

Library News

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

Houghton Library

Acquisitions since our last account (RN VI, 12–13 and 29–30) are summarized in the Library's *Report . . . for the year 1952–53*. A number of the items, excerpted from the report, follows. Mss. include a Spanish Missal of about 1430; Boccaccio's *Caida de principes* (Spain, about 1430); Coluccio Salutati's *De saeculo et religione* (North Italian, late 14th century); Leon Battista Alberti's *Philodoxus* (mid-14th century, humanist hand, original Italian binding, ex coll. Phillipps).

The incunabula received this year were 29, ten of which are the only copies recorded in America and one the only copy known to *GKW*. 'Perhaps the most important . . . is the French adaptation by Nicole le Huen of Bernhard von Breydenbach's *Peregrinatio in terram sanctam* which was printed in Lyons by M. Topie and J. Heremberck, 28 November 1488, with magnificent copperplate copies of the original woodcuts. The Dyson Perrins copy of this great book, the first French book to contain copperplates . . . takes its place beside Harvard's fine copy of the first Italian book with copper engravings, the *Monte santo di Dio* of Antonio da Siena, Florence, 1477, and is the sixth 15th century edition of Breydenbach now on Harvard's shelves.' Other incunabula:

Tacitus, *Opera*, Milan, c. 1487, Harvard now has all the early editions.

Quintus Curtius Rufus, *Historiae Alexandri Magni*, first ed., Venice, Vindelinius de Spira, [c. 1471].

The Landau copy of the *Portolano per tutti i navichanti*, Venice, 1490, the first printed portolano.

Savonarola, *Dell'amore de Jesu*, the last of the Bartolommeo di Libri editions, on-

ly copy recorded in the United States. Harvard has three earlier 15th century editions.

Erasmus, *Adagia*, first edition, 'printed at Paris for the Marnefs in 1500. It is a rare and influential book which was found in superb condition with contemporary decoration'.

Two editions of Leon Battista Alberti: *Ecatonphyla*, Venice, 1491, ex coll. Landau, not recorded in America; and *Opera*, Milan, c. 1492.

Duns Scotus, *Quaestiones in primum librum Sententiarum*, Venice, November 1472, one of two copies in America.

Baldus de Bartolinus, *De dotibus et dotatis mulieribus*, Perugia, c. 1479, only copy in America.

Coplas fechas sobre el casamiento dela hija del rey despana, [Burgos, 1496?], the only copy known of an illustrated poem on the marriage of Joanna the Mad, daughter of Ferdinand and Isabella, to Philip of Burgundy.

Hans Tucher, *Reise zum heiligen grab*, an edition printed by Zeninger at Nuremberg in 1482, one of three editions printed in that year. The earliest printed voyage to Jerusalem.

Hans Erhart Tüsch, *Die burgundische historie*, Strassburg, Knoblochzer, 1477, 'with woodcuts depicting the exploits of Charles the Bold and his death at the Battle of Nancy, which occurred the year this book, one of five copies known, was printed'.

Jacopo de Teramo, *Belial*, Augsburg, Johann Bämmler, c. 1476.

Several notable additions were made in the Slavic field. 'The earliest is a copy of the first book printed in Montenegro and the only copy outside Yugoslavia. It is a Church Slavonic Psalter printed at Cetinje, 22 September 1495, by H. Makarije for Gjurgja of Crno-

jevica; and it is remarkable not only for its relief-cut head pieces but also for the fact that such a book should have been printed at that time in a little town high in the mountains of Montenegro'. Russian bibliographers have devoted very nearly as much attention to the productions of Ivan Fedorov, the first printer in Russia, as the English bibliographers have to the books printed by William Caxton. Harvard was given a copy of a little forty-four leaf grammar entitled *Siia azbuka knigi osmochastyia, sirech' grammatikii*, whose colophon states that it was printed in L'vov by Ivan Fedorov in 1574. No record of the existence of this book has been found, though it presumably comes from the collection of Grigorii Sergeevich, Count Stroganov, and certainly was later in the collection of Sergei Pavlovich Diagilev. Such is its interest that a facsimile of it, edited by Roman Jakobson, will shortly be published.

PIERPONT MORGAN LIBRARY

Constance Missal

The Library recently acquired and put on display for the first time on February 25, 1954, a copy of the very rare Constance Missal, one of three recorded copies. 'We believe, without reservation, that the Constance Missal is the oldest typographic book known' said the Library's director F. B. Adams, Jr., 'and that it was printed by the inventor of the art before he undertook the 42-line or Gutenberg Bible.' The book is the only copy in America. It is a special missal for the diocese of Constance, Germany. Another copy, lacking 16 leaves, is at the Staatsbibliothek in Munich, and a complete copy at the Zentralbibliothek in Zurich. The Morgan copy is just short of perfect, lacking only the next to the last printed leaf.

The copy was originally owned by the Capuchin Monastery at Ramont, Canton Fribourg, Switzerland.

The Missal contains no specific information pointing to its printer, or disclosing where or when it was printed. It was unknown to historians of printing until the end of the 19th century when the copy now at Munich was acquired by Otto Hupp, a young German engraver and type-designer. Hupp's investigations convinced him that the book was printed from a font of type which had been made from the same punches that were used in forming the smaller type found in the 1457 Psalter and printed from an earlier state of that type than the Psalter. Hupp further asserted that the Missal antedated the 42-line Bible. Announcements of Hupp's findings shook the bibliographical world which reacted violently to the declarations of one who had no credentials save his own practical experience, but the first half of the 20th century saw a gradual but steady swing in favor of his findings. 'To summarize', writes Curt F. Bühler, the Library's Keeper of Printed Books, 'the weight of typographical evidence favors a pre-Gutenberg-Bible date for the Constance Missal, and the tendency of scholars has been increasingly to accept this as the earliest surviving printed book . . . but the specific date and place of printing are still highly conjectural. Call it about 1450. The printer was probably the inventor of printing, whom we call Johann Gutenberg . . .'

Shown with the Missal at the current exhibition of the Library are a copy of the Gutenberg Bible on vellum and a copy of the second Mainz Psalter, dated 1459. The Morgan Library is the only library in the world which owns all three of these monuments of printing.