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978-1-108-07714-9 - *Typographical Antiquities: Or, The History of Printing in England, Scotland, and Ireland: Volume 2*

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. Volume 2 considers the lives and work of printers including Wynken de Worde and Richard Pynson.

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*Or, The History of Printing  
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VOLUME 2

JOSEPH AMES

EDITED BY WILLIAM HERBERT  
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# Typographical Antiquities;

OR

## THE HISTORY OF PRINTING

IN

### ENGLAND SCOTLAND AND IRELAND:

CONTAINING

#### *Memoirs of our Ancient Printers,*

AND A

#### REGISTER OF THE BOOKS PRINTED BY THEM.

Begun by the late JOSEPH AMES, F.R. & A.SS.

Considerably augmented by WILLIAM HERBERT, of Cheshunt, Herts;

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*Comprehending the History of English Literature, and a View of the  
Progress of the Art of Engraving, in Great Britain;*

BY THE REV. THOMAS FROGNALL DIBDIN.

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VOL. II.

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LONDON:

PRINTED FOR WILLIAM MILLER, ALBEMARLE-STREET,

BY W. BULMER AND CO. CLEVELAND-ROW, ST. JAMES'S.

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## ADVERTISEMENT.

*IN submitting the second volume of this work to the consideration of the Public, I cannot but express my thanks for its indulgent reception of the preceding one. From a publication similar to the present, where the readers are comparatively few, very little popularity, beyond the verge of typographical antiquarianism, can reasonably be expected. It becomes, therefore, a duty in the author to secure the suffrages of those, who are best competent to be his judges, by a spirited as well as faithful execution of the task he has undertaken; and if to accuracy of detail, appropriate as well as curious embellishment be added, he may presume upon continuing to obtain that degree of approbation which has been bestowed upon his previous labours.*

*A liberal mind will readily admit the disadvantages under which (if so important a denomination may be applied to these humble efforts) the historian of typography labours, compared with the casual contributor of bibliographical information. With the former, every book, good, bad, or indifferent, must be carefully registered: every flower, beautiful or unsightly, or sweet or ill-savoured, must be 'called by its name:' the nosegay must be adjusted with all the skill imaginable, so that not a single blossom be smothered or concealed. How different*

## ADVERTISEMENT.

*is the case with the latter? He may stray in what gardens he pleases, and select what flowers suit him best. Accordingly, Romances, or sweet Poetry, or curious Biography, or works illustrative of Manners and Customs, are usually described in our periodical literary journals; while ancient performances of a less popular character, are wholly concealed from public view.*

*But if, on this score, the task of the Editor be severe or repulsive, he may console himself with the reflection that, in the end, his labours, by taking a wider range, may meet with a more substantial reputation; and that, as a Repository of Knowledge of all kinds, the present and remaining volumes may be considered in no unfavourable light. He, indeed, who peruses them merely as a dry catalogue of works issued from the press, betrays a very cold feeling for the interests of ancient literature. The History of Books is the history of human knowledge: and it will not, I trust, be deemed presumptuous to aver, that there are, in the present volume, some specimens of the intellectual vigour of our forefathers which have escaped the researches of my predecessors and contemporaries. Where an ancient work promised amusement or instruction, it has been duly perused; and extracts have been made from it when found productive of information.*

*Since the publication of the first volume, it has been my good fortune to purchase, at the sale of Mr. Gough's books, Herbert's own interleaved copy of his work; which is charged with no small number of corrections and additions. But still more precious was the acquisition of the same Antiquary's numerous memorandum-books, filled with copious extracts, and*

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*constantly referred to by himself in his interleaved copy. The present Volume bears testimony to the value of these books.*

*But even without this aid, it may fairly be affirmed that, from a careful examination of many original editions, which were unknown to Herbert, the present edition of our TYPOGRAPHICAL ANTIQUITIES has been enriched as well as enlarged. Whoever notices the copious accounts of works of this description, in the following pages, will not condemn me for arrogance or vanity in making this declaration. In the progress of human events, and as the spirit of literary curiosity becomes ardent and active, such a result is almost inevitable.*

*In adopting, where it may be supposed it could not have been avoided, the language of Herbert, I have complied rather with the prevailing custom, than with the dictates of sound sense; for it must be confessed that, however commendable may be the accuracy and diligence of my predecessor, his phraseology has more the air of vulgar memoranda than of scholar-like detail. In many instances Herbert is both obscure and ungrammatical.*

*As far as respects EMBELLISHMENT, the present edition may be considered a new work. The introduction of numerous FACSIMILES, executed with great credit to the several artists\* employed, may gratify both the curious and the public in general: as the progress of the sister arts may from thence be more satisfactorily demonstrated. Some of the subjects executed in the present volume cannot fail of exciting surprise and amusement. In regard to those cuts which represent the DEVICES†*

\* Mr. John Nesbit; M. J. Byfield, and Mary Byfield, his sister.

† It seems that Herbert had given some little displeasure by his injudicious

## ADVERTISEMENT.

*of Wynkyn de Worde, Pynson, and Notary, it will be found how much more clear, as well as brief, the description of a book becomes, by having reference to these, in numerical order, than by the tedious, and oftentimes obscure, process of verbal description. That such Devices are also an ornament to the volume, must be admitted by the tasteful in typography.*

*It remains to add my obligations to the liberal assistance afforded me by my friends, Mr Heber, Mr. Douce, and Mr. Johnes, M. P.: gentlemen, whose well-furnished libraries are always made serviceable to the cause of literature and antiquities. The privilege of an easy access to the collection of Earl Spencer, enables me to promise the reader a more abundant account of the treasures contained in it, than will be found*

*adaptation of Ames's plates to his own work. I have an original note to him, from his friend Mr. Gough, upon this subject: 'Dear Sir; Sir John Fenn's copy of your book wants the plates of devices, &c. inscribed to A. Onslow, to face p. 117. He is much disappointed you did not give an entirely new plate of devices, &c. R. G.' It must be confessed, however reluctantly, that Herbert had a cold eye in matters relating to taste. If he had not the credulity of Bagford, in believing every thing that was handed down to him, he exhibited, on many occasions, such an indifference to graphic embellishment, as would lead us to expect some motive, more censurable than that of a want of taste, had contributed to the parsimonious decoration of his volume. The plates of Ames are sufficiently poor and unsatisfactory; but his book was a new attempt, and the author of it had received neither education nor patronage sufficient to fill him with great expectations of success. The public necessarily expected from his successor, embellishments in proportion to the accumulation of his materials: at least they had a right to conclude that Herbert would have given them paper which might have equalled that of his predecessor.*

*It may not be generally known that Ames borrowed the central compartment of his plate of devices, from a frontispiece of a work printed by the ingenious Vautroller, and called 'Liber Precum Publicarum, &c. Londini, 1571, 8vo. This volume is in the present Editor's possession.*



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*in the present volume: indeed the 'Book Rarities' of this magnificent Library, especially in works printed abroad, are reserved for a distinct publication. I have other obligations to acknowledge; but, in the end, no friend shall find his favours unrecorded.*

*That my Subscribers may not estimate the probable magnitude of the work, by the paucity of the number of Printers already noticed, they are informed that no idea is entertained of its extension beyond six volumes, including the two volumes already published.*

**T. F. DIBDIN.**

*Kensington, Nov. 1, 1811.*