocco title label on the spine lettered in gold.

€ 2750

First Nuremberg edition of Erasmus' declaration in praise of medicine. His essay, which was first published in 1518, is a comprehensive summary of his beliefs about the medical profession, and one of his most articulate expressions of his views of the art of medicine. In it, he praises medical doctors as saviours of not only the body, but of the whole person, writing that the physician is to the body what the priest is to the soul. As Erasmus was in poor health, he placed great importance on hygiene and cleanliness. In the present edition, his essay therefore follows the famous manual on hygiene and dietetics by Paul of Aegina (fl. 7th century CE), the most prominent medical writer of the Byzantine era.

With remnants of a removed ownership annotation and stamp on the title page. The work is somewhat browned throughout and has been cut somewhat short, with the loss of a few letters of the printed marginal notes on the last few leaves. Otherwise in good condition.

[80] ll. Bezzel 897; Durling 3572; USTC 683285; Vander Haeghen I, 85; VD16 P 1035; Wellcome I, 4860; not in Adams; BM STC German; De Reuck; cf. Krivatsy, P., "Erasmus' medical milieu", in: *Bulletin of the history of medicine*, vol. 47 (2), 1973, pp. 113–154. ➤ [More on our website](#)



First editions of three important moral and theological treatises

41

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Lingua ...

(Colophon) Basel, Johann Froben, August 1525.

With:

(2) IDEM. *Christiani Matrimonii institutio ...*

Basel, (colophon:) [Johann Froben], August 1526.

(3) CHRYSOSTOM, John and Desiderius ERASMUS (translator).

Divi Ioannis Chrysostomi de orando deum, libri duo. ...

(Colophon:) Basel, Johann Froben, April 1525. 3 works in 1 volume.

8°. With Froben's woodcut device on the title page and final leaf of each work. Contemporary elaborately blind-tooled pigskin over wooden boards, with the manuscript title of ad 1 on the fore-edge, remnants of fastenings.

€ 18 000

Three first editions of significant Humanist and theological works on speech, marriage, and prayer.

Ad 1: First edition, in Latin, of an eloquent treatise on the use and abuse of the human tongue, exploring how speech can both edify and destroy.

Ad 2: First edition of a moral treatise written for Catherine of Aragon, Queen of England, and first published in 1526. It comprises Erasmus' Humanist and theological vision of marriage as a sacred union of souls as well as bodies, the foundation of family and society, and a mirror of the bond between Christ and the Church.

Ad 3: Erasmus's first Latin translation of 2 treatises on prayer by Saint John Chrysostom (ca. 347–407 CE), accompanied by the original Greek text.

Ads 1 and 2 with manuscript annotations in the margins and some of the text underlined. The title page and last leaf of ad 1 are nearly detached and with faded/erased stamps on the title page. The binding shows signs of wear, small strips of manuscript waste visible in the gutters of the blank flyleaves, some staining and browning in places. Otherwise in good condition.

[172]; [212]; [40] ll. *See our website for the list of references.* [More on our website](#)



The third part of the famous debate between Luther and Erasmus

42

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Hyperaspistes diatribae adversus Servum Arbitrium Martini Lutheri ... ab autore recognitus.

Basel, Johann Froben, July 1526. Small 8°. With a woodcut printer's device on the title page and final leaf, and 2 decorated woodcut initials. Modern calf.

€ 5500

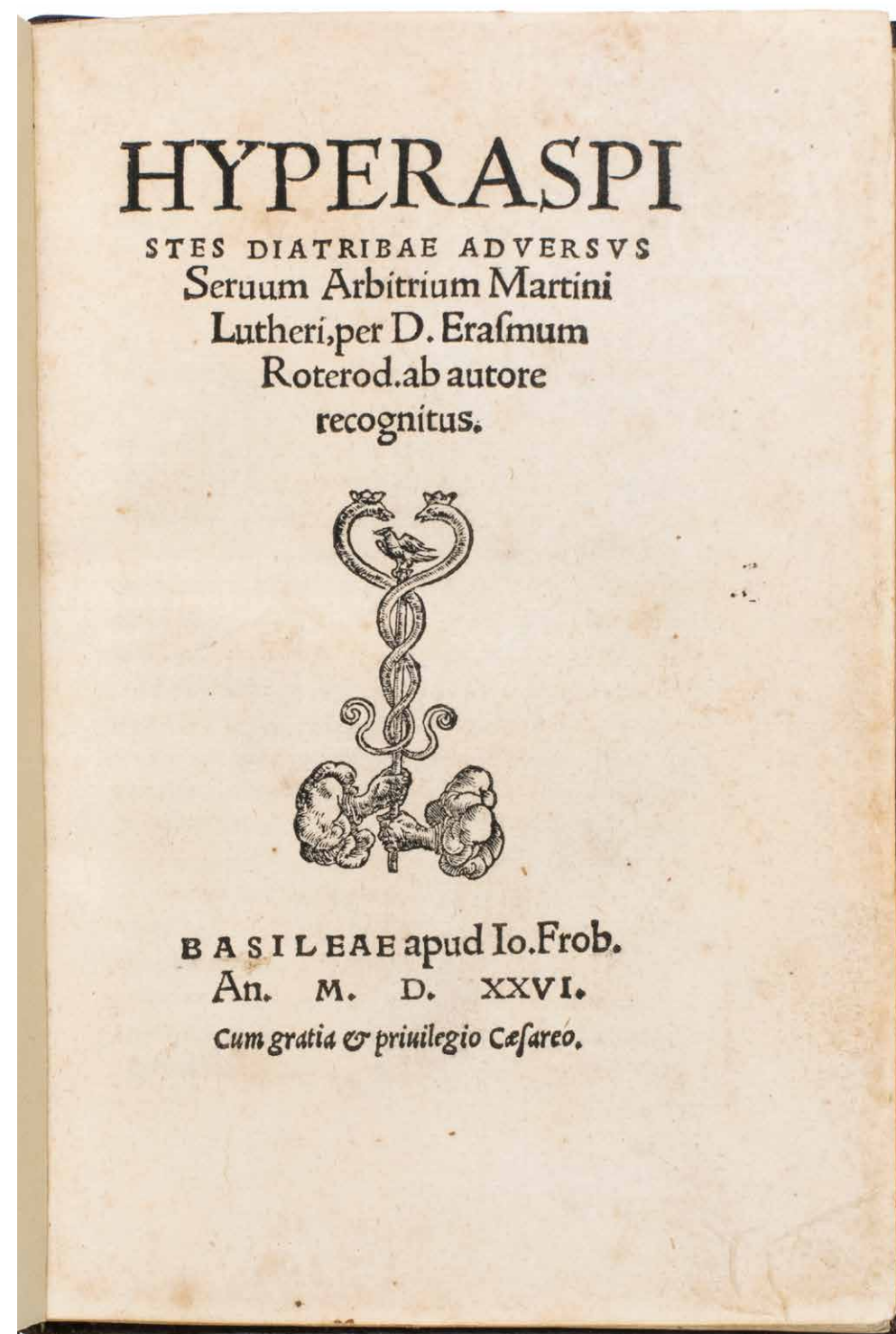
First revised edition of Erasmus' response to Martin Luther, which is part of their famous theological debate that took place in the 1520s. Erasmus received Luther's work in February 1526. The *Hyperaspistes* is his first reply to it, which he composed within a few days in March 1526. The present edition, revised by Erasmus himself and published in July of the same year, supplies a more correct text of this famous refutation.

The *Hyperaspistes*, first published in March 1526, deals with the question of free will and was written in response to Luther's *De servo arbitrio* (On enslaved will, 1525), which in turn was written in reply to Erasmus's *De libero arbitrio* (On free will, 1524). Luther argued that humans could not achieve salvation through good deeds, as they could not choose between good and evil, and so could only be redeemed through the will of God. Erasmus, on the other hand, believed that each individual had the freedom to accept God's grace and turn towards a Christian life, and salvation could be reached through good deeds. The confrontation between Erasmus and Luther was a duel of major importance for Europe in the first half of the 16th century, as two visions of man, history, and faith clashed.

The second part of the *Hyperaspistes* appeared in September 1527, continuing the exegetical controversy with Luther. The present edition, however, was published before the second part was written.

With (near) contemporary annotations in the margins of some of the leaves. The work is lightly browned and foxed throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

[120] ll. Adams E-675; Bezzel 1117; BM STC German, p. 281; Erasmus Online 2230; USTC 664562; Vander Haeghen I, 110; VD16 E 3029; cf. De Reuck 236 (other issue). [More on our website](#)



Unrecorded issue of Albert Pio's attack on Erasmus, here together with Erasmus' response

43

PIO, Alberto.

Alberti pii ... ad Erasmi Roterodami expostulationem resposio accurata & parenetica, Martini Lutheri & asseclarumeius he resim uesana magnis argumetis & iustis rationibus consutans.

[Paris? Pierre Vidoué?, 1526].

With: **(2) ERASMUS, Desiderus.** Responsio ad epistolam paraneticam Albert Pii Carporum principis.

[Paris, Pierre Vidoué], April 1529. 2 works in 1 volume. 8°. Ads 1 and 2 with a woodcut frame on the title page and 2 woodcut decorated initials. Later (18th-century?) gold-tooled calf with a red morocco title lable lettered in gold on the spine, gold-tooled board edges, red edges, marbled endpapers.

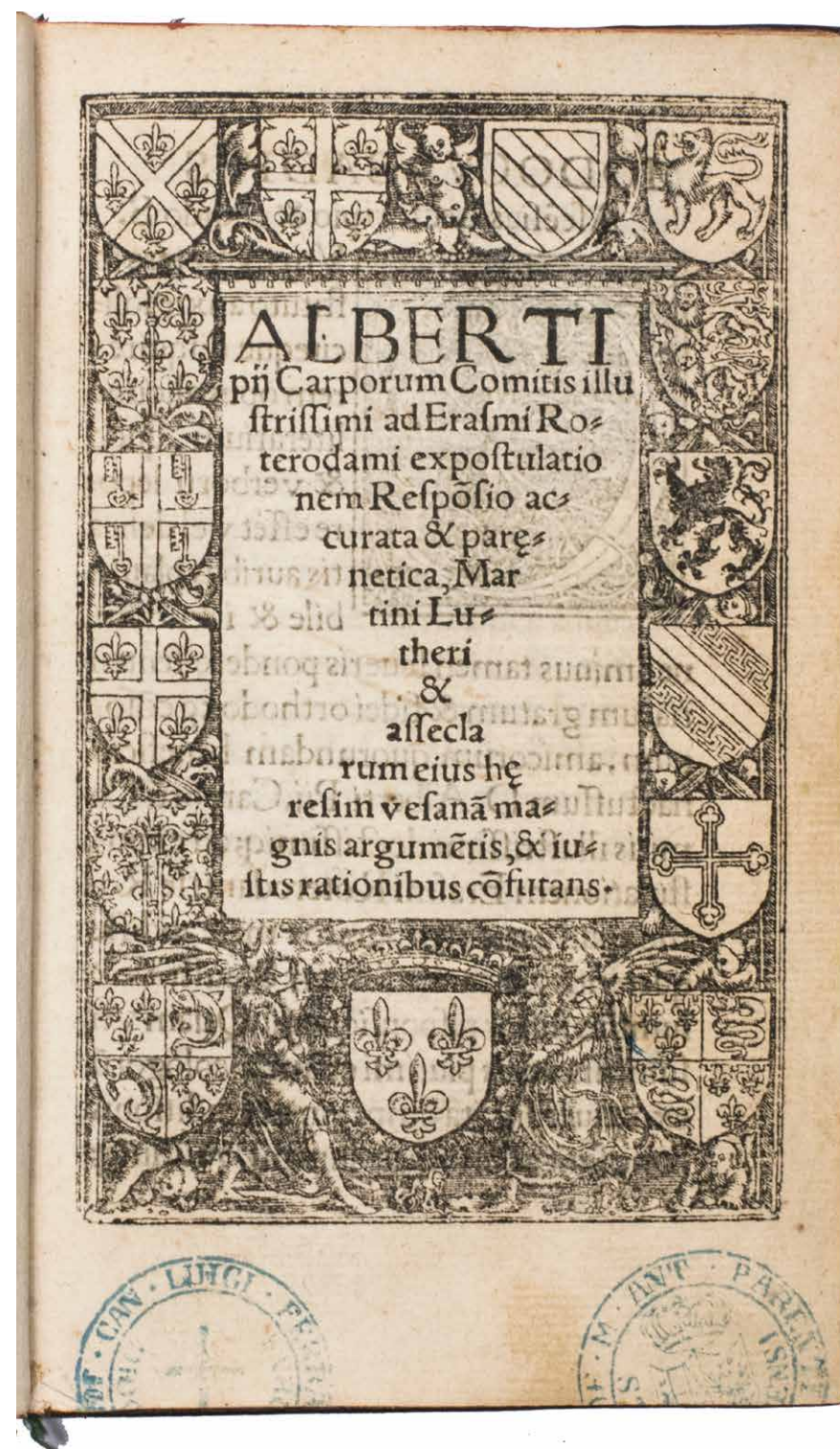
€ 4500

Ad 1: Unrecorded issue of the 1529 edition of Alberto Pio's attack on Erasmus. Alberto III Pio (1475–1531), Prince of Carpi and a staunch defender of Catholic orthodoxy, composed this treatise as a direct attack on Erasmus and his theological ideas. In it, Pio accuses Erasmus of undermining the foundations of the Christian faith, sowing doubt about traditional theology, and indirectly aiding the cause of Luther and his followers.

Ad 2: Erasmus' *Responsio* written, as he claims, within five days and published in 1529 (Donker), directly addresses Pio's accusations. He reaffirms his loyalty to the Church, denies any sympathy with Luther, and insists that his call to return ad fontes, to scripture and the Church Fathers, was intended to strengthen rather than undermine Christianity.

With a manuscript owner's inscriptions in brown ink on the verso of the first free flyleaf and the recto of the final free flyleaf. With 2 blue round censor stamps on both the title page of ad 1 and the blank verso of the last leaf of ad 2 of the Diocese of Modena, Italy. The text of both works is occasionally lightly underlined and/or struck through. The boards are slightly scratched and rubbed, the front hinge is slightly weakened at the head and foot of the spine, very slightly browned throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

[152]; [56] ll. See our website for the list of references. [More on our website](#)



Important work on the classical pronunciation of Latin and Greek, in order to establish an international scholarly dialect

44

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

De recta Latini Graecique sermonis pronu[n]tiatione ...

(Colophon:) Basel, Froben office, March 1528. 8°. With 7 woodcut initials, and a woodcut printer's device on the title page and last page. Contemporary elaborately blind-tooled pigskin.

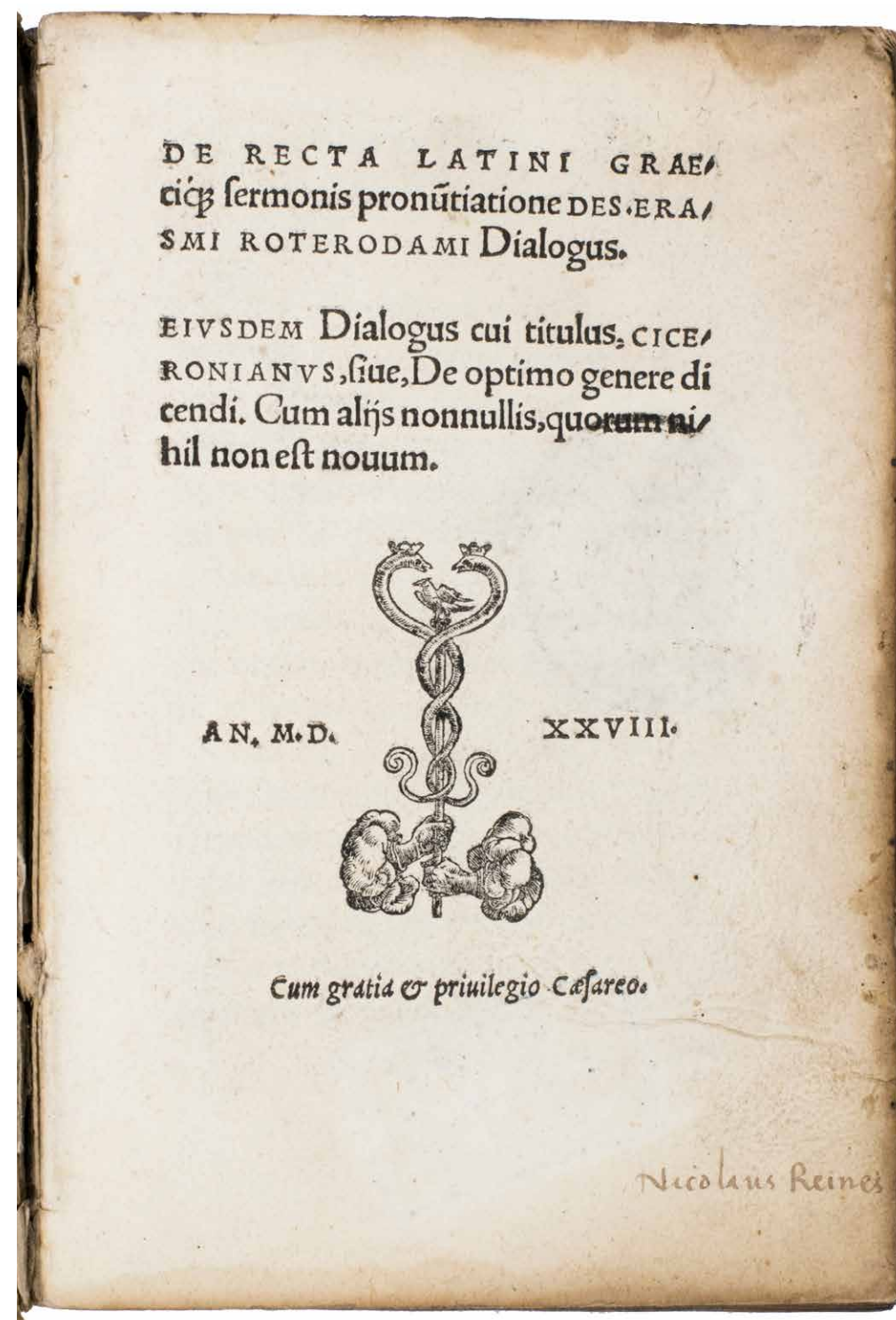
€ 5000

Rare first edition of one of Erasmus' most important educational treatises, discussing the correct pronunciation of Latin and Greek. As both languages were influenced by vernacular, scholars from different regions had an increasingly difficult time understanding one another. With the present treatise, Erasmus wished to establish an international scholarly dialect based on ancient tradition. True to his witty style, the work is written in the form of a dialogue between animals, who discuss the shortcomings of various vernacular pronunciations of ancient languages.

Partly written in response to critics who accused him of writing carelessly, Erasmus proved himself by his vast knowledge of the ancients. He built on Quintilian's principle that spelling should reflect sounds, and drew his evidence of the correct pronunciation of Latin and Greek on the work of classical grammarians, scattered remarks in the work of other ancient authors, and words from vernacular languages in multiple dialects.

With a later ownership annotation on the title page, and at the bottom of the back pastedown, further with slightly later annotations on both pastedowns, scholarly marginalia on many of the leaves, in at least 3 different hands, remnants of a library stamp on the title page. The binding has been somewhat rubbed and scratched, lacking the closing ties, the edges and corners of the boards have darkened, missing a small portion of the upper outer corner of the back board, the front board has detached from the bookblock, revealing the manuscript waste used to line the spine, lacking the front free flyleaf. A water stain in the head margin throughout, not affecting any text. Otherwise in good condition.

462, [2] pp. Adams E-351; Bezzel 1763; BM STC German, p. 275; Erasmus Online 1644; USTC 631329; Vander Haeghen I, p. 75; VD 16, E 3607; not in De Reuck; cf. Rice Henderson J., "Language, Race, and Church Reform: Erasmus' *De recta pronuntiatione* and *Ciceronianus*," in *Renaissance and Reformation* 30.2, (2006), pp. 3-42. [More on our website](#)



Rare edition of Chrysostom's letters and shorter works, compiled and edited by Erasmus

45

CHRYSOSTOM, John and Desiderius ERASMUS (editor).

Aliquot opuscula ... Graeca, lectu dignissima, cu[m] praefatione Erasmi Roterodami, cuius studio sunt aedita.

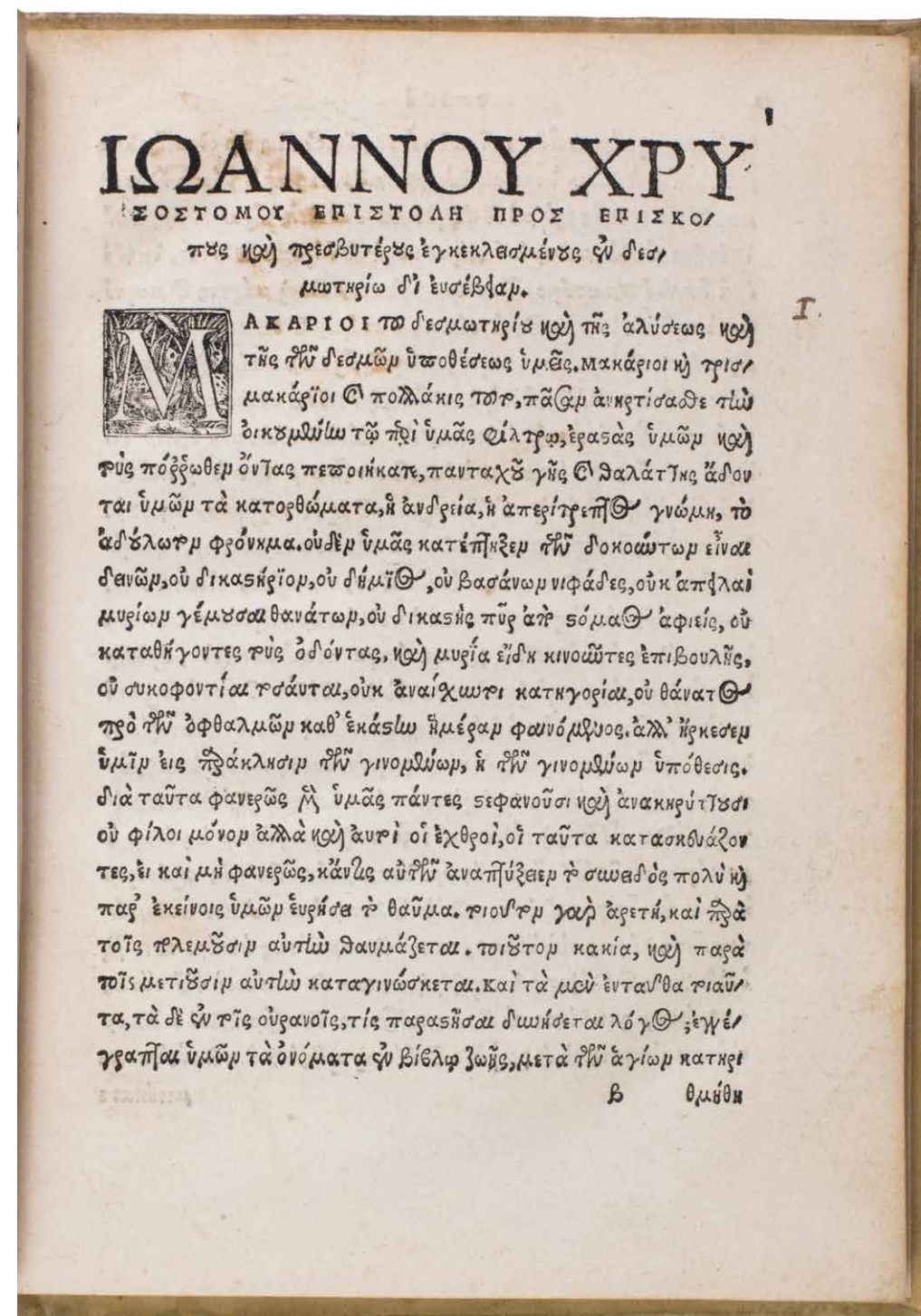
(Colophon:) Basel, Froben Office, 1529. 4°. With Froben's printer's device on the title page and last leaf, and 10 decorated woodcut initials. 17th-century blind-tooled vellum.

€ 2750

Rare first edition of various letters and other short works by John Chrysostom in Greek, edited by Erasmus. Erasmus greatly admired the Church Fathers, as he considered their work to be indispensable for church reform. Earnest Christians could use their texts to liberate themselves from the dead language of current theology and find the living words of the true *philosophia Christi*. Erasmus not only considered the works of the Church Fathers to be important, but also their character, and wrote biographies about several of them, including Jerome (1516), Chrysostom (1530) and Origen (1536), so their lives could serve as an example. The present work was likely also meant for this purpose. It comprises ten of Chrysostom's shorter work and letters, including a letter to Pope Innocent I, appealing for support during his exile, and a text against anathemas. In the foreword, Erasmus dedicates the work to the Humanist and nobleman Karel Utenhove of Ghent (ca. 1500–1580).

With a contemporary annotation on the title page ("Epist. ad Carol Utenhoue"), a later ownership inscription ("Olof Wauquut(?)") and a faded inscription in Greek, slightly later annotations in Latin between the lines and in the margins of some of the leaves. The work has been recased in 17th-century vellum, which is slightly stained and rubbed. The work is lightly browned, with a water stain in the outer margin of page 9–25. Otherwise in good condition.

[8], 95, [1] pp. Adams C 1522; USTC 608511; VD16 f 411; cf. Allen, *Opus epistolarum Erasmi*, 2093; Erasmus Online 4405 (other issue); not in BM STC German; De Reuck. [➤ More on our website](#)



Erasmus' 1529 letter to Geldenhauer, refuting misuse of his Apologia

46

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Epistola ... contra quosdam, qui se falso iactant evangelicos ...

(Colophon:) Freiburg im Breisgau, Johannes Faber, 1529. Small 8°. With a decorated woodcut initial and a small woodcut illustration incorporating Faber's device on the final page. Modern, half vellum and brown sprinkled paper sides.

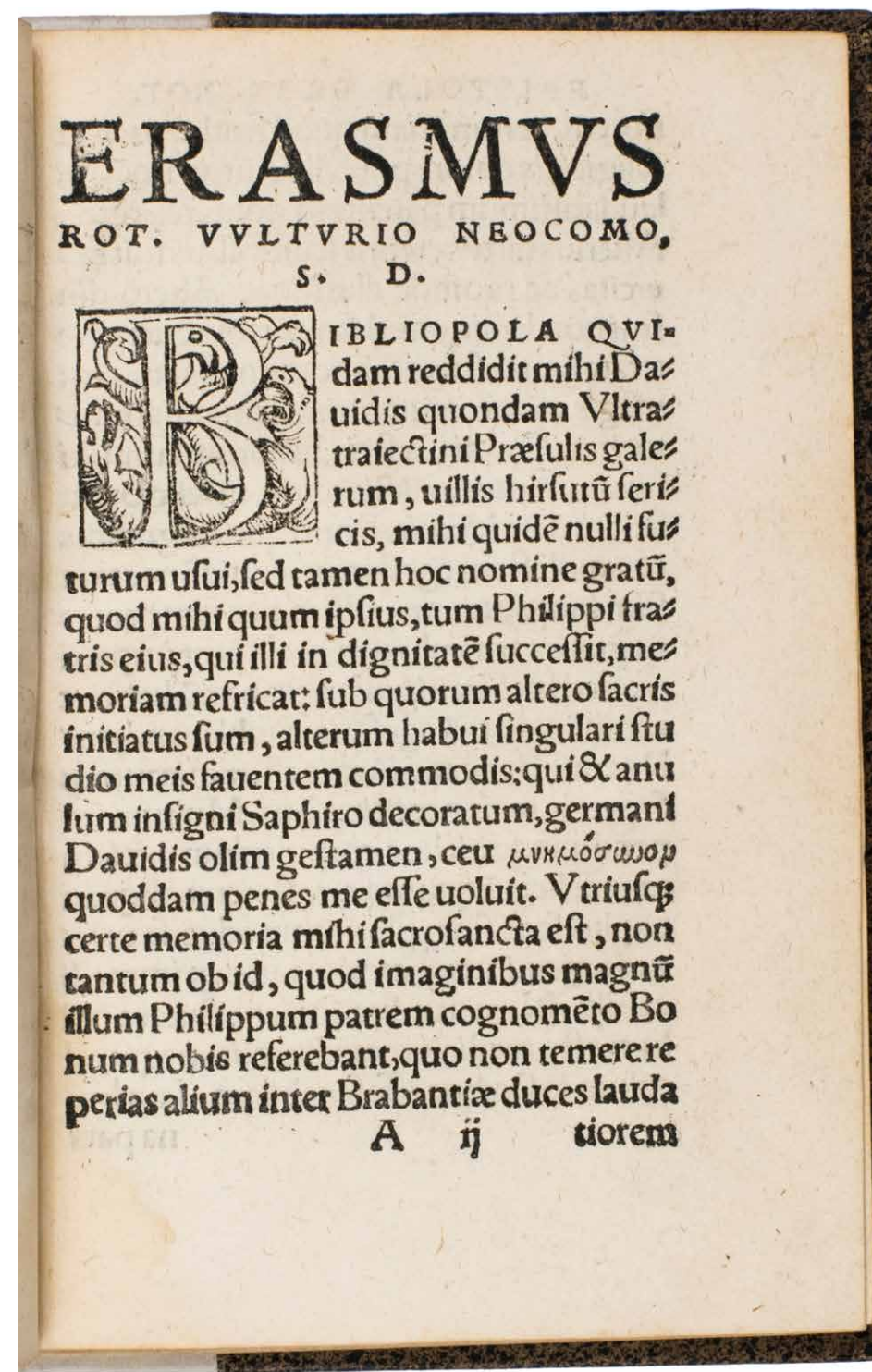
€ 4500

First edition of a polemical work by Erasmus, written at a pivotal moment in the escalation of tensions during the Reformation. Composed in Freiburg and dated 4 November 1529, this extensive letter to Gerardus Geldenhauer (1482–1542) is Erasmus's direct and indignant response to the unauthorised use of his *Apologia ad monachos Hispanos* in Geldenhauer's own *Epistolae aliquot de re evangelica et haeticorum poenis* (Strasbourg, September 1529). By selectively quoting Erasmus, Geldenhauer sought to align him with the Lutheran cause, a move that Erasmus strongly rejected.

Erasmus' *Epistola* is a vivid example of his determination to preserve his intellectual independence amid growing pressure from both sides of the Reformation divide. He denounces those who falsely claim the name evangelical, asserting that true reform cannot be reduced to party slogans or doctrinal extremism. While Erasmus had long called for renewal within the Church through learning and moderation, this work reveals a sharper tone, as he distances himself from reformers who, in his view, distorted both scripture and his own writings. The tract was quickly circulated and remains a key document for understanding Erasmus's late theology, his views on religious identity, and his discomfort with the polarisation of the age.

With a black oval stamp on the title page, one small and one larger blue/purple rectangular stamp on the verso of the title page, and a repeat of the oval and smaller rectangular stamps on the blank recto of the last leaf. The binding is very slightly damaged along the fore-edge of the front board, some occasional minor staining. Otherwise in very good condition.

[27] ll. Bezzel 953; Bomelius p. 20; Erasmus Online 2045; Prinsen p. 92; USTC 651263; Vander Haeghen I, 97; not in Adams; BM STC German; De Reuck. [More on our website](#)



A richly annotated edition of Erasmus' collected letters showcasing his wit, faith, and Humanist brilliance

47

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Opus epistolarum, per autorem diligenter recognitum, et adiectis innumeris novis, ferè ad trientem auctum.

Basel, (colophon:) H. Froben, J. Herwagen, and N. Episcopus, 1529.

Folio. With Froben's large woodcut device on the title page and repeated on the otherwise blank final page, and numerous woodcut initials. 17th-century sprinkled calf.

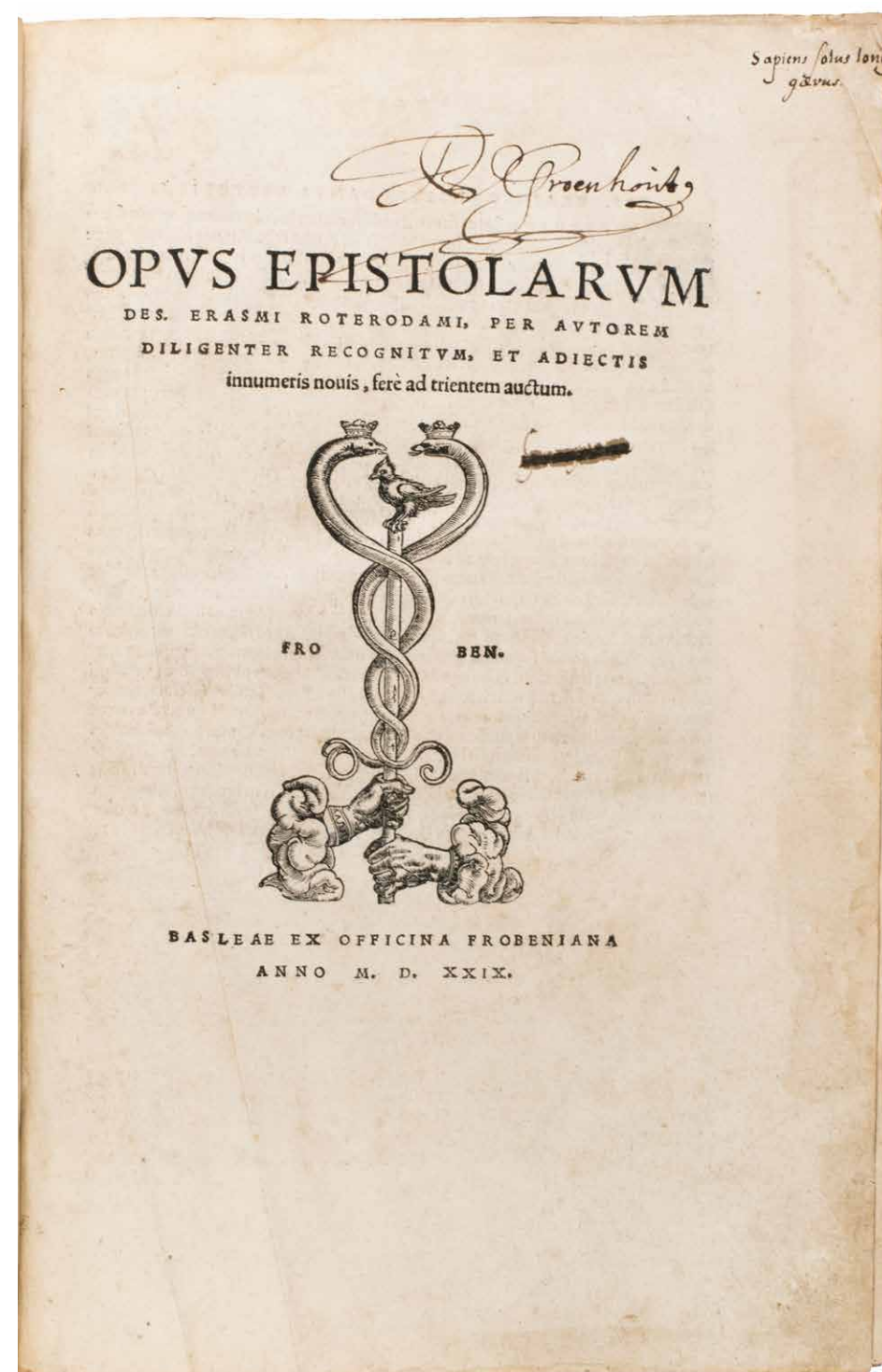
€ 5000

The major revised and expanded edition of Erasmus' collected correspondence. It contains hundreds of letters written since his youth through to the late 1520s, addressed to Humanists, princes, church leaders, and friends across Europe such as Charles V, Martin Luther, Thomas More, and Ulrich von Hutten.

The letters explore themes such as the renewal of Christian faith through Humanist principles (the so-called "philosophia Christi"), Erasmus' criticism of ecclesiastical abuses and scholastic theology, his measured yet critical stance towards Luther and the Reformation, and numerous personal reflections on health, travel, books, and intellectual networks. It is a key work for understanding his life, circle, and ideas, and a landmark of Renaissance humanism in print.

In the margins are several contemporary and later manuscript annotations by at least two different hands, the name "Luther" has been repeatedly struck through on pp. 498–499. Further with occasional underlining and strikethroughs in the text. The binding shows signs of wear, with small wormholes in the front and back boards and endpapers, the boards are rubbed with some loss of material. Tear in last index leaf, blue-ish bleached ink(?) staining on the front edge of the final 51 pages, and minor staining and browning throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

[8], 1010, [1 blank], [1] pp. *Adams E 855; BM STC German p. 276; USTC 679866; Vander Haeghen I, 100; VD 16 E2927; cf. Bezzel 1004; not in De Reuck.* ➤ [More on our website](#)



“German” Europe in the early 16th century, and Hispaniola in Amercia

48

PIRCKHEIMER, Willibald.

Germaniae ex variis scriptoribus perbrevis explicatio.

Augsburg, Heinrich Steiner, 1530. Small 8° (15.5 × 10.5 cm). Title in a wide woodcut ornamented border, 2 woodcut historiated initials. Set in an Aldine-style italic with a word of Greek. Modern brown shell-marbled boards.

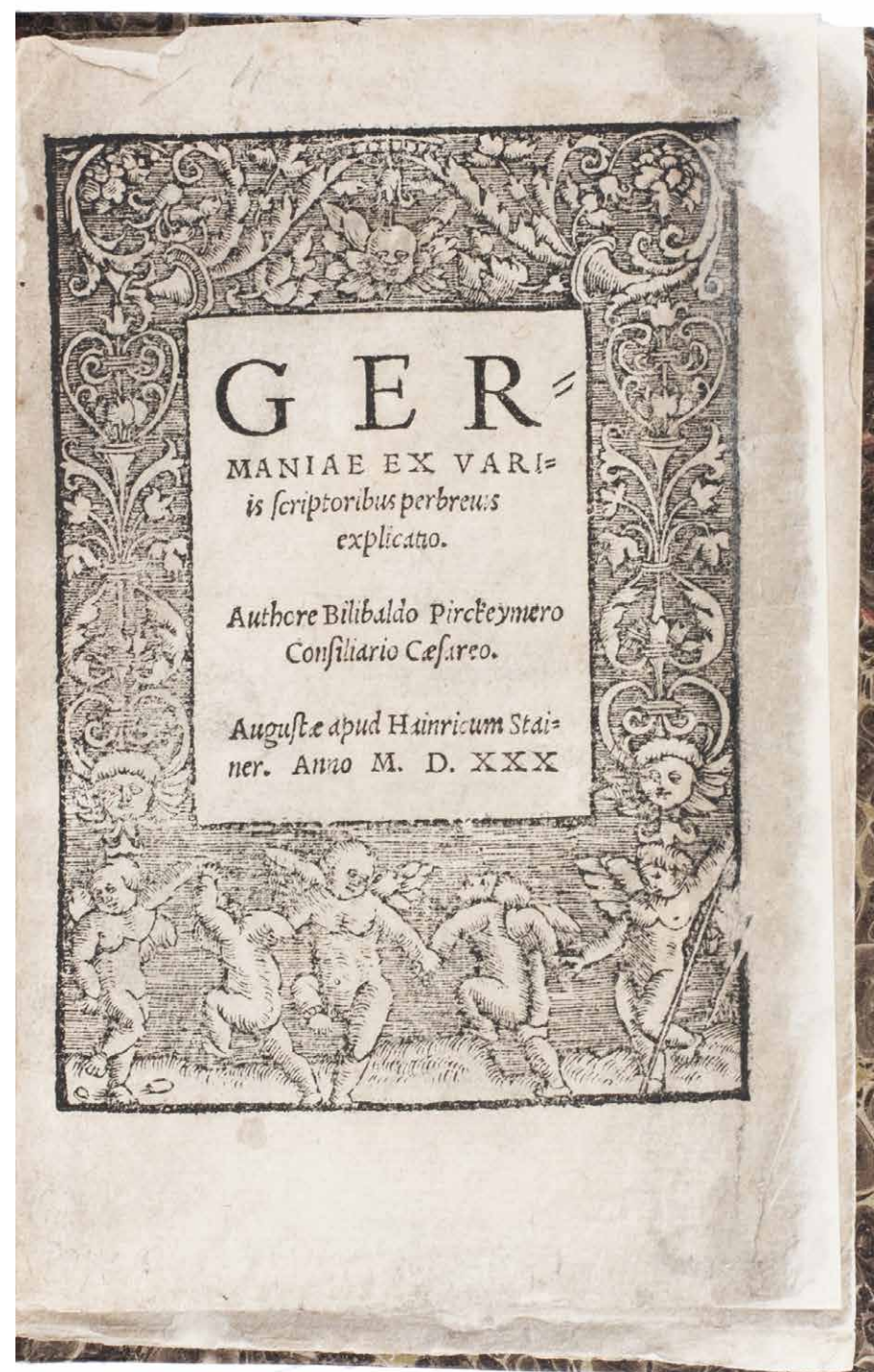
€ 3750

Rare second(?) edition (published in the same year as the first) of a Latin treatise on the geography of “Germany”, interpreted very broadly to include the Netherlands, Austria, Switzerland and some regions in eastern Europe, where “Germans” lived or had lived. The last three pages discuss recent Spanish discoveries in America (suggesting some may have been discovered by the Carthaginians but kept secret), including the island Hispaniola (noting the observation of an eclipse there in 1494, in fact by Columbus) off the continent that Pickheimer says the Spanish call “Sanctae Marthae”. He also mentions Mexico, Temistitan (Mexico City) and not far from them the island[!] Yucatan and other newly discovered islands (“à qua etiam non longe remota est insula lucatan cum aliis nuper repertus”).

The title-page is tattered and restored, very slightly affecting the right edge of the border, but otherwise in good condition and nearly untrimmed, preserving most point holes and some deckles. An important early geographic treatise as well as an early Americanum.

[69], [3 blank] pp. *Alden & Landis* 530/33 (4 copies); *USTC* 659536 (5 copies); *VD16*, P2904 (same 5 copies); *Sabin* 63017; for *Pirckheimer: Contemporaries of Erasmus* III, pp. 90–94.

[More on our website](#)



Exceedingly rare 16th-century rhetorical treatise by Antwerp Humanist Joachim Sterck van Ringelberg

49

STERCK VAN RINGELBERG, Joachim.

Liber de figuris, & vitiis orationis. His alia quaedam adijiu[n]tur ...
[Paris?, Pierre Gromors?, 1529]. 8°. With a woodcut title frame, the
upper block is an illustration of the Last Supper. Modern vellum.

€ 5750

Extremely rare rhetorical and grammatical treatise by the Antwerp Humanist Joachim Sterck van Ringelberg (or Joachimus Fortius Ringelbergius, 1500–1536). Ringelberg was a native of Antwerp and an associate of Erasmus. He, studied, and later taught, at the Collegium Trilingue in Leuven between 1516 and 1526. We have found only one copy held at an institution worldwide (at the university library in Freiburg, Germany) and have found no copies in sales records of the last 100 years.

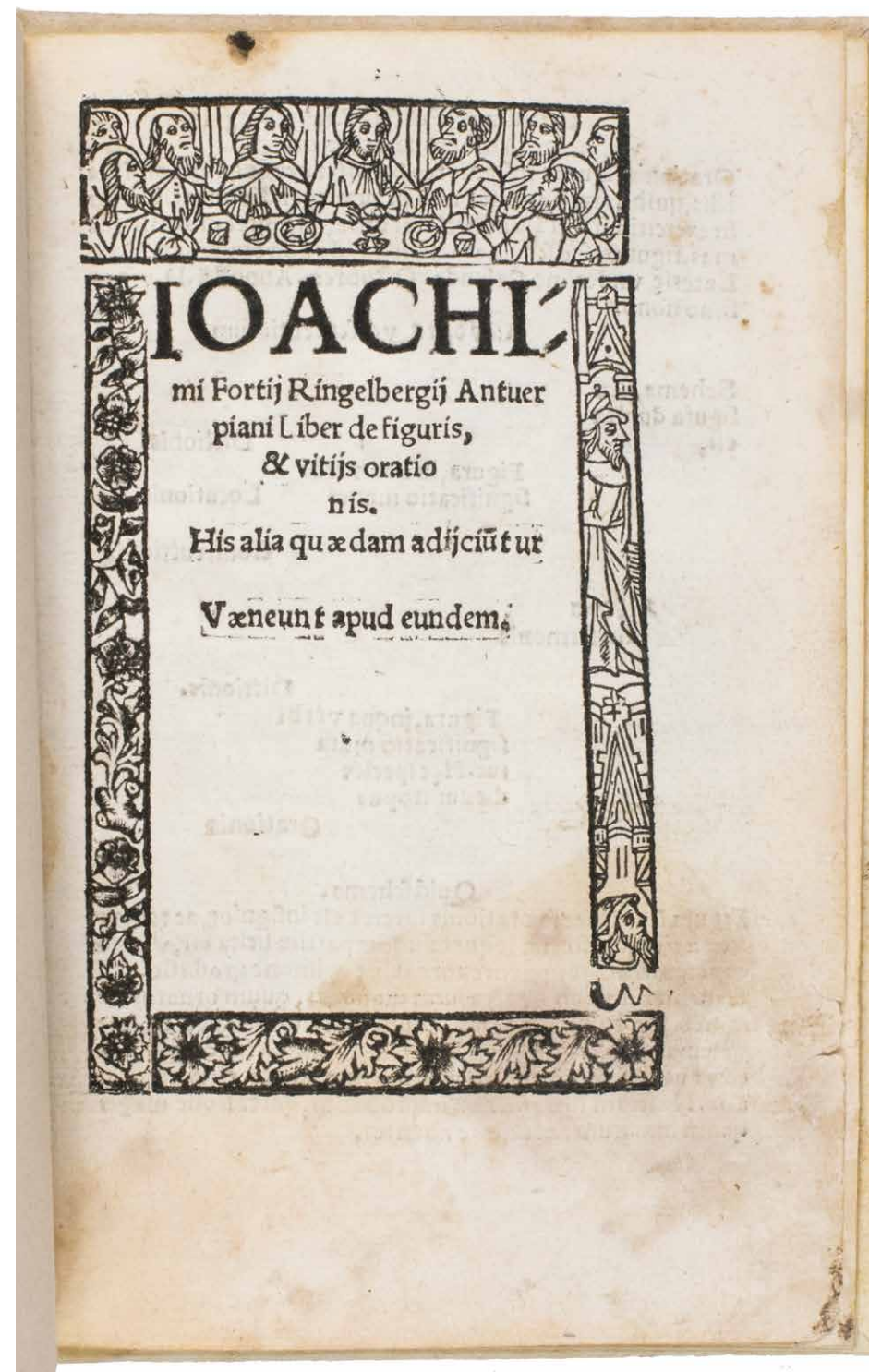
The work, also known under the title *Schemata*, is a concise rhetorical and grammatical treatise that examines both the *Figurae orationis* and the *Vitia orationis*. It presents proverbial expressions, aphorisms, and moral sayings drawn from classical tradition, often cited without attribution.

This edition was probably printed in Paris around 1529 by Pierre Gromors, during Ringelberg's documented stay in the city (September 1529–early 1530). The Last Supper frame on the title page corresponds to another Gromors edition of a work by Erasmus published in 1530 (*Brevissima maximeque compendiaria conficiendarum epistolarum formula*).

The work is of particular bibliographical interest, as it concludes with a *Catalogus lucubrationum ioachimi Fortij Ringelbergij Antuerpiani*, listing twenty-four works by the author, the first being his celebrated *Institutiones Astronomicae*, and ending with the notice: ("Haec omnia prostant apud autorem"), all works available directly from the author.

The lower third of the leaves water stained throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

[8] ll. *Indestege*, "Verslagen en mededelingen van de Koninklijke Academie voor Nederlandse taal- en letterkunde (nieuwe reeks)," (1972), pp. 73–97, p. 79; Moreau, III 1900; *USTC* No. 184924 (lost book); *WorldCat* 311910145 (1 copy, UB Freiburg); cf. *USTC* 184861 (Erasmus 1530 ed. with the same last supper frame); not in *Nijhoff & Kronenberg*. [More on our website](#)



The first bilingual edition of Erasmus' Euripides translation

50

EURIPIDES and Desiderius ERASMUS (editor and translator).

Euripidis tragoediae duae hecuba & iphigenia in aulide, Latinae factae...

Basel, Froben Office [heirs of Johann Froben], April 1530. 8° (10.4 × 15.4 cm). With a woodcut printer's device on the title page and final page, and 7 decorated woodcut initials. 19th-century half brown calf and grey paper sides.

€ 1500

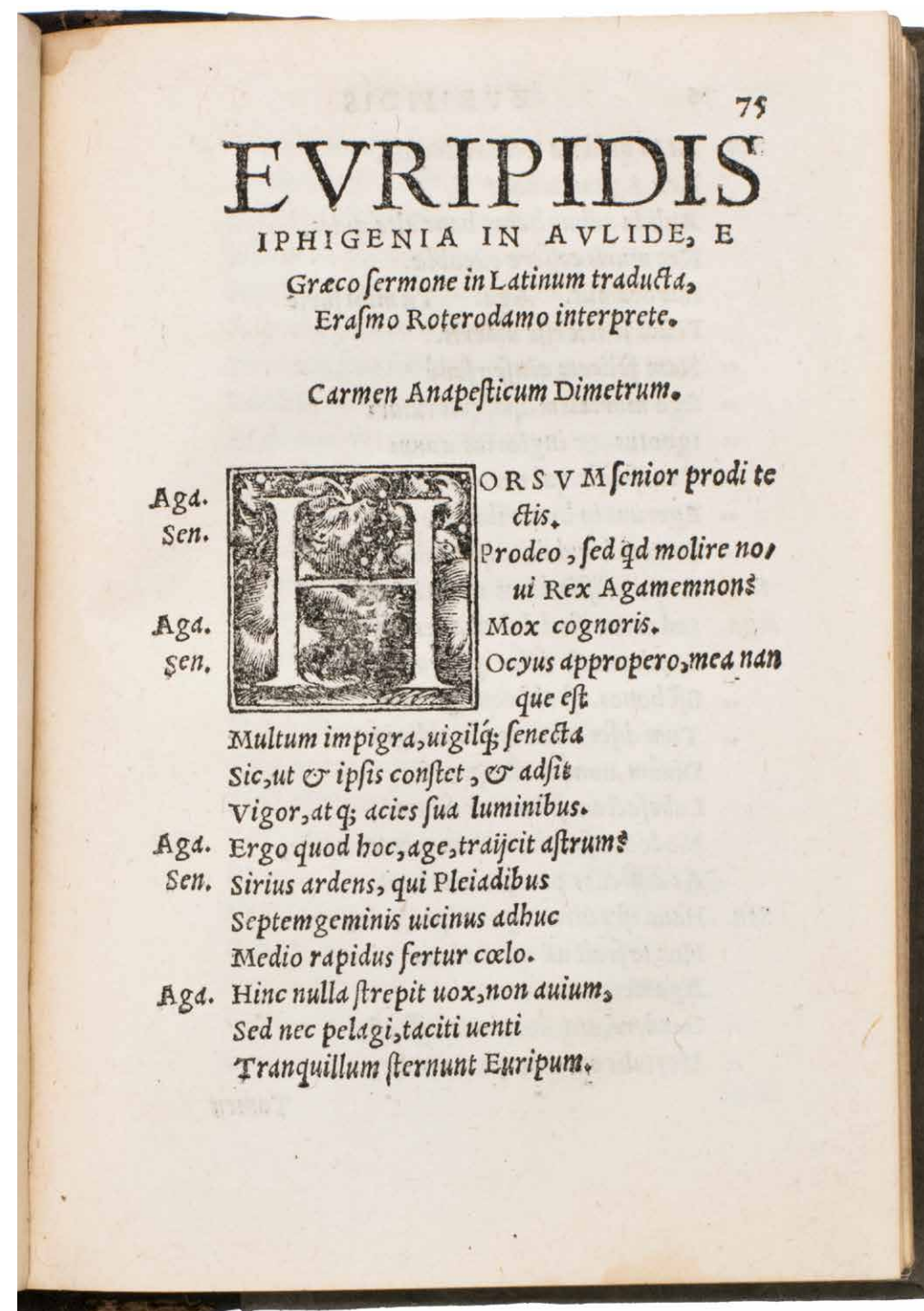
This volume brings together Erasmus' renditions in Latin of two of Euripides' most enduring tragedies, titled *Hecuba* and *Iphigenia in Aulis*, presented alongside the original Greek texts beginning on page 169. Euripides (ca. 480–ca. 406 BCE) was a Greek tragedian of classical Athens. He is one of only three Greek tragedians whose plays have survived in full, the others being Aeschylus and Sophocles.

Both plays in the present work explore the devastating costs of war through the eyes of women caught in its aftermath. In *Hecuba*, the former queen of Troy endures unspeakable losses, the sacrifice of her daughter Polyxena, the murder of her son Polydorus, and ultimately, a brutal act of revenge that leads to her mythical transformation into a howling dog, symbolising her complete descent into grief and rage.

Iphigenia in Aulis is set on the eve of the Trojan War, focusing on Agamemnon's impossible decision to sacrifice his daughter Iphigenia to appease the goddess Artemis and allow the Greek fleet to sail. The play confronts themes of duty, honour, and the personal costs of collective ambition. These, themes echo tragically in *Hecuba*, which portrays the war's bitter consequences. Together, these tragedies form a poignant narrative arc, from the sacrifices made to start a war, to the wreckage and human suffering left in its wake.

With a (partially erased?) manuscript note on the title page ("1822"). Some water staining in the margins and a few small holes in the inner margin, not affecting the text. Otherwise in good condition.

293, [1], [1 blank], [1] pp. Adams E 1042; BM STC German p. 289; De Reuck 425; Erasmus Online 4215; Vander Haeghen II, 25; VD 16 E 4231; USTC 654881; not in Kossmann. [More on our website](#)



Why the Holy Roman Emperor should not respond with violence to the rise of Protestantism

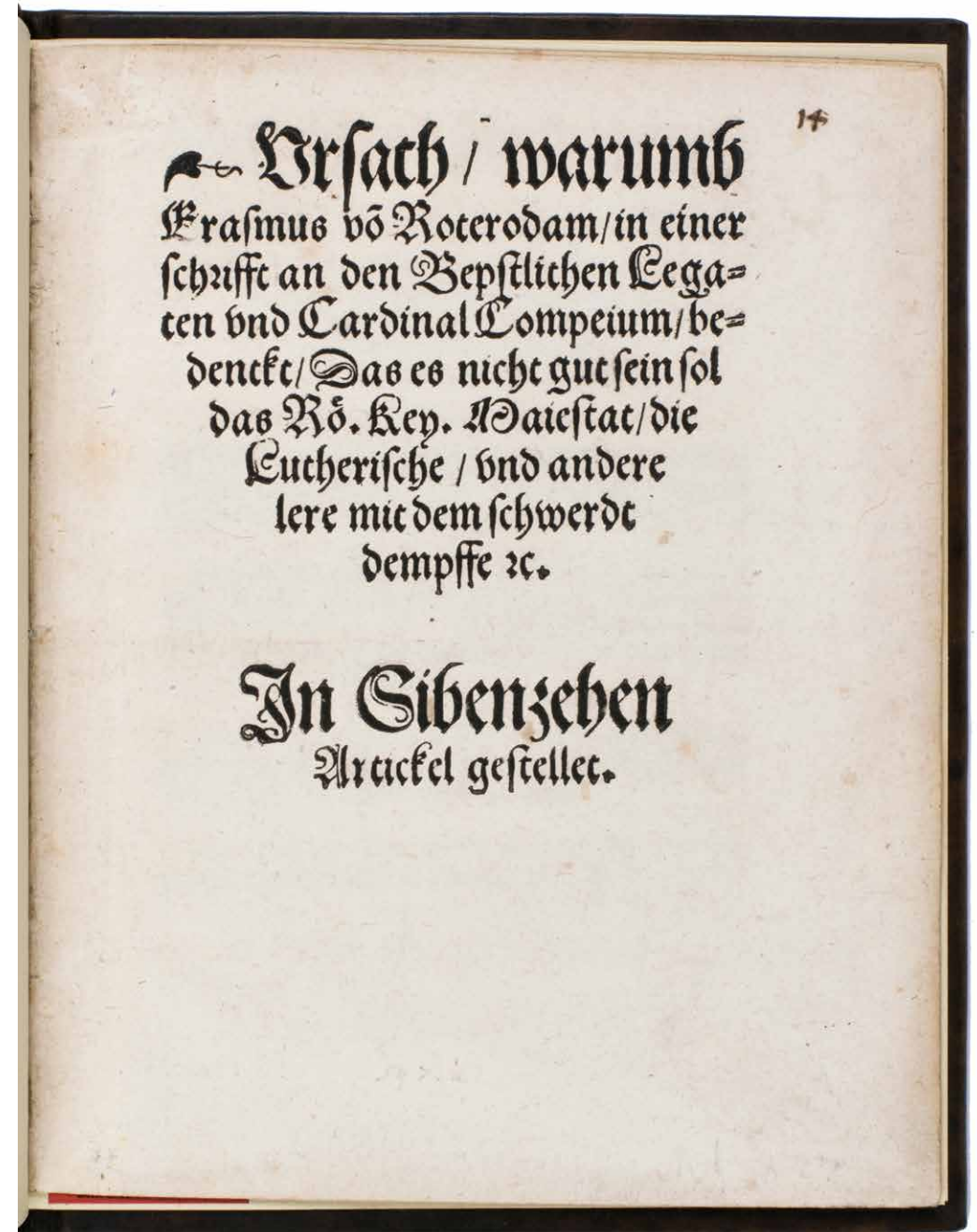
51 [ERASMUS, Desiderius]. Ursach, warumb Erasmus vo[n] Roterodam, in einer schrifft an den Bepstlichen Legaten und Cardinal Compeium, bedenckt, das es nicht gut sein sol das Rö. Key. Maiestat, die Lutherische, und andere lere mit dem schwerdt dempffe &c. In Sibenzehen Artickel gestellet.
[Strasbourg or Nuremberg, Georg Ulricher or Wolfgang Heußler, 1531 or 1546]. 4°. Modern blind-tooled, mottled calf, with a double fillet border on both boards.

€ 2750

Rare German edition of a letter Erasmus sent to the papal legate Lorenzo Campeggi (1474–1539) on August 18, 1530. In this letter, Erasmus expresses his fear that the Holy Roman Emperor would declare war to the Protestant German princes, and explains in 17 articles why violence is not the answer. He never printed the letter himself and it probably never reached Campeggi. According to Allen, Erasmus wrote that "it was intercepted by the treachery of some unnamed 'evangelical' and printed without authority in Strasburg". The letter was translated into German and indeed published several times in Strasbourg, Wittenberg, Magdenburg, and Nuremberg, in 1531. The present edition does not have an imprint, but was either printed in 1531 in Strasbourg by Georg Ulricher, or in 1546 in Nuremberg by Wolfgang Heußler. It is quite rare, as we not been able to find any other copies of the present edition in sales records of the past hundred years.

With a red bookbinder's label ("Period Bookbinders Bath, England") mounted on the recto of the last free flyleaf. The work is lightly browned and foxed, the inner margins have been reinforced. Otherwise in good condition.

[3], [1 blank] ll. Bezzel 26; Erasmus Online 1874; USTC 704493 and 704494; VD16 E 1881 and VD16 E 1882; Vander Haeghen I, 88; not in Adams; BM STC German; De Reuck; cf. Allen, *Opus Epistolarum Erasmi*, vol. IX, intro. to Ep. 2366. [More on our website](#)



The first complete edition of The praise of folly, revised and expanded by Erasmus himself

52

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Apophthegmatum opus cum primis frugiferum, vigilanter ab ipso recognitum autore ... locupletatum insuper quum varijs per totum accessionibus, tum duobus libris in fine adiectis.

Basel, Froben Office (Hieronymus Froben & Nicolaus Episcopus), 1532, Small fol (20 × 30.9 cm). With 9 decorated metalcut initials, a decorated woodcut initial, and a woodcut printer's device on the title page and final page. 19th-century blind-tooled brown half morocco.

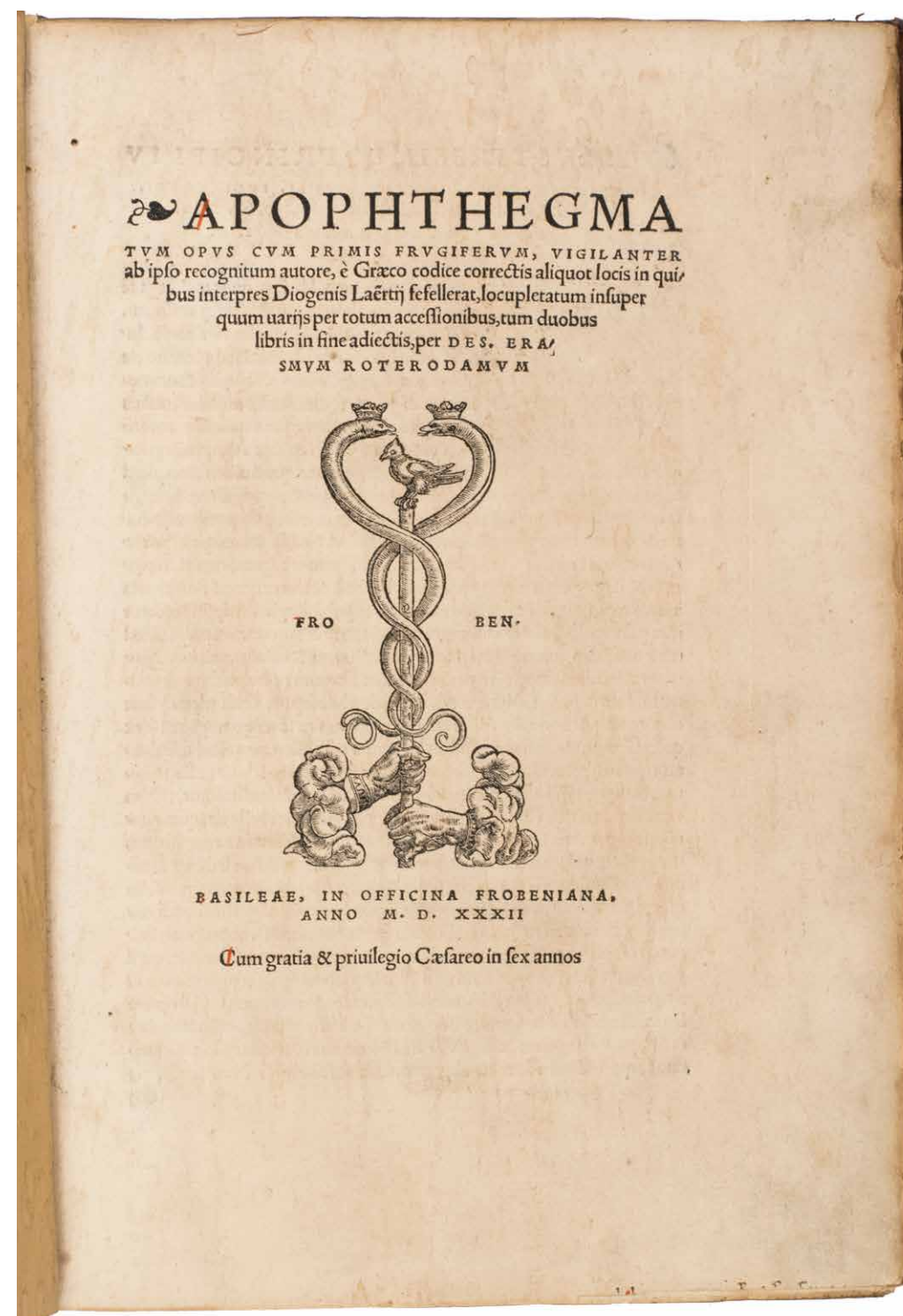
€ 6500

First complete edition of *The praise of folly*, presented in a large format. No other folio edition of the work is known. What began as a scholarly homage became a publishing phenomenon: Erasmus produced three editions with the Froben press in Basel—in 1531, 1532, and 1535—each expanding upon the last. The 1531 quarto was swiftly reprinted across Europe, and due to its success, Erasmus added two new books for the present 1532 edition (books 7 and 8), and extensively revised and reorganised the text.

Apophthegmata are concise, witty, and often morally pointed sayings or anecdotes attributed to notable historical figures, valued for the ethical and rhetorical lessons they convey. In his *Institutio principis christiani* (1516), Erasmus famously advised that the first secular work a prince should read was Plutarch's *Apophthegmata*. He took this advice to heart by compiling his own version, drawing largely from Plutarch and supplementing it with excerpts from classical authors.

The work has been rubricated, with contemporary annotations in some of the margins. The binding shows mild traces of use. The work is lightly browned throughout, with a minor water stain in the head margin, a brown stain on page 530 and 531, minor stains on some of the leaves, and a small wormhole in the inner margin of the first 97 pages, without affecting the text. Otherwise an attractively rubricated copy, with ample margins.

[8], 401, [1], [14] pp. Adams E-490; Bezzel 195; Bibl. Belgica E 320; Vander Haeghen I, 15; VD16 E 2036; USTC 612553; not in De Reuck. [More on our website](#)



Erasmus' early translation of Basil, a theological recovery of the Church Fathers

53

CAESAREA, Basil of (SAINT BASIL, attributed) and Desiderius ERASMUS (translator).

Opus argutum ac pium, de spiritu sancto ad amphilochem.

Paris, Chrétien Wechel and Jean Roigny, 1532. Small 8°. With Wechel's woodcut printer's device on the title page and the verso of the otherwise blank last leaf, and 2 woodcut decorated initials. Modern limp overlapping vellum.

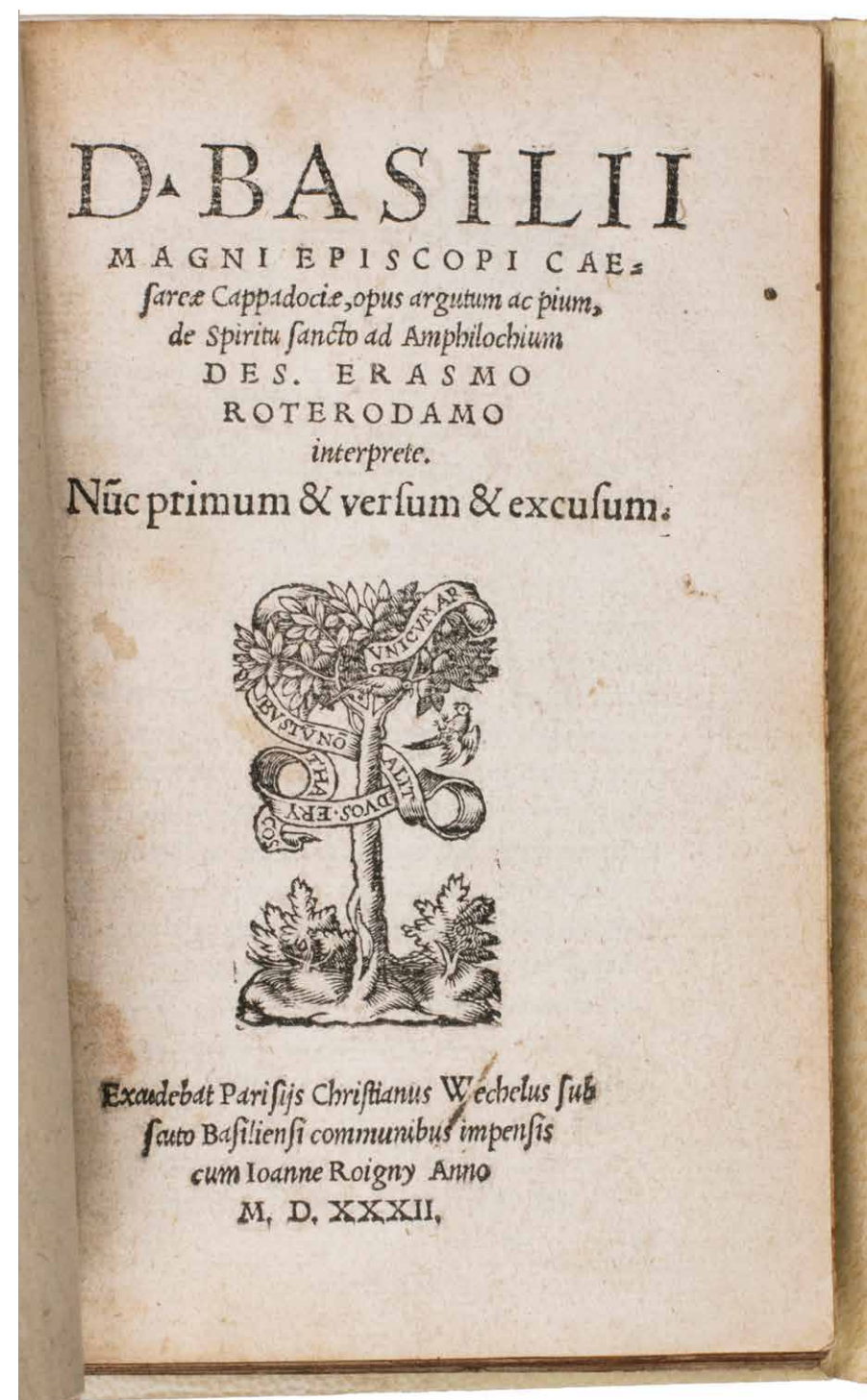
€ 3500

Very rare, second edition of Erasmus' translation of a theological treatise attributed to Basil of Caesarea (330–379 CE). It was published shortly after the first edition, published in May of the same year by Froben and Episcopus in Basel (May 1532). The work is very rare, we have traced only one other copy in sales records of the past 100 years. Erasmus' translation is accompanied by a dedicatory epistle to Joannes Dantiscus (1485–1548), Bishop of Culm and a prominent diplomat of the Polish court. The letter reflects Erasmus' conviction that direct engagement with the texts of the Church Fathers, rather than with flawed Latin intermediaries, was vital for the renewal of Christian piety.

His source text was a Greek edition he had published just two months prior. According to Julián (2022), Erasmus wanted to publish everything they could find from Basil, lamenting that in the existing Latin versions, "the greater part of him is missing." Interestingly, the legacy of this work can be traced further back to the 15th century, when George of Trebizond (1395–1486), a Greek scholar from Crete, was commissioned by Cardinal Bessarion (1403–1472) in 1440 to translate both *De spiritu sancto* and *Contra eunomium* into Latin. George struggled with the theological complexity of the material, confessing in his preface (1442) that he lacked the necessary theological training and fluency in Latin. Erasmus' later effort can be seen as a corrective, and a fulfilment of that earlier Humanist ambition to make the Greek Church Fathers accessible to a Western audience in an accurate and readable form.

Small tear in title page, not affecting the text, lightly water-stained margin and slightly browned throughout. Overall in very good.

124, [3 blank], [1] pp. See our website for the list of references. [More on our website](#)



Lives of the Roman Emperors, an 1533 edition of the Historia Augusta

54

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Omnia quam antehac emendatiora. Annotationes Des. Erasmi & Egnatij cognitu dignae: C. Suetonius Tranquillus, Dion Cassius, [and others] ...

Basel, (colophon) Hieronymus Froben & Nicolaus Episcopus, July 1533. 2 parts in 1 volume, Small 2°. With Froben's large woodcut device on the title page, repeated on the final page and several large woodcut initials after Holbein. 17th-century gold-tooled mottled calf, with a centrepiece containing the monogram of the Collège (Royal) de Navarre in Paris.

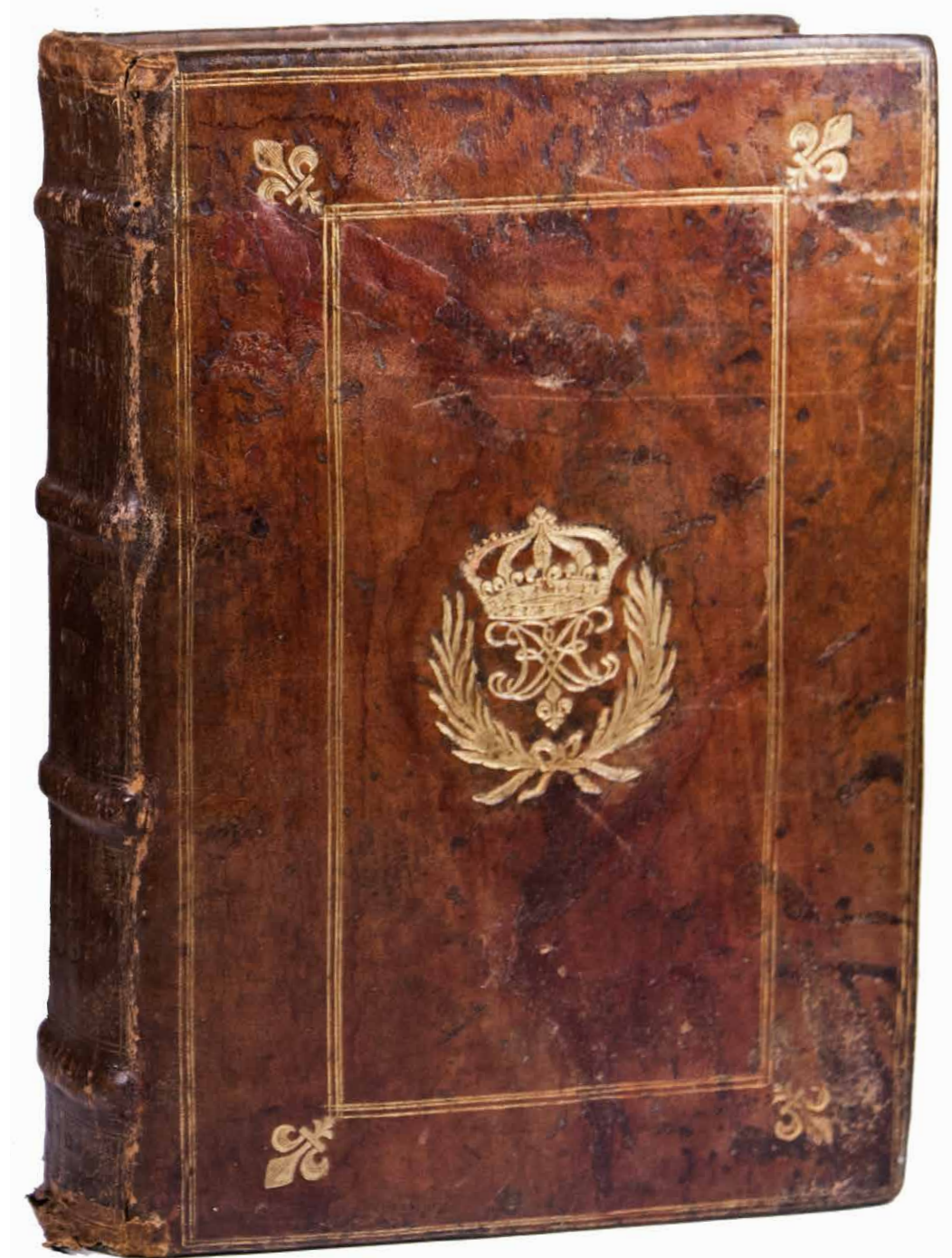
€ 3500

Beautifully bound copy of a collection of Roman imperial biographies, known as the *Historia Augusta*, which was supposedly written by 6 authors of the late Roman Empire: Aelius Spartianus, Julius Capitolinus, Vulcacius Gallicanus, Aelius Lampridius, Trebellius Pollio, and Flavius Vopiscus (collectively known as the "Scriptores Historiae Augustae"). Although modern scholarship questions the authenticity and authorship of these texts, they remain a crucial source for understanding the history, politics, and personalities of the Roman emperors from Hadrian (r. 117–138 CE) to Numerian (r. 283–284 CE).

The present edition of the *Historia Augusta* was edited and annotated by Erasmus, alongside several notable scholars including Giovanni Battista Egnazio (or Egnatius, 1478–1553). Additionally, this volume contains a second part with a divisional title page on p. 545: *Rerum gestarum libri XVII*, written by Ammianus Marcellinus (ca. 330–ca. 400 CE), the last major historian of the Roman Empire.

With an owner's inscription on the title page. With underlinings and marginal annotations throughout. In a few places, the outer margins have been slightly trimmed, affecting only a small number of annotations. The spine shows light rubbing, with some wear to the spine ends, the text is lightly browned throughout. Overall, a very good copy.

[44], 786, [2 blank], [84] pp. See our website for the list of references. [More on our website](#)



Two major Catholic polemics addressing Eucharistic and Christological controversies

55

ALGERUS and Desiderius ERASMUS (editor).

De veritate corporis & sanguinis d[omi]nici in Eucharistia, cum refutatione diversaru[m] circa hoc haereseon ...

Cologne, [Jaspar von Gennep] Peter Quentel, August 1535.

With (bound before ad 1):

VIGILIUS. Opera ...

Including: **CASSANDER, Georg.** *Commentarius de duabus in Christo naturis ...*

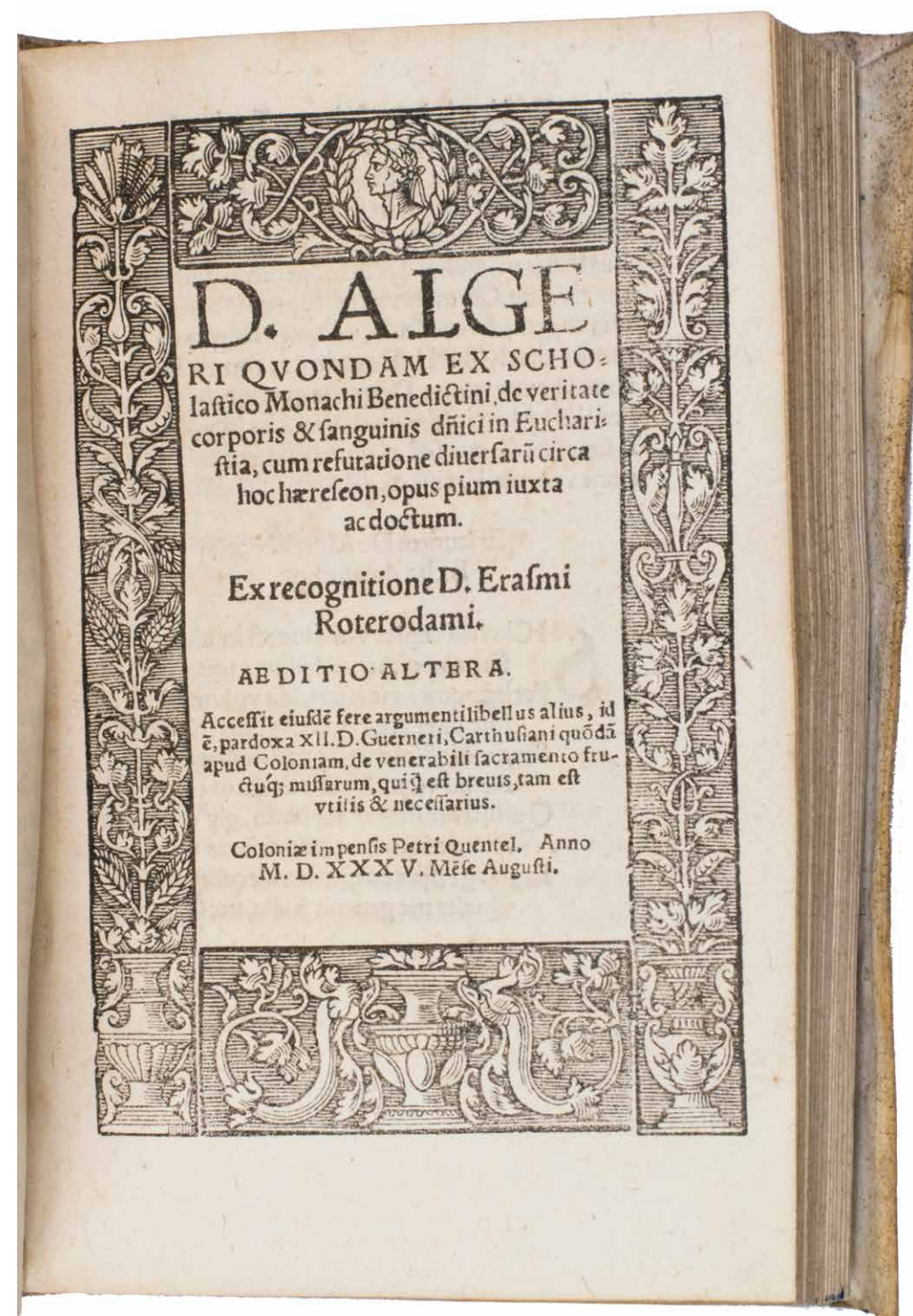
Cologne, Arnold Birckman, 1555. 2 works in 1 volume, ad 1 in 2 parts. 8°. With an elaborate woodcut border on the title page of ad 1, several decorated woodcut initials, and Quentel's woodcut device at the end. Limp overlapping vellum with ties.

€ 4500

A rare and significant edition of *De veritate corporis et sanguinis Domini* by Alger of Liège (Algerus, ca. 1060–ca. 1131), Benedictine monk of Cluny and one of the most influential medieval theologians on the Eucharist. This major treatise, composed during the so-called "second Eucharistic controversy", defends the doctrine of the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist against the teachings of Berengarius of Tours. Admired by both medieval scholars and later by Erasmus, Alger's work remained central to Catholic theology well into the sixteenth century.

Only a handful of copies of the present edition are known, and no record of it appears in recent sales databases, underlining its rarity on the market. Bound together with the *Opera* of Vigilius (1555) and a *Commentarius* opposing the Christological views of Georg Cassander (1555), this important Sammelband reflects the continuing Catholic polemic against Reformation-era innovations in both Eucharistic theology and Christology. The vellum is slightly dampstained, lacking part of the bottom closing tie on the front. Some stains and browning throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

255 pp.; [16], 143, [1 blank]; 52 ll. *See our website for the list of references.* [More on our website](#)



A rare sammelband of four significant Erasmus texts, combining his major pedagogical treatise with three polemical works directed against his fiercest critics

56

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

De pueris statim ac liberaliter instituendis, libellus et novus & elegans. ...

Paris, Chrétien Wechel, 1536.

With: (2) IDEM. Responsio ad Petri Cursii defensionem ...

Paris, Chrétien Wechel, 1535.

(3) IDEM. *Responsio ad epistolam paraenetica[m] clarissimi, doctissimicq[ue] viri... Alberti Pii corporum principis.*

[Paris, Pierre Vidoux], April 1529.

(4) IDEM. *Purgatio adversus epistolam non sobriam Martini Luteri.* Basel, (colophon:) Hieronymus Froben and Nikolaus Episcopus, April 1534. 4 works in 1 volume. 8°. With Wechel's woodcut device on the title pages of ads 1 and 2 and the verso of the last leaf of ad 2. Ad 3 with a woodcut architectural frame on the title page. Ad 4 with Froben's woodcut device on the title page and the verso of the last blank leaf. Several woodcut initials throughout. Half vellum and brown sprinkled paper sides.

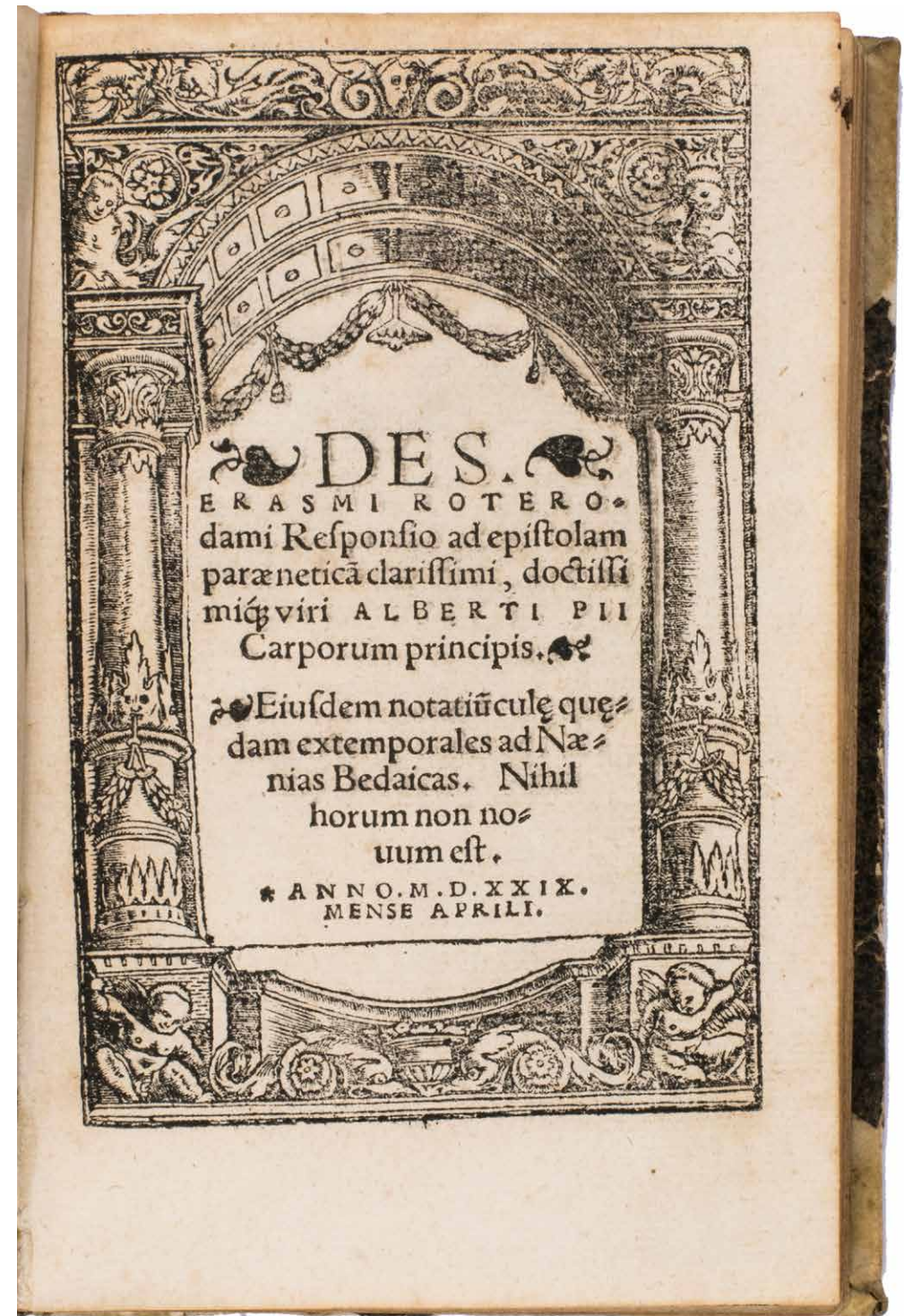
€ 9500

Together, these four works capture the remarkable breadth of Erasmus' influence, from his visionary Humanist pedagogy to his forceful engagement in the theological controversies of the Reformation. Brought together in this volume, they reflect both the moral urgency and intellectual sharpness that defined his contribution to early modern thought.

With a manuscript owner's inscription and a later purple stamp on the title page of the ad 1. Further with a few manuscript annotations in the margins, and some of the text underlined and crossed out throughout the work. The binding shows signs of wear, the boards have been rubbed with some loss of material, some occasional slight browning. Otherwise in good condition.

[50] ll.; 30, [1 blank], [1] pp.; [56]; [32] ll. See our website for the list of references.

[More on our website](#)



A eulogy to Erasmus and his works, by Beatus Rhenanus and other contemporaries

57

RHENANUS, Beatus.

Des. Eras Roterodami viri incomparabilis vita, & epitaphia quaedam.

Antwerp, Willem Vorsterman, 1536. Small 8°. With a woodcut medallion portrait of Erasmus on the verso of the title page, and 4 woodcut decorated initials. Modern vellum.

€ 3750

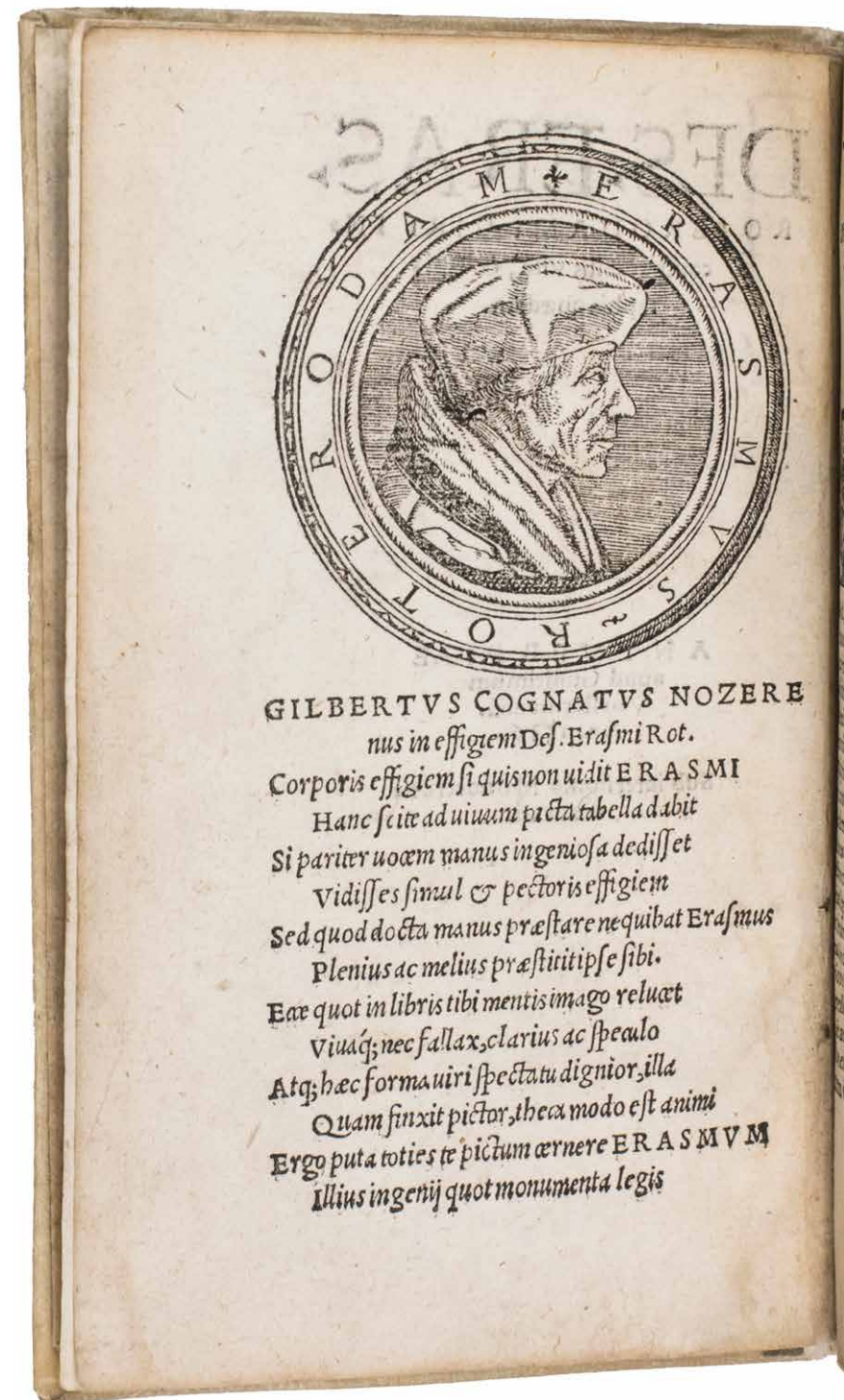
First and only edition of this commemorative work, published shortly after Erasmus' death in 1536, brings together a series of biographical and poetic tributes by some of his closest associates. The volume opens with the *Vita Erasmi* by Beatus Rhenanus (1485–1547), a Humanist scholar and one of Erasmus' most trusted friends. His *Vita* is based on first-hand knowledge and provides a concise and authoritative account of Erasmus' life and character. This Antwerp printing constitutes one of the earliest printed memorials to Erasmus. The work was later revised and incorporated as the introduction to the Basel *Opera omnia* (1538–1540).

Following Rhenanus' biography is Friedrich Nausea's (1496–1552) *In magnum Erasmum Roterodamum, nuper vita sunctum, monodia*, a lengthy poetic lament written in memory of Erasmus and occupying the greater part of the volume. At the end, several epitaphs by Nausea, Cornelius Grapheus (1482–1558), and multiple others, together with Erasmus' own *In mortem Thomae Mori, heroica monodia*, his elegy on the death of Sir Thomas More (1478–1535), can be found.

The work is slightly browned throughout and with marginal water stains, the title page has been reinforced in the gutter. Otherwise in very good condition.

[24] ll. De Reuck 615; Enekel, "A blueprint for the reception of Erasmus: Beatus Rhenanus's second *Vita Erasmi* (1540)", *In The Reception of Erasmus in the Early Modern Period* (2013), pp. 23–40, see pp. 25–26; Nijhoff-Kronenberg 873; STCV :12924374 (1 copy); USTC 437833 (11 copies); Vander Haeghen III, 50.

[More on our website](#)



Erasmus in memoriam, Nausea's funeral oration and Rhenanus' letter

58

NAUSEA, Friedrich, and Beatus RHENANUS.

In magnum illum laudatae felicisque memoriae Erasmum Roterodamum, nuper vita functum monodia. eiusdem vita ...

Paris, Chrestien Wechel, 1536. Small 8°. With Wechel's woodcut device on the title page and 3 woodcut decorated initials. Modern, marbled paper boards.

€ 2950

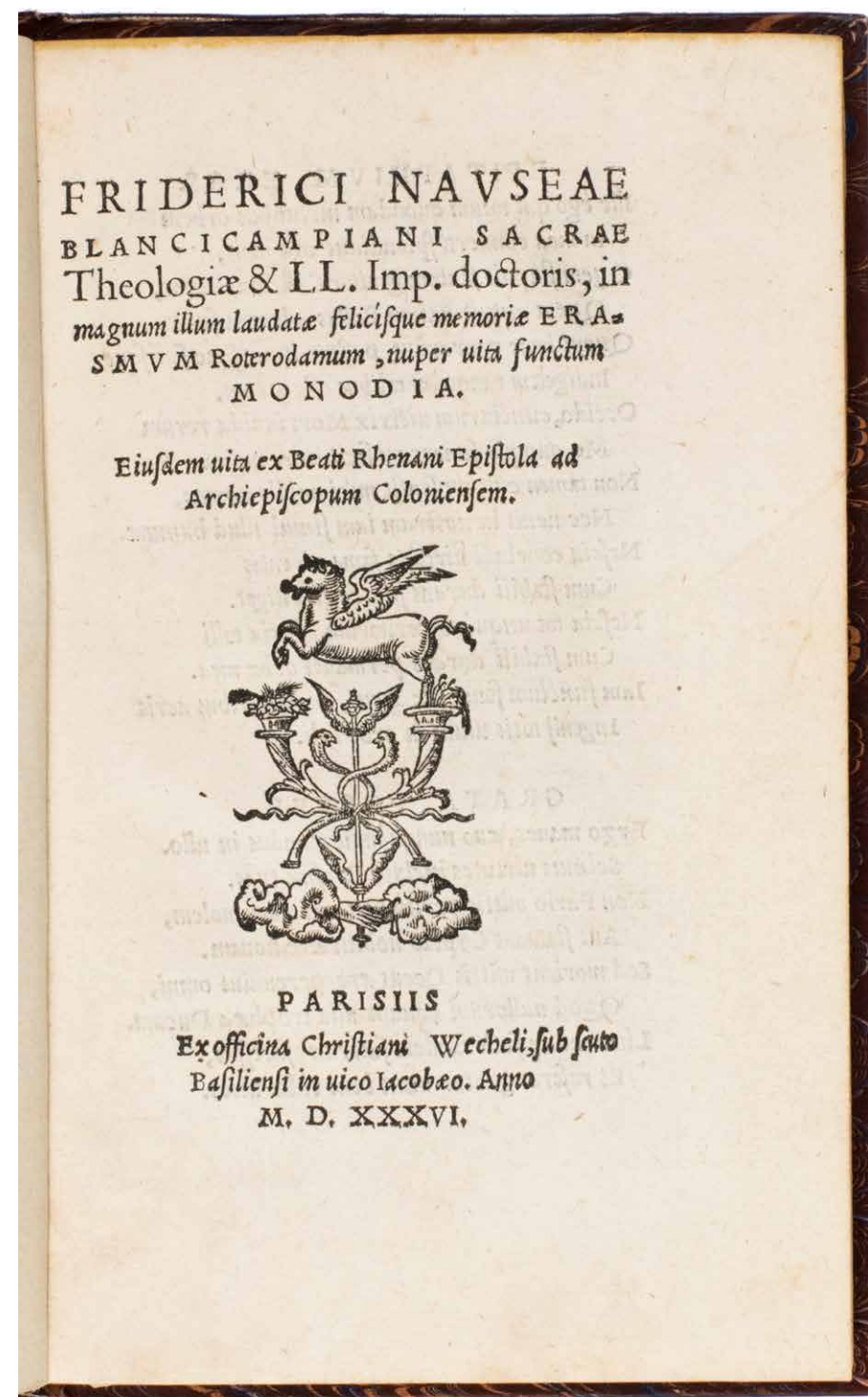
Published in the year of Erasmus' death, this Paris edition contains a fine and heartfelt obituary written by his friend and admirer Friedrich Nausea (1496–1552), Bishop of Vienna. Nausea was a leading figure in the irenic movement at the imperial court, seeking reconciliation and reform within the Church rather than division.

Nausea vents both his grief and his admiration, attributing a divine mission and even Christ-like qualities to Erasmus. This eulogy reflects the profound esteem in which Erasmus was held by his circle of Humanist contemporaries. Though Nausea insists that no man should be called beatus (blessed) in his lifetime, he suggests that after Erasmus' passing, the Pope and the cardinals alike ought to have proclaimed him a saint, a model of poverty, chastity, and temperance.

Appended to the obituary is the celebrated biography of Erasmus by Beatus Rhenanus (1485–1547), written in the form of a letter (*Epistola ad Archiepiscopum Coloniensem*). Rhenanus was a German Humanist scholar and one of Erasmus' most trusted friends. He had lived and worked with Erasmus in Basel and was responsible for editing several of his works, including the *Epistolae*. This letter remains one of the most intimate and authoritative contemporary accounts of Erasmus life.

With some underlining in the text, and an old annotation, by a reader reflecting on themes of birth, virtue, and ancestry, on the verso of the otherwise blank leaf C7, the bottom half of the leaf is lacking. The binding shows slight signs of wear along the extremities, slightly browned throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

[23], [2 blank] ll. *Inventaire chronologique des editions Parisiennes du XVIe siecle* V, 255; *USTC* 185743 (lost book); *Worldcat* 248142207 (5 or 6 copies); not in *De Reuck*; *Vander Haeghen*; cf. (1537 Paris ed.) *USTC* 182203 (6 copies). ➤ [More on our website](#)



Comedy and commentary: Terence through the eyes of Donatus and Estienne

59

TERENTIUS AFER, Publius, Aelius DONATUS, and Desiderius ERASMUS.

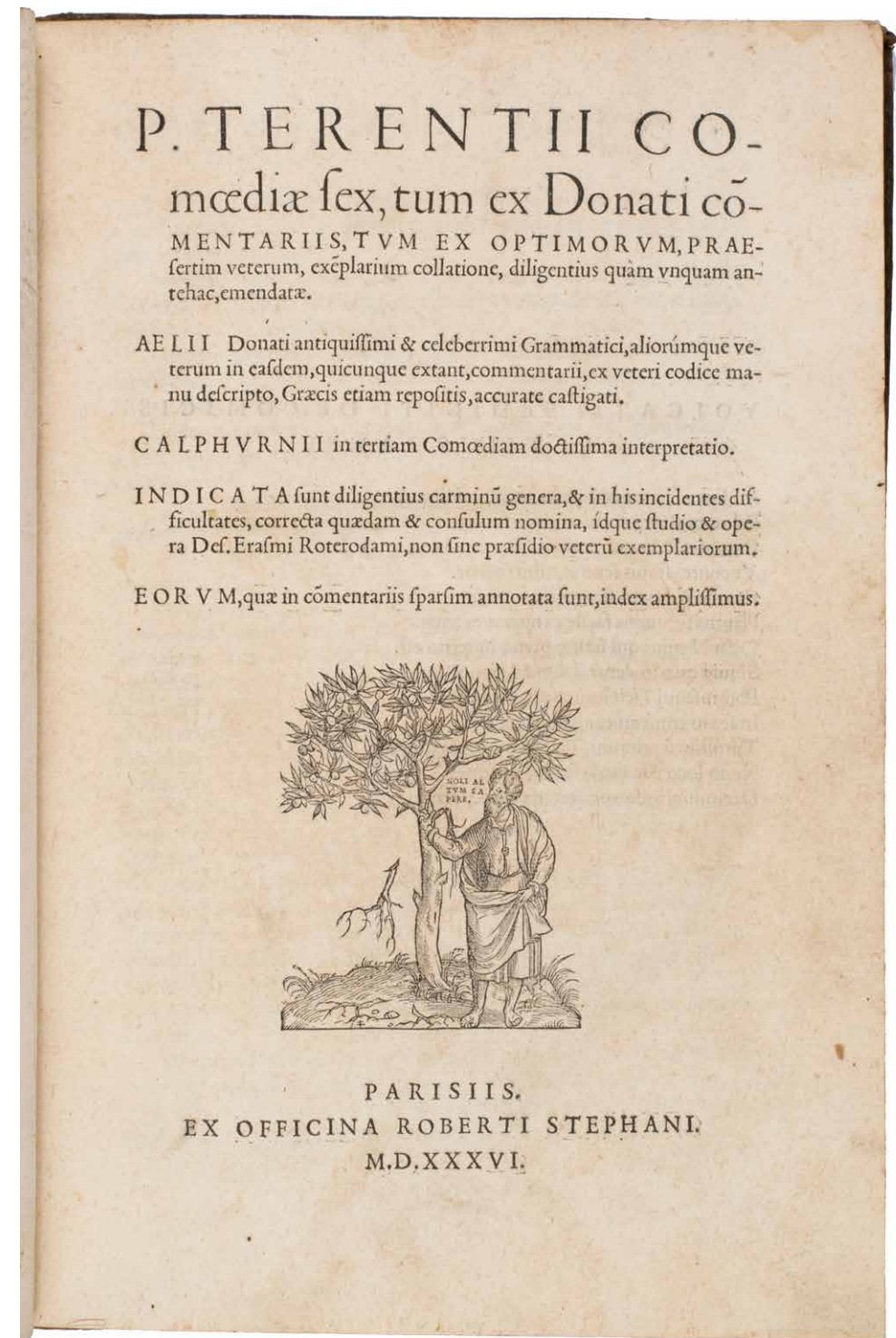
Comoediae sex, tum ex Donati co[m]mentariis, tum ex optimorum, praesertim veterum, exe[n]plarum collatione, diligentius quàm unquam antehac, emendatae...

Paris, Robert Estienne, 5 April 1536. Small 2° (20.2 × 30.3 cm). With Estienne's small woodcut device on a small woodcut the title page. Late 17th-century(?) calf.

€ 1250

Second edition of Terence's *Comoediae*, published by the French Humanist and printer Robert Estienne (1503–1599). Publius Terentius Afer, (also known as Terence, ca. 195–ca. 159 BCE) was a Roman playwright of North African origin and one of the foremost authors of Latin comedy. The present work includes the commentary of Aelius Donatus (4th century CE), based on a manuscript provided by Estienne's father-in-law, Josse Bade (1462–1535). Donatus was a Roman grammarian and teacher of rhetoric, best known for his grammatical works, *Ars Minor* and *Ars Maior*. Building on Estienne's earlier 1529 folio edition, this one was printed in the new Roman types and divided into acts and scenes, a notable innovation. In addition, Estienne incorporated Erasmus' treatise on comedic metres, which provided a scholarly analysis of the rhythmic and metric structures of classical comedies, enhancing readers' understanding of Terence's original cadence and comedic effect. The boards are severely rubbed, light foxing and staining throughout, the title page is very slightly browned, the head margin is cut slightly short. Otherwise in good condition.

378, [18] pp. *Adams T* 326; *BM STC French* p. 416; *De Reuck* 512; *Inventaire chronologique des éditions Parisiennes du XVIe siècle* V, 314; *Renouard (Estienne)* I, 43 no. 15; *Schreiber* 52; *USTC* 147028 (9 copies); *Vander Haeghen* II, 55. [More on our website](#)



One of the earliest editions of Erasmus' entertaining and extremely popular collection of more than 2000 aphorisms and anecdotes, in richly blind-tooled 16th-century calf

60

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Apophthegmatum libri octo cum primis frugiferi, denuò vigilanter ab ipso recogniti autore, non sine lucro novae accessionis.

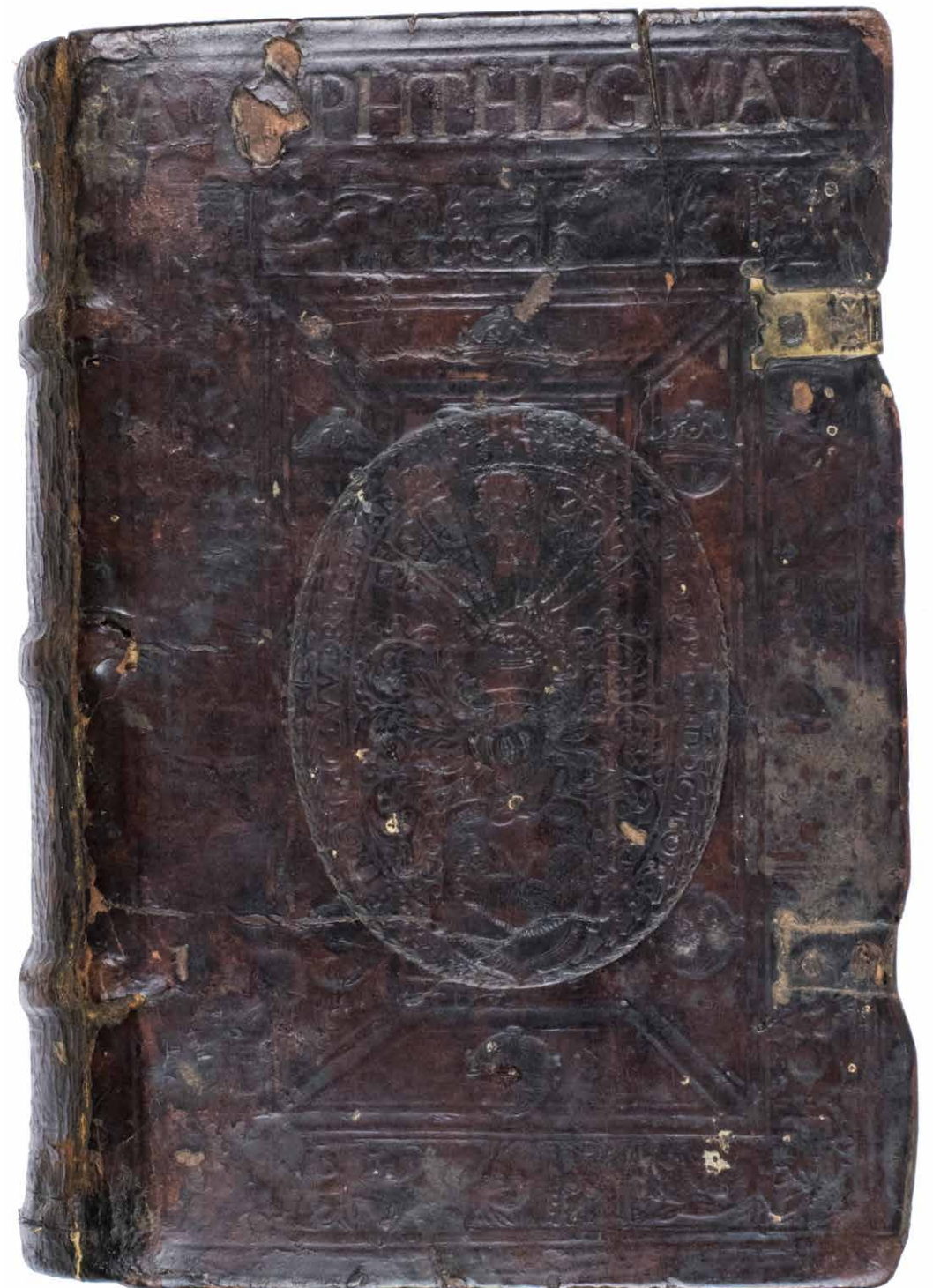
Cologne, Johann Gymnich I, 1538. 8°. With Gymnich's woodcut device, 9 woodcut initials plus 1 repeat, and a vine-leaf ornament. Set in an Aldine-style italic with incidental roman and Greek. Near-contemporary blind-tooled calf over wooden boards, the front board with the large oval armorial panel-stamp of Simon Cluver of Gedansk (ca. 1540–1598); the back board with 2 rolls showing Christian imagery. With 1 of 2 brass catchplates but further with only remnants of the fastenings.

€ 3950

Rare second(?) edition of the revised and expanded text of Erasmus' important and popular collection of more than two thousand aphorisms, apothegms and anecdotes, in the original Latin, first published by Froben at Basel in 1531 in six "libri" but finding its definitive form in his 1535 edition in eight "libri". Gymnich, with the present edition, appears to be the first after Froben to publish the revised 1535 text. The book is a collection of short quotations from a wide variety of sources, intended to be both educational and entertaining.

With the large armorial owner's stamp of Simon Clüver. Hulshoff Pol records this stamp on a binding dated 1564, but in the present binding it has been stamped over the existing decoration on the front board, so the binding itself may be older than the owner's stamp. With numerous small stains in the preliminaries, some mostly marginal water stains and a few small marginal worm holes, but otherwise in good condition and only slightly trimmed, retaining an occasional deckle. The rest of the binding is worn, with some cuts, tears and gaps, and the surface of the spine flaking. One of the earliest editions of one of Erasmus's most popular and most entertaining works, in a near contemporary, blind-tooled binding.

[16], 712, [38], [2 blank] pp. *See our website for the list of references.* [More on our website](#)



On the art of preaching: one of Erasmus' major works

61

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Ecclesiaastae [!] sive de ratione concionandi libri quatuor, opus recens, denuo ab autore recognitum, sed cum indice accuratiore quam antehac & copiosiore.

Antwerp, sub intersignio Rubri Castri (= G. Montanus), 1539. Small 8°. With an architectural woodcut border on the title page, 7 decorated metalcut initials, 5 woodcut headpieces, 7 woodcut tailpieces, and a woodcut printer's device at the end of the work. 18th-century half vellum.

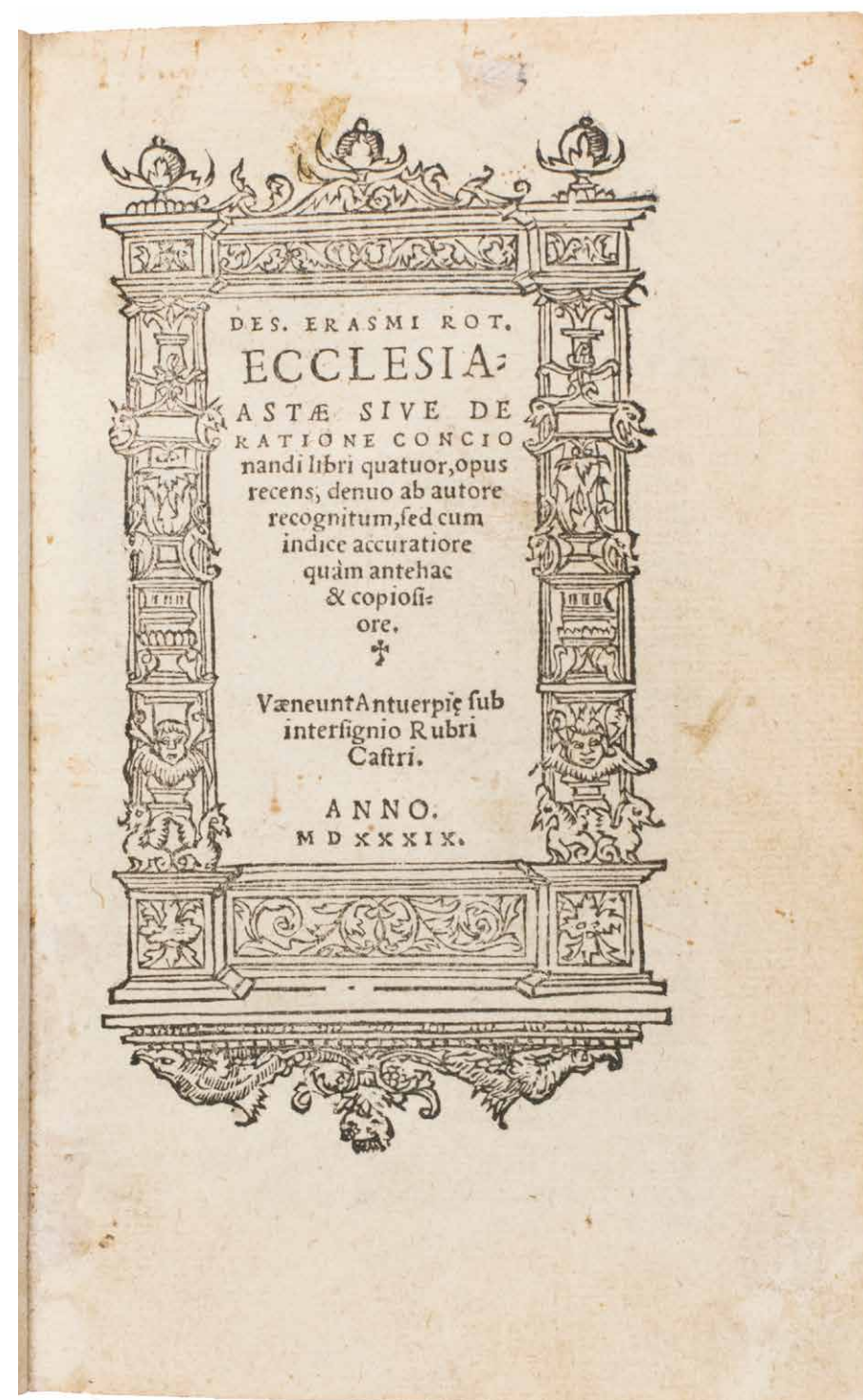
€ 2500

Scarce early edition of an influential manual on preaching. It was one of the last major works which Erasmus produced and is considered one of his most significant treatises on theology. The work was incredibly popular in his own time, as Erasmus had been pressured for many years to write it. The present edition, which is the first by Montanus and the third authorised edition, is relatively scarce, however, with only two other copies recorded in sales records of the 21st century.

With 18th-century annotations on the front pastedown and in the margins of some of the leaves, several portions of text are underlined. The edges and corners of the boards are somewhat scuffed, the vellum is somewhat soiled and stained. The work is somewhat browned throughout, with brown ink stains on a few leaves, affecting a few words, minor loss of material in the lower margin of a7 and a8, without affecting the text. Otherwise in good condition.

"549" [=544], [31], [1 blank] pp. *Adams E-631; De Reuck 179; Erasmus Online 1682; Nijhoff & Kronenberg 2923; STCV 12926615; USTC 440876; Vander Haeghen 1, 78; not in Bezzel; cf. Kleinhans, R.G., "Erasmus Ecclesiastes and the Church of England", in Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church, 39 (3), 1970, pp. 307-14; Rouzet, Dictionnaire des imprimeurs belges, p. 153.*

[More on our website](#)



16th-century Antwerp edition of “The twelve caesars”

62

SUETONIUS Tranquillus, Gaius.

Caesarum XII libri, iam denuo bonorum exemplarium & commentariorum ope emendati, cum M. Antonii Coccii Sabellici commentariis, nihil annotatu dignum dissimulantibus. Jo. Baptistae Egnatii Veneti, annot. in Suetonium. Annotata in eundem, & loca aliquot restitutae per D. Erasmum Roterodamum.

Antwerp, Jan van der Loe, 1548. 8°. With woodcut device on the title page and numerous woodcut initials in text. Later marbled boards.

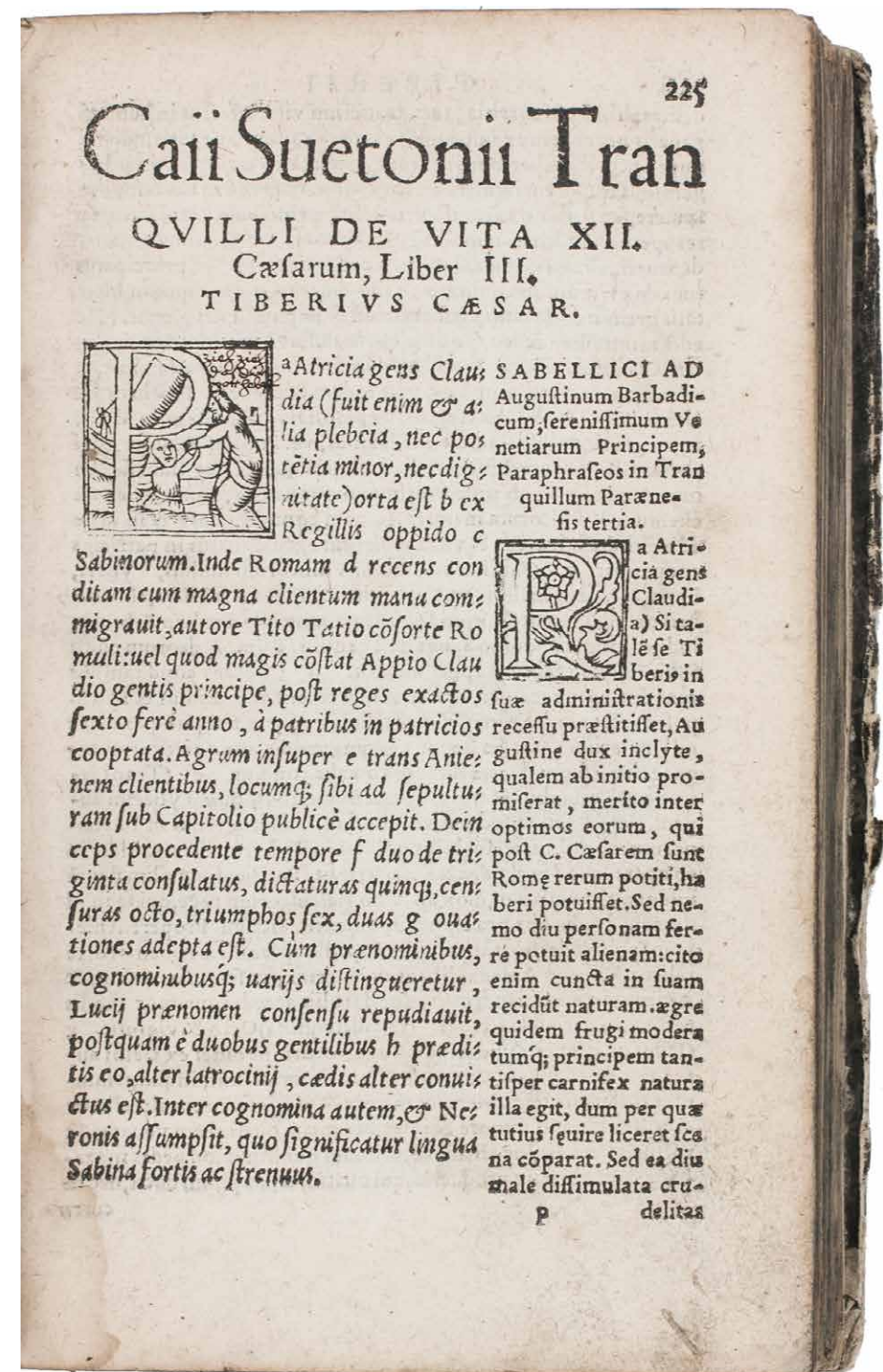
€ 1750

Jan van der Loe edition of Suetonius's biographies of the first twelve Roman emperors (including Julius Caesar). The book opens with a dedication by Hieronymus Gemusaeus to Gulielmus Yzernaesus, councillor to King François I of France, followed by a preface by the Italian Humanist Poliziano (1454–1494). The lives of the twelve Roman Emperors (Julius Caesar, Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Vespasian, Titus and Domitian) are printed on 626 pages with the commentary and annotations by Marcus Antonius Coccius Sabellicus (1436–1506), a scholar and historian from Venice, in a smaller script in the margins. Sabellicus had studied under the Italian Humanist Pomponius Laetus, became professor of eloquence at Udino and Venice, and was appointed curator of the San Marco Library in 1487. The main text is followed by the annotations on Suetonius by Joannes Baptista Egnatius (ca. 1478–1553), the commentary by Erasmus, a brief comment by Ausoni, a note on the name “Caesar”, and a short biography of Suetonius by Philippus Beroaldus. As a fund of fascinating and often outrageous anecdotes, Suetonius's work is unrivalled.

With many contemporary and later annotations and underscoring in ink. With some restorations to the title-page and second leaf, title-page browned and soiled, browned throughout with occasional spots and marginal water stains. Binding worn.

[24], 661, [1 blank] pp. *Adams S2045 (incompl. copies); Belg. Typ. 6808; Machiels S640; USTC 403287.*

[More on our website](#)



Three very rare 16th-century Humanist school books

63

MACROPEDIUS, Georgius.

Adamus Macropedii fabula Christianae pietatis plaena ...

Utrecht, Herman van Borculo, 1552.

With: (2) *Sententiae singulis versibus contentae, ex diversorum poëtarum sententiis Graecis, Latinae redditae.*

(Colophon:) Antwerp, Johannes Loeus, 1544.

(3) **ERASMUS, Desiderius.** [Drop title:] *Christiani hominis institutum.*

Including: ISOCRATES. [Drop title:] *Ad demonicum paraenesis.*

[Antwerp, Jan Verwithagen?, 1551?]. 3 works in 1 volume. Small 8°. With a woodcut publisher's device on the title page and a large woodcut device on the last page. All three works are set in Aldine-style italic types, the Erasmus also with a long passage in Greek. 18th-century gold-tooled calf, with the title lettered in gold on the spine, red edges.

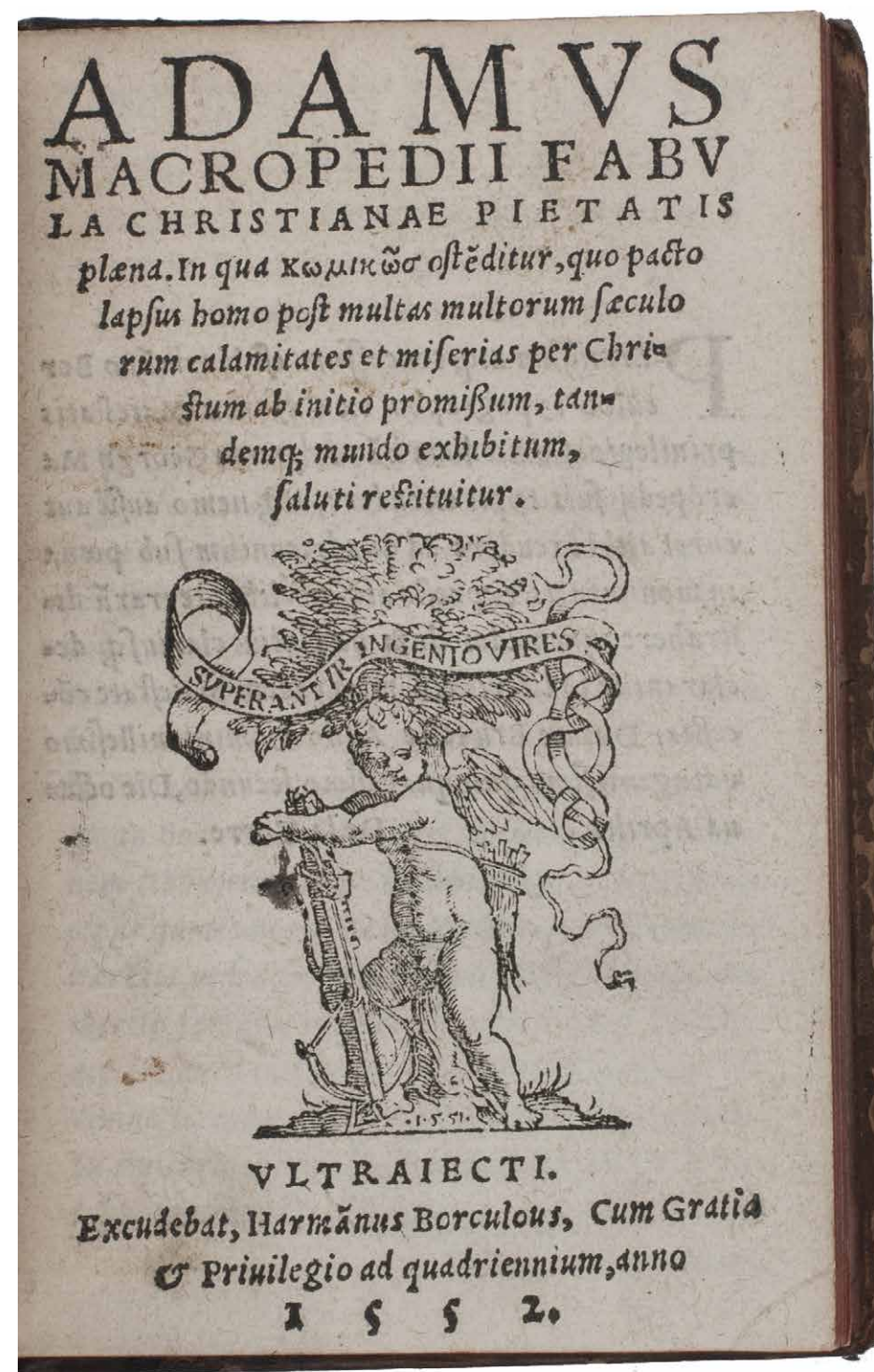
€ 4500

Ad 1: Very rare first edition of Macropedius's *Adamus*, a popular school drama on the history of mankind since the fall of man until the birth of Jesus. These school dramas had an instructive function in Humanistic education as well as the added advantage of familiarizing the pupils with Latin metrics and language through their participation in the performance.

Ad 2: Unrecorded third or fourth (?) edition of a very popular collection of proverbs and sayings from Greek poets translated in Latin.

Ad 3: Erasmus's catechetical poem *Institutum hominis Christiani*, (G1-4), Isocrates's *Paraenesis ad Demonicum* (G5v-H3v) with a preface by Erasmus referring to Agricola (G4v-5), and the Greek *Dicta Periandri*, explained by Erasmus (H3v-4), followed by the publisher's device (H4v). These are complete works extracted from an edition that included others before them. With the bookplate on pastedown. Binding restored, with slightly rubbed edges and the endpapers a bit soiled. Otherwise in very good condition.

[68]; [12]; [12] ll. See our website for the list of references. [More on our website](#)



A complete set of the 1569 Froben edition of the complete works of Saint Augustine of Hippo edited by Erasmus and others, in uniform contemporary bindings

64

AUGUSTINE of Hippo, Desiderius ERASMUS (editor), and others.
Primus [- decimus] tomus eximii patris ... D. Aurelii Augustini Hipponensis episcopi ...

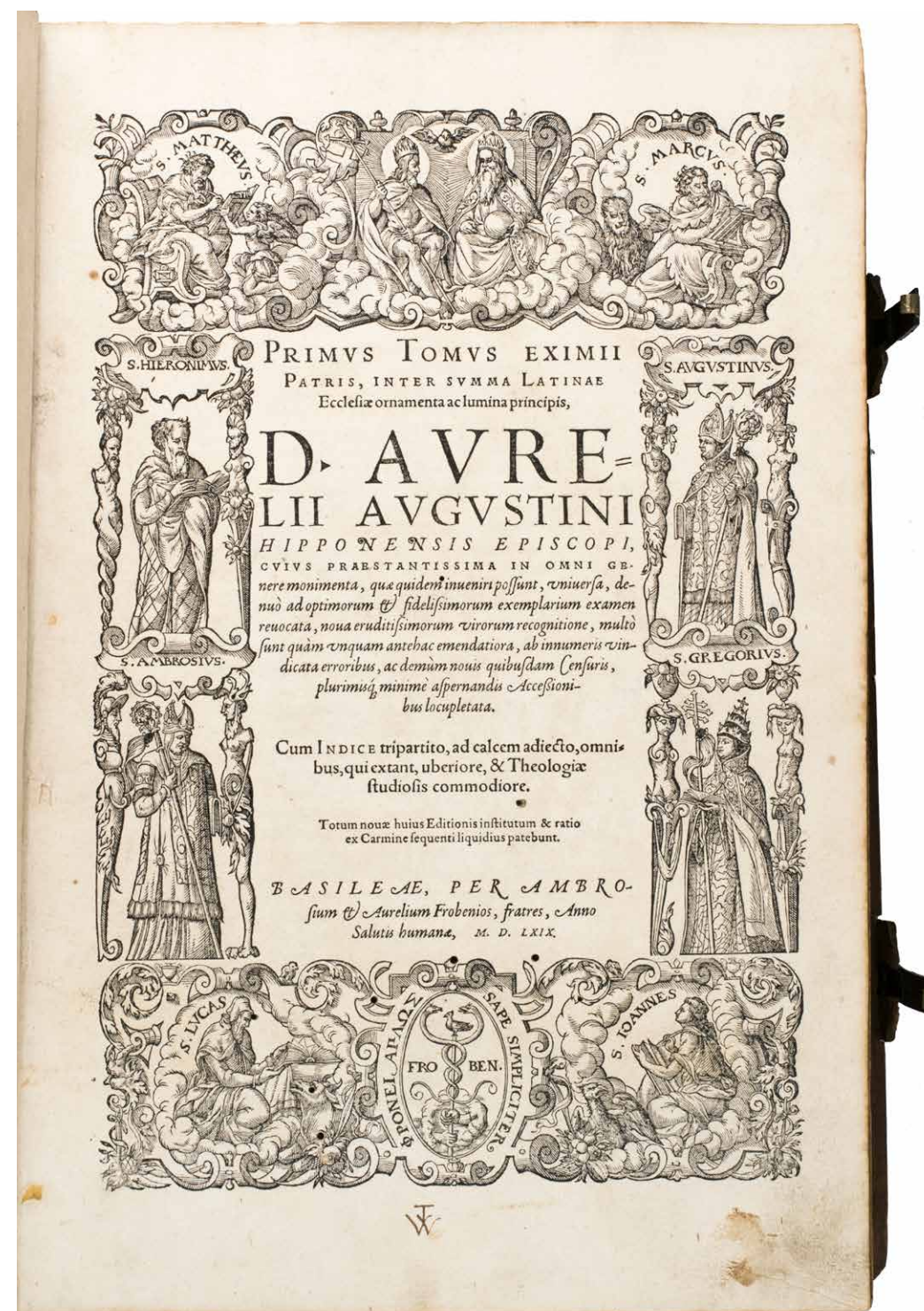
Basel, Ambrosius & Aurelius Froben, 1569. 11 parts in 10 volumes. Folio. With the general title page in volume 1 set within a woodcut frame, all other title pages show Froben's woodcut device, repeated on all but one verso of the final page in each part. Further with woodcut decorated initials. Contemporary half blind-tooled pigskin over wooden boards, with 2 brass clasps on the fore edge. With the manuscript titles on the spines and the contents of each volume on the bottom edge of all but one volume.

€ 14 500

A complete and uniformly bound set of the monumental edition of the complete works of Saint Augustine of Hippo, printed by the celebrated Froben press. This edition follows the editorial tradition established by Erasmus and Johann Froben in the early 16th century and reflects the enduring influence of Augustine's thought on early modern theology.

After a period of moral and spiritual searching, chronicled in his *Confessiones*, With a manuscript inscription on each of the title pages and a small printed book plate mounted on the front pastedown of volume 1. The bindings are slightly stained and are occasionally slightly bumped and rubbed. The front hinge of volume one is slightly weakened, lacking the upper clasp and anchor plate of volume 7, and the front board of volume 9 is slightly damaged along the fore edge. Internally, the volumes are variably slightly foxed and/or browned, some volumes show very minor water staining, most volumes contain some minor worm holes which affect small parts of the letters. A more detailed condition report, including collations etc., per volume is available upon request. The 10 volumes are overall in very good condition.

See our website for the list of references. ➤ [More on our website](#)



Very rare edition of the translation of two collections of dialogues by Erasmus and Lucian

65

ERASMUS, Desiderius, LUCIAN of SAMOSATA, and Andreas van OOSTERBEECK (translator).

Sommige uytgelesene colloquia ...

Utrecht, Jan Amelisz, 1613. 4°. With a woodcut printer's device on the title page and the rare full-page engraved portrait of Erasmus in an oval. On the verso of this portrait is a laudatory sonnet for Erasmus, between typographical borders; the same borders on leaf. π2r: the privilege by the States General (verso blank). Contemporary gold-tooled overlapping vellum.

€ 4950

Very rare first and only edition of a collection of 27 colloquia (dialogues) by Erasmus and 13 by Lucian (of Samosata, ca. 125–after 180 CE). The colloquia were translated into Dutch by Andreas van Oosterbeeck (fl. 1584–ca. 1620), a minister in Abcoude (1590) and Montfoort (1616). The 27 dialogues by Erasmus include *Proci & Puella*, *Virgo Misogamos*, and others.

The *Colloquia familiaria* is one of the main works by Desiderius Erasmus, first published in 1518 as Latin dialogues for school exercises and expanded over the following decades, with witty – albeit serious – and often controversial content, including contemporary religious practises treated in a pervasively ironic tone. After Cornelis Crul's translations of a number of dialogues, published between 1530 and 1545, these annotated translations by Andreas van Oosterbeeck are the first 17th-century edition, followed in 1622 and 1634 by translation of the colloquia by Dirck Pietersz. Pers.

After Erasmus' dialogues follow, after a separate title page, the 13 highly ironical dialogues, originally written in Greek by Lucian. These are all translated in Dutch by Andreas van Oosterbeeck after the Latin translations made by Erasmus from the original Greek.

With later annotations in pencil on the front pastedown and flyleave, the fore-edge and the bottom outer corner of the back board are somewhat stained and soiled, a water stain in the upper outer corner throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

[18], 141, [3] ll. See our website for the list of references. [More on our website](#)



Important for the biography of Erasmus, including hitherto unpublished letters by Erasmus

66

ERASMUS, Desiderius and Petrus SCRIVERIUS (editor).

Magni Des. Erasmi Roterodami vita; partim ab ipsomet Erasmo, partim ab amicis æqualibus fideliter descripta; accedunt epistolæ illustres plus quam septuaginta, quas ætate proveciore scripsit, nec inter vulgatas in magno volumine comparent. P. Scriverii, & fautorum auspicijs.

Leiden, Govert Basson, 1615. 12°. With a woodcut printer's device on the title page, a woodcut roundel with portrait of Erasmus on leaf 5, a divisional title page for Erasmus' letters, and a few woodcut decorated initials. Contemporary vellum.

€ 1250

Important collection of sources for the biography of Desiderius Erasmus (1469–1536), put together and edited by Petrus Scriverius on the basis of the 1607 edition by Merula of the *Compendium vitae*, including a number of new sources and four hitherto unpublished letters by Erasmus. The Humanist and independent scholar Petrus Scriverius (1576–1660) worked in Leiden outside the University, but he was in continuous contact with the most famous Leiden professors. Scriverius added commentaries and connecting texts by which the collection gained weight as materials for Erasmus' biography. Also through the later editions, edited by Thysius, and published by Joannes Maire in 1642 and 1649, the collection became very influential regarding Erasmus' "image" before the first critical biography of Erasmus was published by Joannes Clericus in 1705.

With a few (near-contemporary?) manuscript annotations and markings in the margins. The vellum and the title page are slightly (dust) soiled, the pastedowns have detached from the inside of the boards and the front pastedown is lacking the upper outer corner, the bottom outer corner of leaf C6 is slightly damaged (not affecting the text), some occasional very slight foxing. Otherwise in good condition.

(24), 286, (2 blank). *Knaake* II, 355a; *STCN* 832265039; *Tuynman*, 'Petrus Scriverius (1576–1660)', in: *Quaerendo*, 7 (1977), pp. 4–45, esp. 23–4; *USTC* 1027478; *Vander Haeghen* 182.

[More on our website](#)



First edition of the Dutch translation of Erasmus' famous treatise against war

67 ERASMUS, Desiderius and Zacharias HEYNS (translator).

Belli detestatio. Ofte oorlogs vervloekinghe.

Zwolle, for Zacharias Heyns, 1629. 4°. With a large engraved emblem on the title page, 5 decorated woodcut initials, a woodcut headpiece, 2 headpieces built up from typographical ornaments, a woodcut tailpiece, and a tailpiece built up from typographical ornaments. 19th century half brown morocco.

€ 1750

First edition of Zacharias Heyns' new Dutch translation of Erasmus' famous anti-war essay *Dulce bellum inexpertis*. This essay was originally part of the 1515 edition of the *Adagia*, but was first published as an independent work by Johann Froben in 1517 with the title *Bellum*. The present Dutch edition is quite rare, as we have not been able to find any other copies in sales records of the past hundred years.

The *Adagia* was first published in 1500, but Erasmus continued to edit the work until his death. The 1515 edition, published by Froben, was greatly expanded, but the essay for the proverb *Dulce bellum inexpertis* (war is sweet to the inexperienced) was the longest and most remarkable addition. In the essay, Erasmus argues that war is senseless, unchristian, and contrary to human nature. He also critiques the militaristic culture of his time, which glorified violence and aggression, and advocates instead for diplomacy and negotiation. The essay became so popular, that Froben published it separately. Within ten years it had been reissued at Louvain, twice at Strasbourg, twice at Mainz, at Leipzig, twice at Paris, twice at Cologne, at Antwerp, and at Venice. German translations of it were published at Basel and at Strasbourg in 1519 and 1520, and an English translation followed in 1533. The first Dutch translation was made in 1622. The present second Dutch translation, made during the Eighty Years' War, shows how the work continued to inspire more than a hundred years after it was first written.

The spine has been slightly rubbed. The end paper are browned, the work is lightly browned throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

[28] ll. Knuttel 3921; Bibl. Belgica E 247; Erasmus Bibl. Rotterdam p. 29; Erasmus Online 465; STCN 831153881; USTC 1026760; Vander Haeghen 1, p. 22. [More on our website](#)



Fine sammelband with four theological works printed by Joannes Maire

68

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Explicatio in symbolum apostolorum, & decalogum.

Leiden, Joannes Maire 1641.

With: (2) **IDEM.** Enchiridion militis Christiani.

Leiden, Joannes Maire, 1641.

(3) **IDEM.** Modus orandi Deum.

Leiden, Joannes Maire, 1641.

(4) **IDEM.** De sarcienda ecclesiae concordia, deque sedandis opinionum dissidiis, cum aliis nonnullis lectu dignis, liber.

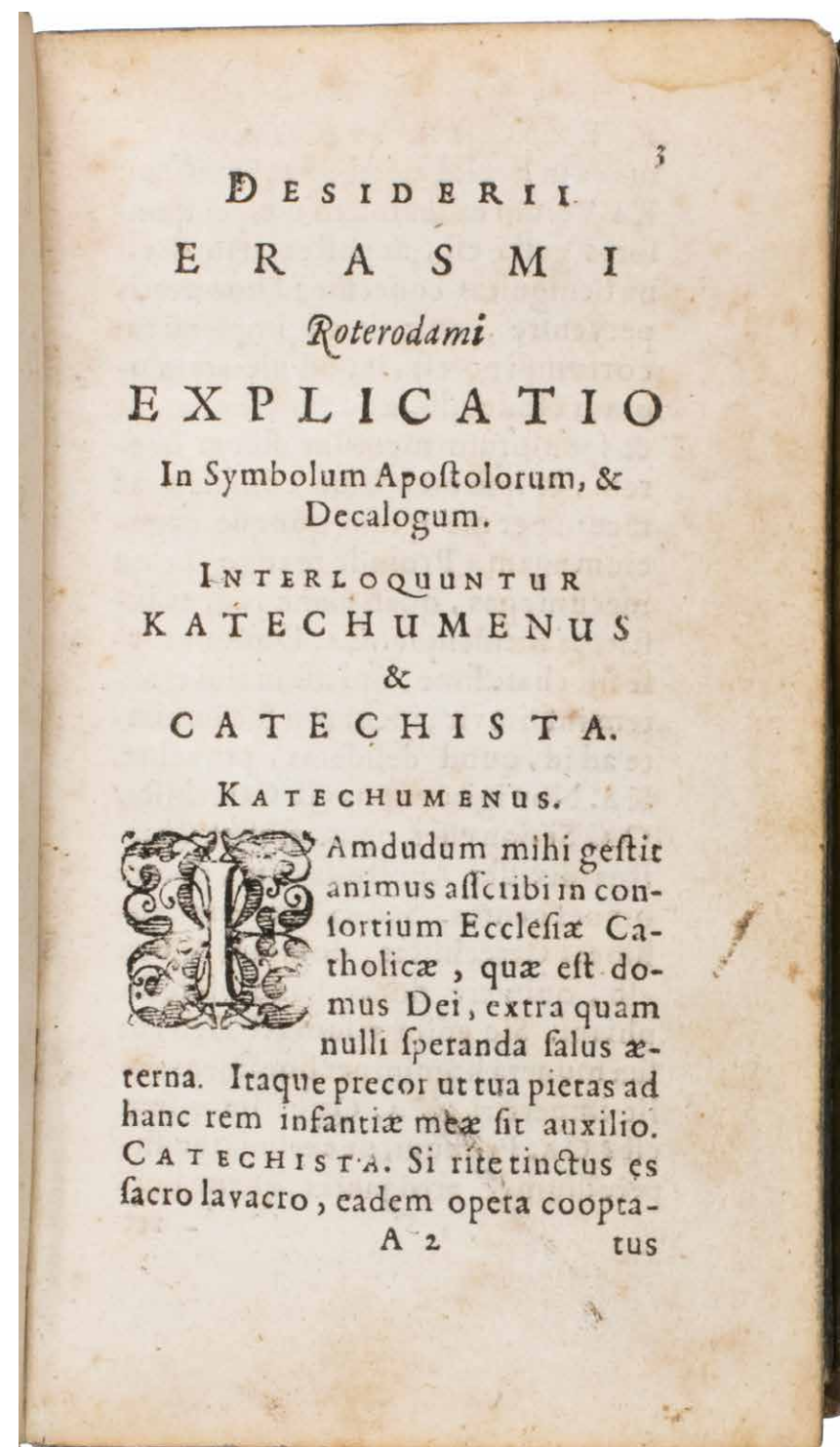
Leiden, Joannes Maire, 1642. 4 works in 1 volume. 12°. With Maire's woodcut devices on all four title pages, several woodcut decorated initials throughout. Contemporary overlapping vellum, sewn on 3 supports laced through the joints, blue edges.

€ 1250

Fine *Sammelband* with four theological works by Desiderius Erasmus, all published by the well-known Leiden printer Joannes Maire. The present work containing four 17th-century editions reflects the enduring popularity of Erasmus' didactic and theological writings nearly a century after his death. The work includes a concise moral and theological commentary on the Apostles' Creed and the Ten Commandments; Erasmus' "The Handbook of the Christian Soldier"; a succinct yet profound devotional treatise offering guidance on the true manner of prayer and the cultivation of inward piety; and a thoughtful and conciliatory treatise addressing the urgent need for unity and peace within a divided Christendom.

With an annotation in Latin on the front pastedown, 3 inscriptions on the title page of ad 1, and marginal annotations and underlining of the text in ad 2. The binding is somewhat dust soiled, slight foxing throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

264; 330 [2 blank]; 144; [1], [1 blank], [6], [4 blank], 176, [2 blank] pp. See our website for the list of references. [More on our website](#)



Fourteen of Erasmus' works published by Joannes Maire in Leiden between 1641 and 1652

69

ERASMUS, Desiderius.

Vita; partim ab ipsomet Erasmo, partim ab amicis aequalibus fideliter descripta ...

Leiden, Joannes Maire, 1642.

With: (2–14) IDEM. [Various works].

Leiden, Joannes Maire, 1649–1652.

14 works in 2 volumes. 12°. Ad 1 with an engraved title page. All title pages contain Maire's woodcut device. A woodcut portrait of Erasmus in a roundel on leaf *8r in ad 1 and his device in a roundel in the text on leaf 2*5v in ad 1. Further with several woodcut decorated initials throughout. Contemporary half vellum, paper sides.

€ 3950

These 14 important works by Erasmus – the edition of his most important letters after the *Vita*, edited by Petrus Scriverius (1576–1660), his famous *Laus stultitiae*, and 3 of his linguistic works in the first volume, and 9 theological works in volume 2 – belong to a project of the Leiden publisher, printer and bookseller Joannes Maire (1603–1657). This project, that can be seen as a series of editions that together represent Erasmus' collected works, ensured Maire's stellar reputation through the ages. The whole collection brings together a representative selection of Erasmus' spiritual, moral, and exegetical writings – as it includes treatises on Christian prayer and devotion, moral and ascetical reflections, expositions of the Creed, the Ten Commandments, and the Lord's Prayer, and commentaries on select psalms. It is presented together with Scriverius' edition of the *Vita*, a biography of Erasmus.

With a manuscript inscription on the title pages of ads 1 and 6, a small inscription on the title pages of ads 2–3, 5, and 6–14. Further with two library stamps on the versos of the title pages of ads 1 and 6. The bindings are dust soiled and slightly damaged along the extremities, but the structural integrity of both bindings remains fine, slight foxing and browning throughout. Otherwise in good condition.

A detailed list of references is available upon request. [More on our website](#)



Erasmus' colloquia, annotated by Arnold Montanus

70

ERASMUS, Desiderius and Arnold MONTANUS (editor).

Colloquia. Nunc emendatiora. Cum annotationibus Arnoldi Montani.

Including: Coronis apologetica pro colloquiis Erasmi, ex ipsius scriptis, quantum per otium licuit, fideliter collecta à P.S. accedit ejusdem De Colloquiorum utilitate dissertatio.

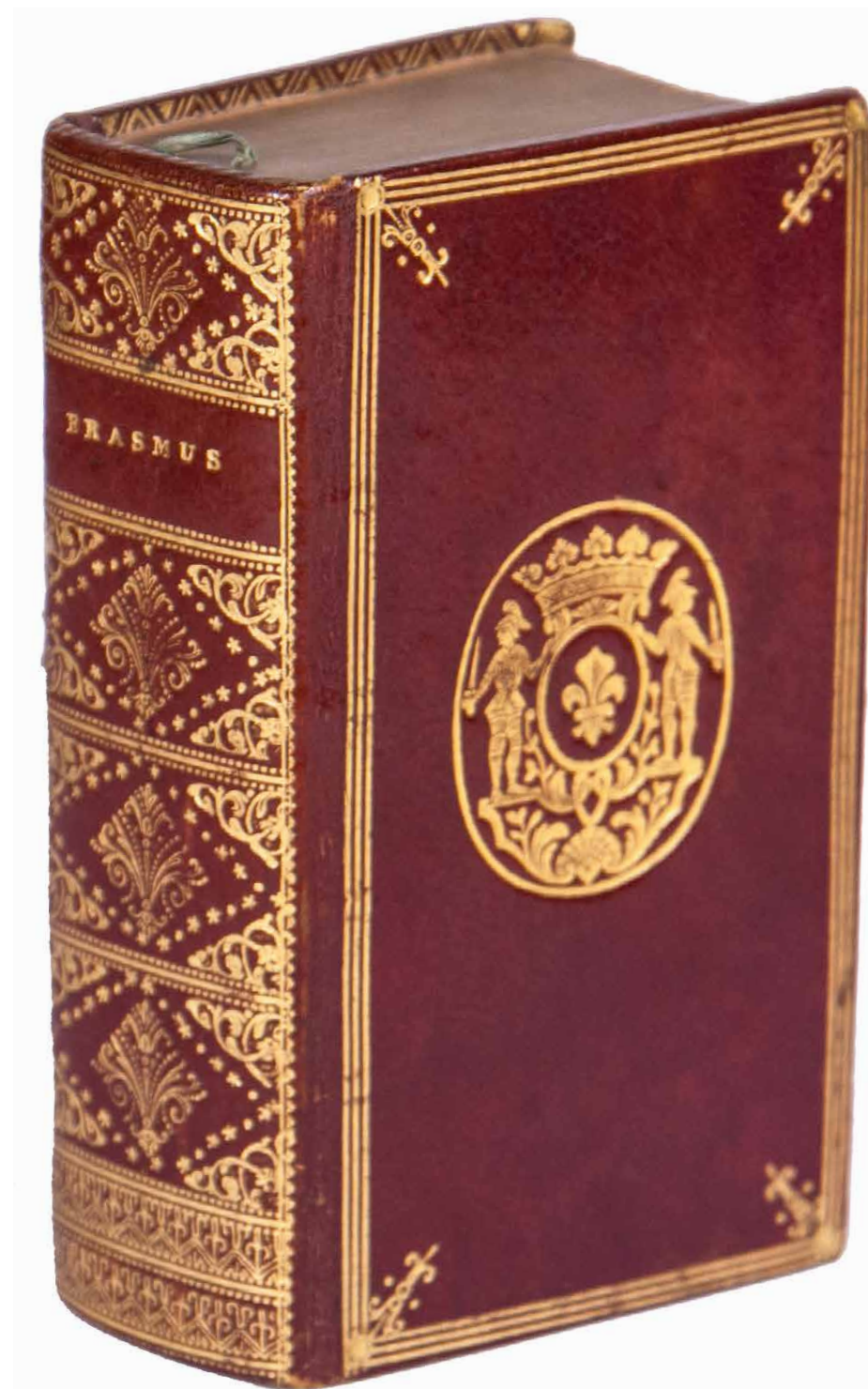
Amsterdam, Joannes Janssonius, 1658. 12°. With an engraved title page, a full-page engraving showing Erasmus, woodcut decorated initials, and several woodcut head- and tailpieces. 18th-century richly gold-tooled red morocco, both boards show a triple fillet frame with small cornerpieces in the inside corners and an oval armorial centrepiece (crowned fleur-de-lis flanked by two knights), gold-tooled spine with "Erasmus" lettered in gold, gold-tooled board edges and turn ins, gilt edges, marbled endpapers.

€ 6000

Montanus' edition of a renowned famous Latin schoolbook written by Erasmus, one of the most used Latin schoolbooks for centuries, as it discusses all basic scholarly and moral issues. With Erasmus' preface-letter to Froben at Basel, dated 1524, and the *Vita Erasmi* preceding the *Colloquia*, as well as two indices of authors and dialogues. Included at the end is a short essay explaining the usefulness of the book.

With a few 17th-century annotations on the engraved and letterpress title pages (resp. "1662" and "Besnier"). The engraved title page is cut slightly short (not affecting the engraving). Otherwise in very good condition.

[1], [1 blank], [1], [1 blank], [20], 820, 44 pp. *Bibl. Belg.* II, E 572; *Erasmus Coll.* City Library Rotterdam p. 50; *STCN* 850071909 (9 copies); *Vander Haeghen*, p. 40. ➤ [More on our website](#)



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