

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05110-1 - Bibliotheca Spenceriana: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century and of Many Valuable First Editions in the Library of George John Earl Spencer: Volume 4

Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE LIBRARY COLLECTION

Books of enduring scholarly value

Printing and Publishing History

The interface between authors and their readers is a fascinating subject in its own right, revealing a great deal about social attitudes, technological progress, aesthetic values, fashionable interests, political positions, economic constraints, and individual personalities. This part of the Cambridge Library Collection reissues classic studies in the area of printing and publishing history that shed light on developments in typography and book design, printing and binding, the rise and fall of publishing houses and periodicals, and the roles of authors and illustrators. It documents the ebb and flow of the book trade supplying a wide range of customers with products from almanacs to novels, bibles to erotica, and poetry to statistics.

Bibliotheca Spenceriana

At his death, George Spencer (1758–1834) had created the greatest private library in Europe. At the time, many aristocrats were spending huge sums acquiring rare printed books. With monastic and aristocratic libraries in Europe being dissolved, collectors had access to thousands of examples. The second Earl Spencer's interests were in English 'black-letter' printing, especially the works of Caxton, and continental incunables, particularly first editions of Greek and Latin classics. Thomas Dibdin (1776–1847) was employed as Spencer's librarian and visited Europe searching for new acquisitions. Published in 1814–15, this catalogue is of the earliest and rarest items in the collection. Each is described in detail, with reproductions of woodcuts and engravings, making this a fascinating record of one man's commitment to collecting the earliest examples of this revolutionary invention. Volume 4 includes many examples of the earliest work of Caxton, alongside first editions of Boccaccio and Dante.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05110-1 - Bibliotheca Spenceriana: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century and of Many Valuable First Editions in the Library of George John Earl Spencer: Volume 4

Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press has long been a pioneer in the reissuing of out-of-print titles from its own backlist, producing digital reprints of books that are still sought after by scholars and students but could not be reprinted economically using traditional technology. The Cambridge Library Collection extends this activity to a wider range of books which are still of importance to researchers and professionals, either for the source material they contain, or as landmarks in the history of their academic discipline.

Drawing from the world-renowned collections in the Cambridge University Library and other partner libraries, and guided by the advice of experts in each subject area, Cambridge University Press is using state-of-the-art scanning machines in its own Printing House to capture the content of each book selected for inclusion. The files are processed to give a consistently clear, crisp image, and the books finished to the high quality standard for which the Press is recognised around the world. The latest print-on-demand technology ensures that the books will remain available indefinitely, and that orders for single or multiple copies can quickly be supplied.

The Cambridge Library Collection brings back to life books of enduring scholarly value (including out-of-copyright works originally issued by other publishers) across a wide range of disciplines in the humanities and social sciences and in science and technology.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05110-1 - Bibliotheca Spenceriana: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century and of Many Valuable First Editions in the Library of George John Earl Spencer: Volume 4

Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Bibliotheca Spenceriana

*A Descriptive Catalogue of the Books
Printed in the Fifteenth Century
and of Many Valuable First Editions
in the Library of George John Earl Spencer*

VOLUME 4

THOMAS FROGNALL DIBDIN



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05110-1 - Bibliotheca Spenceriana: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century and of Many Valuable First Editions in the Library of George John Earl Spencer: Volume 4

Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge, New York, Melbourne, Madrid, Cape Town,
Singapore, São Paulo, Delhi, Mexico City

Published in the United States of America by Cambridge University Press, New York

www.cambridge.org

Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781108051101

© in this compilation Cambridge University Press 2012

This edition first published 1815

This digitally printed version 2012

ISBN 978-1-108-05110-1 Paperback

This book reproduces the text of the original edition. The content and language reflect the beliefs, practices and terminology of their time, and have not been updated.

Cambridge University Press wishes to make clear that the book, unless originally published by Cambridge, is not being republished by, in association or collaboration with, or with the endorsement or approval of, the original publisher or its successors in title.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05110-1 - Bibliotheca Spenceriana: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century and of Many Valuable First Editions in the Library of George John Earl Spencer: Volume 4

Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

BIBLIOTHECA
SPENCERIANA.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05110-1 - Bibliotheca Spenceriana: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century and of Many Valuable First Editions in the Library of George John Earl Spencer: Volume 4

Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05110-1 - Bibliotheca Spenceriana: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century and of Many Valuable First Editions in the Library of George John Earl Spencer: Volume 4

Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

BIBLIOTHECA
SPENCERIANA;
OR
A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE
OF THE BOOKS PRINTED IN
The Fifteenth Century,
AND OF MANY VALUABLE FIRST EDITIONS,
IN THE LIBRARY OF
GEORGE JOHN EARL SPENCER, K. G.
&c. &c. &c.



BY THE REVEREND
THOMAS FROGNALL DIBDIN.

VOL. IV.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY W. BULMER AND CO.

Shakspeare Press,

AND PUBLISHED BY LONGMAN, HURST, & CO.; PAYNE & FOSS;
WHITE & COCHRANE; JOHN MURRAY; AND J. & A. ARCH.

1815.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05110-1 - Bibliotheca Spenceriana: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century and of Many Valuable First Editions in the Library of George John Earl Spencer: Volume 4

Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ADVERTISEMENT.

AFTER the lapse of a twelvemonth, the fourth and last volume of this Work is presented to the Public. Whatever errors it may contain, there will still be found, I trust, a sufficient body of information and amusement to render it acceptable to the lovers of rare books, and to the skilful in Bibliography.

In regard to variety and splendour, the volume now published may be considered superior to those which have preceded it. The ITALIAN BOOKS, although few in number, are precious for their rarity and intrinsic worth; while the account of the publications from the earliest presses of OUR OWN COUNTRY, will be found to contain many curious topics connected with the state of

Ancient English Literature. In the SUPPLEMENT, many uncommon and interesting articles are introduced; and the Embellishments throughout the volume, whether upon Wood or Copper, have been selected and executed with equal attention to singularity and fidelity. Nor are the INDEXES the least useful portions of a work which contains such multifarious matter.

Such then is the faithful and minute description of what may probably be considered as the foundation only of the SPENCER LIBRARY. To describe the remainder of the same Collection with equal minuteness, would by no means answer the like useful purpose; since the publications of the XVIIth, and of the following Centuries are, comparatively, of less curiosity and rarity, and in general are familiar to the Bibliographer and Collector.

I cannot however terminate my present labours, or shut the door of the Library in which I have passed so many hours with equal instruction and delight, without addressing its

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05110-1 - Bibliotheca Spenceriana: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century and of Many Valuable First Editions in the Library of George John Earl Spencer: Volume 4

Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

ADVERTISEMENT.

vii

Owner and chief Ornament—in the language of a distinguished Bibliographer to a Nobleman, whose treasures were laid open to the grateful eulogist with the same readiness and liberality as those of EARL SPENCER have been to myself. . . ‘Tu primùm (says the author to his Patron) stimulos addidisti: in frequentibus quæ tecum nunquam habui, quin instructor abirem, colloquiis sæpius me submonuisti, unde lucubrationibus meis plurimum momenti et lucis accederet: crebro tua, quod nescio an in ullâ aliâ repererim, suggestit bibliotheca: ad Te et ad hanc facilis semper patuit aditus.’*

* MAITTAIRE, to the EARL OF PEMBROKE; in the Dedication of the ‘*Annales Typographici*,’ 1719, 4to.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05110-1 - Bibliotheca Spenceriana: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century and of Many Valuable First Editions in the Library of George John Earl Spencer: Volume 4

Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-05110-1 - Bibliotheca Spenceriana: A Descriptive Catalogue of the Books Printed in the Fifteenth Century and of Many Valuable First Editions in the Library of George John Earl Spencer: Volume 4

Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Frontmatter

[More information](#)

MISCELLANEOUS
AUTHORS
continued.

VOL. IV.

B