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The Golden Legend of Jacobus de Voragine
Printed by Wynken de Worde in London - 1527
A Largely Complete Copy in a Fine State of Preservation

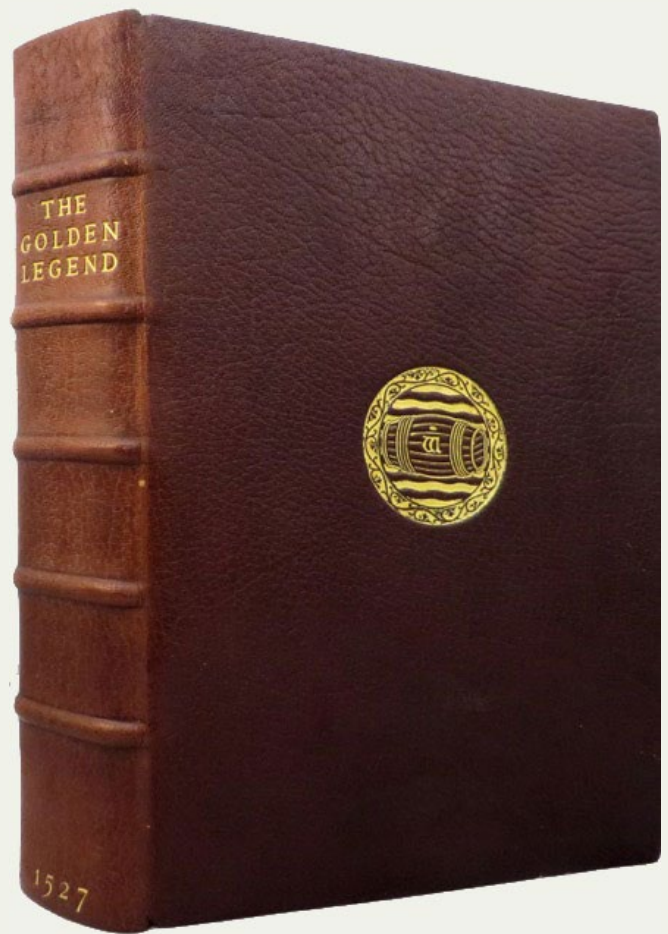
1 [Voragine, Jacobus de]. [THE LEGENDE NAMED IN LATYN LEGEDA AUREA THAT IS TO SAYE IN ENGLYSSHE THE GOLDEN LEGENDE (Translated by William Caxton)] ([London: Wynkyn de Worde, 1527) VERY RARE EARLY PRINTING BY WYNKEN DE WORDE. A copy with pleasing provenance. Black letter, 46 lines double column, with numerous woodcuts throughout the text, some of which repeated, and with engraved initials. Folio (288 x 190 mm), in very fine full dark maroon levant morocco signed "C. McL., 1917", with de Worde's printer's device in gilt in the center of both boards, the spine lettered in gilt and with thick, tall raised bands, board edges and turn-ins gilt ruled, a.e.g., from the library of Wilfred Merton with his book label on front paste-down. 417 of 438 leaves, lacking only ff. i-viii (1st foliation, lxxxviii, ccxx-ccxxi, ccclxviii, ccclxxvi-ccclxxxiii (final foliation), which includes the title, the full-page woodcut at the front, and the woodcut printer's device at the end. In an especially fine state of preservation, with an early owner's occasional underlining or marginal notations and the censoring of the words "pope" and "mass" each time they appear in the text, cxxxvi remargined with loss of a few words; clxiii remargined; clxxxi torn with a few letters of text lost; tear repaired in clxxxvi without loss.

VERY EARLY PRINTING OF ONE OF THE MOST WIDELY READ BOOKS OF THE MIDDLE AGES, THE GOLDEN LEGEND was translated by William Caxton—his largest and most complex work of translation—and was originally printed by him in 1483, going through seven full and one partial editions by 1527.

The famous medieval manual of ecclesiastical lore and one of the most widely read books of Middle Ages, consisting of the lives of the saints, commentary on the church service, homilies of saints' days, etc. The chief source for William Caxton's translation is the *Legenda Aurea* of Jacobus de Voragine (1230-98), archbishop of Genoa. The original edition of Voragine's work appeared in 1472, followed by scores of others. Caxton's edition, the first in English, initially appeared in 1483 and proved his most popular production. Wynkyn de Worde was Caxton's successor and first published the work in 1493. The work was held in an almost sacred light, so that when the scholar Claude Espence dared to criticize it in 1555 by calling it the "*Legenda Ferrea*" he was obliged to publicly retract. Caxton first published this translation in 1483 and Warde, who had served as his apprentice, republished it in 1498.

Caxton's translation came from the French of Jean de Vignay, according to Herbert, though the Harl. Catalogue says that "the volume is not a translation from any one author; but from a Latin, French and English work which Caxton had by him at the time." Caxton as an *homme de lettres* has been eclipsed by his fame as a printer but as a translator he was instrumental in fixing the literary language of England of the beginning of the 16C. In this work Caxton was an impressionist. Eschewing literalism he provided fluent, readable, idiomatic texts which rarely remind the reader they are not in fact original English compositions. Worde inherited Caxton's woodblocks and other materials on Caxton's death and used them in his early editions of the Golden Legend with many additions of his own. This edition is Worde's sixth and last and is abundantly illustrated in a similar fashion to his edition of 1507 and 1521 (of which no complete copies have saved). "His skill in the art of printing is much to be admired.; for although he was the immediate successor of Caxton, yet he improved the art to a very great degree." "A printer of very considerable taste, and of infinitely more skilled than his predecessor." (Herbert).

In this copy the words Pope and Mass have been systematically inked over, sometimes with "Devil" written in replacement, and one of the woodcuts has been altered with the papal crown of St. Gregory replaced with a Bishops mitre. This protestant zeal might be the cause of the missing leaves. No English editions of the Golden Legend were published after the Reformation

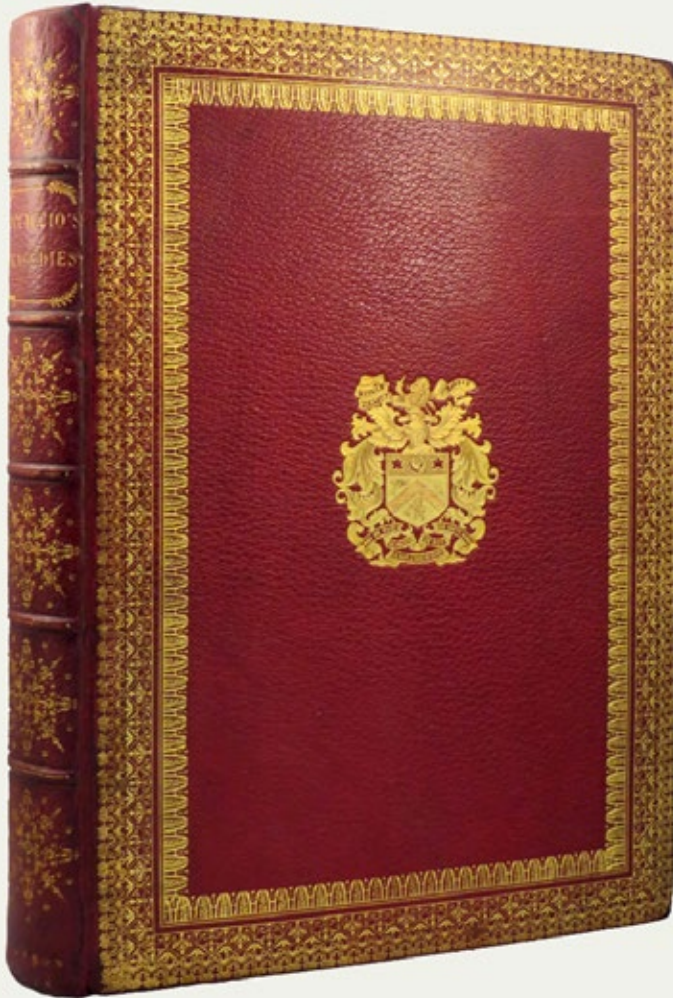


and very many of the copies that survive are incomplete. An extremely rare survival The present edition here offered is considered rare and is a prize of collectors.

STC 24880. Lowndes VII 2795. Ames 11108.

Provenance: Wilfred Merton (1889-1957) collector of Greek papyri. STC (2nd) 24880; ESTC S111988. \$38,500.

**The Rare Wayland Printing of Boccaccio's *Tragedies* - 1554-5
Retaining the Suppressed Leaf Which is Typically Lacking
Handsomely Bound in Full Red Morocco With Provenance**



2 [Boccaccio, Giovanni]; [Early English Printing]. THE TRAGEDIES, Gathered by Jhon Bochas, of All Such Princes as Fell From Theyr Estates Throughe the Mutability of Fortune Since the Creation of Adam, Until His Time: Wherein May Be Seen What Vices Bring Menne to Destruction, wyth Notable Warnings Howe the Like May Be Avoyled. Translated into Englysh by John Lidgate, Monke of Burye. (London: by John Wayland, [n.d., ca. 1554-1555]) AN EXTREMELY RARE AND EARLY PRINTING of Boccaccio's *Tragedies* into English, the third or fourth issuance only. Title-page and leaf Gg4 (bound after title) with architectural woodcut borders (McKerrow 76a) and with woodcuts on leaf A4 illustrating events in the Garden of Eden, woodcut initials throughout. Folio [299 x 203 mm], in very fine and handsome nineteenth-century red hard-grain morocco by F.P. Hathaway of Boston, the boards elaborately framed in extensive gilt, the upper board with central gilt crest of John W. De Kay, the spine beautifully lettered and decorated with central tools in gilt in compartments between gilt ruled raised bands, elaborate gilt tooled board edges and turn-ins, all edges gilt, marbled endpapers. De Kay's armorial bookplates on front pastedown and verso of front free endpaper. (10), ctxiii, xxvii [i.e., xxxix] leaves. A very handsome and well preserved copy of this rare printing. The binding very handsome indeed, with only the most minimal wear to extremities, joints expertly and near-invisibly restored. The title-page and Gg3 laid down and reattached, the title with small ink notations at top, not affecting text or woodcut border. The inner margin of leaf Gg4 (which is

bound in after the title-page in this copy, and *2 repaired, with some loss to woodcut border and a few words of text. Other minor paper repairs to several leaves, in a few cases affecting a few letters of text, evidence of old damp throughout last half of book which is fairly inoffensive.

VERY RARE AND VERY EARLY PRINTING, WITH THE LEAF GG4 WHICH IS USUALLY LACKING. This is only the third or fourth printing in English of Boccaccio's *De Casibus Virorum Illustrium*, following Pynson's earlier printings of 1494 and 1527, Richard Tottell reissued the work in 1554 and it has not been clearly determined whether Tottell's edition or Wayland's was completed first. This especially handsome copy retains the final leaf Gg4, which is usually lacking according to STC. It is bound after the title-page and comprises the rare title for 'A Memorial of Such Princes, as since the Tyme of King Richard the Seconds, Have Been Unfortunate in the Realme of England' (STC 1246), and was apparently intended for a work to be issued along with *De Casibus*, STC accepts this leaf as the true first edition title for *Mirror for Magistrates*, which was suppressed for religious and political reasons during Mary's reign and eventually published again in abridged form in 1559.

John Lydgate's translation of Boccaccio's moralistic tales of the misfortunes of famous people was made from the 1476 French version by Laurence de Premierfait. The Latin original text was first printed circa 1474-75. *De casibus* is an

encyclopedia of historical biographies dealing with the calamities of famous people starting with the biblical Adam, going to mythological and ancient people, then to people of Boccaccio's own time in the fourteenth century. The work was so successful it spawned what has been referred to as the 'De casibus tradition', it influenced many other famous authors, such as Geoffrey Chaucer.

This copy with the provenance of John Wesley De Kay, self-made millionaire, American entrepreneur, playwright, author, and eccentric socialite. Born in Iowa to Dutch immigrants in 1872, De Kay apprenticed as a printer and eventually owned several newspapers and a sizable cattle ranch.

Pforzheimer 73. STC 3178. STC 3178; Pforzheimer 73.
\$25,000.

A Beautiful Copy of the Rare and Important First Edition *The Workes of Thomas More, Knyght* - 1557 With Fine Provenance - The Chatsworth Copy

3 More, Thomas. THE WORKES OF SIR THOMAS MORE KNYGHT, sometyme Lorde Chauncellour of England, wrytten by him in the englysh tonge. (London: At the costes and charges of Iohn Cawod, Iohn Waly, and Richarde Tottell, 1557) First Edition, A COPY WITH FINE PROVENANCE. THE CHATSWORTH COPY. Black letter, double columns. Title within woodcut border (McKerrow and Ferguson 81), decorative and historiated woodcut

initials. Folio (10 3/4 x 7 1/2 inches; 274 x 191 mm.), finely bound in 18th century antique contrasting sprinkled calf, the tan covers with double gilt fillet borders and gilt tooled floral pieces at the corners. The rich dark spine with six raised bands handsomely gilt tooled and separating compartments filled with highly accomplished gilt bordered panels enclosing floral devices at the centers, corners and borders of the panels, one compartment handsomely lettered in gilt, one compartment with royal crown in gilt, the head and foot of the spine richly gilt tooled, marbled end-leaves, Chatsworth ownership label and coat of arms at the pastedown. [36], 88 pp., cols. 89-104, pp. 105-1138-1458. A wonderful copy; clean and wide-margined. An exceptionally handsome and impressive copy of a scarce book, especially well preserved, the hinges sometime expertly and attractively strengthened and restored.

RARE AND IMPORTANT FIRST EDITION. Thomas More's English works were collected from his manuscripts by his nephew William Rastell, and were first published together in the present edition of 1557, dedicated by Rastell to Queen Mary. The collection includes his most controversial works (such as "A dyalogue of Syr Thomas More, knt.") directed against Tyndale, Luther, and their followers, together with previously unpublished works written while More was imprisoned in the Tower prior to his execution. The "Dyalogue" was first controversial book in English and is presented as a dialogue taking place in More's library at Chelsea, between him and a young university student who was attracted to Lutheran doctrine as expounded by Tyndale. "It is in four books. The first two defend the theory and practice of catholicism, the third denounces Tindal's translation of the New Testament as heretical, the fourth is a personal attack on Luther" (DNB). Also included here is More's most moving English work "Adyalogue of comforte agaynste tribulacyon". This was one of the works written in the earliest days of More's imprisonment, following his refusal to condone Henry VIII's divorce from Queen Catherine or to take any oath that should be to the detriment of papal authority. It is a highly ascetic work, written for the comfort of More's own family, advocating prayer and faith in times of persecution and with its authorship wisely obscured by the claim that it was "made by an Hungarien in laten, and translated out of laten into frenche, and out of frenche in English."

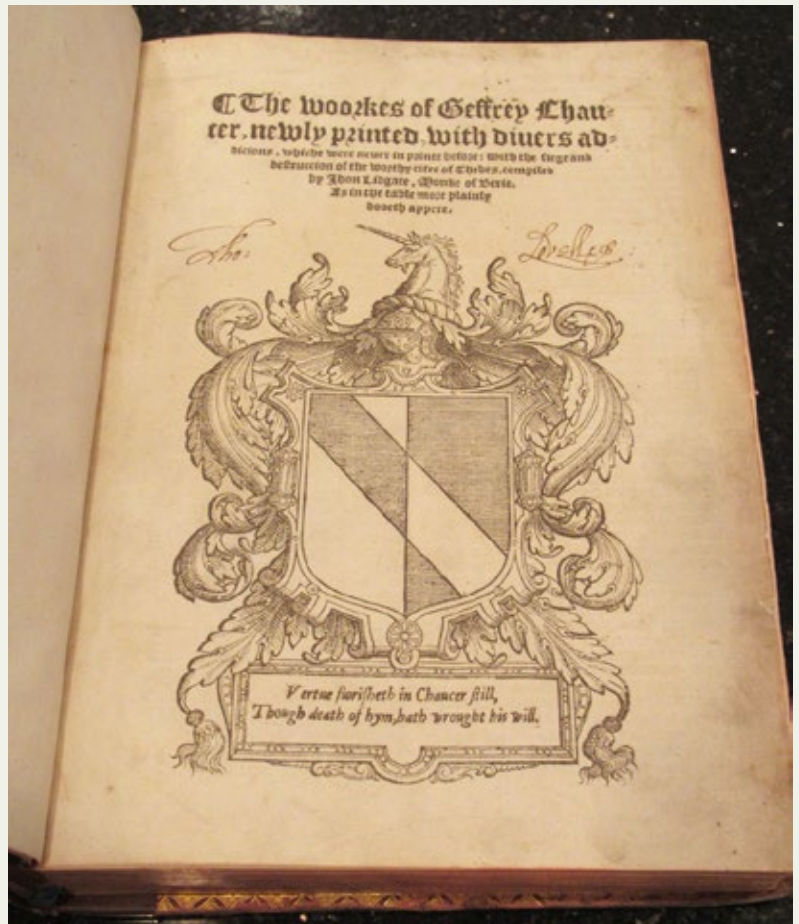
"The work of gathering, arranging in chronological order, and of adding the valuable marginal notes was all done by [William] Rastell, More's nephew, while an exile in Louvain during Edward's reign" (Pforzheimer). The collection is described by R.W. Chambers in his study of Sir Thomas More as "this magnificent folio."



Chambers notes that this edition preserves for us a great deal which would otherwise have been lost, including a number of English poems written by More in his youth; a correct text of "The history of King Richard the thirde," from a copy in More's own hand (the version "in Hardynges Cronicle, and in Hallys Cronicle," as Rastell complained, being "very much corrupte in many places..and altered in wordes and whole sentences"); an unfinished Treatise "uppon these words of Holy Scripture, Memorare novissima et in eternum non peccabis," dated in 1522, and dealing with reflections on death; and several devotional works written by More while imprisoned in the Tower. Rastell also preserved the letters written just before More's death to his family and friends. The work was published during the reign of Catholic Queen Mary and dedicated to her by Rastell. The table of contents precedes an index by Thomas Paynell. STC 18076; Pforzheimer 743. Gibson, More 73. \$35,000.

The Rare and Important 1561 Printing of Chaucer's Works The Most Rare of the Issues - With the Illustrative Woodcuts The First of John Stowe's Editions of Chaucer

4 Chaucer, Geoffrey. THE WOORKES OF GEOFFREY CHAUCER newly printed with diverse addicions, whiche were never in print before: With the seige and destruction of the worthy citee of Thebes, compiled by Jhon Lidgate, Monke of Berie. As in the table more playnly dothe appere. (London: John Kyngston for John Wight, 1561) The First Edition to have been edited by John Stowe. [Colophon: Imprinted at London by Ihon Kyngston for Ihon White, 1561] Black letter, double-column, title within woodcut border, section titles for the Canterbury Tales and The Romaunt of the Rose within a full-page woodcut border. Folio. [Text 323 x 212 mm], 18th-century English blind-ruled calf, morocco lettering-piece, endleaves renewed. A pleasing and handsome copy, well preserved and complete, some restoration to title-page, first four leaves with marginal repaired tears, section title for the Canterbury Tales with portion of lower margin renewed, several other smaller marginal repairs, occasional minor stains, some marginal worming at end, occasionally affecting text, a bit of rubbing.



This is the first Stowe edition of Chaucer AND INCLUDES A NUMBER OF FIRST PRINTINGS. IT IS ARGUABLY THE FIRST COMPLETE CHAUCER. Included here are: Chaucer's wordes to

Adam his own scrivener; A balade against unconsttant women; and Complaint to his lady. Also represented are the first printings of these apocryphal texts: The craft of lovers; The court of love (compiled by Chaucer); The dream of Chaucer. Other apocryphal texts included here are: The assembly of ladies; the cuckoo and the nightingale; The plowman's tale; and La belle dame sans merci.

It is also interesting to note that "The Seige of Thebes" by John Lydgate is also published in this volume of Chaucer's works-interesting not just because the two were contemporaries, but also because of inter-textual references in their work. In Chaucer's "Troilus and Creseida" we read of Creseida quietly reading at home in Troy Lydgate's "Seige of Thebes," surrounded by her maidens. Despite the loss of her loving husband, Lydgate's text brings her partial happiness....

Chaucer's work is the cornerstone of English poetry. Next to Shakespeare's folio, it is probably the most influential work in English. The importance of Chaucer's role in the development of vernacular English would take (and has taken) volumes to describe. A remarkable text, book, and artifact.

The edition of Chaucer's works which was probably used by Shakespeare as a source for the story of "Troilus and

Cressida" (see Bartlett).

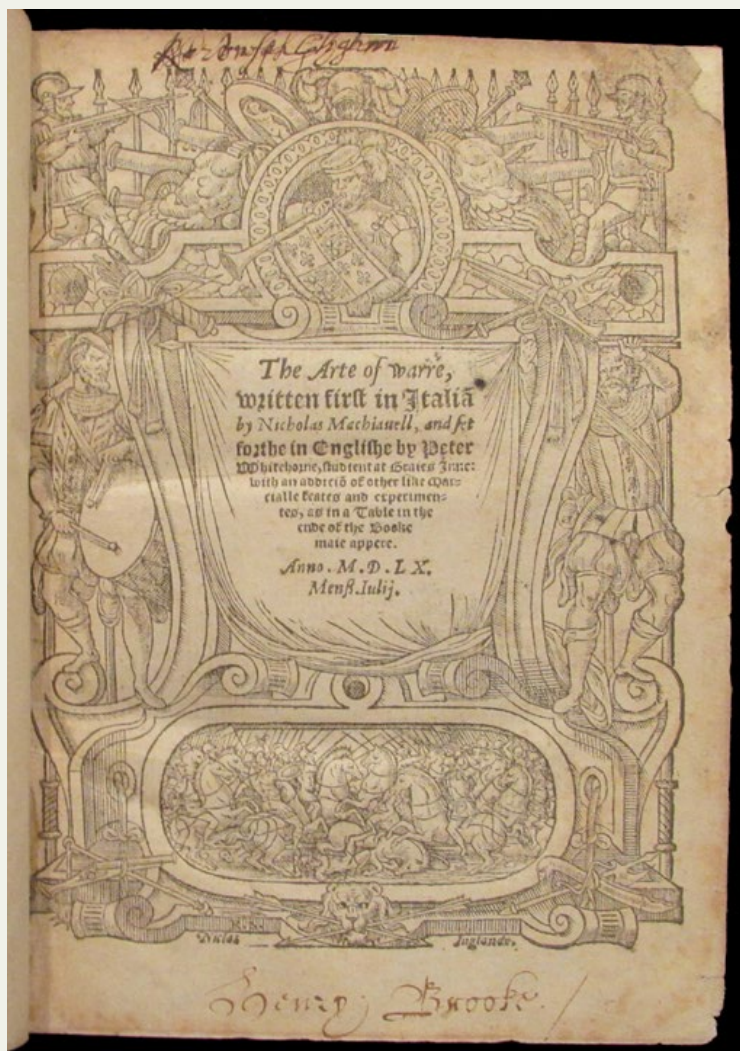
There were two recorded issues of this date, one (STC 5075) with the title within a woodcut border (McKerrow and Ferguson 67) and another (STC 5076, as here) omitting the preliminary woodcuts (so with the preliminaries collating A6) and with the title above a large woodcut of Chaucer's arms. The traditional view was that the illustrated issue was printed first, and then the cuts omitted in the second issue when the blocks were worn out. Recently however (see David R. Carlson, "The Woodcut Illustrations in Early Printed Editions of Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*," in *Chaucer Illustrated: Five Hundred Years of the Canterbury Tales in Pictures*, British Library, 2003) it has been contested that the printer came into possession of the cuts belatedly, and the unillustrated issue appeared first.

ESTC S107207; STC 5075; Pforzheimer 176 (variant title)

Early inscriptions on title, one dated 1612 — University College London (ink stamps on title) STC 5075. Pforzheimer 176. Luborsky & Ingram. *A Guide to English Illustrated Books 1536-1603*; pp 277-8. Many of the recorded copies are imperfect and/or otherwise damaged or made-up.
\$28,500.

Rare First Edition in English of this Important Work
The Arte of Warre - Machiavelli - 1560 - With
Certain Waies for the Orderyng of Souldiers in Battelray...
Two Volumes Bound in One - An Excellent Pair

5 Machiavelli, Nicholas; Whitehorne, Peter. THE ARTE OF WARRE, WRITTEN FIRST IN ITALIAN BY NICHOLAS MACHIAVELL, AND SET FORTHE IN ENGLISHE BY PETER WHITEHORNE, STUDIENT AT



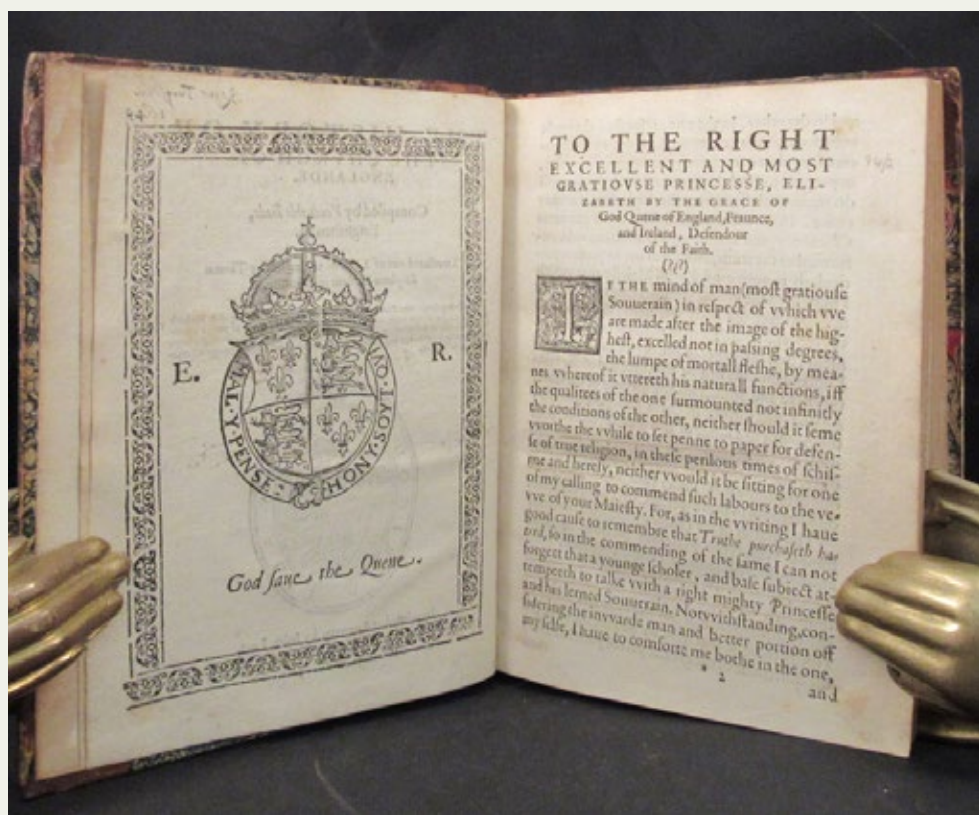
GRAIES INNE: WITH AN ADDICION OF OTHER LIKE MARCIALLE FEATES AND EXPERIMENTES, as in the ende of the booke maie appere. [With,] [Part 2:] Certain waies for the orderyng of souldiers in battelray... (London: by Ihon Kingston, Anno M.D.LX. [Probably 1562] Mens. Iulij. [Part 2:] Certain waies for the orderyng of souldiers in battelray... [Colophon:] M.D.LXII. Mense. Aprilis.) 2 volumes bound in one. First edition in English. London 1560. Woodcut border to the title-page, woodcut printer's device on last leaf, woodcut initials, a series of plans and designs, and tables. 4to, bound in a designed binding executed in the twentieth century. 109 ff. (= 218 pp.), [23 pp. figures, designs and tables] pp.; [50 ff.] (= 101 pp. including plates, designs, tables. A pleasing copy, and a well preserved copy. One blank leaf amidst the illustration leaves. The modern designed binding in excellent condition.

RARE FIRST EDITION IN ENGLISH. STC considers the *Certain waies for the ordeyng of souldiers* to be the second part of *The art of warre*; Bertelli-Innocenti, however, only mentions that these two works are found bound together in the British Library copy.

Bertelli-Innocenti, pp. 47-48 no. 131; STC 17164
Bertelli-Innocenti, pp. 47-48 no. 131; STC 17164
\$19,500.

The Greatest Work of the Father of English History
The Venerable Bede - The Rare First Edition in English
The History of the Church of England - "Historia Ecclesiastica"

6 Bede, The Venerable (673–735 AD). THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLANDE COMPILED BY VENERABLE BEDE, Englishman. Translated Out of the Latin to English by Thomas Stapleton Student in Diuninite. (Antwerp: John Laet, 1565) Five books in one volume. A VERY RARE COMPLETE COPY, the First Edition of *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum* translated into English. Provenance: Montanus, 1602 -- Sir Roger Twysden, 1648, and Sir John Saunders Sebright (armorial bookplate). With woodcut device on titlepage, woodcut armorial dedication to Queen Elizabeth, woodcut plate of St. Augustin with Elbert King of Kent in anno 596, woodcut plate of King Oswald uniting the Umbrian kingdoms, halfpage woodcut of Elbert building St. Paul's, and with many large and handsome woodcut initials all throughout. The woodcuts are possibly by Arnaud Nicolai. Small 4to (188 x 140 mm), in antique three-quarter russia over marbled boards, the spine with raised bands ruled in gilt, one compartment gilt lettered, gilt dating at the tail, gilt lined back and cornerpieces. *1-6, >1-4, #1-4, 192, [9] pp. A truly excellent survival of a book rarely found complete. The text-block is especially fresh and well preserved, crisp and very clean. The blanks date from the time of the binding, but the text is otherwise wholly complete and original, the binding is handsome though its age is evident and there was restoration some time ago to the hinges, the front of which is also strengthened from within.



VERY RARE FIRST EDITION IN ENGLISH OF THE FIRST AND GREATEST WORK OF ENGLISH HISTORY BY THE FATHER OF ENGLISH HISTORY. RARE IN COMPLETE STATE, when one reads the catalogue entries of copies in even some of the worlds most prestigious institutions one finds descriptions of missing signatures, facsimile titles, or entire sections excised to be quite the norm. This copy, but for its probable early 19th century blank flies and endpapers is wholly intact and in a truly exceptional state of preservation.

The Venerable Bede's title of "The Father of English History" is well deserved. He was England's greatest historian in the Middle Ages. His greatest work is the *Historia Ecclesiastica*, here in its first English edition. It is an ecclesiastical history of the English people. Bede begins with Caesar's invasion in 55 BCE and St. Alban's martyrdom in Roman Britain, tracks the spread of Christianity following St. Augustine's mission to England in 597, and provides an account of critical events such as the Council of Whitby, which decided that Roman rather than Celtic Christian customs would be followed in Britain.

Bede drew on the many manuscripts in the Jarrow monastery's outstanding library and correspondents provided him materials. He was a diligent scholar and properly credited his sources. To the benefit of historical scholarship, *Historia Ecclesiastica* spread widely throughout Europe in the Middle Ages, with some 160 manuscripts still surviving. Not long after his death, he became known as the Venerable Bede. His was one of the first printed history books, published (in Latin) in Strasbourg about 1475. Highly popular on the Continent and in Britain, it was reprinted in 1500, 1506, and 1514.

Due to its strong association with Catholicism this first translation into the English tongue was published in Antwerp, as the book was then prohibited in England as traitorous. Stapleton was educated in Oxford, where he became a fellow in 1553. On Queen Elizabeth's accession, he left England to study theology in Louvain and Paris. His translation of Bede was his first of many fine works. Stapleton used Bede's history to remind the reader that "we Englishmen also these many hundred

of years kept and preserved sound and whole the precious perle of right faith and belefe," and he admonished that "after we forsooke the first paterne off the Christen faith delievered to us, we have fallen in to plenty of heresies." He added that the Venerable Bede, a most reliable source, describes many miracles that occurred in Britain under the true faith. Stapleton's translation has been called an "enduring contribution to this sparkling collection of [recusant] prose" -DNB)

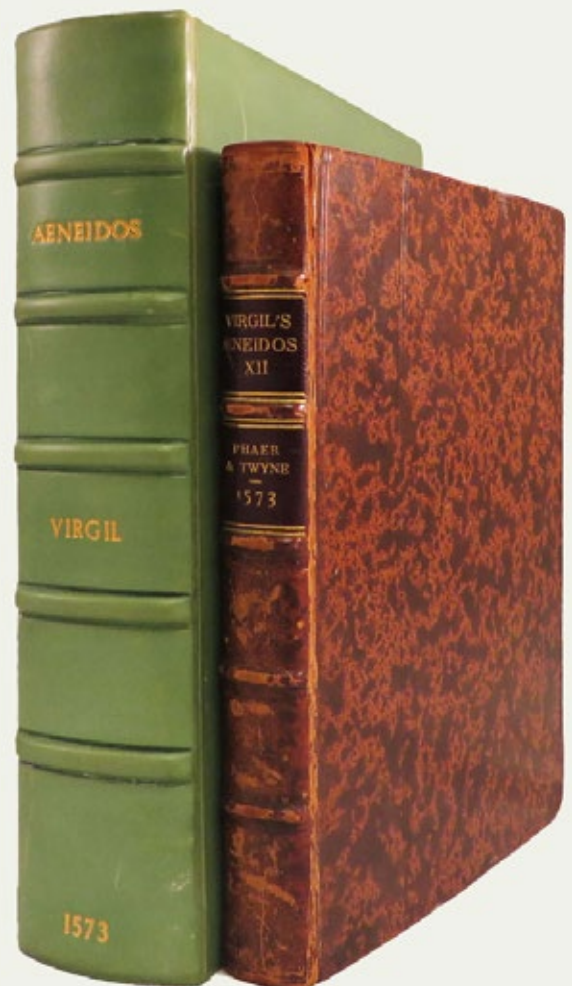
This is also a copy of fine and established provenience. It was formerly owned by the renown historian and antiquary Roger Twysden, whose ownership signature is dated 1648. Having been caught up in civil war strife, Twysden retired to his seat, Roydon Hall, and devoted himself to his study and writings, particularly on early English histories and monasticism. His collection passed to Sir John Sebright, who sold the main portion at auction in 1807. Much of Twysden's collection later passed to Sir John Sebright, whose fine engraved armorial plate is afixed to the front paste-down. The present binding was likely made while the book was in Sebright's possession.

Contrary to the implications of Stapleton's edition of Bede, Twysden's *Historical vindication of the Church of England* (1657) argued that it was the Church of England, rather than Rome, which had held fast to the true faith, and that the pope's powers over England, gained gradually over the centuries, had been submitted to voluntarily out of love not duty, for the archbishop of Canterbury had no mediate superior but only Christ and God (see Jessup, *Sir Roger Twysden* pp. 192-5). Completed in 731, Bede's *Historia ecclesiastica gentis Anglorum*, is 'probably one of the most popular history books in any language and has certainly retained its popularity longer than any rival. The enthusiasm shown for his writings in the eighth century by English missionaries on the Continent, such as Boniface, Lul, and others, led to the spread of knowledge of his works not only in England but also in western Europe . . . From then on, as the spread of his manuscripts shows, the History became popular all over western Europe and 160 of them survive today in spite of all the wars and other dangers to which manuscripts are always subject' (Colgrave & Mynors p. xvii). It was first printed c. 1475, at Strasbourg (PMM 16). 'Bede provided for over a thousand years, and to a large extent still provides, nearly all the knowledge available of the early history of England. His *Historia* is the only work, other than parts of the Bible, which has been read by every English generation from his own day to the present. It has the power to move and to convey something of the personality of its author, to a degree which has called forth not only admiration but a kind of affection' (Oxford DNB). BM; STC 1778; Allison & Rogers 82; Pforzheimer 55; Chrzanowski 1565b. \$38,500.

**A Classic Work of the Highest Order
The Very Rare First Complete Edition in Common English
1573 - Virgil - The Phaer-Twyne Translation and Edition
Handsomely Bound and Presented**

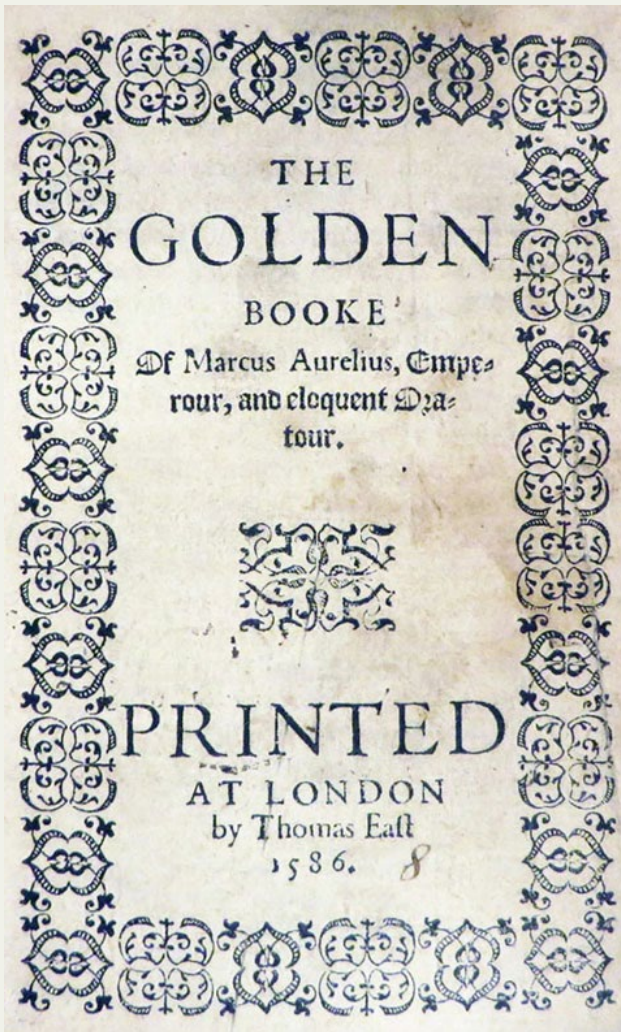
7 [Virgil]. THE WHOLE XII BOOKES OF THE AENEIDOS OF VIRGILL. Whereof the First IX and Part of the Tenth, Were Converted into English Meeter by Thomas Phaer, Esquire, and the Residue Supplied, and the Whole Worke Together Newly Set Forth by Thomas Twyne Gentleman. There is Added Moreover to This Edition, Virgil's Life Out of Donatus, and the Arguments Before Every Booke (London: by William How for Abraham Veale, 1573) SCARCE AND VERY EARLY EDITION IN ENGLISH. THE FIRST COMPLETE EDITION IN 'COMMON' or 'MODERN' ENGLISH, THE FIRST PRINTING OF Phaer's translation to include books 10-12, the "Life" of Virgil and The Arguments. Woodcut border to the titlepage, woodcut initials and head-or-tail pieces throughout. Small 4to (7 by 5.5 inches), very handsomely bound in antique full speckled calf by Riviere and Sons, gilt lettered on two morocco labels on the spine, blind ruled raised bands, blind ruled borders on the boards, t.e.g. Housed in calf-covered clamshell box gilt lettered on a rounded back between raised bands. A very handsome copy, the binding in excellent condition and the text very solid, some expert restoration to the title-page, trimmed a bit close at top and bottom, very occasional evidence of old stains or use.

AN OUTSTANDING COPY OF THIS VERY EARLY ENGLISH VIRGIL, THE TEXT COMPLETE WITH ERRATA PAGE AND



COLOPHON. This is the first printing of Phaer's translation to contain all 12 books, as the first issue of the translation contained only the first nine books. This is the first complete edition in 'modern' or 'common' English. Douglas' 1553 translation was in the Scot's dialect, thus making Phaer's the first translation into British English. This would remain the primary English Virgil till Dryden, over a century later. STC24797; Pforzheimer 1027. \$20,000.

The Golden Booke of Marcus Aurelius - 1586
John Bouchier's Famous Translation into English



8 [Aurelius, Marcus] [Guevara, Antonio de]. THE GOLDEN BOOKE OF MARCUS AURELIUS, Emperour and Eloquent Oratour (London: By Thomas East, 1586) A very early printing of the first translation into English, translated by Lord Berners, John Bouchier. Title-page within woodcut border, woodcut tailpieces on the final page of text and after the colophon, which has a woodcut printer's mark on the verso. Small 8vo, in antique full tan calf, the boards with fine blind-tooled panels, the spine richly decorated in blind between raised bands, one compartment with a red morocco label ruled in lettered in gilt, additional gilt lettering at the foot, page edges and end-leaves marbled. A1-nn8, lacking mm2-mm8. A handsome copy, quite fresh and solid, a small defect to the first leaf of the table at front effecting a few words of text, very occasional other trivial soiling or evidence of use, occasional early marginal evidence of long ago damp, very minor, the binding handsome and strong.

A SCARCE 16TH CENTURY ENGLISH EDITION OF ANTONIO DE GUEVARA'S DISCOURSE ON THE IDEAL RULE OF KINGS BASED UPON THE EXAMPLES OF MARCUS AURELIUS.

Guevara served as historian to the Holy Roman Emperor and King of Spain, Charles V. This work is a life of Marcus Aurelius, and an original work meant to use examples from Aurelius' life to function as a discourse on ideal rule for the new King. Guevara claimed to have discovered it in an old manuscript volume. And he maintained that his contributions and decisions as an editor were merely of style and not of real substance. It "presented a richly drawn portrait of Marcus Aurelius as an emperor and as a man. The book's extraordinary success was owed in no small part to this humanized characterization... in the 17th-century it was said

that in its epoch, no book but the Bible enjoyed such a wide diffusion. (It) created a new dimension to the personality of Marcus Aurelius, popularizing the Emperor as the ideal prince." Mezzatesta, Michael. "Marcus Aurelius, Fray Antonio de Guevara, and the Ideal of the Perfect Prince in the 16th century." STC 12447; Lowndes 1:54; Pforzheimer 2:434; ESTC S103529 \$7500.

The First Edition and First Translation into English
Cornelius Tacitus - The Histories, Life of Agricola, End of Nero...
Translated By Savile for the Earl of Essex - 1591

9 Tacitus, Cornelius. THE ENDE OF NERO AND BEGINNING OF GALBA. FOWER BOOKES OF THE HISTORIES OF CORNELIUS TACITUS. THE LIFE OF IULIUS AGRICOLA. [with] Annotations Upon the First Booke of Tacitus; Annotations on the Life of Agricola; A View of Certaine Militar Matters for the Better Understanding of the Ancient Roman Stories and The Eplication of a Place in Polybius with a Defence of the

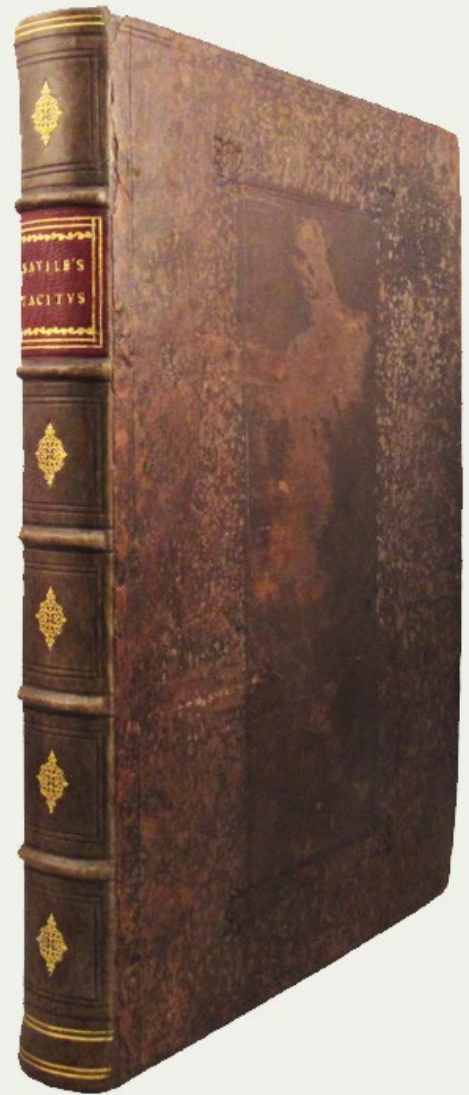
Common copie against the opinion of certaine great learned men, wherein also the reason of the militar stipend is declared. (Oxford: By Joseph Barnes for Richard Wright [But London: R. Robinson], 1591) All works printed separately and bound together as issued. FIRST EDITION IN ENGLISH, Translated by Henry Savile, and the earliest edition of works by Tacitus in English, the *Annales* not being published until 1598. With fine engraved decorated large initials throughout, marginal notes printed in Greek type, engraved military plan. Folio [275 x 190 mm], handsomely bound in antique paneled calf covered boards ruled in blind with a large central panel in blind, the spine restored to style with blind-ruled raised bands, a single red morocco label lettered and ruled in gilt and additional gilt central tooling to the compartments which are paneled in blind. [vi], 1-17; 1-267; 1-80 pp. A very handsome copy of this important first English edition, the text quite fresh and clean and a crisp impression, only very minor and occasional mellowing or evidence of use, the prelims a bit more mellowed than the main text, the title-page a bit more worn and now backed for protection, the antique binding sturdy, sound and in a pleasing state and condition.

THE FIRST EDITION OF THESE HISTORIES OF TACITUS INTO ENGLISH here translated by mathematician and historian Henry Savile. Savile did the translation for the Earl of Essex and concluded the work with an analysis of the Roman army which was most likely written to assist the Earl in his attempts to reform the English army in the 1590s. The translation would run into five editions, the second of which coincided with the first edition of the '*Annales*'.

Cornelius Tacitus (56 - 117 A.D.?) was a noted public figure who won great acclaim during his lifetime as a contemporary historian. He also had a long career in the Senate, was Praetor in 88, Consul Suffectus in 97 and was Governor of Asia in 113. He served under several Emperors, some good, some bad, and was a foremost supporter of Republican government. It was for his writings and orations that he was best known however. Pliny the Younger considered Tacitus to be his better and was proud to be compared to him.

Tacitus' body of work is believed to have been enormous but sadly only a small amount managed to survive the fall of Rome and the Middle Ages and reach the age of printing. Among his best known works is the *LIFE OF AGRICOLA*, concerning a personage Tacitus held in great esteem. His *HISTORIES* and *ANNALES* show him to be among the greatest of all historians particularly because of the insights he rendered on the coming collapse of the entire Roman system. The modern age's greatest historian, Edward Gibbon, called Tacitus the greatest of all the classical historians. BMC; Cambridge English Literature; David R. Lawrence, *The Complete Soldier Military Books and Military Culture in Stuart England*.

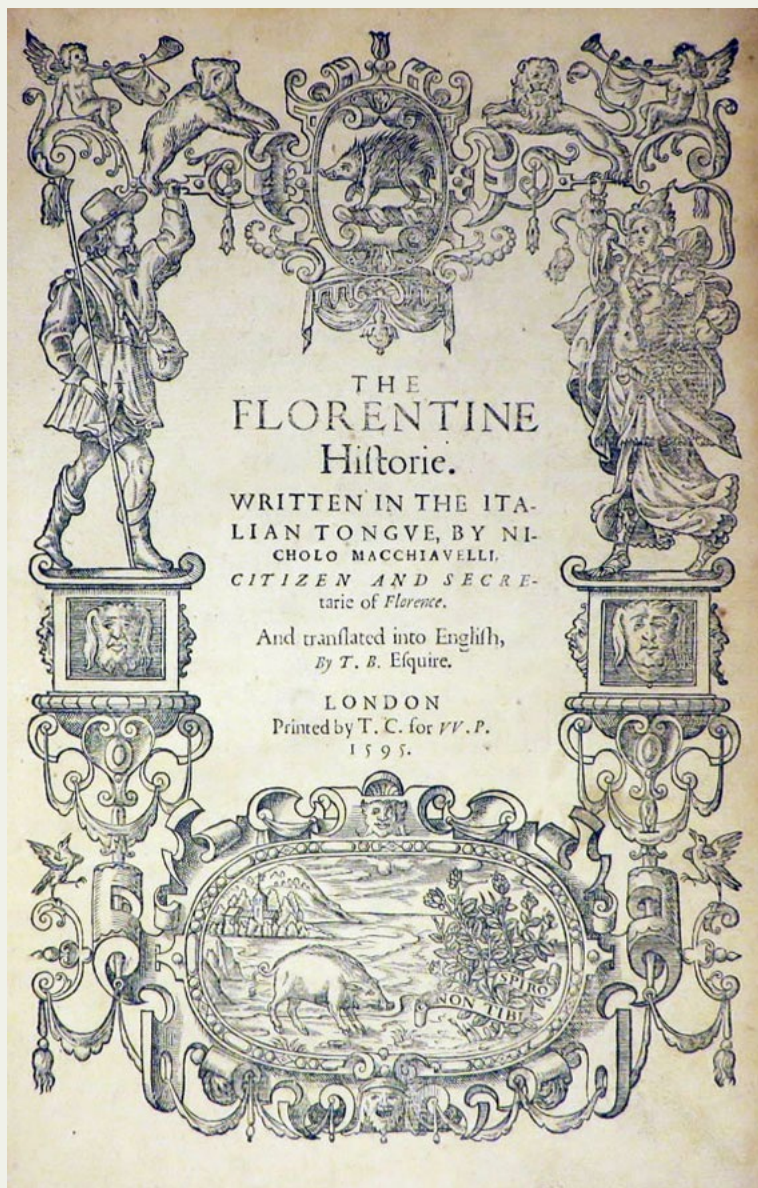
\$4950.



The Rare First Edition in English - 1595 Machiavelli - *The Florentine Historie* Significant in Political, Diplomatic, and Intellectual Thought

10 Machiavelli, Nicholo. *THE FLORENTINE HISTORIE*. Written in the Italian Tongue by Nicholo Machiavelli Citizen and Secretarie of and Translated Into English by T. B. Esquire (London: by Thomas Creede for William Ponsonby, 1595) RARE FIRST EDITION in English of this important work. With an elaborate wood-engraved historiated border on the title-page and with handsome woodcut initials and head- and tail-pieces throughout. Folio in sixes, in full dark paneled calf designed to period style, the spine with raised bands ruled in blind, with a single red morocco label gilt lettered and ruled, the original front black retained. xii, 222 pp. A fine, handsome, tight, clean and very well preserved copy of the rare first printing in English. The text-block fine, with only very minor mellowing or evidence age, the paper crisp, unpressed and unwashed, the binding in excellent condition.

FIRST EDITION IN ENGLISH OF MACHIAVELLI'S GREAT CHRONICLE OF FLORENTINE AFFAIRS, THE



"FIRST EXAMPLE OF A NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY" - Britannica. The work is significant in the history of political, diplomatic, philosophical and intellectual thought. This printing precedes the first English edition of "The Prince" by 45 years.

THE HISTORY OF FLORENCE was Machiavelli's last work. Though written at the command of the Pope, who, as the head of the Medici family, was also ruler of Florence, the book treats the characters of that illustrious house with fairness and impartiality. And although it is primarily an historical work, Machiavelli was writing from a political perspective and "this gives the work its special character." [E.B.] The history is not a straight account of historical facts but rather a critique of the way Florentine history had been told up until that time. This is the "first example in Italian literature of a national biography, the first attempt in any literature to trace the vicissitudes of a people's life in their logical sequence, deducing each successive phase from passions or necessities inherent in preceding circumstances, reasoning upon them from general principles and inferring corollaries from the conduct of the future." [E.B.] The history contains speeches related in the classical style but generally, Machiavelli's style breaks away from the formal exercise of the times and reveals concise, direct and energetic prose. Machiavelli intended to continue the work beyond Lorenzo de Medici, but his death left that task to Guicciardini.

After the crisis of 1513, with arrests for conspiracy, torture and after being sentenced to house arrest, Machiavelli's relationship with the Medici family passively began to mend itself. If the dedication to Lorenzo II de' Medici had not any effect, part of the then dominant faction of the Florence was not against him, and instead granted him an appointment.

The finished work was presented officially to Giulio de' Medici, now Pope Clement VII, in the May 1526. The Pope liked the work and rewarded him, albeit moderately, and asked him support in the creation of a national army, on the wake of his theoretical work *The Art of War*, in the preparations for the War of the League of Cognac. However, after the Sack of Rome (1527) and the fall of the Medici government in Florence, Machiavelli's hopes were dashed. Machiavelli would die soon afterwards. STC 17162. Britannica.

STC 17162. Britannica
\$11,500.

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