

## Library News

*The Houghton Library* [Harvard University] *Report of Accessions for the year 1958–59* begins its ‘crowded chronicle’ with an account of three signed manuscripts: an English Latin Bible of the thirteenth century, signed by Fr. Adam of Bury St. Edmunds; a Palladius *De agricultura*, Verona, 1460, signed by Blasius Hieronymus de Saracenis of Vicenza, from the Phillipps collection; and a Solinus *De mirabilibus mundi* signed and dated September 14, 1455, by Gerardus de Campis, from the Libri, Phillipps, Dunn, and Wilfred Merton collections.

Nine incunabula were acquired, including Seneca’s *Epistolae ad Lucilium*, Rome, A. Pannartz, February 1, 1475; Francesco Negri’s *Grammatica*, Venice, 1480, the first book to contain secular music; the Desbarreau-Bernard copy of *Le livre intitule eternelle consolacion* [Lyons, Jean Du Pré, ca. 1490], known otherwise only by the Bibliothèque Nationale and Mazarine copies; and the *Proverbia eloquentis* [Leipzig, E. Kachelofen, ca. 1490], by the thirteenth-century German poet Freybank.

Interesting items among the 249 sixteenth-century European books received include Estienne de La Boétie’s *La mesnagerie de Xenophon* with prefaces by Montaigne, who prepared the copy for the press (Paris, 1572); the first edition of the first important Provençal poet, Louis Bellaud de La Bellaudière’s *Obras, et rimos Prouvenssalos*, 1595, which was also the first book printed in Marseilles; the Baron Pichon copy of Gabriel Bounin, *Tragedie sur la defaite et occision de la Piaffe et la Picquoree*, Lyons, 1579 (‘possibly unique’); the first edition of Alexandre van den Bussche, dit Le Sylvain, *Epitomes de cent histoires tragicques*, Paris, 1581, from the English version of which Shakespeare may have derived the story of *The Merchant of Venice*; the rare second edition of the works of Du Bellay (Paris, 1569); and the only known copy of the first edition of Ronsard’s *Les figures et pourtraicts des sept aages de l’homme*, Paris, 1579.

French translations include *Lamour de Cupido et de Psyché*, of Apuleius, Paris, 1586, with engravings by Leonard Gaultier, formerly attributed to Jean Maugin but more recently to Claude Chappuys, Antoine Héroet, and Mellin de Saint Gelais; Claude de Seyssel’s Eusebius *Lhistoire ecclesiastique*, Paris, G. Tory, 1532, and his Thucydides *Lhistoire*, Paris, 1527; Etienne Dolet’s Galen *De la raison de curer par evacuation de sang* and *Le livre des presaignes du divin Hyppocrates*, both Lyons, 1542; the

Rahir copy of Nicolas de Herberay's *Josephus*, Paris, 1550; and a fine copy in original Lyonnese binding of Louis Des Masures' *Les quatre premiers livres de l'Eneïde*, Lyons, J. de Tournes, 1552.

Among the many books dealing with religious or ecclesiastical subjects, mention should be made of the Comte de Lignerolles copy of the first edition of Philippe de Mornay's *De l'institution, usage, et doctrine du saint sacrement de l'euchariste*, La Rochelle, 1598, with an inscription by de Mornay; Theodore de Bèze's *Epistola magistri Benedicti Passavantii* [Geneva, 1553?]; Heinrich Bullinger's *De scripturae sanctae autoritate*, Zurich, 1538; and Calvin's *Sermons . . . sur le cantique que fait le bon roy Ezechias*, Geneva, 1562.

Of books relating to the new learning, mention should be made of six first editions of Erasmus and several neo-Latin plays, among them Jakob Locher's paraphrase of Plautus' *Asinaria*, *Ludicum drama*, Tübingen, ca. 1505; Nicholas Grimald's *Christus redivivus, comoedia tragica*, Cologne, 1543; and Livinus Brechtanus' *Euripus tragoedia Christiana*, Louvain, 1556, an early Jesuit drama. Other interesting volumes include first editions of Heraclides Ephesius and Clemens Romanus edited by Lefèvre d'Étaples and entitled *Pro piorum recreatione*, Paris, 1504; two rare works of Claude de La Grange published at Montauban in 1581–82 and bound for de Thou—there are now at Harvard over a hundred books from de Thou's library—and an apparently unrecorded poem by Bertrandus Marcaldus, *Encomium virtutis* [Paris, ca. 1532].

Additions in the field of history and politics include a dedication copy of Guillaume Aubert's *L'histoire des guerres faictes par les Chrestiens contre les Turcs*, Paris, 1559 (making three variant copies now at Harvard); the first edition of Johannes Meletius' *Tragica elegia ad Italiam et Galliam infelices*, Rome, 1525, which brought about the establishment of censorship in Rome; the first edition of Petrus Perondinus Pratensis, *Magni Tamerlanis Scytharum imperatoris vita*, Florence, 1553, a source for Marlowe's *Tamerlane*; and a set of large woodcuts, 'presumably intended to be used as wallpaper', of Sylvester Steier's *Arbor biramis genealogiae D. N. IH[sus]. CH[risti].*, Prague, 1595, not otherwise traced.

Of the ninety-eight books printed in England before 1641 which were acquired, sixteen are not recorded in the STC. Rare items include an unrecorded tract on the embassy of Sir Peter Peckius, *Proposition of the ambassadour Peckius . . . Translated, out of Dutch*, 1621 (the only other known copy is in the Bodleian); Merlin's *The whole prophesie of*

Scotland, R. Waldegrave, 1603 (the only other recorded copy is inlaid throughout); an imperfect copy of an unknown Edinburgh edition of *The true discoverie of the Duke of Savoy his enterprise upon the cittie of Geneve*, R. Waldegrave, 1603; two unrecorded editions of Lewis Bayly's *The practice of pietie* (leaving fourteen numbered editions to be found); the earliest known edition of Dean John Sprint's *The Christian sword and buckler*, B. Alsop f. S. Rand, 1623; one of seven unrecorded editions of Philip Stubbs' *A chr[i]stiaall glasse for Christian women*, [E. Allde] f. E. White, 1603, as well as one of seven unrecorded editions of Stephen Egerton's translation of Matthieu Virel's *A learned and excellent treatise*, T. Dawson f. E. Bishop, 1620.

Finally, accessions of seventeenth-century European works included almost 400 titles, while some 350 English books and manuscripts were added for the period from 1641 to 1700.

E. S. D.

## *A Word to the Wise*

### MICROFILM PROJECTION AT HOME

by PETER J. SENG

RESEARCH PROJECTS that require extensive reading of microfilms can be frustrating and exhausting, as most Renaissance scholars well know. Some scholars already know, but many do not, that an ordinary color-slide projector can easily be converted into a machine for reading microfilms at home. All that is required is the construction of a simple film-holder or frame, through which microfilm may be continuously threaded, to replace the color-slide-holder of the ordinary home projector.

The design of the frame for holding the film must be modified to fit the particular brand of projector used, but the general principles of that design would seem to be constant: a flat sleeve of some stiff material like heavy cardboard, into which have been cut 'windows' approximately the size of a 35 mm. exposure between which the microfilm can freely pass. The thickness and perimetral dimensions of the sleeve will be determined by the design of the projector to be used. The sleeve or frame should be constructed in such a fashion that it can be clamped to the projector in place of its color-slide-holder, between the light source