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978-1-108-07715-6 - *Typographical Antiquities: Or, The History of Printing in England, Scotland, and Ireland: Volume 3*

Edited by Joseph Ames, William Herbert and Thomas Frognall Dibdin

Excerpt

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WILLIAM JACQUES.

VOL. III.

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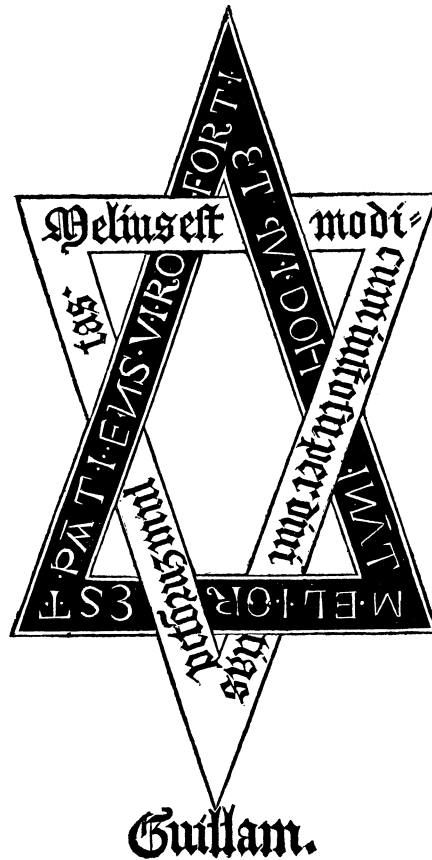
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William Faques.

THIS printer has described himself to be a Norman, and (as Herbert adds) was doubtless the king's printer, according to the same description : but whether that office were held by patent at so early a period, is rather uncertain. It is more probable that it was held only by sign manual, since Ames searched for the patents both of Pynson and Faques, without success. Ames thought they were joined in the same patent, because they both printed the statutes 19 Hen. VII., as he apprehended, in the same year; but that is by no means certain. Neither of these editions appears to have the date of its printing. Ames indeed has inserted them in the list of both their works under the year 1503; which must be as soon as they

were enacted, since that parliament began 25 Jan. 1503-4; but when it ended is uncertain, as the returns are said to be lost from 17 Ed. IV. to 1 Edw. VI. Besides, they were printed also by W. de Worde and Julian Notary, according to him, in the same year. If so, this office possessed no exclusive right. Mr. Bagford in his MSS. says that Faques lived to September, 1511, but mentions no authority, nor any thing of his printing, except the Psalter, which was printed in 1504. Be that as it may, Pynson adopts the title in his *Directorium Sacerdotum*, in 1508. This is the first book, with a date, in which he styles himself ‘Regis impressor.’ And therefore (continues Herbert) I think Mr. Ames must have been mistaken in ascribing those statutes to him in 1503, especially as they have the same addition; which is never found besides until 1508, when Faques might leave off trade, if alive, as we find nothing of his printing after that time. His books shew him to have been an excellent workman; but it is uncertain where or with whom he learnt his business. As he writes himself a Norman, very likely it might be at Rouen, with John de Bourgois; but I do not find he printed in his own name there, or any where else but in London; so that he appears to have been only a journeyman, and to have come over to better his condition, on a prospect of encouragement from our government. [A mere conjecture of Herbert.] He seems to have been no considerable time here; not above five or six years at most, and even in that time we have only four books and four broadsides remaining; and two of those broadsides, having neither printer’s name nor date, are only guessed to be his performance. It can scarcely be supposed that such beautiful types were destroyed at his death.* Some of W. de Worde’s best wrought books were probably printed with them, and having his own name or device to them, have not been noticed.† Although the statutes 19 Hen. VII. (as Faques was king’s printer) were no doubt published by him as soon as possible after the breaking up of the parliament—yet, as there appears no date when they were printed, they will be

* The types seem to have been cast abroad, and I suspect that some of the books which bear his name were executed on the Continent: especially the Psalter. Vide post. D.

† This is purely conjectural, and very doubtful

Hert. Missal, 1502.] WILLIAM FAQUES.

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arranged, according to the method observed in this work, among the ‘books without dates.’ Herbert has begun with PROCLAMATIONS, but the three following articles, in all probability, preceded them.

**721. LITTERÆ INDULGENTIARUM. Lond. 2 Feb. 1499.
Single Sheet.**

These ‘Letters of Indulgence’ are assigned to the press of Faques, by Herbert, in his *General History of Printing*, vol. iii. p. 1529; from the supposed similarity of the type. A copy of them was in the library of Dr. Lort; but I am unable to refer to the corresponding number in the *Bibl. Lort*. It may be questionable, however, whether Faques be the printer of them.

Ames commences his account of the books printed by Faques with the following article, which Herbert omitted in his edition; I have however restored it, although I cannot assign a reason why the former had placed it among the works of this printer.

**722. MISSALE AD USUM, &c. HELFORDENSIS. 1502.
Folio.**

The title is as follows: ‘Anno incarnationis dominice secundo supra quingentisimum atq; millesimum, die vicesima prima mensis Septembris, opera et industria M. Petri Oliuerii et Johannis Manditier, impressorum Rothomagi, juxta sacellum diui apostolorum principis Petri commorantium. Impensa vero Johannis Ricardi, mercatoris: hoc nouum et egregium opus sacri Missalis ad vsum famose ac percelebris ecclesie Helforden. nuper instanti ac peruigili cura visum correctum et emendatum, necnon auctoritate reuerendi in Christo patris et domini eiusdem ecclesie episcopi meritissimi ac dominorum decani et capituli, est in propatulo venale facili precio coram cunctis productum et exhibitum.’ This very scarce book was in the possession of the late Hez. Bedford, M. D.* who very freely communicated the use of it to me. The form of matrimony (continues Ames) being in English, not common to us now, please to take, which is in these words:

* Ames observes, in a note, that Dr. Bedford’s copy was ‘compleat;’ and that the Bodleian copy was ‘imperfect.’

‘ I, N. underfyngē þe N. for my wedded wyf, for beter, for worse, for richer, for porer, yn seknes, and yn helþe, tyl deþ us departe, as holy churche haþ ordeyned, and þerto y plyzth þe my trovþe. *Et iterum accipiat eam per manum dextram in manu sua dextra, et ipsa dicat sacerdote docente.*

‘ I, N. underfyngē þe N. for my wedded housbunde, for beter, for vvorse, for richer, for porer, yn sekenes, and yn helþe, to be boxum to þe tyl deþ us depart, as holy churche haþ ordeyned, and þerto y plyzt þe my trovþe. *Vel dicat in materna lingua hoc modo sacerdote docente.* Wyþ þys ryng y þe vvede, and þys gold and seluer ych þe zeue, and vvyþ myne body ych þe honoure.’ There is a wooden cut of the king’s arms and George at the beginning. At the end, ‘ *Finis missalis ad usum celebris ecclesie Helforden. summa cura ac vigili opera nuper impressum Rothomagi, cum additione accentuarii legentibus in ecclesiis valde utilis. Et hoc impensis Johannis Ricardi ejusdem Rothom. civis non immeriti; iuxta ecclesiam diui Nicolai commorantis.*’ PRINTED ON VELLUM.

This should seem to be the earliest impression of the HEREFORD MISSAL, and is very briefly noticed by Maittaire and Panzer: indeed the latter only copies the former. Gough has also omitted to make mention of it.

723. STATUTES. [1503.] Quarto.

The following is from Ames, although Herbert doubts the propriety of assigning to it so early a date; and I suspect it to be precisely the same volume of this kind as is described under the year 1504. ‘ This book of the statutes 19 Henry VII. is most beautifully done on a new letter, and fine black ink, within a border of a neat chain, in a large quarto, and handsome frontispiece; and on the backside of it, the arms of France and England quarterly, upheld by a dragon and a greyhound on each side the portcullis and chain; the rose over it, with two philosophers holding a ribband, with this motto in it, *Per te, rosa, toluntur vitia, Per te datur mestis leticia.* The words, *anno xix. Henrici VII.* are in large white letters sunk in a black ground. Then the title, ‘ Statuta, bonum publicum concer-

Psalter, 1504.]

WILLIAM FAQUES.

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nentia, edita in parlamento tento apud Westmonasterium xxv. die Januarii, anno regni illustrissimi domini nostri regis, Henrici septimi.' It contains 24 leaves. On the last are the words and mark, which I have drawn, and caused to be engraved, with a specimen of his types: and also those of the psalms.*

724. PROCLAMATION AGAINST CLIPPED MONEY.
Temp. Hen. VII. [1504.] A Broadside.

The following is from Ames: 'A proclamation made by K. Henry VII. against clipped money, directed to the sheriffs of Norfolk and Suffolk, &c. with six impressions of the money in the margin, and a fine border on the other side, in English, but concludes, 'Et hoc sub periculo incumbenti nullatenus omittas. Teste meipso, apud Westmonasterium quinto die Julii, anno regni nostri decimo nono. Regius impressor, within seynt Elens, Guillam.' In the possession of M. Folkes, Esq. P. R. S. my worthy, learned, and communicative friend.' I presume this article to have been sold in lot 5125 of the *Bibl. Folkes*, among 'Proclamations in MS. and Print, 2 vols. folio,' for £9. If I had been fortunate enough to have seen this curious supposed specimen of the press of Faques, I should have gratified the reader by a fac-simile of the impression of one of the coins 'in the margin.'

725. PSALTERIUM. 1504. Octavo.

Ames has been more particular than Herbert in his description of this beautiful little volume; of which I have been gratified by the loan of two copies; one in the possession of Mr. Douce, and the other in that of Mr. John Holmes. The entire press-work is admirable, and both the black and red inks are of an unusually bright lustre. On the recto of the first leaf (sign. A) is the device † as at the head of this volume. The border which surrounds it, (and of which a fac-simile is given in the following page) is common to

* The reader will examine the annexed copper-plate.

† This device seems to have been borrowed by Ruddiman, the printer. See *Chalmers's Life of Ruddiman*, p. 467. Ames and Herbert have inaccurately introduced the printer's initials (see page 9) within the triangle.

every page of the work. On the recto of the ensuing leaf, a Calendar follows, which extends to C iv. inclusively, in eights. The first leaf only of each signature is marked throughout the volume. After C, we observe signature a; on the recto of the first leaf of which is the following ornament and title.



On the reverse of this leaf is a figure, apparently David, with two stars, and the Almighty represented above.

The first Psalm follows; having a capital initial B in red, of very bright execution. On the conclusion of the Psalms, are the Hymns of the Church: *Canticum Psalme*, xij. *Capitulo: Canticum Ezechielis*, psalme xxxvij. *Capitulo: Anne* l. reg. ij. *Capitulo: Moyse*, Exod. xv. *Ca: Canticum Abachuck*, iij. *Cap. Canticum Moyse*, Deut. xxij. *ca. Canticum trium Puerorum*, Danielis iij. *Cap. Canticum Zacharie* Luce l. *Ca. Canticum Marie*, Luce l. *Cap. Canticum Symeonis*, luce ij. *Cap.*

Psalter, 1504.]

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Canticum Ambrosij et Augustini. or Te Deum laudamus. Symbolum Athanasij. Letania. On the reverse of u vij (in eights) we read the subscription thus :

¶ **Finit feliciter p̄sens Psalterium igeniose impressū ⁊ stātqz cōpletum. In celeberrima urbe London̄. per Guillelmū faqz Regium imp̄ssorem. Anno dñi M̄.d.iiij. Septima Februarij.**

On the recto of u viij, and last leaf, are the following lines and cipher.

¶ **Dauid propheta
cantauit carmina leta
¶ Tres quinquagenos
cantauit ordine psalmos
¶ Versibus bis mille
Sexcentum sex canit ille.**



¶ **A petit mercier petit panier
¶ A petit clerc grāde courōne
Assez accorde qui mot ne sōne.**

The reverse is blank.* I have before intimated a strong suspicion, that this beautiful and scarce book was executed abroad : probably in France.

Of the two copies of this book before mentioned, that of Mr. Holmes is greatly to be preferred ; it is not only perfect, but clean and sound throughout. Mr. Douce's copy is defective in the title-page, and in a few lines of the table ; it is, besides, more soiled and injured than I could wish it for the sake of its owner. The autographs on the fly leaves prove it to have belonged successively to Tom Rawlinson, Benjamin Ibbot, and W. Baynton. Dr. Ibbot has thus

* ' The Tables to find Easter'—which Herbert, after Ames, says, here follow—precede, in the copy under consideration, the text of the Psalms. The Psalter had been printed by Wynkyn de Worde, in 1499. See vol. ii. p. 82.

remarked upon it: ‘This is certainly one of the scarcest books in all Ames’s Catalogue. It may probably be an unique, there being perhaps no other exemplar to be found.’ Mr. Douce bought his copy of the late Mr. Egerton, the bookseller.

726. INDENTURES. 1505-8. Broadsides, or Single Sheets.

Under this head I shall insert the whole of what appears in Ames, and to which neither Herbert nor Gough were able to make any addition. *Brit. Topog.* vol. i. p. 527. ‘Both these sheets (says Ames) are without the name of printer, and date of printing; but, by comparison, they appear to have been executed by Faques. The latter is inserted at length, that the manner of admission into a gild at that time may be known.

‘An indenture, or deed, printed on vellum, for the use of the gild or brotherhood of St. Mary’s, at Boston in Lincolnshire. It is in Latin, and dated the 8th March, 1505. On one broadside.

‘The admission of Richard Woolman into the gild of St. Mary’s, in the church of St. Botolph, at Boston in Lincolnshire, with all the privileges thereof. This deed is also printed on vellum; with blanks for the person’s name and date, to be filled up as occasion should offer, viz.

“Vniuersis xpi. pntes literas inspecturis nos aldermanus et Camerarii Gilde siue confraternitas in honorem beate Marie Virginis in ecclesia sancti Botoulphi, de Boston Lincoln. dioces. institute salut. in communi saluatore. Dudum siquid post quam felicis recordationes Nicolaus quintus Pius secundus et Sextus quartus Romani pontifices vniuersis confratribus concesserant vtriusq; Sextus confraternitatis gratiose concesserant. Ac deinde Jnnocentius eo Rich. Woolman intra nostrorum confratrum numerum eligimus et admittimus et indulti superad. ac nostrorum indulgentiarum omniumque aliorum suffragiorum et bonorum operum spiritualium nostrorum semper fore participes volumus et innotescimus per presentes in quorum testimonium omnium et singulorum premissorum sigillum commune dicte gylde presentibus est appensum. Dat. apud Boston x. die mensis Decembris anno domini M.V.C.VIII ”