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978-1-108-07713-2 - *Typographical Antiquities: Or, The History of Printing in England, Scotland, and Ireland: Volume 1*

Edited by Joseph Ames, William Herbert and Thomas Frognall Dibdin

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### **Typographical Antiquities**

When this work was published, its original author had been dead for fifty years. As the title page explains, the work of Joseph Ames (1687–1759) was considerably augmented by William Herbert (1718–95), and then ‘greatly enlarged, with copious notes, and illustrated with appropriate engravings’ by Thomas Frognall Dibdin (1776–1847), several of whose other works are also reissued in this series. Ames’ history of printing, based on his own collection, was published in 1749, as an aid to booksellers in identifying old works (and modern forgeries). Herbert, a printseller and bibliophile, acquired Ames’ own interleaved copy of the work and intended to enlarge it, but died having completed only three of six proposed volumes. His working copies then passed to Dibdin, who eventually published this four-volume edition between 1810 and 1819. In Volume 1, lives of Ames and Herbert are followed by discussions of printers from Caxton onwards.

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# Typographical Antiquities

*Or, The History of Printing  
in England, Scotland, and Ireland*

VOLUME 1

JOSEPH AMES

EDITED BY WILLIAM HERBERT  
AND THOMAS FROGNALL DIBDIN



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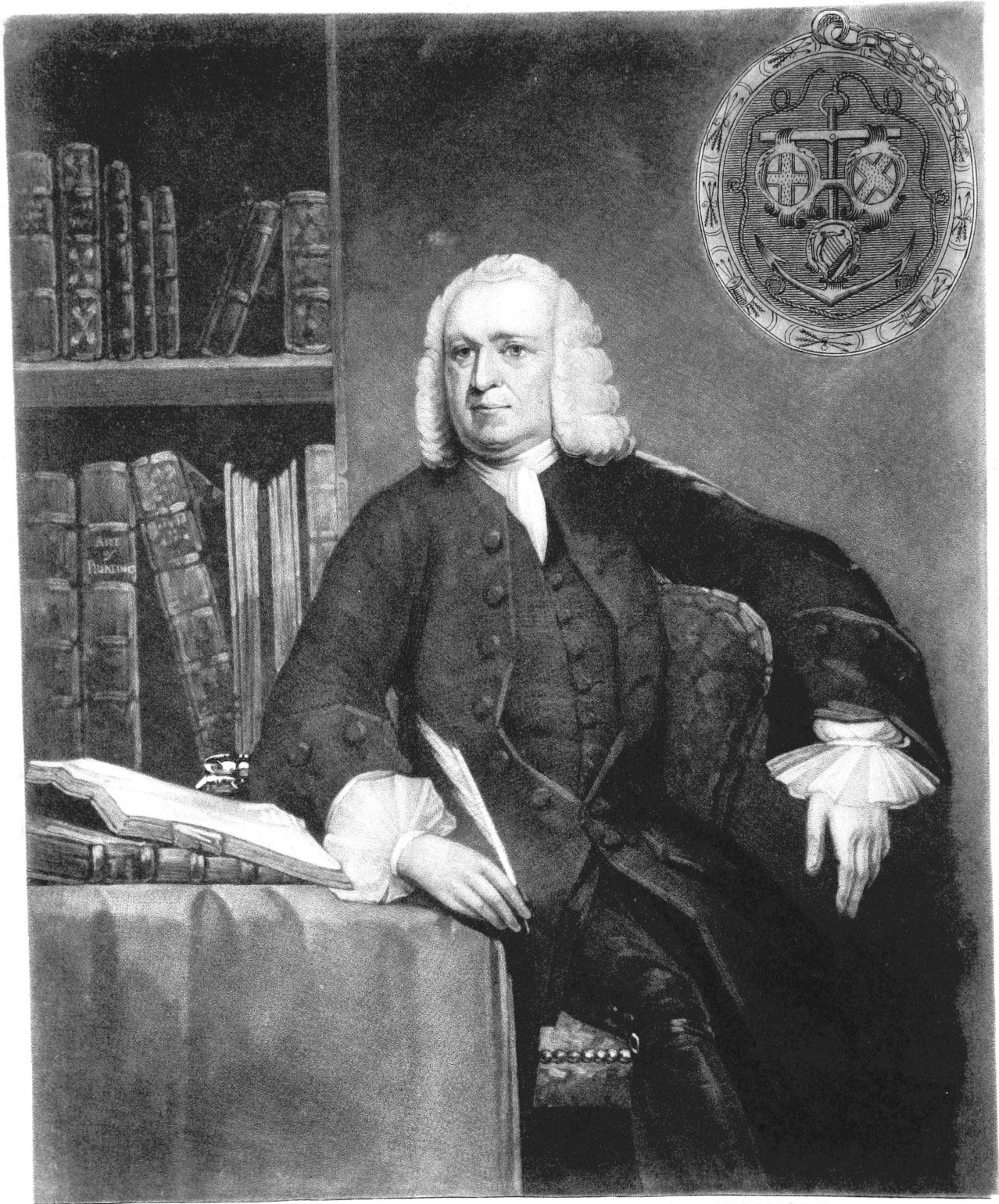
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OR

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IN

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*Hereby, tongues are known, knowledge groweth, judgment increaseth, books are dispersed, the Scripture is read, stories be opened, times compared, truth discerned, falshood detected and with finger pointed, and all (as I said) through the benefit of printing.*

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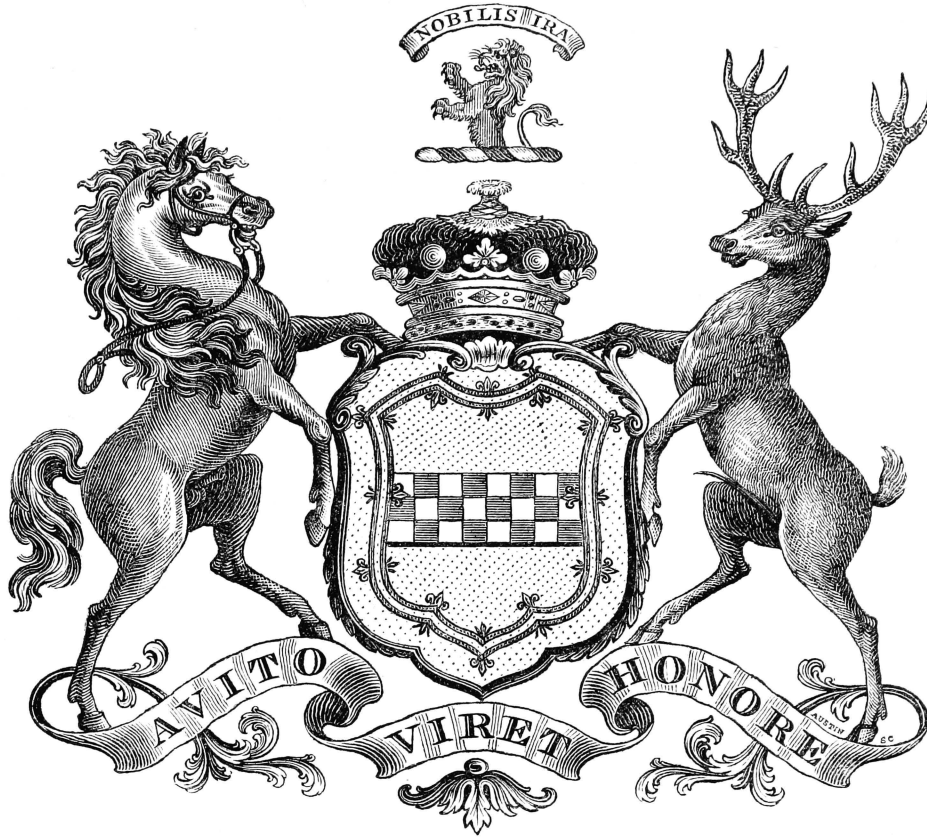


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TO THE MOST NOBLE  
THE MARQUIS OF BUTE,  
EARL OF WINDSOR,  
&c. &c. &c.

THIS EDITION OF THE  
**Typographical Antiquities**  
OF  
GREAT BRITAIN,  
IS RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED  
BY HIS  
OBEDIENT AND HUMBLE SERVANT  
THOMAS FROGNALL DIBDIN.

## DIRECTIONS FOR INSERTING THE PLATES.

- PL. I. Ames's Portrait in mezzotint; to face the title page.  
 II. Herbert's d°. to face page 71\* : 'Memoirs of Herbert.'  
 III. To face the beginning of the 'Preliminary Disquisition.' p. i.  
 IV. Portraits of Caxton to face page lxxiii.  
 V. } Plate V to be inserted immediately before Pl. VI; which latter is to face  
 VI. } page cxxv.  
 VII. To face page 2: second set of arabic numerals.  
 VIII. To face page 9: d°.   
 IX. To face page 88: d°.   
 There is no Plate numbered X.  
 XI. Portrait of Dr. Mead: to face page 152.  
 XII. Portrait of Lord Oxford: d°. 241.  
 XIII. Portrait of Maittaire: d°. 288.  
 XIII\*. To face page 320.  
 XIV. To face page 363.

\* The asterisk refers to the first set of arabic numerals, which commences immediately after the 'List of Subscribers:' the arabic numerals without an asterisk, refer to those pages which begin immediately after the conclusion of the 'Life of Caxton.'

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☞ It is particularly requested that this volume may not be bound too soon: and that care be taken, when bound, to secure the larger wood-cuts by the insertion of tissue paper.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

*AFTER a delay, or rather preparation, of nearly three years, the first volume of a new edition of the Typographical Antiquities of Great Britain is presented to the public. The great quantity of introductory matter, and the appearance of only one printer, in the ensuing pages, may excite an apprehension that the work will be extended considerably beyond the limits originally assigned to it, and that, in consequence, the Subscribers (if they choose to continue their support) will be burthened with an expense which they had no intention of incurring. But, copious as may be the manner in which the works printed by Caxton have been described, and numerous as may be the engraved Illustrations to this and the following volumes, the Editor has no fear of subjecting his Subscribers to the inconvenience just anticipated.*

*In the present instance, it has been deemed necessary to lay a broad basis for making the Typographical and Literary Annals of our own country as complete as possible; while the fac-similes of Engravings, with which printed works are adorned, may exhibit a pleasing outline of the rise and progress of the sister art in the same country.*

*The Life of our first Printer, in which (with the exception of about a dozen irrelevant and erroneous pages) the whole of LEWIS'S Life of Caxton has been included, accompanied with numerous bibliographical notes, has occupied a much larger space than will be assigned to similar matter in the subsequent volumes. This biography has been preceded by a 'Preliminary Disquisition,' which the Editor hopes will be considered in the light of a useful, as well as elegant, vestibule to the building with which it is connected. In reprinting the Prefaces of Ames and Herbert, such notes have been subjoined as appeared to give additional interest to the original pieces. For the Memoirs of the former, the Editor, like his immediate predecessor, has been indebted to the diligent pen of the late Mr. Gough. For the scantiness of the Memoirs of Herbert, it would be necessary to apologise, were not every sensible reader well apprised of the difficulty of collecting accurate materials for the biography of persons even more recently deceased; and did they not also reflect, that the events in the lives of studious and secluded characters, afford little scope for an entertaining and varied narrative.*

*There is one point in which it is conceived this work will be considered, by resolute lovers of black-letter antiquity, exceedingly vulnerable; and that is, in having generally adopted the modern orthography for the ancient. If the phraseology of Caxton were thereby altered and injured—if our venerable typographer were made to speak in a different style, and the character of his compositions were*

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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*totally changed in consequence—perhaps hardly any censure would be too severe for such an innovation! But, it is respectfully submitted, Caxton is here made to write in the very same language which he himself wrote—except that, in some few instances, ‘nor’ may have been substituted for ‘ne,’ and ‘understand’ for ‘understanden.’ This, it is hoped, is ‘the very head and front’ of the Editor’s ‘offending.’*

*The reader may be assured that the dress of our first Printer is not so completely changed, as he may imagine, into the costume of the 19th century: unless taking the tarnish from his luce, and the dust from his coat, be deemed such an alteration. However, that the aforesaid ‘resolute lovers of black-letter antiquity’ may not be wholly disappointed, and that the capricious\* and unsettled state of ancient orthography may be indisputably manifest, the titles and colophons of the books printed by Caxton, together with the prologues and epilogues of the *English History of Troy* (vide p. 16, post.) are printed with scrupulous adherence to the ancient mode. The poetical extracts are also uniformly thus printed, because the ancient mode of spelling seems necessary to preserve the quantity of the verse. The other extracts are given in modern orthography; preserving the character of the word, whether French or Latin: by this means it is hoped that Caxton may be rendered an interesting, and somewhat popular, author.*

\* It is not uncommon to find the words ‘book’ and ‘work’ spelled four different ways in the same page. The word ‘Westminster’ is equally varied by Carton.

## ADVERTISEMENT.

*In fine, the Editor can honestly assure his readers, that neither pains, labour, nor expense have been spared—in visiting the two Universities, and other public repositories of books—and in the number and variety of plates—(which have increased far beyond the original design) to render this volume deserving of their approbation, and of the auspices under which it is published. A great deal of curious and apposite matter has been thrown into the notes, in order to avoid swelling the book to an unnecessary size. If the letter of the text had been more generally adopted, and the work had been printed in the modern broad-margin style, the reader need not be told that two volumes would hardly have contained the matter which is here submitted to his consideration.*

*In the ‘GENERAL PREFACE,’ to be published with the last volume, the Editor will not fail to express the particular obligations he has been under to those literary friends and acquaintances, who have assisted him with information in the course of his arduous undertaking: an undertaking, the nature and end of which he has endeavoured fully to comprehend, and rationally to anticipate: towards the creditable completion of which, much time, care, and labour are requisite, with no small portion of health and animal spirits. The latter are in the dispensation of Providence: the former it is in human power to manage and apply. ‘To worthy and impartial men in particular,’\* as Hearne has observed, this appeal, as well as*

\*[“*hominibus speciatim bonis, minusque corruptis ac partibus deditis*] Johannes de Trokelowe. *Præfat. p. xvi.*

## ADVERTISEMENT.

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*this undertaking, is submitted. ‘Nos (continues\* the same amiable antiquary) in studio veritatis ac antiquitatis horas collocemus, nobiscumque præclare agi putemus, si in hujusmodi nostris conatibus utile quod sit invenerint eruditi.’*

Kensington, *December 23, 1809.*

*T. F. D.*

\* Ejud. Operis. *Præfat. p. xvii, xviii.*

The attention of the reader is requested to the following

CORRECTIONS.

- p. viii. The Landscape here said to be in Wynkyn de Worde's edition of the *Polychronicon* was, in fact, taken from Pynson's edition of the *Fructus Temporum*, A. D. 1510; preceding the 'Description of England.' I had imagined that I had seen it in the former work: but qu. whether it may not be in Wynkyn De Worde's edition of the *Fructus Temporum* of 1497-1502? If so, the position may be accurate respecting its being the earliest landscape introduced into our printed books. I consider the group of birds, &c. with a back ground, in Wynkyn de Worde's edition of *Bartholomæus de Prop. Rer.* and the book of *Hawking and Hunting*, &c. 1496, as not strictly characteristic of Landscape-composition.
- p. x. The rude figures of '*Dives et Pauper*,' erroneously said to be in Pynson's edition of this work, of the date of 1493, are in Wynkyn de Worde's edition of it A. D. 1496.
- p. lxxv. It is here said that there are but three known copies of the Oxford book of 1468; but Herbert, p. 1391, mentions a fourth in Earl Pembroke's library, and a fifth in All Soul's library. Of the latter, a doubt may be entertained. Hearne speaks of another, and 6th copy 'in the School Tower at Oxford.' See his *Roper's Life of Sir Thomas More*, p. 256.
- p. 58\*—60\*. The reader will transfer the two last references in the note † at page 60\* to the note at p. 58\*—and instead of *Bibl. Monro* will read '*Bibl. Lort*.' ‡
- p. 23 line 25—the word 'leawde' or 'lewd,' is here rather 'ignorant' and 'foolish' than 'idle.' Chaucer and the author of *Pierce Ploughman* constantly use it in the former sense.
- 33 — 4—See p. 187, upon this circumstance.
- 191 — 4—dele 'De.'
- 194 — 7—for 'Preliminary Disquisition' read 'Life of Caxton.'
- 317 — 6—for 'presques' read 'presque.'
- 23—insert a semicolon instead of a comma after the word translator.
- 319 last line but 1; insert A. D. before the figures 1794.

‡ The above pages refer to the *first* set of arabic numerals.



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