

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-07356-1 - The Life and Typography of William Caxton, England's First Printer: With Evidence of his Typographical Connection with Colard Mansion, the Printer at Bruges: Volume 2

William Blades

Excerpt

[More information](#)

A

LIST OF BOOKS PRINTED

IN

TYPE No. 1.

VOL. II.

A

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No. 1.—THE RECUELL OF THE HISTORIES OF TROY. *Translated*
1469-71. *Folio. Without Place or Date. (1472-4?)*.

COLLATION.—*Book I* has fourteen 5^{ns} and one 4ⁿ = 148 leaves, of which the first is blank. *Book II* has nine 5^{ns}, one 4ⁿ, and one 3ⁿ = 104 leaves. *Book III* has ten 5^{ns} = 100 leaves. *Total* 351 printed leaves and 1 blank.

TYPOGRAPHICAL PARTICULARS.—Type No. 1 only. Lines of very uneven length; full lines measure 5 inches, but vary in different parts from 4¾ to 5¼ inches. 31 lines to a full page. Without signatures, catchwords, or numerals. Space is left, with a director, for 3 to 7-line initials. As may be seen by the collation, each book begins a fresh gathering, probably for the convenience of binding in three separate volumes.

Commencing the work with a blank leaf Caxton's titular preface follows, printed in red ink, and occupying the 2nd recto.

The Text begins thus :—

Ere begynneth the volume intituled and named
h the recuyell of the historpes of Trophe/ composed
and drawen out of dyuerce bookes of latyn in
to frensche by the ryght venerable persone and wor-
shipfull man . Raoul le feure . preest and chapelayn
vnto the ryght noble glorpous and myghty prynce in
his tyme Phelip duc of Bourgoyne of Braband 2cf
In the pere of the Incarnation of our lord god a thou-
sand foure honderd sixty and foure / And translated
and drawen out of frenche in to englische by Willpam
Caxton mercer of p^e cpte of London / at the comaūdemēt
of the right hie myghty and vertuouse Prynce hys
redoubtyd lady . Margarete by the grace of god . Du-
chesse of Bourgoyne of Lotryk of Braband 2cf /
Whiche sayd translacion and werke was begonne in
Brugis in the Countee of Flaundres the fyrst day of
marche the pere of the Incarnation of our said lord god
a thousand foure honderd sixty and epyghte / And ended
and fynnyshid in the holy cpte of Colen the . xix . day of
septembre the pere of our sayd lord god a thousand
foure honderd sixty and enleuen 2cf .

And on that other side of this leef foloweth the prologe

Caxton's prologue commences on the verso of the same leaf.

Whan I remembre that euery man is bounden
by the comandement ⁊ counceyll of the wyse
man to eschewe slouthe and ydlenes why-
che is moder and nourysshur of vyces and
ought to put my self vnto vertuous ocupacion and be-

finishing 10 lines down the 3rd verso, the prologue of the Author following on the same page :—

Ere foloweth p^e plogue of that worshipful man
Raoul le feure whiche was Auctor of this present
book in the ffrench tonge .

The 4th verso is occupied by a title of 4 lines, in red ink, introducing the First Book, which commences as follows on the 5th recto, space being allowed for a 7-line initial, with director,

What tyme alle the Children of Noe
were sprad bi the Climates . regnes

and finishes on the verso of the 148th leaf, with 14 lines of print,

Thus endeth the first book of the recueyll or
gadrpng to geder of the historpes of Trophe .

The Second Book begins at head of 149th recto,

Hiere begynneth the seconde booke of the recueill of
and finishes at foot of 251st recto, the verso being occupied by Caxton's epilogue, which finishes with 8 lines on the 252nd recto, the verso being blank,

In eschewyng of ydlenes moder of all vices . I haue de-
libered in my self for the contemplacion of my layd re-
doubtid lady to take this laboure in hand by p^e sulfrance
and helpe of almyghty god . whome I mekely supplie
to gyue me grace to accomplysshe hit to the playfir of
her that is causer therof and that she resseue hit in gre-
of me her faithfull trewe ⁊ molte humble seruant 2cf .

Thus endeth the seconde book .

The Third Book opens on the 253rd recto,

In these two bokes precedente . we haue by the helpe
is followed on the same page by a title of 5 lines, in red ink, and finishes at foot of 350th verso,

the kynge Escorpus / the kynge prothenor / and the
kynge Obtynens 2cf .

An epilogue by Caxton, of 1 page 19 lines, occupies the next leaf.

The Text ends on the 352nd recto, with 14 Latin rhymes, commencing

Pergama flere volo . fata danais data solo
Solo capta dolo . capta redacta solo

and finishing

Femina digna mori . reamatur amore priori
Reddita victori . deliciis qz thori

the verso being blank.

These lines appear, among other poems, in Cotton MS., Cleop. A VIII, where they are entitled "Versus rhythmici Magistri Hildeberti."

REMARKS.—"Le Recueil des Histoires de Troye," the original of Caxton's translation, is generally ascribed to Raoul le Fevre. Its literary history shall be narrated when treating of the French edition, and its translation and subsequent printing have already been described in Vol I, pages 45-47. The prologue and epilogues are reprinted in Vol. I, pages 131-34. It was the first book printed in the English language, and, during its progress through the Press, Caxton, as he himself informs us in his prologue to the Third Book, learnt the new art.

I have not been able to trace any MANUSCRIPT of this version.

EXISTING COPIES.

1. BRITISH MUSEUM. *King's Library*, (C. 11. c. 1).—Made *perfect* by a few leaves taken from another copy. In very fine condition. Purchased at West's sale by "honest Tom Payne," having formerly belonged to the *Harleian Library*. Measurement, $10\frac{7}{8} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

2. CAMBRIDGE. *Public Library*, (AB. 10. 31).—*Imperfect*, wanting the first 12 printed leaves and the 19th in Book I, the last in Book II, and the last in Book III. Clean, and free from manuscript notes. Measurement, $10\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ inches. From Bishop M^{ore}'s collection.

3. THE SAME, (AB. 4. 14).—Another copy. *Imperfect*, wanting the first three printed leaves in Book I, as well as the 31st and 32nd; the last in Book II; and the 46th and last two in Book III. Several leaves patched and torn. Many manuscript disfigurements throughout the volume, which is stained and dirty. Measurement 11×8 inches. This also was one of Bishop More's books.

4. *Trinity College*.—*Imperfect*, wanting 7 printed leaves in Book I; also 94, 95, and the last two in Book III. In many parts of this volume pains have been taken to trace over each letter very carefully with black ink. In tolerable condition. Measurement, $10\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ inches.

5. OXFORD. *Bodleian*.—*Imperfect*. Wants the first two printed leaves of the First, and the last leaf of the Second Book. There is in this volume a curious accident: the verso of the 29th leaf has not been printed by the pressman, although the corresponding

page on the same side of the sheet shows a good impression (See also the Devonshire copy). Clean, with a few manuscript notes. Measurement, $10 \times 7\frac{1}{4}$ inches. With this is bound up the 1st Edition of "The Game and Play of the Chess." Both belonged to James Bowen, of Shropshire, whose Autograph is on a fly-leaf at the beginning, and who bequeathed the volume in 1750 to this library.

6. Another copy. *Imperfect*, wanting the first three printed leaves in Book I, the 4th in Book II, and the first and last two in Book III. Clean, and without manuscript notes; some leaves cut with a knife. Measurement, $10 \times 7\frac{1}{8}$ inches.

7. PARIS. *Imperial Library*.—*Very imperfect*, wanting the first 125 leaves in Book I, the 35th and 51st in Book II, and 32 at the end of the volume. The printing on the 1st leaf is surrounded by an illuminated border cut from a manuscript and pasted on. The Autograph of Thomas Pike is on the 10th leaf, and several other leaves are disfigured by scribbling. The initials are a late insertion, in all colours and shapes. Measurement, $10 \times 11\frac{1}{4}$ inches. Purchased for £15, in 1826, at Mr. Inglis's sale, whose book-plate is inside the cover. Previously to this it had belonged to Steevens, the Shakspeare Commentator.

8. SION COLLEGE, *London*.—*Imperfect*, wanting 15 leaves at the beginning of Book I, and the last in Book III. Free from manuscript notes, but much stained. Measurement, $10\frac{3}{8} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Bequeathed, with 15 other books, by Matthew Forster, Merchant and Vintner of London, which is thus recorded at the foot of the 1st page, "Math : filius Ducis Math. fforster donavit 1646."

9. DUKE OF DEVONSHIRE.—*Imperfect*, wanting the last leaf, which is supplied in facsimile. The inmost sheet of the 3rd quinternion has an error in the printing, which no folding can rectify, as the fourth page of the sheet is printed so as to back the first, and the second takes the place of the fourth. It is remarkable that a copy in the "Bodleian" shows a blunder in the same sheet. Two leaves at the end are mended, and the first in the book is mounted. The volume is otherwise in excellent preservation, beautifully clean, and of large size; the type also appears very sharp and clear. Measurement, 11×8 inches. This book is particularly interesting, from having belonged to Elizabeth Grey, Queen of Edward the Fourth, and sister to Anthoine Earl Rivers, the Poet, and patron of Caxton's Press. This appears from a manuscript inscription on the paper lining of the original vellum covering of the book, which has been carefully bound up at the end of the volume. The writing, of the 15th Century, is as follows: "This boke is mine quene elizabet late wiffe vnto the moste noble King edwarde the forthe off whos bothe sooles y beseche almyghty Gode Take to his onfnyght mercy above. Amen. Per me thomā Shukburghe juniorem."⁽¹⁾ The late Duke bought this interesting volume

⁽¹⁾ On a slip of paper in a Collection of Autographs in the British Museum (Cotton MS., Vesp. F. XIII, fol. 49) is a similar inscription, "thys boke ys myn elysabeth the kyngys dawghtyr 1462."

at the Roxburghe sale for £1060 10s. It had been purchased by the Duke of Roxburghe for £50, from Mr. Laing, who had received it in exchange from Major Swinton.

10. MARQUIS OF BATH.—A copy said to be *perfect*,⁽¹⁾ but much wormed and repaired; no further particulars can be added.

11. EARL OF PEMBROKE.—*Imperfect*. Wants 19 printed leaves in Book I, 2 in Book II, and 50 in Book III. It is tolerably clean. Measurement, $10\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ inches.

12. EARL OF JERSEY.—*Perfect*, with the original blank, and very clean. A few leaves are mended, but altogether this is a magnificent copy. Measurement, $10\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{7}{8}$ inches. Purchased with Bryan Fairfax's Library in 1756 by Mr. Child. Autograph at the beginning of Book I, "Sir Th: Fairfax the elder knight oweth this booke."

13. EARL OF ASHBURNHAM.—*Imperfect*, wanting all before the 18th leaf, also 79 to 87 inclusive; the last leaf of Book II; 25, 79, 80, 81, 84, and the last 12 in Book III. Slightly stained; with few manuscript notes. Measurement, $10\frac{7}{8} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ inches. From Mr. Utterson's Library.

14. EARL SPENCER.—*Imperfect*, but in beautiful condition, wanting only the 1st printed leaf, which is a mounted facsimile, admirably executed by Whittaker. Free from all stains or manuscript marks. Measurement, $10\frac{3}{4} \times 7\frac{1}{2}$ inches. On the cover is the book-plate of Henry Edmund Austen, Shalford, Surrey, who followed M. C. Tutet as its possessor.

15. SIR THOMAS PHILLIPPS, BART.—*Imperfect*. No further particulars can be given. (See Catalogue of his MSS. for 1848, No. 6012).

16. BERIAH BOTFIELD, ESQ., M.P.—*Imperfect*, wanting the 11th and 20th leaves in Book I, and 5 leaves in Book II, all supplied in fac-simile by Harris. Upon the original calf binding was "Agnes Cole, 1518." Measurement $10\frac{1}{2} \times 7\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Purchased of Payne and Foss for £168.

SALE PRICES.

Year.	Lot.	Sale.	Amount.			Purchaser.
			£	s.	d.	
1698 ...	III. 119 ...	Dr. Bernard (<i>p.</i>)	0	3	0	—
<i>a</i> 1743 ...	III. 2783 ...	Earl of Oxford (<i>i.</i>)	—	—	—	Osborne, Bookseller.
1756 ...	2026 ...	Bryan Fairfax (<i>i.</i>)	8	8	0	Fras. Child.
<i>a</i> 1773 ...	4090 ...	J. West (<i>i.</i>)	32	11	0	George III.
1776 ...	1667 ...	J. Ratchiffe	4	18	0	Dr. Hunter.
1786 ...	487 ...	M. C. Tutet (<i>i. 1 l.</i>)	21	0	0	H. E. Austen.
<i>b</i> 1800 ...	1150 ...	G. Steevens (<i>i.</i>)	14	3	6	J. Edwards.
1812 ...	6350 ...	Duke of Roxburghe (<i>i. 1 l.</i>)	1060	10	0	D. of Devonshire.
<i>b</i> 1815 ...	164 ...	J. Edwards (<i>i.</i>)	43	1	0	De Bure.
<i>c</i> 1816 ...	1469 ...	J. Lloyd, <i>Wygfair</i> (<i>i.</i>)	126	0	0	G. Hibbert.
<i>b</i> 1826 ...	1220 ...	J. Inglis (<i>i. 159 l.</i>)	15	0	0	Imperial Lib., Paris.
<i>c</i> 1829 ...	6925 ...	G. Hibbert (<i>i.</i>)	157	10	0	J. Wilks.
<i>c</i> 1847 ...	2101 ...	J. Wilks (<i>i.</i>)	165	0	0	E. V. Utterson.
<i>c</i> 1852 ...	482 ...	E. V. Utterson (<i>i.</i>)	155	0	0	E. of Ashburnham.

⁽¹⁾ *Bibliotheca Spenceriana*, vol. iv, page 188. *Repertorium Bibliographicum*, page 198.

No. 2.—THE GAME AND PLAY OF THE CHESS MORALISED. (*Translated 1474*). *First Edition. Folio. Without Printer's Name, Place, or Date. (1475-76)*.

COLLATION.—Eight 4^{ns} and one 5ⁿ = 74 leaves, of which the 1st and 74th are blank.

TYPOGRAPHICAL PARTICULARS.—There is only one Type, No. 1, used throughout the work. The lines are not spaced out; the longest measure 5 inches; a full page has 31 lines. Without title-page, signatures, numerals, or catchwords.

The volume commences with a blank leaf, and on the second recto is Caxton's prologue, space being left for a 2-line initial, without director.

The Text begins thus:—

¶ the right noble / right excellent ⁊ vertuous prince
George duc of Clarence Erle of Warwyc and of
salisbury / grete chamberlayn of Englonde ⁊ lieutenant
of Ireland oldest broder of kynge Edward by the grace
of god kynge of England and of fraunce / your most
humble seruant william Caxton amonge other of your
seruantes sendes vnto you peas . helthe . Ioye and victo-
rye vpon your Enemys / Right highe pupffant and

This prologue extends to 12 lines on the verso, finishing,

fayte and dede / And for more clerely to procede in this
sayd booke I haue ordeyned that the chapitres ben sette in
the begynnyng to thende that ye may see more playnly
the mater whereof the booke treteth 2c.

The table follows on the 3rd recto,

This booke contepneth .iiii. traytees / The first traytee
finishing with 7 lines on the verso. On the 4th recto commences the work itself.

**This first chapitre of the first tractate sheweth vnder
what kynge the play of the chesse was founden and
maad. . .**

Amonge all the euyll condicions and signes
The Text ends on the 73rd recto,

**And sende you thaccomplishment of your hye noble.
Ioyous and vertuous desires Amen :/: Fyppsthid the
last day of marche the yer of our lord god . a . thousand
foure honderd and lxxiiii.**

The 74th leaf is blank.

MANUSCRIPTS:—The following are in the British Museum:—1. *Harl.* 1275 (Latin), which ends, “Hunc autem libellum ad honorē et solatiū nobilu, ego frater Jacobus de Cesulis, ordinis fratrum predicatorum composui, et ad hunc finem perduxī, donante illo a quo descendit omē datum optimū et perfectum. Deo igitur sit honor et gloria in secula seculorum Amen.”—2. *Harl.* 3238 (Latin). The same.—3. *Addit.* 15685 (Latin). The same.—4. *Royal*, 12 B xxiii (Latin) The same.—5. *Addit.* 21461 (French), Faron’s translation. Begins, “Ci commence le Jeu des eschez... A Noble homme Bertran aubert de tarnston . Frere Jehan faron de lordre des freres preescheurs de Paris son petit & humble chappellain / Soy tout la sainte,” &c. ; and a few lines further, “Or preney dont ce petit present commencie le quatiresme jour de may lan Mil Trois cens quarante et sept.”—6. *Royal*, 19 A viii (French). The same.—7. *Royal*, 19 C xi (French), Jean de Vignay’s translation; the prologue ends, “Je frere Jehan de Vignay hospitaler de lordre de hault pas ay translate de latin en francois ce liure de la moralité des nobles hōmes et des gens de cōmū peuple sur le Jeu des eschez. Cy pryra tous les lisans que se Jlz treuuēt aucūes deffaultes que Jl leur plaise moy tenir pour excuse et les corrigier/ Et prier n̄re seigneur pour moi/ et Je lui prieray quil vous ottoie la gloire de paradis. Explicit.”—8. *Harl.* 5440 (French). The same.—The prologue to this has been printed in Vol. I, page 135.—9. *Addit.* 15698 (German verse), with coarse and grotesque illustrations.

There are several manuscript copies in the Imperial Library, Paris ; No. 6483, (Latin) xiv cent., bears the following colophon,⁽¹⁾ “Explicit solatium ludi scacchorum tractatum ad mores editum a fratre Egidio de Roma.” Nos. 7068³ and 7204 (French of Vignay). No. 7072³ (French of Faron).

REMARKS.—“Fynysshid the last day of Marche the yer of oure lord god a thousand foure honderd and lxxiiii.” The word “fynysshed” has doubtless the same signification here as in the Epilogue to the Second Book of Caxton’s translation of the Histories of Troy, “begonne in Brugis, contynued in Gaunt, and *finysshed* in Coleyn,” which evidently refers to the translation only. The date, 1475-6, has been affixed, because in the Low Countries at that time the year commenced on Easter-day ;⁽²⁾ this in 1474 fell on April 10th, thus giving, as the day of the conclusion of the translation, 31st March, 1475, the same year being the earliest possible period of its appearance as a printed book.

The literary history of the “Game and Play of the Chess” does not appear to have hitherto received that attention which is its due. Before 1285, Ægidius Colonna⁽³⁾ had

⁽¹⁾ *Les Msc. Franc.*, vol. v, page 13.

⁽²⁾ *The Chronology of History*, by Sir Harris Nicolas, pages 47 and 66.

⁽³⁾ Ægidius Colonna was, in 1292, General of the Augustins, and in 1294, Archbishop of Bourges. He was a celebrated Theological Commentator, and upon his death, in 1316, at Avignon, his body was translated to Paris, where his effigy in black marble with a Latin epitaph existed before the French Revolution.—*Les Msc. Franc.*, vol. i, page 224.

composed his renowned work entitled "De regimine principum," which treats of self-government, domestic government, and national government. The "Liber de ludo Scachorum," of J. de Cessolis appears to have been based upon this work, its chief originality being the representation of the several stations and duties of life by the Pieces used in Chess. Indeed, so much resemblance was there between the work of Cessolis and that of Ægidius, that in one manuscript (quoted above) we read "editum a fratre Egidio," &c. This was doubtless an error of the scribe, as it disagrees with all the other known manuscripts, which are unanimous in ascribing the work to Cessolis. J. de Cessolis was contemporary with Ægidius—was a Preaching Friar, and translated several of the Latin works of Ægidius into French. It does not, however, appear that he translated into French his own Latin compilation, "De ludo Scachorum," although from the number of manuscripts still extant we may fairly presume that it was in great repute. About the middle of the 15th Century two distinct French versions were made. The earlier was probably that by Jean Faron, in 1347, who translated it literally from the original Latin. About the same time appeared the favorite and standard work of Jehan de Vignay, who took great liberties with the text, and added many stories and fables. Both these men were also of the order of Preaching Friars, and seem to have worked quite independently of one another. We now approach Caxton's edition. This is principally from the version of Jehan de Vignay, to whom he gives the title of "an excellent Doctor of Divinity, of the Order of the Hospital of St. John's of Jerusalem," which is remarkable, as in his preface Jean de Vignay styles himself "hospitaller de l'ordre de haut pas"⁽¹⁾ and he is so termed in all the manuscripts. On comparing the English and the two French versions, it is evident that Caxton must have been well acquainted with both. His prologue addressed to the Duke of Clarence contains, *nominis mutatis*, the whole of Jean de Vignay's Dedication to Prince John of France; while Chapters I and III are taken entirely from the translation of Jean Faron.⁽²⁾ The remainder of the Book is from the version of Jehan de Vignay, with one or two special insertions evidently from the pen of Caxton himself. These have been reprinted in Vol. I, pages 135-8.

EXISTING COPIES.

1. BRITISH MUSEUM. *King's Library*, (C. 10. b. 23).—*Perfect*. Every leaf mounted. Purchased for the King, at West's sale, 1773. Measurement, $9\frac{7}{8} \times 7$ inches. At the end of the Table are blazoned the Arms of the Wryothsley family. Autographs, "Th: Wryothsley" and "liber Robart Boys 3s." On a fly-leaf at the end of the

(1) "Situé dans le flambourg Saint Jacques à Paris."—*Les Msc. Franc.* vol. i. 55.

(2) As an expression peculiar to Jean Faron we notice the phrase (entirely wanting in Jehan de Vignay) "vn homme Joly sans iustice," which is used in chapter I. to describe the character of King Emsmerodach. It is thus englished by Caxton "a Joly man without justice."