Italian incunables in Canterbury Cathedral Library

search on the Incunable Short Title Catalogue database (ISTC) for «Canterbury CL» indicates that Canterbury Cathedral Library owns thirty incunables. This is not strictly true, as two of them are on deposit as part of the Elham Parish Library, another is on deposit from Tenterden Town Council, and a further one is held in two copies. To these can be added recently discovered fragments from the binding of the fifteenth-century churchwardens’ accounts of St Andrews, Canterbury and two gatherings from a Bible of 1476 inserted to fill a gap in a defective copy of another edition. This makes 28 copies of 27 incunables owned by the Cathedral itself, plus two items in the Cathedral Archives and three items on deposit. This is not a large total but it does include two unique incunables which Dennis Rhodes came to Canterbury to see about 25 years ago.

The oldest incunable in the collection is not Italian. It is a single leaf from the second edition of the Ackerman von Böhmen, printed in Bamberg c. 1463, probably by Albrecht Pfister using type of the 36-line Bible inherited indirectly from Gutenberg (no. 13 below). Several consecutive single leaves of this book are recorded by ISTC; they seem to have come from a defective copy originally in the Carmelite convent in Würzburg.

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** Current information about the Cathedral Library and Archives can be found on the Cathedral’s web pages at http://www.canterbury-cathedral.org/history/libraries.aspx. This includes a link to the catalogue of the Cathedral’s printed books which is part of the University of Kent’s online catalogue. I should like to record my thanks to the staff of the Cathedral Library for their assistance in the preparation of this article.

1 Incunables 15 and 18 below; deposited by the Parish of Elham, Kent.
2 Incunable 19 below, deposited by Tenterden Town Council, Kent.
3 Incunable 32 below: Canterbury Cathedral Archives, CCA-U3-5 (previously Y-1-13). The accounts start in 1485. Fragments discovered by Peter Whitehead and identified by John Goldfinch.
4 Incunables 3 and 4 below.
5 http://www.library.manchester.ac.uk/firstimpressions/assets/downloads/03-Albrecht-Pfisters-Vier-Historien-Joseph-Daniel-Judith-Ester.pdf; Christian Kiening, Schwierige Moder-
which was broken and sold in the first half of the nineteenth century. The surviving leaves are ff. 14-24; the Canterbury leaf is f. 17; other leaves are in Bamberg SB (ff. 14-16 and 23), Oxford Ashmolean Museum (f. 18), the Lilly Library at Bloomington (f. 19), the Scheide Library at Princeton (f. 20), the John Rylands University Library at Manchester (ff. 21 and 22), and the University of Texas at Austin (f. 24). Other copies survive in Berlin, Paris and Wolfenbüttel. The probable purchaser of the Canterbury leaf was William Howley (1766-1848), Archbishop of Canterbury from 1828, part of whose collections were inherited by his former chaplain, Archdeacon Benjamin Harrison, whose widow left his considerable library to the Cathedral in 1887. The Howley-Harrison Collection is the source of a number of the Cathedral’s incunables.

The Cathedral Library owns two unique incunables. The first is one of the Cathedral’s incunables printed in England: a slightly imperfect copy of a broadside *Summarium bullae Innocentii VIII et Alexandri VI de successione regni Angliae* in Latin and English issued by Cardinal John Morton, Archbishop of Canterbury, on 8 March 1497/1498 and printed in that year by Richard Pynson in London (no. 20 below). This item is held in the Cathedral Archives and has possibly survived there since it was issued.

The second unique incunable is one of the Italian incunables which I should like to record here for Dennis (no. 10 below). The non-Italian incunables in the Cathedral Library are recorded more summarily later.

**Italian incunables in Canterbury Cathedral Library**

1. **Antoninus Florentinus, Summa theologica** (Part II). With a preface by Franciscus Moneliensis.  
Venice, Nicolaus Jenson, 28 June 1480. f°.  
ISTC ia00872000; GW 2185; Goff A872; BMC V 181.  
Part II of four parts published between 1477 and 1480.  
Shelfmark: W/S-12-9.  
Copy notes: Lacks a1 (blank?); foot of a2 and a4 repaired. Illuminated initials on a2r and a5r; contemporary rubrication; occasional marginalia. Price «£1–18» pencilled on second front free endpaper.  
Provenances: Armorial bookplate of Benjamin Harrison on front pastedown. Benjamin Harrison (1808-1887) was Archdeacon of Maidstone and canon of Canterbury from 1845).  
Binding: 18th-century sprinkled calf with gold-tooled spine; blue printed endpapers.

2. Biblia latina.

Venice, Franciscus Renner, de Heilbronn, 1483. 4°.  
Colophon (R6): Explicit biblia impressa Venetijs per Franciscu[m] renner de hailbrun .M.CCCC.LXXXIII.  
ISTC ib00578000; GW 4253; Goff B578; BMC V 198.  
Copy notes: Inner top corner of a1 damaged. Red and blue initials. Occasional annotations.  
Provenances: Inscription (16c?) within pen-and-ink initial on a1r: «John more cle (?)». John More [clerk?] is unidentified. Inscription on X12v: «…received the xx⁶ day of Novuember an[ ]…». Inscription (16/17c?) on X12v: «Constat Thome Eccleston». Thomas Eccleston is unidentified; the inscription is probably too early to be that of Thomas Eccleston (1659-1743), English Jesuit. Armorial bookplate of Benjamin Harrison on front pastedown (see no. 1).  
Binding: Printed label on front pastedown: «This volume was repaired out of a grant made to The Cathedral Library by the Friends of Canterbury Cathedral» initialled «P.M. 1936». Modern binding by Percy ‘Jack’ Maple, Canterbury, 1936: blind-tooled brown morocco.


Venice, Simon Bevilaqua, 8 May 1498. 4°.  
Device of Simon Bevilacqua on EE4v (Kristeller 191).  
ISTC ib00603000; GW 4280; Goff B603; BMC V 522.  
Shelfmark: W/S-10-10.  
Copy notes: 2nd gathering misbound after 2h10. Lacks 2d5-2h4, replaced by sheets O-Q from an earlier edition with rubricated initials (see no. 4 below). Frequent annotations.  
Provenances: Inscription on f. 12v: «ex Libris petri Declari florian». Petrus Declarus Florian is unidentified. Presentation label on verso of front free end-

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paper: «...presented to the Library by Mrs Holland this 2nd day of July 1930». Mrs Edward L. Holland gave a number of books to the Cathedral Library in 1930 and subsequently.

**Binding:** Seventeenth-century calf binding (rebacked) with gold-tooled fillets and corner ornaments.

4. **Biblia latina.**

Venice, Nicolas Jenson, 1476. f°.

ISTC ib000547000; GW 4222; Goff B547; BMC V 176.

The collation and colophon are recorded by BMC as a-z & con-rum A-H10; I-L10 M12 N-O10 P12; «impressa Venetijs opera atq[ue] impensa Nicolai Ienson Gallici. M. cccc. lxviij.»

*Shelfmark:* W/S-10-10(2).

*Copy notes:* Sheets O-Q only, inserted as replacement section in no. 3 above. Large rubricated initials.

5. **Bernardinus de Bustis, Rosarium sermonum predicabilium** (with additions by Illuminatus Novariensis and Samuel Cassinensis).

Venice, Georgius Arrivabenus, 1498. 4°.


ISTC ib01336000; GW 5807; Goff B1336; BMC V 387.

*Shelfmark:* W/S-10-11.

*Provenances:* Inscription on title page: «Conuentus brugensis FF minorum Re-collectorum». The book was formerly in the library of the convent of the Franciscan Recollects, Bruges. Armorial bookplate of Benjamin Harrison on front pastedown (see no. 1).

*Binding:* Fifteenth-century Flemish blind-stamped calf binding on wooden boards with bevelled edges, with metal corner pieces and traces of clasps and bosses, probably produced for the Bruges Franciscans; rebacked at an early date; marbled endpapers.

6. **Guillelmus Duranti, Rationale divinorum officiorum.** Ed: Johannes Aloisius Tuscanus.

Vicenza, Hermannus Liechtenstein, 1478. f°.


ISTC id00417000; GW 9115; Goff D417; BMC VII 1037.

*Shelfmark:* W/S-12-1.
Copy notes: Lacks 3rd leaf (A1, blank). Manuscript running titles and foliation; illuminated initial at start of text on A2r; rubricated initials, etc.

Provenances: Inscription on front free endpaper: «R. C. Hussey. 1844.»; inscription on front free endpaper: «Presented by R. C. Hussey Esqre. 1877.» Richard Charles Hussey (1806-1887), architect and church restorer, lived in retirement in Harbledown, Canterbury; he gave many books to the Cathedral Library.

Binding: Sprinkled calf boards with blind-stamped centre-piece and fillet rules, rebacked.


[Venice], Leonhardus Aurl, 1473. f°.


ISTC ie00120000; GW 9442; Goff E120; BMC V 207; Rhodes (Oxford Colleges) 746.

One of only two books recorded for the press of Aurl (BMC V 207).


Copy notes: Manuscript index on first blank leaf. Manuscript running titles, chapter headings and foliation, and traces of manuscript signatures on rectos of sheets c1, f1, f3. Frequent manuscript annotations in several early hands. Hand-drawn initials in red ink.

Provenances: Inscriptions on front free endpaper: «Sale of King June 1806 –12s»; «This same copy was bt by Molini at the Pinelli sale for £2.4.0»; price of the copy at the King sale: «– 12 –» with a tick above. Inscription on front paste down: «370» (lot number of the Pinelli catalogue).

From the library of Maffeo Pinelli (1736-1785), Venetian printer and book collector. His library was catalogued in six volumes after his death by Jacopo Morelli, the librarian of the Biblioteca Marciana in Venice. The entire collection was bought by the London bookseller James Edwards (1757-1816) who issued an abbreviated version of the catalogue for sale by auction in 1789. The provenance index to the Bodleian incunable catalogue notes that «the Pinelli books carry no specific marks of ownership (though bound and lettered in a small number of distinctive styles), but, inside the front cover, in the same place in the top inner corner, about an inch from the hinge and half an inch from the top edge, are written in ink in a single hand the sale lot number and a number referring to the catalogue of the Pinelli library». This is the number «370» found on the front pastedown; the relevant entry in the Pinelli catalogue is in vol. 1, p. 61. In James Edwards’s catalogue the book is item 5282 (p. 198). The marked-up copy in the British

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9 Jacopo Morelli, Bibliotheca Mapbaei Pinelli Veneti magno jam studio collecta, Venetiis, Typis Carolii Palesii, 1787, 6 vols.

10 Bibliotheca Pinelliana. A catalogue of the… Library of Maffei Pinelli… The whole library… will be sold at auction, on Monday March 2, 1789, and the twenty-two following days. [London, 1789].

Library (shelfmark 821.g.13) records the price as £2–4–0, sold to «Molini» on 7 April 1789. This is confirmed by the manuscript note on the front pastedown. The purchaser can be identified as James Edwards's assistant Peter Molini (fl. 1773-1804?) who worked as a bookseller in London. The marked-up catalogue shows that he bought extensively at this sale. Following the death of Molini, the book seems to have passed to the London bookseller Thomas King who sold it at auction in 1806 to the writer of the annotations on the endpapers for twelve shillings. Binding: Quarter vellum binding with paper boards and vellum spine with handwritten title; traces of a horizontal fore-edge title.

8. THEODORUS GAZA, Grammatica introductiva [Greek]. With: GAZA: De mensibus [Greek]; APOLLONIUS DYSCOLUS: De constructione [Greek]; HERODIANUS: De numeris [Greek].

Venice, Aldus Manutius, Romanus, 25 December 1495. f°.

Colophon (MM°): Impressum Venetiis in aedibus Aldi Romani octauo Calendas Ianuarias M.CCCCLXXXXV. Concessum est eadem Aldo ab illustri Senatu Veneto ne cui hunc librum liceat imprimere sub pecunia ut in gratia.

ISTC ig00110000; GW 10562; Goff G110; BMC V 553; Rhodes (Oxford Colleges) 812.

Shelfmark: W/S-12-2.


The sixteenth-century owner Ioannes Curterius is unidentified. The second owner noted on the front pastedown may be Stephen Hunt, a Canterbury doctor who gave a significant collection of books to the Cathedral Library in 1714; too little of the inscription is readable to be sure of this and Hunt usually (but not always) signed his books on the title page. Binding: Continental blind-stamped calf, re-backed.

9. TITUS LIVIUS, Historiae Romanae decades [Italian]. With: LEONARDUS BRUNUS ARETINUS: De primo bello Punico [Italian].

Venice, Andreas Torresanus de Asula and Bartholomaeus de Blavis de Alexandria, 13 August 1485. f°.

Colophon (tt10°): impressa in Venetia per Bartholomeo de Alexandria & Andrea de Asula co[m]pagni: nel .M.CCCC LXXXV. adi .XIII. de Augusto.

ISTC il00254000; GW M18523; Goff L254; BMC V 308; Rhodes (Oxford Colleges) 1101.

12 The Bodleian Library’s ‘Index of provenances’ suggests that he was «possibly the “Peter Molini” who… assisted the booksellers Robson and Edwards with the Pinelli sale» (p. 2894). The evidence of this book would seem to corroborate this suggestion.

Copy notes: Lacks first 20 and last 18 leaves.
Provenances: Armorial bookplate of AUGUSTUS FREDERICK, Duke of Sussex (1773-1843), on front pastedown, with shelfmark «II N.g.4*»; earlier shelf mark on front pastedown: «E.6.572»; the Duke’s library was sold in London at a number of sales from 1844 to 1846. Inscription on front free endpaper: «Edward Holland»; presentation label on front free endpaper: «This book was presented to the Library by Mrs. Holland this 3 day of February 1931.». EDWARD L. HOLLAND is recorded as giving books to the Cathedral Library in 1904-1914; Mrs Holland was presumably his widow.
Binding: Continental stained paper boards.

10. BARTOLOMEO MINIATORE, Formulario de epistole vulgare missive & responsive.

Milan, Leonardus Pachel, July 1489. 4°.
Collation: a-d⁵ e⁴.
Colophon (e⁴): Facto Imprimere per el prenominato Augustinomaria da Conago Citadini Milaneso Da Leonardo Pachel Stampatore in Milano de lanno .Mccc Lxxviiij. del meso de Luyo
ISTC im00581200; GW M16870; H 11169.
This tract is usually ascribed in the editions to CHRISTOPHORUS LANDINUS (cf. BMC V 401, VI 786).
The only recorded copy.
Copy notes: Manuscript note by a bookseller on verso of front free endpaper: «collat & integer».
Provenances: Manuscript inventory number on a₁: «343». Armorial bookplate of BENJAMIN HARRISON on front pastedown (see no. 1).
Binding: 18th/19th-century calf binding with triple gilt fillet rule round edges of boards; marbled endpapers.


Rome, Conradus Sweynheym and Arnoldus Pannartz, 1470. f°.
Editor’s explicit, [S12⁺]: Recognitum Rome a Io. Andree. Ep[iscop]o Alerien. et absolute[m] Die decima Octobris. M.CCCC.LXX. LECTOR VALE.
ISTC it00225000; GW M46094; Goff T225; BMC IV 12 (part II only); Rhodes (Oxford Colleges) 1703.
Shelfmark: W/S-12-4/5.

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Copy notes: Italian Renaissance illuminated initial S occupying full length of inner margin of first recto. Some contemporary marginal annotations and manuscript chapter numbers.

Provenances: Inscription on first recto of vol. 1: «Mariani Rondinelli»; also signature («Rondinelli») in vol. 2. This may be the same MARIANO RONDINELLI who is recorded as owning three books (dated 1574, 1580 and 1581) now in the Biblioteca del Pontificio seminario regionale at Monteriggioni (Siena) with the ownership inscription «Mariani Rondinelli» (also «Rondinellii»). The published archives of the Pontificio seminario record a Mariano Rondelli or Rondinelli, priest of the Congregazione dei Padri dei Sacri Chiodi in S. Giorgio, acting as executor for a member of the Rondinelli family from Campiglia in the mid-seventeenth century. The signature in vol. 1 surrounds a coat of arms which may be contemporary. Inscription on verso of front free endpaper of vol. 1: «E dono W. R. Lyall, Eccl. hujus Decani.».

Binding: Binder’s label on front pastedown: «Dean. Book binder. Canterbury». Nineteenth-century vellum binding with marbled endpapers by THOMAS DEAN (c. 1810-1898) who traded as a bookbinder at 23 St Margaret Street, Canterbury from 1832 to 1853; the dates of Lyall’s time at Canterbury suggest that the book was bound in the last eight years of Thomas Dean’s career.

12. GAIVUS VALERIUS MAXIMUS, Facta et dicta memorabilia. Ed: BONUS ACCURSIUS.


Colophon (t8°): [on the left:] .P.F | .B.R. [in the centre:] M.CCCC.LXXVIII. KL. IVLII. | VENETIIS IMPRESSIT. [on the right:] .S.F | .Z.F.

ISTC iv00030000; GW M49190; Goff V30; BMC V 266; Rhodes (Oxford Colleges) 1785.

The only book recorded for printers using the initials P.F., B.R., S.F., Z.F. The types (112R and 112Gk) seem to be the same as those used by Jacobus de Fivizano and by Andreas de Paltasichis (BMC V 266).


16 Inventario dell’Archivio del Pontificio seminario regionale Pio XII di Siena, a cura di Maurro Livraga, [Roma], Ministero per i beni culturali e ambientali, Dipartimento per i beni archivistici e librari, Direzione generale per gli archivi; Soveria Mannelli, Rubbettino, 2006, pp. 94, 109, 454.


Copy notes: Lacks a1 (blank); manuscript initials, and running titles in red and blue capitals; frequent marginal annotations in at least two hands. Bookseller’s code on front free endpaper: «C&P N/D».

Provenances: Inscription at top of first leaf of text (a2r): «Societatis Iesu Mindelheimij, 1618.». The Jesuit house at Mindelheim, Bavaria, was founded in 1618 and dissolved in 1773; the Bodleian incunable provenance index notes that all its ownership inscriptions are dated 1618, the date of the foundation of the house (p. 2894). Presentation label on front free endpaper: «This book was presented to the Library by Mrs. Holland this 2nd day of July 1930.» Presented by Mrs Edward L. Holland (see no. 9).

Binding: Quarter-bound blind-stamped pigskin; boards filled with fifteenth-century vellum from an antiphoner.

Non-italian incunables in Canterbury Cathedral Library


14. SAINT ANSELMUS. Opera. [Strassburg, Printer of Hemmerlin (Wilhelm Schaffener?), about 1497-1500]. f°. ISTC ia00761300.

15. BARTHOLOMAEUS ANGLICUS. De proprietatibus rerum [English.] Tr: JOHN TREVISEA. [Westminster], Wynkyn de Worde, [about 1496]. f°. ISTC ib00143000, STC 1536; leaves D7 and E1 only, taken from a binding in 1913;¹⁹ deposited by the Parish of Elham, Kent.


17. ANTONIUS DE BUTRIO. Speculum de confessione. Louvain, Johannes de Westfalia, [about 1481-83]. f°. ISTC ib01346000.

18. GUILLELMUS DURANTI. Repertorium aureum juris canonici. [Cologne, Ulrich Zel, about 1475]. f°. ISTC id00443000; deposited by the Parish of Elham, Kent.


20. INNOCENTIUS VIII. Summarium bullae Innocentii VIII et Alexandri VI de successione regni Angliae. [Latin and English]. Issued by JOHN MORTON,

¹⁹ A pencil note records «From T. Cartwright’s Reply, 4°. Elham Church, i.e. THOMAS CARTWRIGHT, Replye to an answere made of Dr Whitegifte, [1573/74], (STC 4712) which is listed in the 1845 printed catalogue of the Elham Parish Library but is no longer in the collection at Canterbury Cathedral; the fragment was probably the front pastedown and has the signature of a previous owner «Thomas Cliffordus».


25. NICOLAUS DE BLONY. *De sacramentis*. Strassburg, Martin Flach (printer of Strassburg), 1496. 4°. ISTC in00087000.


29. HARTMANN SCHEDEL. *Liber chronicarum*. Nuremberg, Anton Koberger, for Sebald Schreyer and Sebastian Kammermeister, 12 July 1493. f°. ISTC is00307000.


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SOMMARIO

Incunaboli italiani nella biblioteca della Cattedrale di Canterbury

Tra il patrimonio librario posseduto dalla Cattedrale di Canterbury si trova una piccola collezione di trentadue incunaboli, due dei quali esemplari unici. Questo contributo presenta una descrizione dettagliata dei dodici incunaboli stampati in Italia, ed una più concisa descrizione dei rimanenti venti (stampati principalmente in Germania ed Inghilterra). Sono inoltre inclusi gli indici degli stampatori e dei rispettivi possessori.