

## RENAISSANCE BOOK COLLECTING

JEAN GROLIER AND DIEGO HURTADO DE MENDOZA,  
THEIR BOOKS AND BINDINGS

This book studies, and compares, two sixteenth-century libraries. Jean Grolier's was a bibliophilic 'cabinet' of fine books; Diego Hurtado de Mendoza's was a much larger and more scholarly collection; a catalogue of the latter's printed books is provided for the first time. Both men were greatly influenced by their experience of Italy.

Grolier has been called 'the Prince of Bibliophiles'; the books he commissioned have long been famous. This is the first full account of his life for ninety years. Hurtado de Mendoza was a poet, historian, Greek scholar and Arabist. He served as the Emperor's Ambassador in Venice (1540–6), to the Council of Trent (1545–6), and to the Pope (1547–52). In Venice he set out to form for Spain a collection of Greek manuscripts to rival that being formed for France by Francis I's agents.

Anthony Hobson's text is complemented by eighty-seven illustrations, eleven appendices and a bibliography.

ANTHONY HOBSON was for twenty-eight years a Director and Associate of Sotheby's. He is President of the Association Internationale de Bibliophilie, Honorary President of the Edinburgh Bibliographical Society and a Past President of the Bibliographical Society. He has held posts at the Universities of Cambridge, Oxford and Pennsylvania, and is a Senior Fellow of the British Academy. The Bibliographical Society has honoured him with its Medal for Services to Bibliography. Anthony Hobson's other books include *Great Libraries* (1970), *Apollo and Pegasus: An Enquiry into the Formation and Dispersal of a Renaissance Library* (1975), *Humanists and Bookbinders: The Origins and Diffusion of the Humanistic Bookbinding, 1459–1559* (1989, 1992) and *Italian and French Sixteenth-Century Bookbindings* (1990, with Paul Culot). In addition, he has written articles for the *Book Collector*, the *Library*, *Bulletin du bibliophile*, *La Bibliofilia*, *Revue française de l'histoire du livre* and various *Festschriften*.

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Anthony Hobson

Frontmatter

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*For Fred and Marie Louise*

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## CONTENTS

<i>List of illustrations</i>	page ix
<i>Preface</i>	xv
<i>Acknowledgements</i>	xvii
<i>List of abbreviations</i>	xviii

### TWO RENAISSANCE BOOK COLLECTORS

1 Grolier: the early years	3
2 Grolier in Italy 1515–1521	22
3 Grolier in France	48
4 Diego Hurtado de Mendoza	70
5 Venetian sixteenth-century bookbinders	93

### CATALOGUE OF DIEGO HURTADO DE MENDOZA'S LIBRARY OF PRINTED BOOKS

Catalogue of Diego Hurtado de Mendoza's library of printed books	141
Index of printers and publishers	202
Index of editors, commentators and translators	216
Index of plaquette bindings	219
<i>Appendices</i>	221
1 Grolier's bindings classified by workshop	223
2 Grolier's petition to Francis I	230
3 Anne Briçonnet's coins and medals	232

4	The Venetian catalogue of Diego Hurtado de Mendoza's Greek manuscripts	233
5	Bindings by the Mendoza Binder (Andrea di Lorenzo)	244
6	Andronicus Nucius's power of attorney	251
7	Bindings by the Cicero Binder	252
8	Bindings by the Fugger Binder	255
9	Venetian bindings by Anthoni Lodewijk	260
10	Bindings by the Agnese Binder (Bartolomeo di Giovanni da Fino?)	262
11	Bindings by the Emblematic Binder	265
	<i>Bibliography</i>	267
	<i>Index</i>	271



---

## ILLUSTRATIONS

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Binding by Andrea di Lorenzo of Justinian, <i>Pandectae</i> , ed. Gregor Holoander, Nuremberg, 1529, upper cover, 4to. Esc.27.v.51.  | Frontispiece |
| 1. Catullus, <i>Carmina</i> , Lyons: Balthasar de Gabiano, [c. 1503], upper cover.<br>Rome, BNC Vittorio Emanuele II, 68.7.C.3. 8vo.   | page 10      |
| 2. J. J. Pontanus, <i>Opera [poetica]</i> , Venice: Aldus Manutius, 1505, upper cover.<br>BL, Henry Davis P.1295. 169 × 104 mm.  | 12           |
| 3. Pontanus, 1505, sig. Aii <sup>f</sup> . BL, Henry Davis P.1295. 165 × 100 mm.   | 12           |
| 4. Aulus Gellius, <i>Noctes Atticae</i> , Bologna: Benedictus Hectoris, 1503, upper cover.<br>Troyes, Bibliothèque de la Ville, Rés.B21. 319 × 205 mm.   | 14           |
| 5. Lucian of Samosata, <i>Toxaris</i> , tr. Niccolò Leonico Tomeo, MS, not before 1508, upper cover. Eton College Library. 243 × 172 mm.   | 16           |
| 6. Lucian, <i>Toxaris</i> , MS, fol. 1 <sup>r</sup> . Eton College Library. 243 × 167 mm.  | 17           |
| 7. Aurelius Cornelius Celsus, <i>De medicina</i> , Venice: Benedictus Fontana, 1497, upper cover. BL, G.9026. 312 × 209 mm.  | 18           |
| 8. Note by Grolier in his copy of Filippo Beroaldo the elder's <i>Opuscula</i> [Venice: Giorgio dei Rusconi, 1508?], fol. 32 <sup>v</sup> . Eton College Library.  | 19           |
| 9. Master IO.FF., Mucius Scaevola placing his hand in the fire, on Caesar, <i>Commentarii</i> , Bologna: Benedictus Hectoris, 1504. Paris, BN, Rés.J.268, lower cover. Diameter of plaque <i>c.</i> 54 mm. | 20           |
| 10. Master IO.FF., The triumph of Prudence, on Caesar, <i>Commentarii</i> , 1504. BN, Rés.J.268, upper cover. Diameter of plaque <i>c.</i> 50 mm.  | 20           |
| 11. Mantuan School, Fortune caught by the forelock, on Boccaccio, <i>De montibus silvis fontibus . . .</i> , MS, s.xiv, upper cover. Vatican Library, Reg. lat. 1477. Diameter of plaque 39 mm.            | 21           |
| 12. Grolier's notes on Livy. Paris, BN, ms.lat.16554. 213 × 138 mm.  | 23           |
| 13. Illumination in Grolier's copy of the <i>Suda</i> , Milan, 1499, sig. a3 <sup>r</sup> . Trinity College, Cambridge, VI.18.25. 357 × 246 mm.  | 24           |

14. Filippo Varagio, *Flores sacre teologie*, Milan: Johannes Jacobus de Ferrariis, 1509. BL, C.108.b.13. 188 × 126 mm. 27
15. Franchino Gaffurio, *De harmonia musicorum instrumentorum*, Milan 1500, MS, upper cover. Lyons, Bibliothèque municipale (formerly Musée des Beaux Arts, ms.47). 332 × 240 mm. 29
16. Franchino Gaffurio, *De harmonia . . .*, MS, 1507, fol. 4<sup>f</sup>. Vienna, ÖNB, n.s.12745. 337 × 236 mm. 32
17. Woodcut of Grolier's arms from Franchino Gaffurio, *De harmonia musicorum instrumentorum*, Milan: Gotardo da Ponte, 1518. Oxford, Bodleian, E1.13.Art.Seld. 33
18. Gaffurio, *De harmonia . . .*, Milan, 1518, upper cover. Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, Rés.S4604. 307 × 213 mm. 34
19. Francesco Colonna, *Hypnerotomachia Poliphili*, Venice: Aldus Manutius, 1499, upper cover. Private collection. 313 × 210 mm. 35
20. Andrea Assaraco, *Historiae novae*, Milan: Gotardo da Ponte, 1516, sig. Aiii<sup>f</sup>. BL, 11405.f.7. 234 × 165 mm. 37
21. Ludovicus Coelius Rhodiginus, *Antiquarum lectionum commentarii*, Venice: in aedibus Aldi et Andreae soceri, 1516, upper cover. Chantilly, Musée Condé, VIII.H.26. 310 × 198 mm. 39
22. Dante, *Comedia*, Venice: Agostino Zani, 1507, upper cover. Eton College Library. 312 × 214 mm. 41
23. Rhodiginus, *Antiquarum lectionum commentarii*, 1516, sig. a1<sup>r</sup>. Chantilly, Musée Condé, VIII.H.26. 305 × 194 mm. 42
24. Grolier's note in his copy of Erasmus, *Adagia*, Venice: in aedibus Aldi, 1508. Tours, Bibliothèque universitaire, Rés.3744, fol. 112<sup>v</sup>. 45
25. Grolier's letter to Gianfrancesco Torresano, Milan, 14 March 1519. Autograph. Vatican Library, Reg.lat.2023, fol. 196. 270 × 200 mm. 46
26. Polybius, *Historiae*, tr. Niccolò Perotti, Venice: in aedibus Aldi, et Andreae soceri, 1521, upper cover. Los Angeles, University of California, Ahmanson-Murphy Aldine Collection no. 172a. 328 × 228 mm. 55
27. Bindings by Jean Picard. (a) Juvenal and Persius, [*Satyrae*], Venice: in aedibus haeredum Aldi, et Andreae soceri, 1535, upper cover. Eton College Library. 170 × 100 mm. (b) Filippo Beroaldo the elder, *Opuscula* [Venice: Giorgio dei Rusconi, 1508?], lower cover. Eton College Library. 218 × 138 mm. 60
28. Agostino Patrizi Piccolomini, *Rituum ecclesiasticorum . . . libri tres*, Venice: Gregorio de' Gregori, 1516, upper cover. Paris, Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal, Rés.T.661. 319 × 202 mm. 62
29. Fridericus Nausea — *Epistolarum miscellaneorum ad Fridericum Nauseam libri x*, Basle: Johann Oporinus, 1550, upper cover. Eton College Library. 325 × 210 mm. 63
30. Virgil, *Aeneis*, MS, s.xv, upper cover. Paris, BN, ms.lat.8203. 204 × 140 mm. 64
31. Sebastiano Erizzo, *Discorso sopra le medaglie antiche*, Venice: Vincenzo Valgrisi, 1559, lower cover. Paris, BN, Rés.J.2444bis. 176 × 111 mm. 64

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

xi

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| 32. Caesar, <i>Commentarii</i> , MS, s.xvi, bound for Thomas Mahieu, upper cover.<br>Eton College Library. 338 × 235 mm.   | 66   |
| 33. Plutarch, <i>Graecorum Romanorumque illustrium vitae</i> , Paris: Michel de Vascosan,<br>1558, lower cover. Vienna, ÖNB, 53.D.9 (ES 198). 391 × 250 mm.                                | 68   |
| 34. Colophon of Theophylactus Simocatta, <i>Historia de rebus gestis Mauricij<br/>imperatoris</i> , etc., MS, scribe Andronicus Nucius, 1543. Esc.Φ.I.12. Folio.                           | 74   |
| 35. Nemesius, <i>De natura hominis</i> , MS, s.xvi, lower cover. Esc.X.I.II. 329 × 230 mm.   | 76   |
| 36. Aristotle, <i>Opera, graece</i> , Venice: Aldus Manutius, 1495, vol. i, the dedication copy<br>to Alberto Pio, Prince of Capri, sig. Aiii <sup>f</sup> . Esc.54.iv.3. c. 310 × 205 mm. | 83   |
| 37. Ptolemy, <i>Geographia</i> , Rome: Bernardinus de Vitalibus for Evangelista Tosini, 1508,<br>the dedication copy to Cardinal Robert Britto, upper cover. Esc.69.v.5.<br>438 × 290 mm.  | 85   |
| 38. Cicero, <i>De officiis</i> , MS, 1424, fol. 1 <sup>r</sup> . Esc.T.III.19. 312 × 135 mm.   | 88   |
| 39. Pseudo-Aristotle, <i>Mechanica</i> , in the Castilian translation by Diego Hurtado de<br>Mendoza, scribal copy with autograph corrections. Esc.f.III.15. 255 × 180 mm.                 | 90   |
| 40. Ovid, <i>De arte amandi</i> , in Italian translation [Venice: Tommaso de' Blavi, c. 1482],<br>lower cover. 4to. Esc.85.viii.19. 225 × 153 mm.  | 92   |
| 41. Plaquettes on Diego Hurtado de Mendoza's bindings.   | 94–5 |
| 42. Theophylactus Simocatta, <i>Historia de rebus gestis Mauricij imperatoris</i> , MS, scribe<br>Andronicus Nucius, 1543, lower cover. Esc.Φ.I.12.  | 96   |
| 43. Macrobius, <i>In somnium Scipionis</i> , Venice: in aedibus Aldi et Andreae soceri, 1528;<br>(a) upper cover; (b) lower cover. Esc.39.vi.2. 173 × 105 mm.                              | 97   |
| 44. Valturio, <i>De re militari</i> , Paris: Chrestien Wechel, 1532, lower cover. Esc.15.i.15.<br>336 × 224 mm.  | 98   |
| 45. <i>Caesarum vitae</i> , Venice: in aedibus Aldi et Andreae soceri, 1519, upper cover.<br>Eton College Library. 171 × 93 mm.  | 100  |
| 46. Ovid, <i>Metamorphoses</i> , Venice: in aedibus Aldi et Andreae soceri, 1516, upper<br>cover. PML, 1513. 175 × 99 mm.  | 100  |
| 47. Virgil, <i>Opera</i> , Venice: in aedibus Aldi et Andreae soceri [not before 1519], upper<br>cover. Oxford, Bodleian, Auct.2.R.7.4. 171 × 101 mm.                                      | 100  |
| 48. <i>Rhetorica ad Herennium</i> , Venice: in aedibus Aldi et Andreae soceri, 1521, upper<br>cover. Manchester, JRUL, 1989. 222 × 139 mm.   | 100  |
| 49. Boethius, <i>De consolazione philosophiae</i> , Venice: L. A. Giunta, 1525. Budapest,<br>Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Ant.899. 316 × 219 mm.   | 101  |
| 50. Catullus, Tibullus, Propertius, <i>Carmina</i> , Lyons: Seb. Gryphius, 1534. London,<br>Mrs Esther Potter. 167 × 112 mm.   | 102  |
| 51. Demosthenes, <i>Orationes</i> , MS [Venice c. 1536]. Oxford, Bodleian, Laud gr.5,<br>upper cover. 114 × 76 mm.   | 102  |
| 52. <i>Commissione</i> of the Doge Andrea Gritti to Andrea Gradenigo as Podestà of<br>Monselice, 1531, upper cover. Princeton University Library, Robert Garrett<br>MS.160. 246 × 167 mm.  | 103  |

53. *Commissione* of the Doge Pietro Lando to Giovanni Paolo Bragadin as Podestà of Torcello, 1543, upper cover. Venice, Correr, III. 270. 250 × 170 mm. 103
54. *Commissione* of the Doge Pietro Lando to Francesco Duodo as Captain of the Beirut galleys, 1545, lower cover. Venice, Correr, III. 193. 248 × 173 mm. 103
55. *Commissione* of the Doge Francesco Venier to Sante Benedetti as Podestà of Buje, 5 February 1554/5, lower cover. Venice, Correr, III. 1010. 245 × 173 mm. 103
56. Euripides, *Tragoediae*, Venice: Aldus Manutius, 1503, upper cover. Venice, Fondazione Giorgio Cini, 0149. 171 × 105 mm. 104
57. Demosthenes, *Orationes*, Venice: Aldus Manutius, 1504, upper cover. Paris, M. Alexandre Mallat. 294 × 185 mm. 105
58. Antonius Eparchus, *Pro Christiana Republica, graece*, Venice, 1544. Vatican Library, Vat.gr. 1462, upper cover. 246 × 170 mm. 109
59. Manuel Moschopoulos, *Erotemata*, MS [s.xiv], upper cover. Oxford, Bodleian, MS. Barocci 103. 210 × 128 mm. 110
60. The 'Anjou Psalter', MS [Venice c. 1490]; (a) upper cover, (b) doublure. Sir Paul Getty, KBE. 136 × 98 mm. 111
61. Aeschylus, *Tragoediae*, Venice: in aedibus Aldi et Andreae soceri, 1518. Paris, BN, Rés. Yb.704. Cover 171 × 102 mm. 112
62. Matthaeus Blastaris, *Syntagma rerum quae in sacris canonibus comprehenduntur*, MS, s.xv, upper cover. Paris, BN, ms.grec 1337. 280 × 195 mm. 112
63. Paolo Giovio, *Elogia doctorum virorum*, Basle: [H. Petri and P. Perna, 1556?]. Bound by Jakob Krause. Arms of the Elector Augustus of Saxony. Cambridge UL, SSS.33.21. 167 × 99 mm. 113
64. Cicero, *Epistolae familiares*, Venice: apud Aldi filios, 1540, upper cover. Presentation copy to Ottavio Pantagato. London, BL, C.19.c.19. 205 × 118 mm. 114
65. Ovid, *Opera*, Venice: in aedibus haeredum Aldi et Andreae soceri, 1533–4, vol. iii, printed on vellum, upper cover. Oxford, Bodleian, Auct. 2.R.6.22. 171 × 101 mm. 114
66. Terence, *Comoediae*, Venice: apud Aldi filios, 1541; (a) upper cover; (b) lower cover. Manchester, JRUL, 8614. 213 × 123 mm. 115
67. Aristotle, *Opera, graece*, Venice: Aldus Manutius, 1495–8, vol. i, upper cover. Esc.68.v.6. 318 × 216 mm. 117
68. Cicero, *Epistolae ad Atticum, ad M. Brutum, ad Quintum fratrem*, Venice: Paulus Manutius, 1544, upper cover. Esc.36.v.18. 211 × 130 mm. 118
69. 'Joannes Felicianus', *Catena explanationum . . . in Acta Apostolorum*, Venice: apud Giuntas, 1545, upper cover. Oxford, Bodleian, Broxb.28.3. 187 × 119 mm. 118
70. Albert Krantz, *Saxonia*, Cologne: Johannes Soter and partners, 1519, lower cover. Esc.41.i.17. 320 × 210 mm. 120
71. Pausanias, [*Graeciae descriptio, graece*], Venice: in aedibus Aldi et Andreae Asulani soceri, 1516, upper cover. BBV, 13042. 315 × 210 mm. 122

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

xiii

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| 72. Jacopo Filippo Foresti, Bergomensis, <i>Supplemento delle croniche</i> , Venice: Bernardino Bindoni, 1540, upper cover. BBV, 7048. 321 × 211 mm.  | 122 |
| 73. Polydore Vergil, <i>De l'origine e de gl'inventori de le leggi . . .</i> , Venice: G. Giolito, 1545, upper cover. BBV, 220023. 159 × 105 mm.  | 123 |
| 74. Josephus, <i>Le guerre de Giudei</i> , Venice: Vittore dei Ravani and partners, 1541. BBV, 215423. 157 × 102 mm.  | 123 |
| 75. Johannes Damascenus, Johannes Chrysostomus, Basilius Magnus, etc., <i>Opuscula, graece</i> , MS, s.xiv, upper cover. Oxford, Bodleian, Laud gr.21. 190 × 119 mm.  | 125 |
| 76. Simplicius, <i>In categorias Aristotelis</i> , Venice: Zacharias Callierges, 1499, upper cover. Oxford, All Souls College, g.1 infra 12. 326 × 229 mm.  | 126 |
| 77. Suetonius, <i>Vitae Caesarum</i> , MS, Milan, 1433, upper cover. Princeton, NJ, Princeton UL, Grenville Kane 44. 255 × 190 mm.  | 128 |
| 78. Ariosto, <i>Orlando Furioso</i> , Venice: Vincenzo Valgrisi, 1556. Cambridge, Mass., Harvard College Library, IC5. Ar434.5160.1556C. 267 × 155 mm. By permission of the Houghton Library, Harvard University. | 128 |
| 79. Iosephus Pinarus Rhacendytes, [ <i>Opera varia</i> ], MS, s.xvi, upper cover. Munich, BSB, cod.graec.78. Folio.   | 130 |
| 80. Cornelio Musso, <i>Prediche</i> , Venice: G. Giolito, 1554, upper cover. Dedication copy from the printer to Vittoria Farnese della Rovere, Duchess of Urbino. London, BL, C.69.f.8. 241 × 167 mm.            | 131 |
| 81. Cicero, <i>De oratore</i> , Florence: Filippo Giunta, 1514, upper cover. Chantilly, Musée Condé, VIII.E.31. 169 × 98 mm.  | 133 |
| 82. <i>Commissione</i> of the Doge Andrea Gritti to Francesco Venier as Podestà of Brescia, 1531, upper cover. Venice, Correr, III. 783. 228 × 151 mm.  | 134 |
| 83. Battista Agnese, <i>Portolano</i> , MS, c. 1545–50, upper cover. Vatican Library, Barb.lat.4313. 271 × 180 mm.  | 134 |
| 84. Battista Agnese, <i>Portolano</i> , MS, 1553, upper cover. Venice, Correr, Port.1. 445 × 295 mm.  | 135 |
| 85. Sebastiano Serlio, <i>Regole generali di architettura</i> , Venice: F. Marcolini, 1537, upper cover. London, BL, C.47.k.5. 343 × 238 mm.  | 137 |
| 86. <i>Commissione</i> of the Doge Pietro Lando to Giovanni Antonio Taipiera as Podestà of Brescia, 1539, lower cover. Venice, Correr, III. 135. 244 × 169 mm.  | 138 |

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Frontmatter

[More information](#)

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## PREFACE

**M**Y INTEREST IN Jean Grolier is inherited. My father, G. D. Hobson, collected information for a new account of his career, in collaboration with L.-M. Michon, but lack of support frustrated the project. His essay on 'Et Amicorum' and his 'Notes on Grolier's Mottoes' were published posthumously (the former in *The Library*, 5th ser. 4 (1949), 87–99, the latter in my *French and Italian Collectors . . .*, 1953), and I have profited from his notes on the Chantilly letters, though he did not realize that the correspondence was brought to an end by Grolier's imprisonment. Since then the researches of Jacques Guignard into Grolier's early life and of H. M. Nixon into the workshops that produced his bindings have greatly advanced our knowledge, and Mr Gabriel Austin's revision of Carolyn Shipman's list of the bindings is indispensable, although not without faults. Previous writers had not used Alessandro Minuziano's letters to Grolier or known of the documents printed in Appendix 2, to which I was led by a footnote in A. Spont's *Semblançay* (1895). These new sources seemed to me to justify a fresh consideration of the famous collector's life.

Charles Graux's marvellous account of the generation of Spanish Hellenists first aroused my interest in Diego Hurtado de Mendoza. Dr A. N. L. Munby directed my attention to Add. MS. 565 in Cambridge University Library, which contained Jean Matal's transcript of Arlenius's catalogue of his Greek manuscripts, Sir Henry Thomas had already described the plaquette bindings and Professor Gregorio de Andrés Martínez sharpened my interest by the gift of his *Documentos para la historia del Monasterio de San Lorenzo el Real de El Escorial*, vol. vii, with the Besançon inventory of the printed books. My first visit to see Hurtado de Mendoza's bindings in the Escorial made me aware of the Venetian 'Mendoza Binder'. I have been looking for his work for more than twenty years since then.

This book completes my trilogy on Renaissance collectors and bookbinders. It is an expanded form of the Lyell Lectures which I gave in Oxford in 1991. I am much indebted to the Electors for doing me the honour of inviting me and to the President and Fellows of Wolfson College for electing me to a Visiting Fellowship for the Michaelmas term of 1990. I have a special debt of gratitude to Professor R. J. Knecht, who suggested several lines of enquiry, many of which proved fruitful; my account of Grolier would have been far less complete without

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## ABBREVIATIONS

ASV	Archivio di Stato, Venice
BBV	Besançon, Bibliothèque de la Ville
BFAC	Burlington Fine Arts Club, <i>Exhibition of Bookbindings</i> (London, 1891)
BL	British Library
BN	Bibliothèque Nationale de France <i>or</i> Biblioteca Nacional
BNC	Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale
BSB	Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Munich
BU	Biblioteca Universitaria
Catalogue	Catalogue of Diego Hurtado de Mendoza's library of printed books, on pp. 135–205
CD	Gregorio de Andrés Martínez, <i>Catálogo de los codices griegos desaparecidos de la Real Biblioteca de El Escorial</i> (El Escorial, 1968)
<i>Census</i>	Census of historiated plaque and medallion bindings of the Renaissance, in A. Hobson, <i>Humanists</i> , 214–51
Esc.	Biblioteca del Real Monasterio de San Lorenzo de El Escorial
GW	<i>Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke</i> (Leipzig, 1925– )
HEHL	Henry E. Huntington Library, San Marino, California
HRHRC	Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas, Austin, Texas
IGI	<i>Indice generale degli incunaboli delle biblioteche d'Italia</i> , 6 vols. ([Rome], 1943–81)
<i>Ind. Aur.</i>	<i>Index Aureliensis: catalogus librorum sedecimo saeculo impressorum</i> (Baden-Baden, 1962– )
ISTC	Incunabula Short-Title Catalogue, data-base in course of compilation at the BL
JRUL	John Rylands University Library, Manchester
LoC	Library of Congress, Washington, DC
NUC	National Union Catalogue
NYPL	New York Public Library
ÖNB	Österreichische Nationalbibliothek, Vienna

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

xix

PML	Pierpont Morgan Library, New York
<i>Ril. ven.</i>	<i>Rilegature veneziane del XV e XVI secolo: Catalogo a cura di Tammaro De Marinis</i> (Venice, 1955)
UB	Universitätsbibliothek
UL	University Library

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Anthony Hobson

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