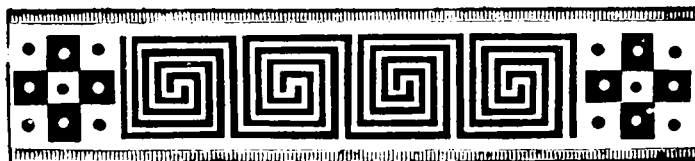


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Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Excerpt

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Miscellaneous Authors.

776. SHIRVODUS (IOHANNES) LUDUS ARITHMOMACHIÆ. *Printed at Rome. 1482. Quarto.*

EDITIO PRINCEPS. 'This is in every point of view an interesting little tract. The author of it, JOHN SHIRWOOD, Bishop of Durham, was among our most distinguished literary characters at the close of the fifteenth century;* and the present seems to be the first impression

* Upon the whole, Pits gives the best account of John Shirwood; not however without incorporating (as Bale and Godwin have done) the brief biography of the same character by Leland. The words of Pits are these: 'IOHANNES SHIRVODUS natione Anglus, vir omni bonarum litterarum genere instructissimus, linguæ tum Latinæ tum Græcæ peritissimus. Poëta, Rhetor, Philosophus, et Theologus insignis. Postquam Anglicas Academias multo tempore magno cum fructu frequentasset: in Galliam se contulit, Parisijs studuit, vbi Rocco Carthusiano viro pio et erudito propter morum et doctrinæ similitudinem, vsus est familiarissimè. Deinde in Italiam perrexit, vbi Græcarum litterarum studium in Anglia inchoatum, in Gallia auctum, ad perfectum perduxit. Ibi etiam selectissimos auctores Græcos indagavit, inuenit, cœmit, et secum in Angliam aduexit. Quem librorum thesaurum neglectum diù, ferunt Archilandia delituisse, donec longo post tempore Cuthbertus Tonstallus doctissimus ille, et omnium postremus Episcopus Dunelmensis, de codicibus illis repertis lætatus est, tanquam qui inuenit spolia multa. Existimat, et meritò, Lelandus Shirvodium hunc multas eximias lucubrationes edidisse, quarum tamen ne titulos quidem nunc inuenimus. Ipse quidem refert se aliquando versus quosdam elegantes in cœnobio Fontanensi legisse, quorum hunc asserit fuisse fabricatorem.' *De Rebus Anglicis*; p. 882.

Pitts adds, that, from his virtue and erudition, he was promoted to the see of Durham, and flourished in the reign of Edward the IVth. Leland observes that he was particularly fond of Greek books; and Richardson, the editor of Godwin, informs us that he died at

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MISCELLANEOUS.

[*Ludus Arith.*

of a treatise, (sufficiently ingenious in itself,) which has not only escaped the knowledge of bibliographers, but that of Leland, Bale, Godwin, and Pits. ‘Leland (says the latter) observes that Shirwood composed or edited many excellent works; of which even the very titles (adds Pits) are now lost.’ Bishop Tanner is the first, who, in his very slight notice of the author, has mentioned the ‘*Ludus Arithmomachix*;

Bibl. Britan. p. 669, note e. The edition under description is apparently printed by Ulric Han and Simon de Luca; in the same letter in which the epistle of Maffeus Benedictus, ‘*De Laudibus Pacis*,’ is described to be executed—at page 442 of the third volume of this work. The prefix, by way of title, is on the recto of the first leaf, thus:

Ad reuerendissimum religiosissimūq;
in christo patrem ac amplissimum do-
minū Marcū Cardinalē sancti Mar-
ci vulgariter nūcupatuz. Iohānis Shir
uod quod latīe interptatur lipida silua
sedis apostolice ptonotarii anglici pfa-
tio in epitomē de ludo arithmomachie
feliciter incipit.

The preface immediately follows; from which we learn that, during his youth, Shirwood amused himself with the game called *Arithmomania*, or the *Battle of Numbers*; but, whether the author of the treatise upon this game was grossly incorrect, or whether Shirwood had been in the habit of trusting entirely to his memory, the latter tells us that he had not procured any copy of the work. ‘Yet (continues he) I rather apprehend that I had so completely made myself master of the rules necessary for the game, both by dint of memory and subsequent practice, that I had no great necessity for the book itself. However, about six years afterwards, happening to be in the suite of my kind, noble, and liberal benefactor and patron, George Nevil,

Rome, in the year 1493, in the 11th year of his episcopacy. His monument is yet seen in the chapel of the English College at Rome. *De Præsulibus Angliæ*; edit. 1743. p. 752-3, note u. It was hardly a venial error to have omitted the mention of SHIRWOOD, among my *Book-Worthies*, in the last edition of the *Bibliomania*; since I have lately seen, in the library of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, several of the rarer early-printed books, in the Greek and Latin languages, with the autograph of Shirwood upon the first page of the print.

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[More information](#)*Rome* ; 1482.]

SHIRWOOD.

3

Archbishop of York, at Calais ;—his Grace, not having much business on his hands, and being rather indisposed, so that he could not apply to his severer studies—proposed to me to instruct him, and the company present, in the rules of this *Battle of Numbers*. I, of course, readily complied with his request. But before we took leave of each other (he, on his return to England, and myself on my way to Rome—never, alas, in this world to meet again !) the Archbishop enjoined me to commit to writing those rules of which I principally approved, and which seemed to be chiefly necessary for the game—especially as no correct written treatise was hitherto extant.’ Shirwood then informs us that he composed the present work during his leisure in Flanders ; and after a most elaborate eulogy upon the Cardinal, to whom he dedicates his work,—and reminding his patron that Achilles, Quintus Scævola, Scipio, Lelius, and even Socrates, resorted to little amusements by way of recreation from severer engagements—he informs us that ARCHITA is considered to be the author of this game. He then describes the Board, on which the game is played, as follows :

‘ In the first place, the table or board is equal in width to that on which the game of chess is played ; but it is double the length of it. Two chess tables, therefore, form only one of the present game : on which the two armies are respectively arranged towards the extremities, leaving a sort of plain or field of battle between them. There are three sorts of figures used : eight of which are circular, eight triangular, and eight quadrangular. From the quadrangular figures, one, in a pyramidical shape, obtains on each side the name of leader. That, which is played on the even side (*pars par*) of the table, is a whole—that, on the odd side (*pars impar*), is a short pyramidical figure.’ Although the limits of this work forbid the analysis of the treatise,* it may probably be expected that I should present the reader with a fac-simile of the *Board* or *Table*, just described—which will be found on the recto of the 9th leaf, thus :

* Henry Stephens, the Elder, printed a similar treatise (exhibiting nearly a similar wood-cut of a playing board) at Paris, in 1514, folio, in the black letter : but from the dedication of the author, I. F. Stapulensis, it should seem that the game was taken almost entirely from Severinus Boetius ; or was rather an abridgment of two books, by the latter, upon the subject. The title of the work, as printed by Stephens, is thus : ‘ Rithmimachie ludus qui et pugna numerorum appellatur.’

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[More information](#)*Without Date.*] SIDONIUS APOLLINARIS.

5

It remains only to extract the concluding section and colophon: 'Habes modo: quū sis protector anglorū præstantissime atque amplissime pater: ab anglico quodā tuo certe obsequētissimo seruitore: ac filio pientissimo breue hoc de ludo arithmomachix cōpēdium. Quod cuiuscūquemodi ipsum sit: si benigne accipies: accipies autē bēigne pro singulari illa: ac propemodū incredibili hūanitate bonitateq; tua: efficies vtiq; ut opinor vt plurimi ad te fiducialiter libros scribāt. Atque quū alii quidam: tū in primis doctissimi ipsi ac eloquētissimi viri italicæ nationis: postquam intellexerint te hūc cōmētariolū non cōtemnere hominis quidem nō solū vltamōtani verū etiā: vt sic loquar: extramūdani: si tamē nō errat Meliboeus apud virgiliū qui esse ait penitus toto diuisos orbe britānos: certatiz deinceps sua opera tuo nomini dedicabunt posteritatiq; mandabunt litteris suis: tui memoriam sempiternam. Vale semper felix religiosissime atque piissime pater.

Rome ipsis kalendis aprilibus Anno domini . M . cccc . lxxxii. pontificatus vero sanctissimi domini nostri Sixti pape quarti. xi. Regniq; p̄fati christianissimi regis Eduuardi quarti anno. xxii.

In the whole, 14 leaves: without numerals, signatures, or catch-words. The preceding colophon is the only one in which I remember to have seen (in a volume printed abroad) the name of an English monarch introduced. This curious little tract was obtained through the liberal kindness of Mr. Freeling. It is in russia binding.

777. SIDONIUS APOLLINARIS. (*Printed by Kete-laer.*) *Without Place or Date.* Folio.

EDITIO PRINCEPS. Panzer informs us that the late Count Reviczky, in his letters to Morelli, mentions his recent acquisition of this very rare and almost unknown impression; and of which no notice is taken in either of the catalogues of the Count's library, of the dates of 1784 and 1794. See the *Annal. Typog.* vol. iii. p. 546; where the edition is called 'primaria, nondum nota bibliographis.' That omission is however here supplied, by the possession of the Count's own ms. memoranda, describing laconically, but perspicuously, the

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leading features of this impression. Yet it is rather amusing to read, in each of the printed catalogues just mentioned, the opposition shewn by the Count to the reception of any opinion which might militate against the precedency of the *Milan* edition — ‘Plusieurs bibliographes (says he) ont annoncé différentes éditions, antérieures à celle-ci de Milan—mais ces éditions paroissant très-apocryphes, on regarde celle (de Milan) dont il est ici question, comme la première de cet ouvrage.’ p. 209, edit. 1794. In the Count’s ms. description of the present impression, this position is entirely reversed, and Ketelaer’s is called — ‘pene ignota et perquam rara, et præ reliquis antiqua editio.’

From the evidence adduced by Laire, of a copy of this edition being found in which there was a coeval ms. memorandum of “*emptus et ligatus 1477*,” there seems little doubt of Ketelaer’s impression being considerably anterior to that of Milan (described as the next article); and that the conjecture of Panzer and Reviczky is not far short of the truth, when the date of 1473 is specified for that of its execution. *Index Libror.* vol. i. p. 184. Although no name of printer be subjoined, the types are unquestionably those with which Ketelaer and De Leempt printed at Utrecht in the years 147 $\frac{2}{3}$. It remains to describe a few of the particulars of so interesting a volume. On the recto of the first leaf, we read this prefix :

**Caj Sollij Appollinaris* Sidonij Aruernoz⁴ episcopi
Epistolarum liber primus Incipit
Sidonius Constantino suo salutem**

A full page has 33 lines. There are neither numerals, catchwords, nor signatures. On the reverse of fol. 90, at bottom :

**Explicit epistolaz liber nonus. b. b. k. k. C. p. m. m.
k. k. b. q. p. m. m. k. obs. C. R. C. C. R. e. p. o. k. k. f. q. k.
Incipit p̄fatio panigerici dicti antemio augusto b cōsuli**

At top of the ensuing leaf:

**Um iuuenem super astra iouem natura locaret.
c Suscipiretq; nouus regna vetusta deus.
Certauere suū venerari numina numen.
Disparibus modis per cecinere sophos**

* Sic.

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Milan; 1498.] SIDONIUS APOLLINARIS. 7

The remaining full pages contain 32 lines. On the recto of fol. 151, and last, at bottom, we read as follows :

I **Ucē et p̄dictos et regni sorte secutos.**
Expediā series quos tenet imperij.

The present is a fine clean copy ; in old green morocco binding.

778. SIDONIUS APOLLINARIS. *Printed by Scinzenzeler. Milan. 1498. Folio.*

EDITIO SECUNDA. The recto of the first leaf presents us with the title, in large lower-case gothic type, in 6 lines. On the reverse, there is a privilege conceded to John Passiranus de Asula, the editor, who appears to have published the impression 'at his own care and expense:' and no one is to pirate the edition 'sub pena uiginti quinque aureorum camere nostre applicandorū pro singulis uoluminibus.' This is dated Nov. 9, 1497. We observe, below, the names of the works, edited by Passiranus, to which this protection extends :

Sidonius apollinaris cum cōmentariis.
 Nonius marcellus integer.
 Varro de lingua latina emendatus cum enarrationibus.
 Apicius de cibariis.
 Festus pōpeius cū appēdicibus : (*signed*)
 . B. Chalcus.

An address of J. Baptista Pius, in 4 pages of prose — and 2 pages of an 'elegidion amatorium' by the same author—follow. These pieces occupy signature A, in 4 leaves. The text of Sidonius ensues upon sign. a (i), and concludes on the recto of s 8. The colophon is thus :

Impressum Mediolanni* per magistrum Vldericum scīzenzeler. Impensis uenerabilium dominorum Presbyteri Hyeronimi de Asula necnon Ioannis de abbatibus placētini. Sub Anno domini. M.cccc.Lxxxxviii. Quarto Nonas maias.

* Sic.

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[More information](#)8 MISCELLANEOUS. [*Milan*; 1479.

From the register, below, we find that all the signatures are in eights, except a and b, which have each only six. A has 4, as above noticed. This is a very fair and desirable copy; in red morocco binding.

779. SIMONETA (IOHANNES). DE REBUS GESTIS FRANCISCI SFORTIÆ. *Printed by Zarotus. Milan. 1479. Folio.*

EDITIO PRINCEPS. The Discourse, or Oration, of F. Puteolanus to Ludovicus Sphortia, in praise of these COMMENTARIES CONCERNING THE SFORZA FAMILY, begins on the recto of the first leaf, with this prefix:

AD ILLVSTRISSIMVM AC MODERATISSIMVM
PRINCIPEM LVDOVICVM SPHOR: VICE COMI-
TEM BARI DVCEM FRANCISCI PVTEOLANI
POETAE PARMENSIS ORATIO IN COMMEN-
TARIOS RERVM AB DIVO FRANCISCO SPHOR-
TIA GESTARVM.

The preface of Simoneta follows on the reverse of the 2d leaf, and occupies 2 pages. The first book begins on the reverse of the ensuing leaf. The signatures embrace two alphabets: each in eights—with the exception of L only, in the second alphabet, which has but 6 leaves. On the recto of O 8, we read the colophon in 15 lines, from which it is only necessary to extract the ensuing:

FINIS

IIS COMENTARIIS AB PRIMO ALPHONSI IN
ITALIAM ADVENTV ET AB QVARTO ET VICE-
SIMO SVpra QVADRINGENTESIMVM ET
MILESIMVM ANNO A NATALI CHRISTIANO AD
SEXTVM ET SEXAGESIMVM VSQVE ANNVM

&c. &c. &c

ANTONIVS ZAROTVS IMPRESSIT MEDIOLANI
DECIMO KALENDAS FEBRVARIAS.

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Without Date.] SPECULUM HUM. SALV. 9

On the reverse is a short epistle from Franciscus Philelphus to the author, with the following date at bottom :

Mediolani ex ædibus nostris sexto Idus Iunias, M.cccc.
lxxviii.

The reader will do well to consult Saxius's *Hist. Liter. Typog.* col. ccii, p. cccclxxiv-v--dlxxi, where there is a good account of the labours of Simoneta, and where the above-mentioned preface of the author, and the epistle of Philelphus, are extracted. Saxius thinks the edition itself should bear date 1480. He observes, also, that the original MS. of the work is yet among the descendants of the author. 'The present may be called a fine and desirable copy : in russia binding.

780. SPECULUM HUMANÆ SALVATIONIS ; Lat. et
Germ. (*Printed by Gunther or Iohn Zainer.*)
Without Place, or Date. Folio.

The noble Owner of this very curious and uncommon book has prefixed to it the following memorandum, in pencil, on the fly leaf. 'Vid. Panzer *Annal. Typog.* vol. i. p. 133 ; Ejusd. *Annal. der ältem Deutschen Litterat.* p. 6 ; Heinecken, *Idée Générale*, &c. p. 464 ; Seemiller, *Incunab. Typog. fasc.* i. p. 125 ; Denis, *Suppl.* p. 489, n°. 4185 ; and Braun, *Notit. Hist. Lit.*, &c. pt. i. p. 37. The preceding authors (continues his Lordship) attribute this book to the press of Gunther Zainer, at Augsburg. Its character resembles that of some of the books by this printer, but the same character was also used by John Zainer. [see fac-simile, p. 242, of vol. i.] at Ulm, and it therefore remains doubtful to which of these two printers it belongs. If it could be supposed that the three last lines of the book [see post.] relate to the printer, rather than to the author of the Abridgement at the end of it, it would determine the question by ascertaining it to be John, and not Gunther, Zainer.* As this point will perhaps ever remain

* The earliest books which I have discovered, with the name of JOHN ZAINER subjoined, are those of Boccaccio *de Claris Mulieribus*, of the date of 1473, and an edition of what we call *Patient Grisel*, without date, but executed in the same character. My friend Mr. Douce possesses a fine copy of each of these very rare and curious volumes, and a copy of the first work is in the library of the Marquis of Exeter, at Burleigh House in Northamp-

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[More information](#)10 MISCELLANEOUS. [*Without Place,*

‘*sub judice,*’ we proceed to a minute, and, it is hoped, interesting, description of this extraordinary publication :—among the most popular of those of the XIII, XIV, and XVth centuries. ‘Such was its reputation among the Benedictins (says Heinecken) that scarcely a library or monastery was without a MS. of it: sometimes ornamented with drawings in distemper, and sometimes without any ornament.’ p. 468.

The recto of the first leaf presents us with the proheme, and with the titles of the chapters. The reverse gives us a title, by which the book is called ‘SPECULUM SANCTÆ MARIÆ VIRGINIS.’ The reverse of the ensuing leaf shews a proheme ‘of a new compilation, whose name and title are ‘SPECULUM HUMANÆ SALVATIONIS.’ Hence the work seems to have received indifferently the title of either. Heads of the several chapters, and a variety of moral sentences, ensue. The latter terminate thus, on the reverse of the 8th leaf from the beginning of the volume inclusively ;

**¶ bone ih̄u da vt hoc opusculum tibi complacet
 Proximos edificet. ⁊ me gratum tibi faciat.
 Amen**

The recto of the ensuing leaf is blank. On the reverse begins the text of the work, preceded by a wood-cut (which Heinecken is pleased

tonshire. The type is very different from that of the above work, and rather resembles the printing of Anthony Sorg. On the other hand, we know that GUNTHER ZAINER printed the *Speculum*, &c. in 1471, in a type similar to that of the above, containing the same number of lines in a full page, (35,) but without cuts. See Panzer, vol. i. p. 100. The type is also seen in the *Ars Amandi* of Ovid, of the same date: see vol. ii. p. 201; and it appears to have been chosen by Gunther on his rejection of the characters which he used in Bonaventure's *Life of Christ*, A. D. 1468, and in the *Catholicon of Balbus*, 1469: see vol. iii. pp. 38, 194. Schuzler made use of this rejected character, which, it must be confessed, is more elegant than that of the *Speculum* and the *Ars Amandi*, &c. The name of JOHN ZAINER is also subjoined to this very character, in the *Æsop*, without date, which is described in vol. i. p. 312, &c.

Next, as to the name in the subscription at the end of the volume: see above, post. All that we observe in the subscription itself, is ‘*Iohannes, minimus monachus.*’ Veith thought this name was designed for *Iohannes de Carniola*; and Krismer, for *Iohannes de Giltingen*. Meerman seems to have mistaken the name for that of the compiler of the *work* itself; whereas, as Heinecken justly observes, it is only that of the author of the *Abridgement*, or *Compendium*. Heinecken's fac-simile of this subscription is very faithless. *Idée*, &c. p. 467, *note*. The same bibliographer's argument about Gunther Zainer having probably printed an edition of the work, of about the date of 1471, is useless; since an impression, with this very date subjoined, is in existence. See Panzer, *Ibid.*