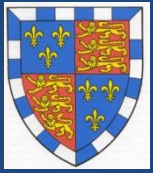
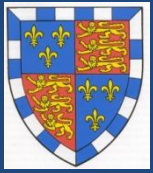


Treasures of the Old Library

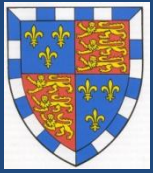
Christ's College,
University of Cambridge



**The Old Library at Christ's College,
Cambridge houses 50,000 rare
manuscripts and printed books,
dating from the 11th century
to the present day.**



**You can explore some of
our treasures in the
images that follow ...**



Foundation of the collections

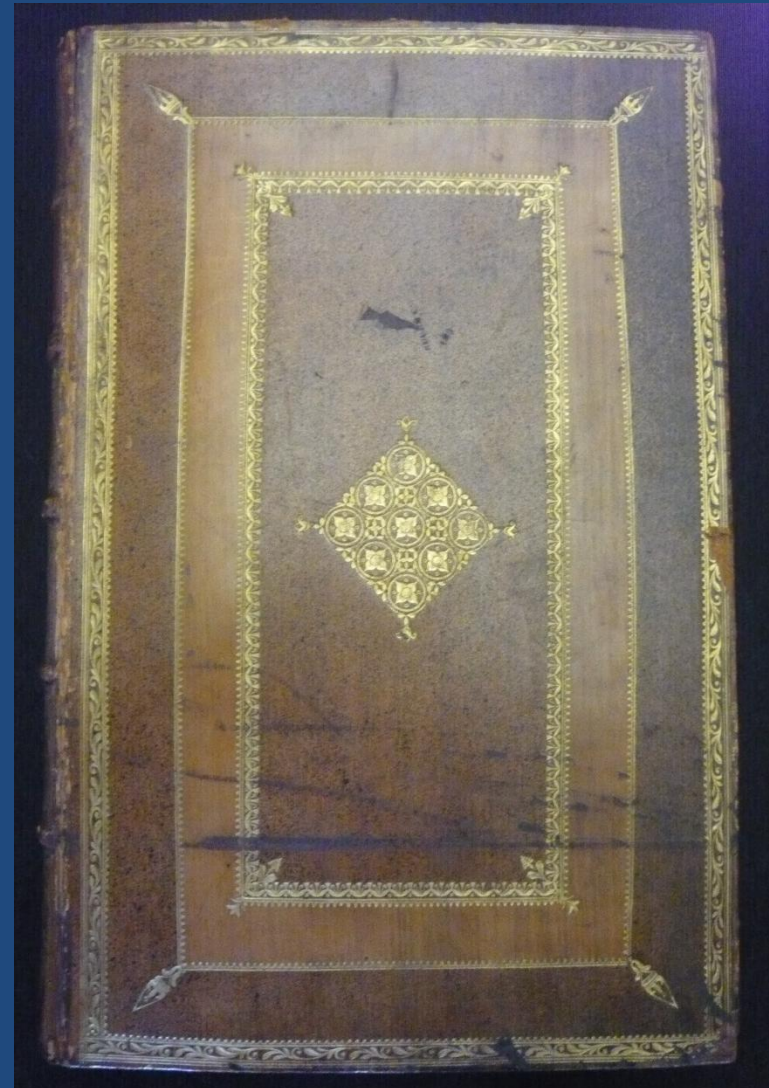


College Donations Book (17th century)

Started in 1623, the College Donations Book records important gifts to the Library until the late 1670s.

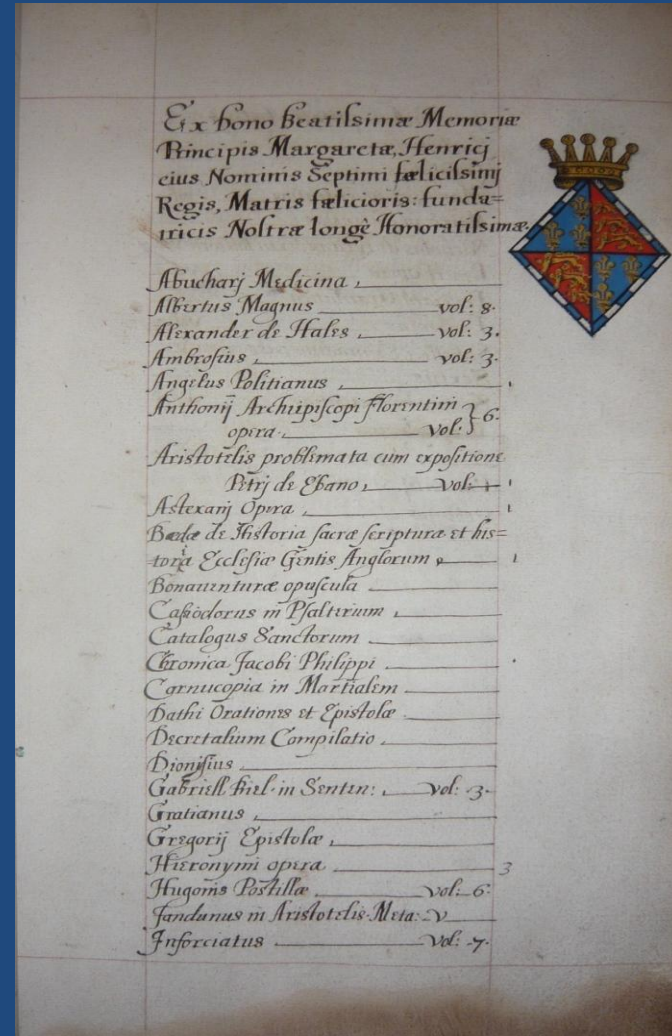
It includes details of the 39 texts given by Lady Margaret Beaufort, who founded the College in 1505.

Christ's College, MS 22



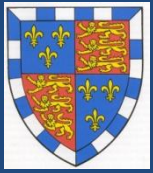


College Donations Book (17th century)

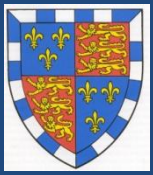


Ex dono beatissimæ Memoriar
Principis Margareta, Henricij
cuius Nominis Septimi felicissimij
Regis, Matris felicioris: funda-
tricis Nostræ longè Honoratissimæ.

- | | |
|---|---------|
| Abucharj Medicina | |
| Albertus Magnus | vol. 8. |
| Alexander de Hales | vol. 3. |
| Ambrosius | vol. 3. |
| Angelus Politianus | |
| Anthoniij Archiepiscopi floruntini | 6. |
| opora | vol. } |
| Aristotelis problemata cum expositione | |
| Petri de Ebano | vol. 1. |
| Astexanij Opora | |
| Beate de Historia sacra scriptura et his-
toria Ecclesiar Genis Anglorum | 1. |
| Bonaventura opuscula | |
| Cassiodorus in Psalterium | |
| Catalogus Sanctorum | |
| Chronica Jacobi Philippi | |
| Carrucopia in Martialem | |
| Dathi Orationes et Epistole | |
| Discretalium Compilatio | |
| Dionysius | |
| Gabrielis Anselmi in Sententia | vol. 3. |
| Gratianus | |
| Gregorij Epistola | |
| Hieronymi opora | 3. |
| Hugonis Postilla | vol. 6. |
| Jordanus in Aristotelis Meta. | 2. |
| Inferciatus | vol. 7. |



Medieval manuscripts



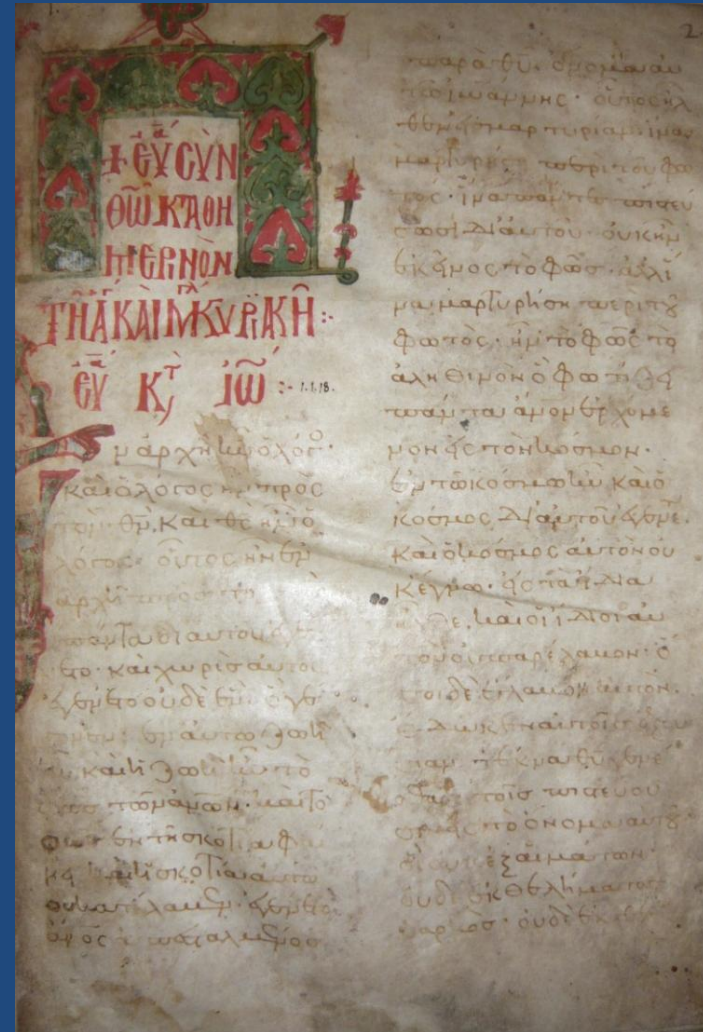
Evangelia Graece

[Greek Gospels] (11th century)

This copy of the Gospels written in Greek dates from the 11th century, and is the Library's oldest item.

Written on vellum (animal skin) in double columns throughout, the manuscript is decorated with coarsely-drawn and coloured initials.

Christ's College, MS 6



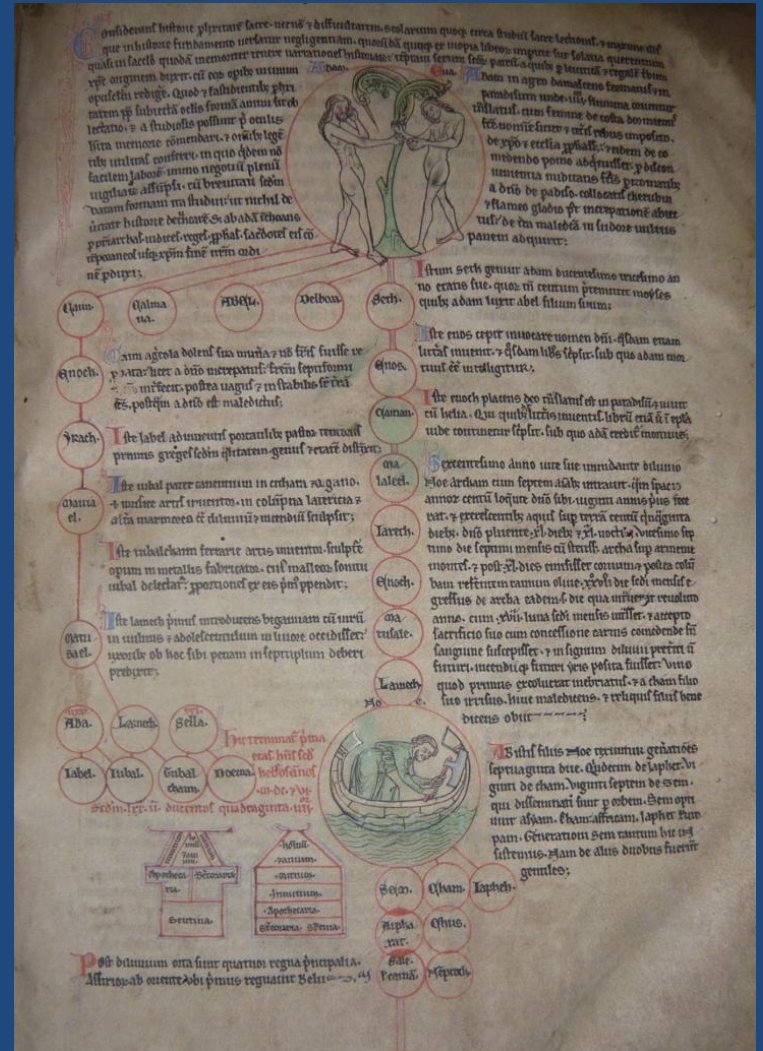


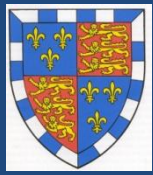
Peter of Poitiers, *Compendium in genealogia Christi* (ca. 1210-1230)

This compendium of Christ's genealogy was compiled by Peter of Poitiers, Chancellor of the University of Paris from 1193 to 1205.

A series of illustrations were included to help students to memorise this digest of biblical and secular history.

Christ's College, MS 5





Genealogy of Christ (13th century)



Christ's College, MS 5



English Book of Hours (14th century)

A Book of Hours is an illuminated Christian devotional book that was popular in Northern Europe during the Middle Ages.

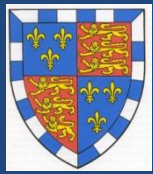
It is an abridgement of the breviary, a liturgical book that contains the Liturgy of Hours recited in monasteries.

The format was developed for lay people who wished to incorporate elements of monasticism into their devotional life.

This Book of Hours is thought to date from ca. 1300-1305, and to originate in the Fens.

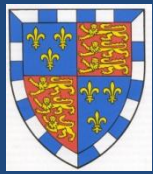
Christ's College, MS 8





English Book of Hours (14th century)



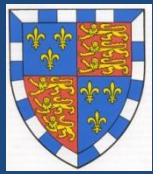


French Book of Hours (15th century)

This beautifully-illustrated vellum Book of Hours originates from the Diocese of Nantes, Brittany, ca. 1430-1440. It includes sixteen full-page illustrations and elaborate floriated borders.

Christ's College, MS 21





French Book of Hours (15th century)





Polychronicon (15th century)

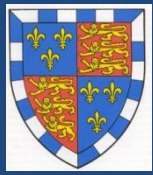
The *Polychronicon* is considered to be one of the greatest works of medieval history.

The text itself is known in over one hundred manuscripts, of which the Christ's copy is a particularly fine example.

Written in double columns of 44 lines each, this manuscript contains fine floriated borders and initials with considerable use of burnished gold decoration.

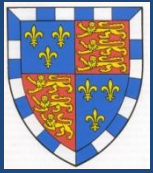
Christ's College, MS 3





Polychronicon (15th century)





**Incunabula (books
printed before 1501)**



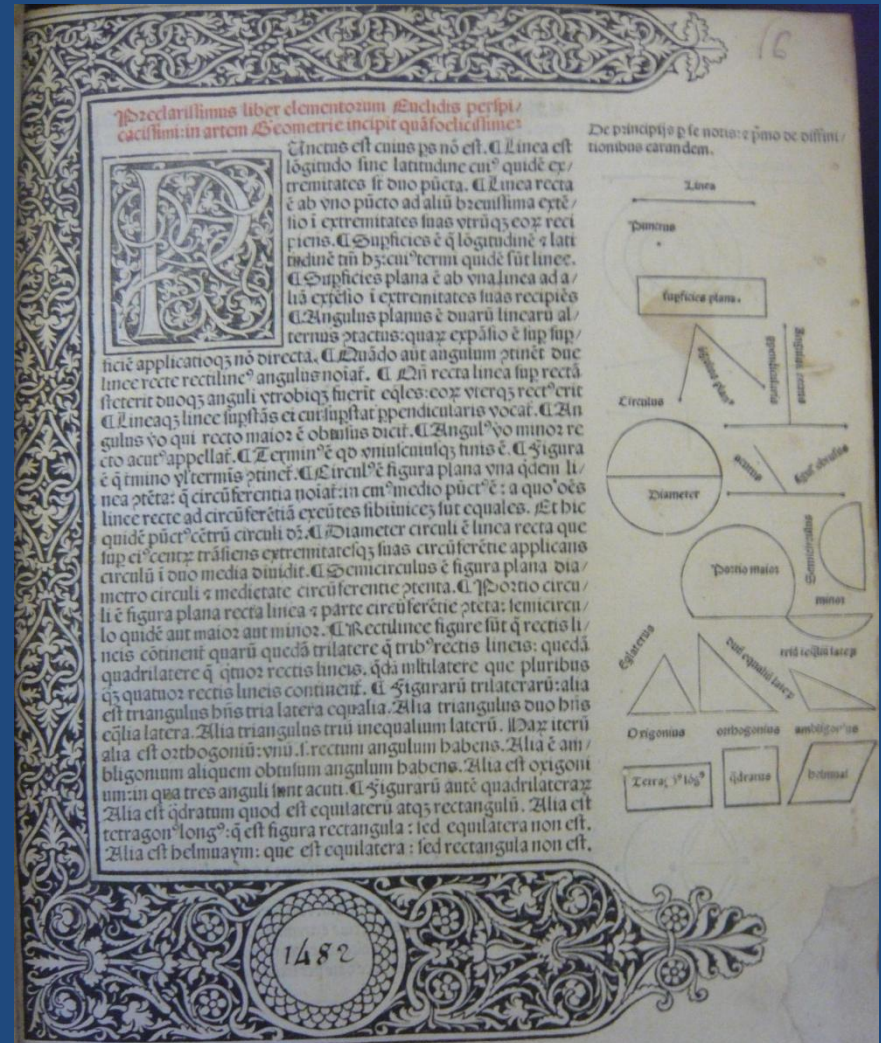
Euclid, *Elementa* (Venice: Erhard Ratdolt, 1482)

Euclid's *Elementa* is a mathematical and geometric treatise written by the Greek mathematician Euclid in Alexandria in 300 BC.

It is one of the very earliest mathematical works to have been printed.

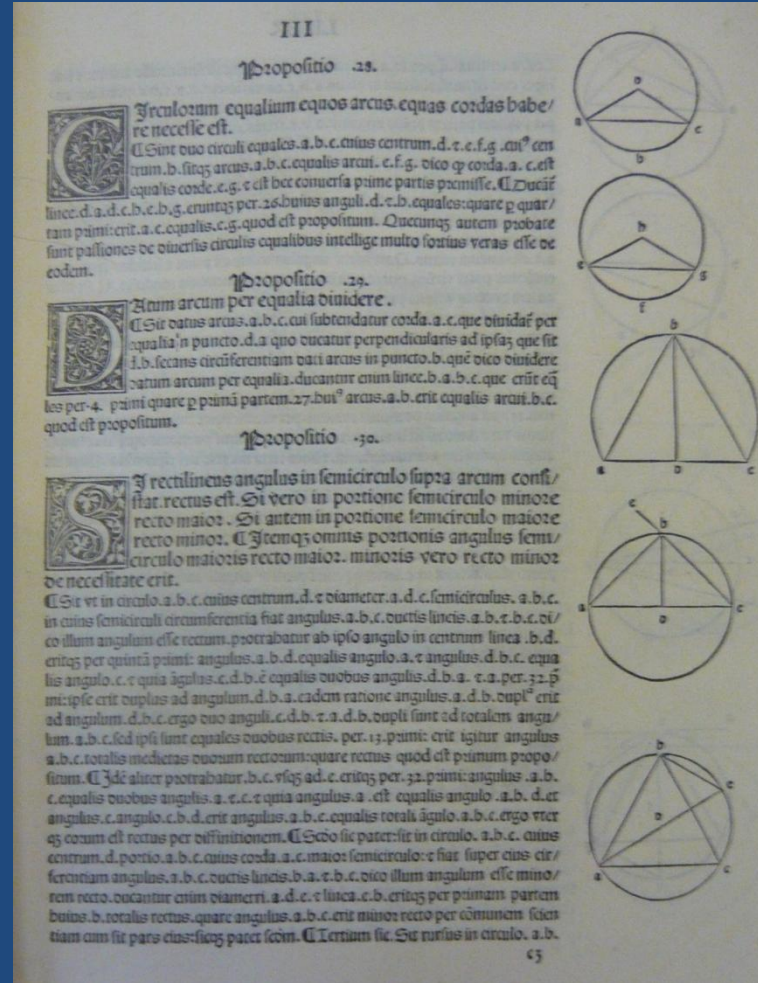
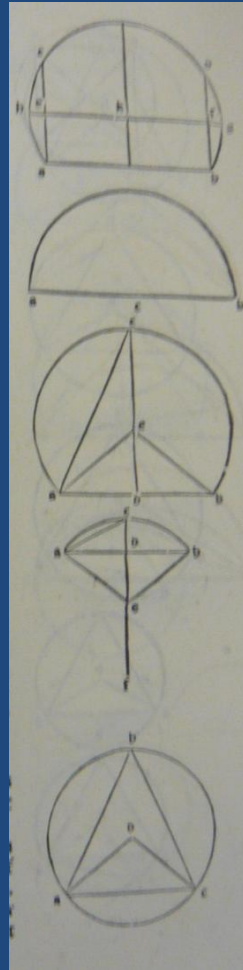
In this first edition, the printer Erhard Ratdolt solved the problem of printing geometric diagrams.

Christ's College, Inc.1.5





Euclid, *Elements* (Venice: Erhard Ratdolt, 1482)



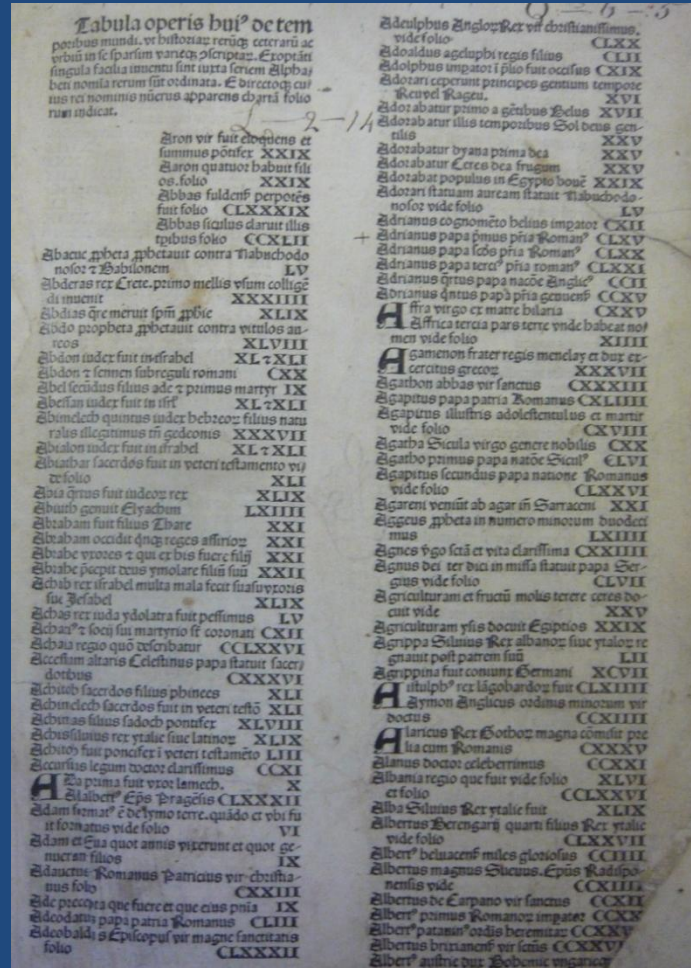


Hartmann Schedel, *Liber Chronicarum*, or, *Nuremberg Chronicle* (Nuremberg: Anton Koberger, 1493)

One of the best-known incunabula, the *Nuremberg Chronicle* is a medieval-style universal chronicle, relating history from creation to the present day.

The *Chronicle* is recognisable for its lavish illustrations, containing over a thousand prints designed by the Nuremberg artists Michael Wohlgemut and Wilhelm Pleydenwurff.

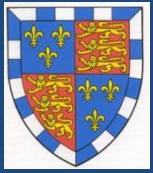
Christ's College, Inc.2.6





Hartmann Schedel, *Nuremberg Chronicle* (Nuremberg: Anton Koberger, 1493)





16th-century printed books

Erasmus of Rotterdam (ed.) *Novum Testamentum* (Basel: Froben, 1519)

This 1519 New Testament is unusual since it is one of only three known copies printed on vellum rather than paper.

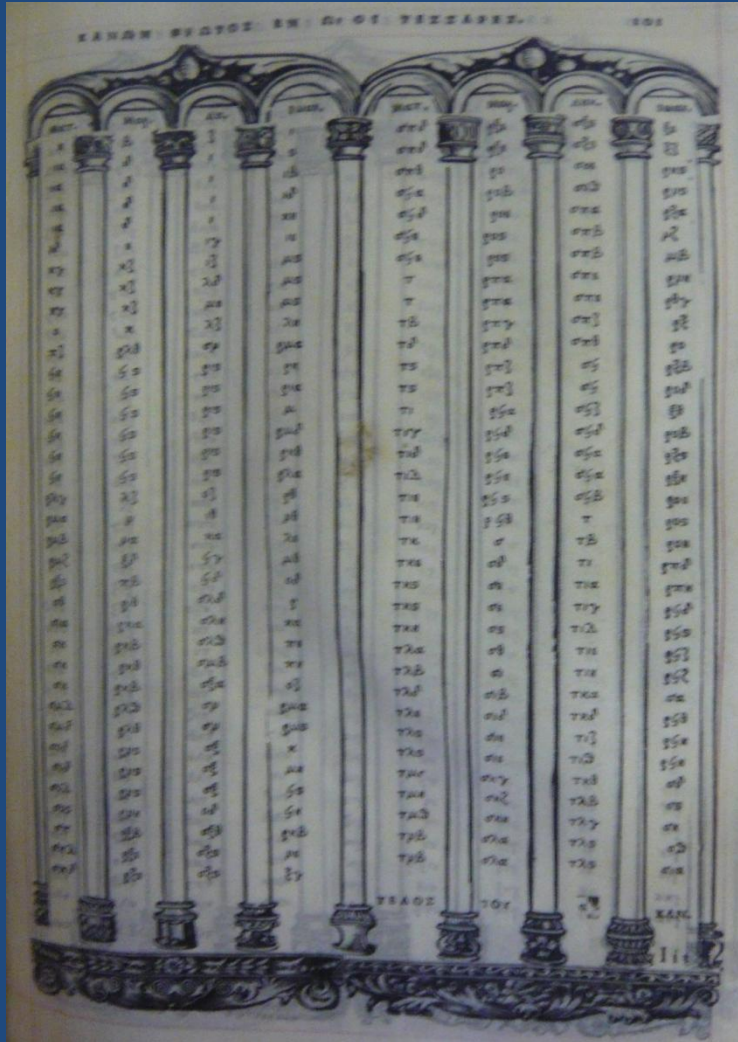
Prepared by Erasmus of Rotterdam, this important edition is thought to have been used by Martin Luther in the making of his own German translation of the Bible.

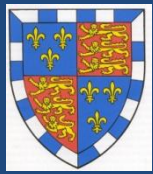
Christ's College, CC.3.3





New Testament (Basel: Froben, 1519)





Nicolaus Copernicus, *De revolutionibus orbium coelestium*

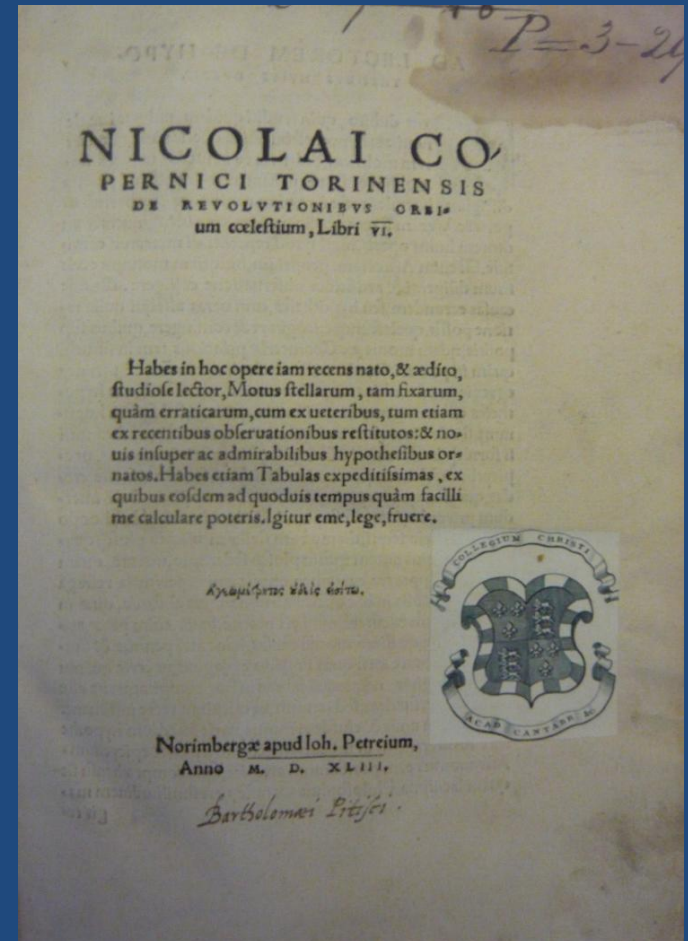
(Nuremberg: Johannes Petreius, 1543)

On the revolutions of the heavenly spheres is the seminal work of the Renaissance astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus (1473-1543).

It offers a heliocentric model of the universe in contrast to Ptolemy's geocentric system, which had been widely accepted since ancient times.

The book was first printed in 1543 by Johannes Petreius, who was renowned for the high quality of his output.

Christ's College, CC.5.3





Copernicus, *De revolutionibus* (1543)

NICOLAI COPERNICI

net, in quo terram cum orbe lunari tanquam epicyclo contineri diximus. Quinto loco Venus nono mense reducitur., Sextum deniq; locum Mercurius tenet, octuaginta dierum spacio circū currens, in medio uero omnium residet Sol. Quis enim in hoc

I. Stellarium fixarum sphaera immobilis.
 II. Saturnus anno. XXX. reuolutio.
 III. Iouis. XVII. annorum reuolutio.
 IIII. Martis bima reuolutio.
 V. Telluris et orbis lunari eius reuolutio.
 VI. Venus nono mense.
 VII. Mercurius octuaginta dierum.
 VIII. Sol.

pulcherrimo templo lampadem hanc in alio uel meliori loco poneret, quàm unde totum simul possit illuminare: Siquidem non inepte quidam lucernam mundi, alij mentem, alij rectorem uocant. Trimegistus uisibilem Deum, Sophoclis Electra intuentē omnia. Ita profecto tanquam in folio regali Sol residens circum agentem gubernat Astrorum familiam. Tellus quoq; minime fraudatur lunari ministerio, sed ut Aristoteles de animalibus ait, maximā Luna cū terra cognationē habet. Concipit intērea à Sole terra, & impregnatur annuo partu. Inuenimus igitur sub hac

NICOLAI COPERNICI

culo diei xviii. Mesuri mensis Aegyptiorum, in qua proditum est, quod Venus uisa fuit occupasse stellam fixam præcedentē ex IIII. quæ in sinistra ala sunt Virginis, estq; sexta in descripti orbe ipsius signi, cuius longiudine est part. CLI. s. latitudo Bor. partis unius, & sextantis, magnitudinis tertie. Erat igitur & ipse Venris locus sic manifestus. Locus autē Solis medius secundum numerati onē in part. cxciiij. scrup. xxiiii. quo ex emplo in descripta figura & signo A, in part. XLVIII. scrup. xx manente, erit AB circumferentia part. cxLvi. scrup. III. & reliq; BC part. xxxiiii. scrup. LVII. angulus quoq; CEG distantiæ planetæ à Solis loco medio pt. XLII. scrup. LIII. Quoniam igitur linea CD part. est 312. quarū CE, 10000. & angulus BCE partium xxxiiii. scrupu. LVII. erunt reliqui in

triangulo CDE, angulus CED partis unius, scrup. I. & DE tertii latus 9743. Sed angulus CDE duplus ipsi BCE, part. est LXVII. scrup. LIII. Relinq; è semicirculo EDF angulū part. cxii. scrup. vi. & qui sub BDE exteriori trianguli CDE part. xxxiiii. scrup. LVII. Quibus constat totus EDF part. cxLiiii. scrup. III. & DFE dat 104. quarū est DE, 9743. erit etiā in triangulo DEF, angulus DEF scrup. xx, ac totus CEF pars una, scrup. XXI. & latus EF part. 9831. At itā patuit totū CEG esse part. XLII. scrup. LIII. Reliquus igitur FEG, partium erit, xli. scrup. xxxii. Et quæ ex cetro orbis FEG est part. 7193, quarū est EF, 9831. Igitur in triangulo FEG per datā rationē laterū, & angulū FEG datur anguli reliqui, & BEG

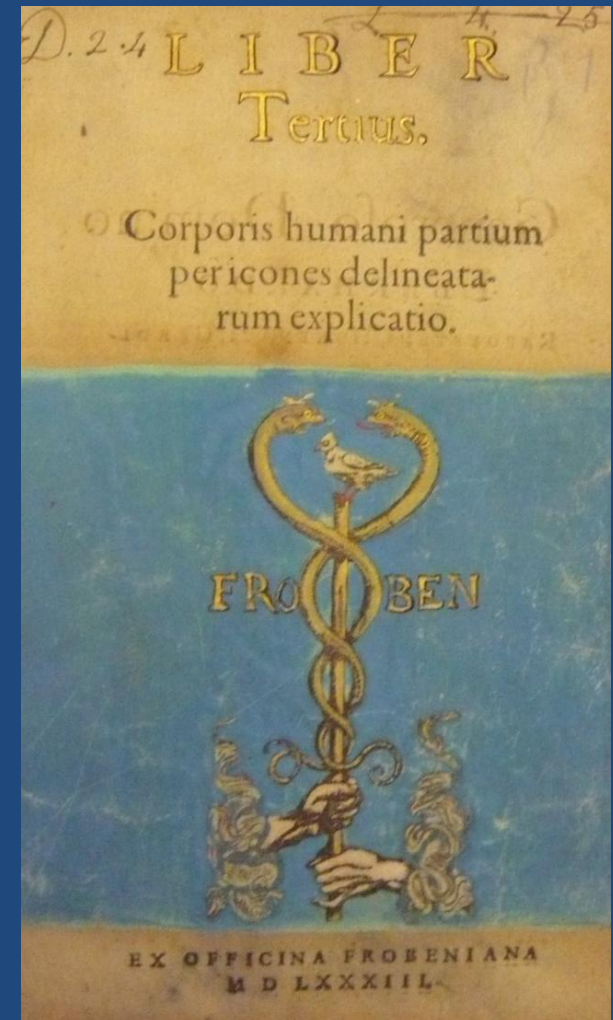


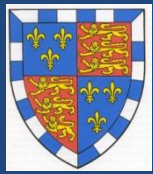
Felix Platter, *De corporis humani* (Basel: Froben, 1583)

Felix Platter (1536-1614) was one of the foremost pathologists of his time and chief physician in Basel until his death.

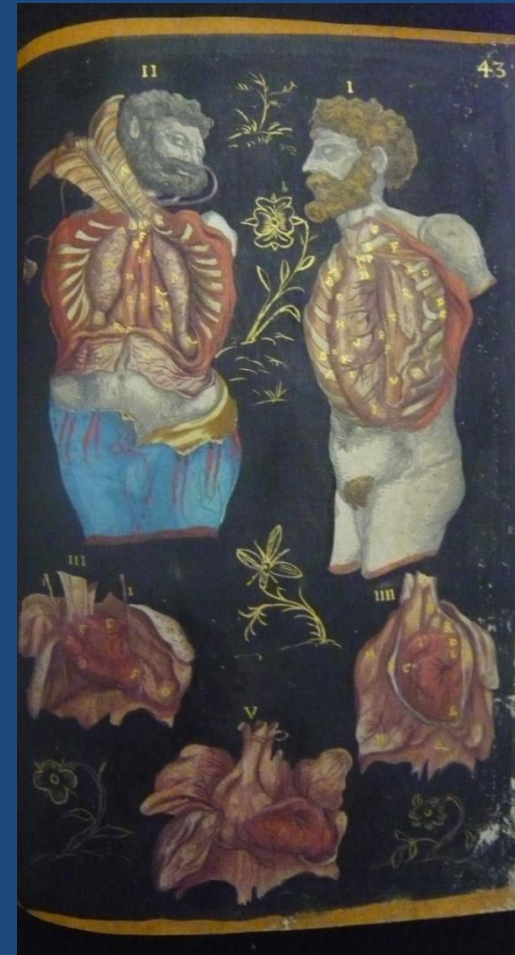
This work on anatomy for medical students is lavishly illustrated with watercolours and hand-coloured woodcuts.

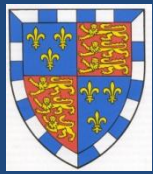
Christ's College, CC.5.6





Felix Platter, *De corporis humani* (Basel: Froben, 1583)





Ulisse Aldrovandi, *Ornithologiae*, *hoc est de avibus historia* (Bologna, 1599)

Ornithologiae is the first of a series of books produced by the Italian naturalist Ulisse Aldrovandi (1522-1605), which together make up his monumental *Natural History*.

The copies at Christ's are in fine armorial bindings which proclaim in gold letters that the donor was Sir Thomas Widdrington, Chief Baron of the Exchequer, an office he held from 1658 to 1660.

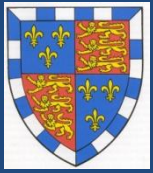
Christ's College, L.8.18



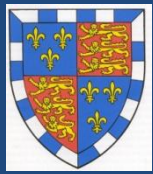


Ulisse Aldrovandi, *Ornithologiae* (Bologna, 1599)





17th- and 18th-century books



Anon., *Scala Magna* [Coptic manuscript] (1632)

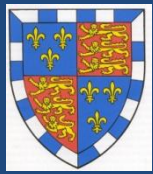
Completed in 1632, this codex is an account of the Coptic language in Arabic, with both languages presented in tandem.



At one time it was thought to have been lost at sea, explaining the visible water damage.

Christ's College, MS 29.2.4





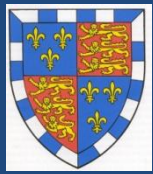
Fazli Khuzani of Isfahan, *Afzal-al-tavarikh* (‘Most excellent of histories’) (ca. 1630s)

Lying incorrectly catalogued for nearly 150 years, this Persian manuscript was thought to be a standard copy of a well-known history.

However, in the 1990s, new research revealed that it was the missing third volume of a chronicle covering the reign of the celebrated Safavid ruler, Shah Abbas (1587-1629).

It was produced in India by a prominent contemporary Persian bureaucrat, Fazli Khuzani of Isfahan.





John Milton, *Paradise lost*. A poem written in ten books. First edition (London: [S. Simmons], 1667)

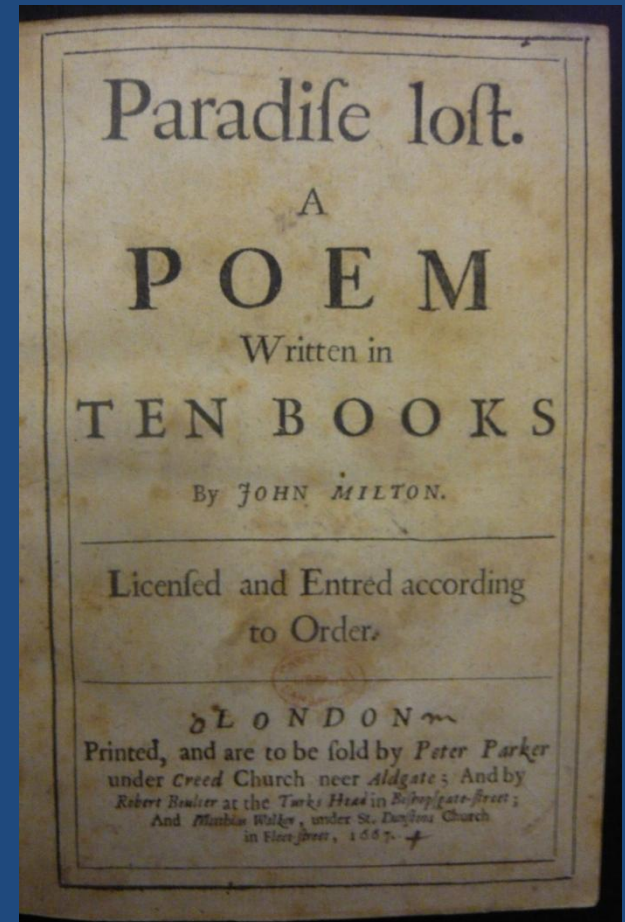
Paradise lost was the *magnum opus* of John Milton, one of Christ's College's most famous alumni.

Christ's holds in its collection six of the 1,300 copies of the first edition of *Paradise lost*, printed between 1667 and 1669.

This copy bears the second recorded title-page variant. Note the surprising lack of prominence given to John Milton's name.

This suggests a wariness on the publisher's part at drawing too much attention to an author whose outspoken republican sympathies were well-known.

Christ's College, EE.4.7





Legal documents relating to Milton's *Paradise lost*, London, 26 April 1669 and 21 December 1680

By early 1669 most, if not all, of the 1,300 copies of the first edition of *Paradise lost* had sold.

In line with the contract which Milton had initially signed, this entitled him to the payment of a further sum of £5. The upper image is a receipt for this payment dating from April 1669.

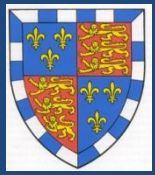
The lower image is dated 1680, six years after Milton's death. It records his widow, Elizabeth, formally releasing her rights over the poem to the publisher Simmons in return for a payment of £8.

Christ's College, MS 8

April 26. 1669
Recd then of Samuel Simmons
five pounds being the second
five pounds ^{to be paid} mentioned in the
Covenant. I say recd by me
Witness my hand
John Milton

I do hereby acknowledge to have received of
Samuel Symonds Citizen and Stationer of
London, the sum of eight pounds: which
is in full payment for all my right, title,
or Interest which I have, or ever had in the
Copy of a Poem Intituled *Paradise lost*
in Twelve Books in 10^{uo}. By John Milton
Gent: my late husband. Witness my
hand this 21st day of December 1680

Witness
William Jaffe
Elizabeth Milton
Sam Jaffe

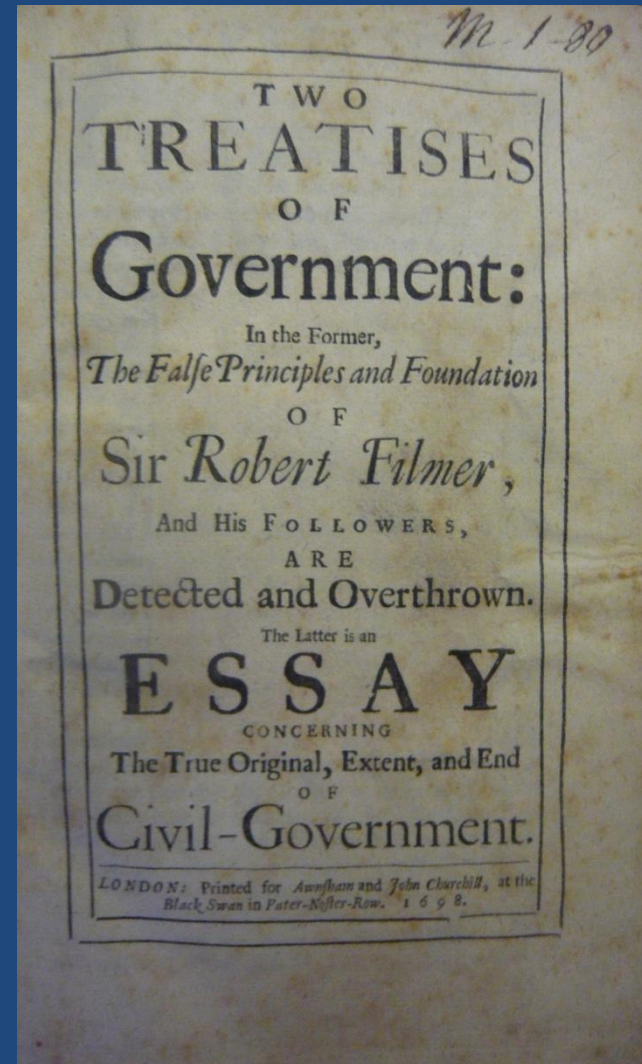


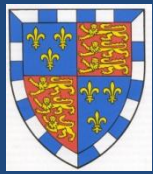
John Locke *Two treatises of government* (London: Awnsham and Churchill, 1698)

This 1698 edition of John Locke's *Two treatises of government* is distinctive because it contains annotations in Locke's own hand.

It is also one of 48 books given to the Library by Thomas Hollis (1720-1774), a wealthy philanthropist who described himself as a "republican."

Christ's College, BB.3.7.a



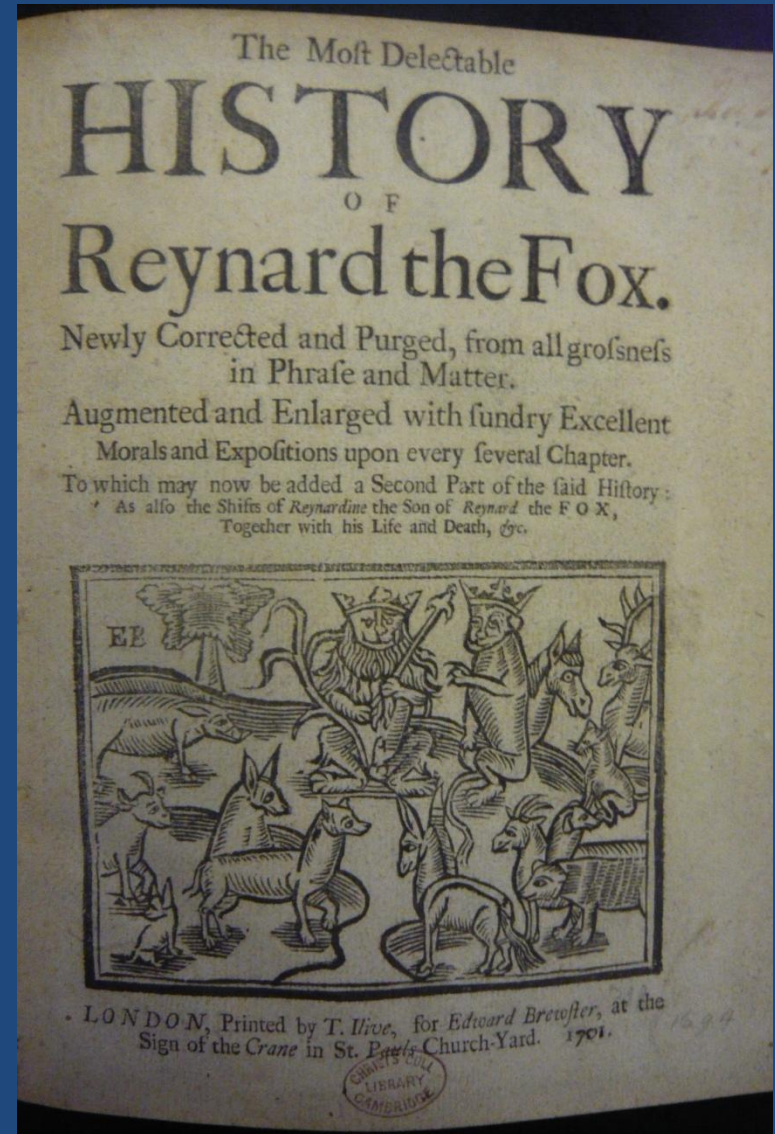


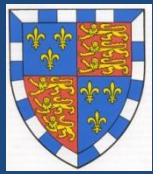
The most delectable history of Reynard the Fox (London: Edward Brewster, 1701)

The fable of Reynard the Fox is an example of a “beast-epic,” in which human society is satirised in an anthropomorphised animal kingdom, principally in order to draw edifying moral lessons.

Many of the delightful woodcuts accompanying the text were modelled on blocks originally produced by Caxton’s associate Wynkyn de Worde.

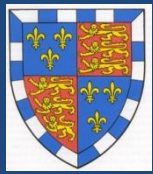
Christ’s College, Rouse 5.4





The most delectable history of Reynard the Fox (London: Edward Brewster, 1701)





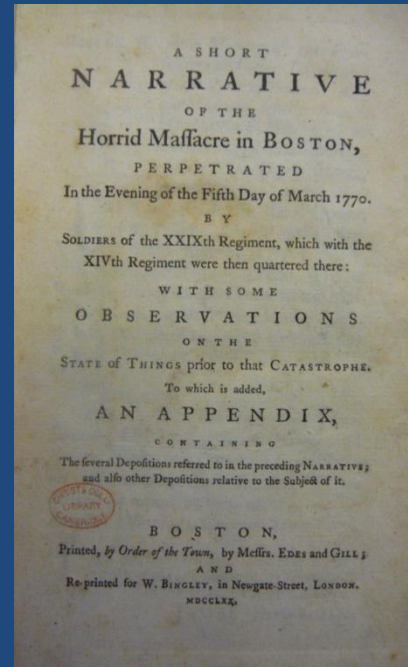
Anon., *A short narrative of the horrid massacre in Boston* (Boston: Edes and Gill; London: W. Bingley, 1770)

On 5 March 1770, British troops quartered in Boston opened fire on a local crowd which had turned out to taunt and pelt them with stones.

This pamphlet was written by three inhabitants of Boston commissioned to compile and present the facts of the case.

An elaborate fold-out engraving (pictured far right) accompanies the text.

Christ's College, BB.4.3.a





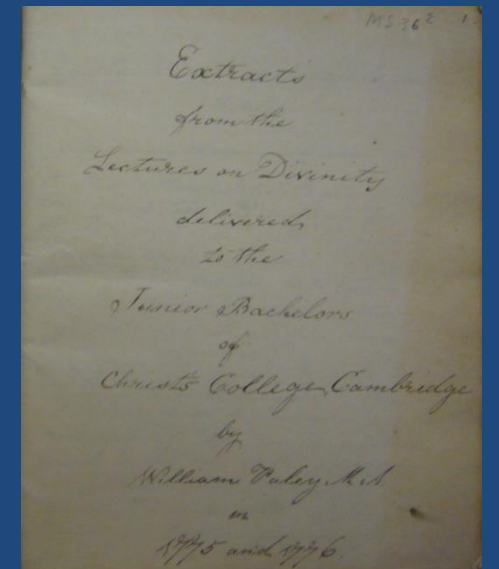
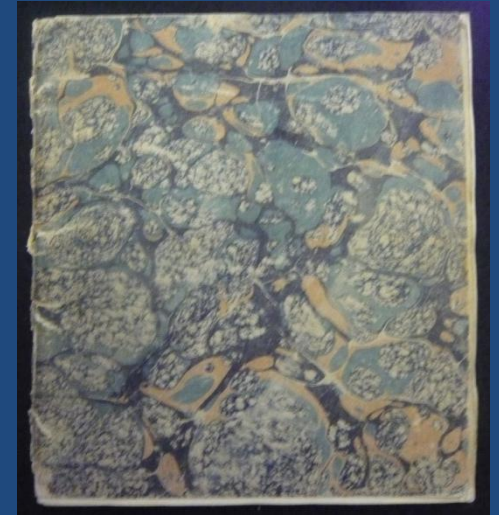
William Paley, *Extracts from lectures on divinity delivered to the junior bachelors of Christ's College (1775-6)*

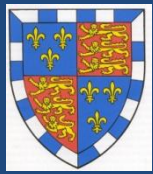
One of the eighteenth century's leading theologians and moralists, William Paley graduated from Christ's as Senior Wrangler in 1763, before returning three years later as a Fellow.

Required to lecture on ethics, metaphysics, and theology, Paley swiftly acquired a reputation for his highly engaging teaching style.

This manuscript, believed to be in Paley's hand, contains extracts from a series of lectures which he delivered on divinity.

Christ's College, Box 36





William Paley, Extracts from lectures on divinity (1775-6)

MS. 36² 1.

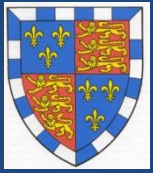
Extracts
from the
Lectures on Divinity
delivered,
to the
Junior Bachelors
of
Christ's College, Cambridge
by
William Paley, M.A.
1775 and 1776.

Errors and absurdities, and follies, and foibles and tricks and contrivances of the rest of Mankind. Now to believe Religion, is to believe and know no more than what the lowest person in the Street knows in the Main and believes as well as we do. it is setting ourselves upon a Level with Carpenters and Taylors, and farmers and Mechanicks with Methodists, and old women, and country parsons. Whereas to see into it and thro' it, to get as it were behind the scenes, and see Mankind playing one another off, is infinitely gratifying to the conceit and Ambition of the human mind.

N.B. These two principles of Vice and Vanity may and it is believed often do, act imperceptibly, and are the cause of infidelity, when the infidel himself is not aware of it.

3^{dly} Rashness.

A large tribe of infidels are your giddy hasty young fellows, who without information or enquiry about the Matter take up Infidelity, all of a sudden upon the first difficulty they meet with, upon a single objection or two they happen to hear, (a ridiculous story perhaps of a forged Miracle, without at all attending to the distinguishing circumstances) and when once they have received their distaste of



19th century and beyond



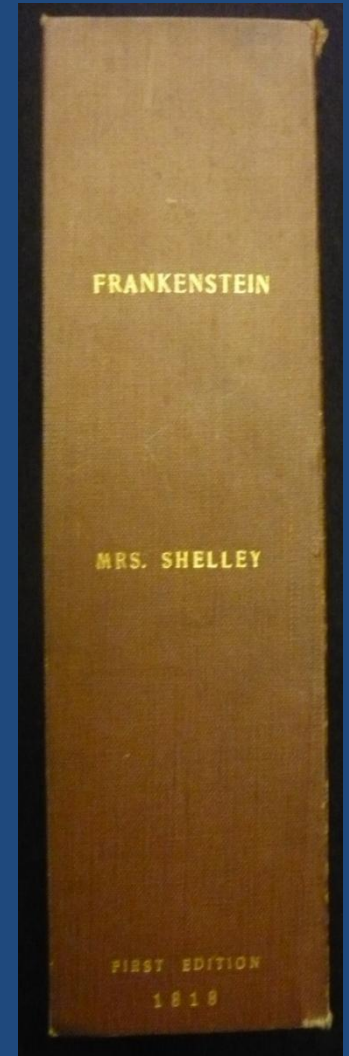
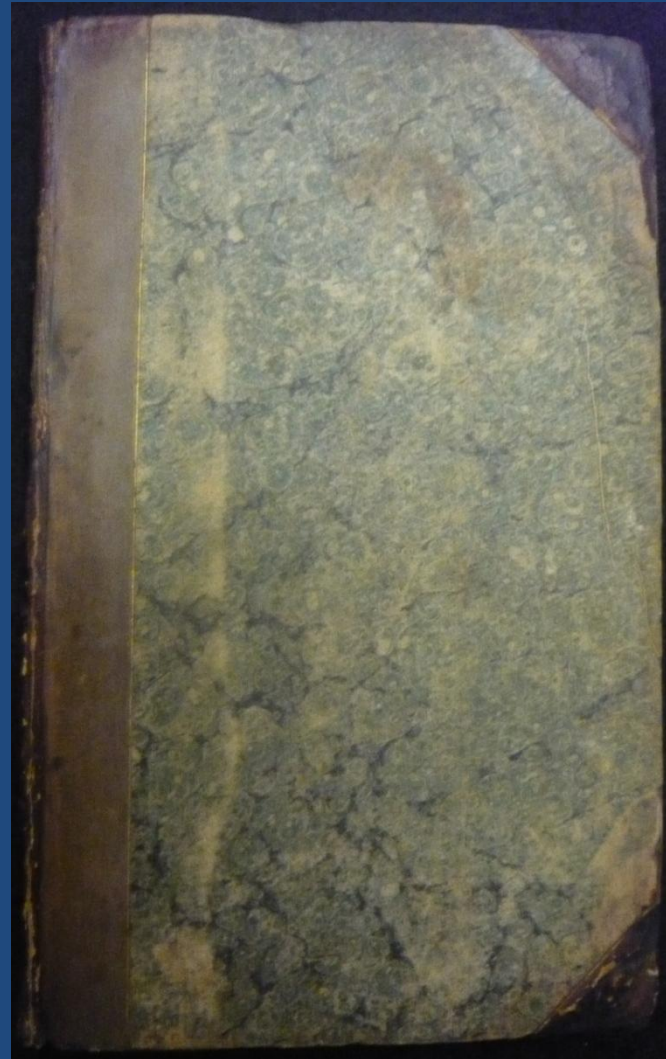
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein; or, The modern Prometheus* (London: Lackington, Hughes, Harding, Mavor, & Jones, 1818)

This first edition of *Frankenstein* was published on New Year's Day in 1818.

Only 500 copies were printed.

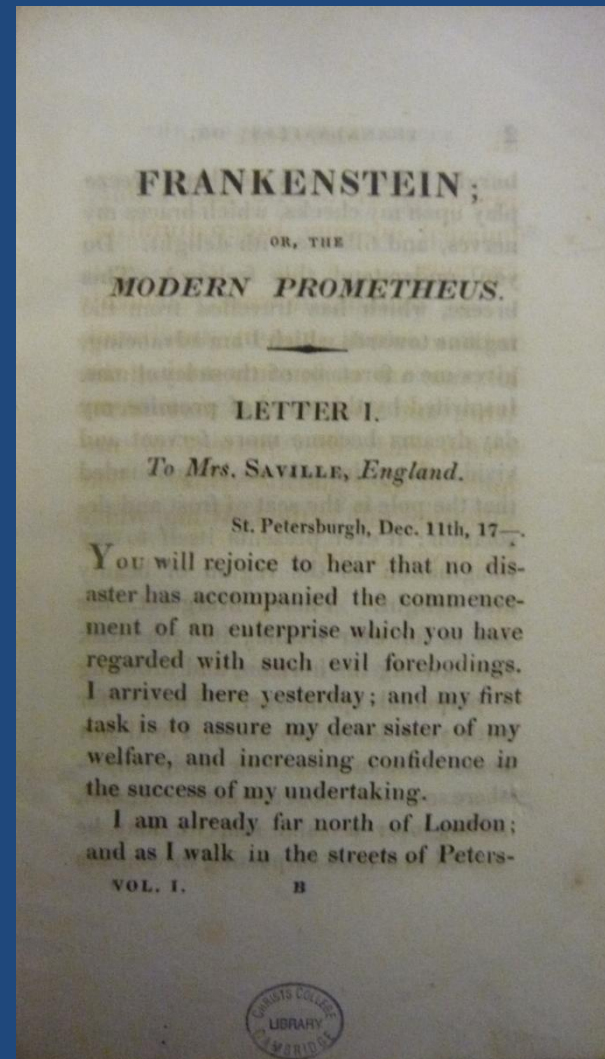
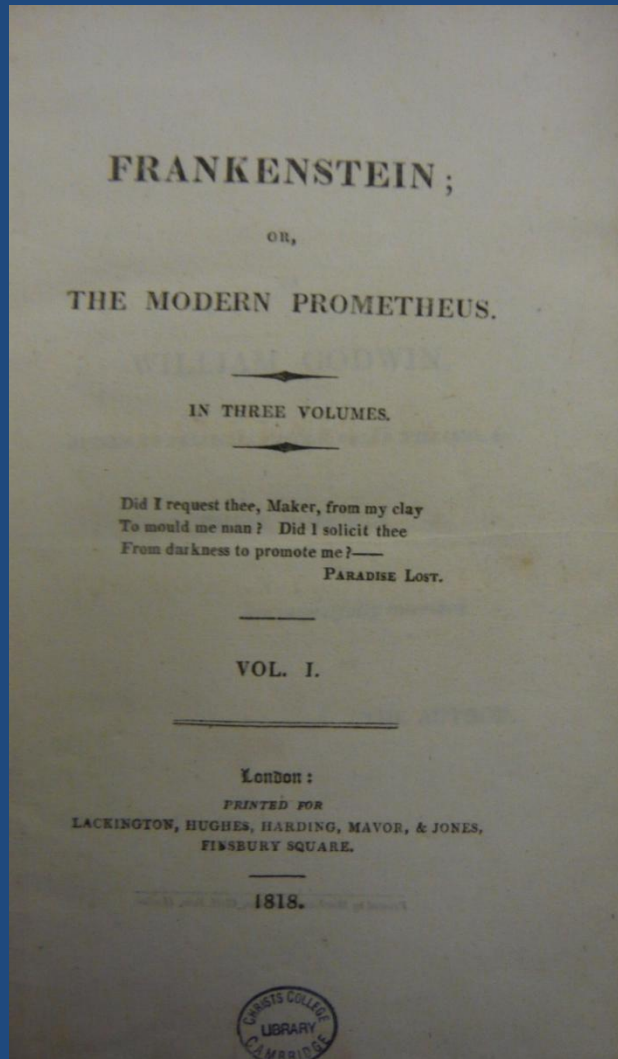
Its division into three volumes was the standard “triple decker” format for 19th-century first editions.

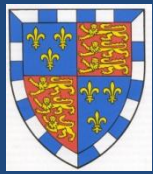
Christ's College, CC.4.19





Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein* (London, 1818)





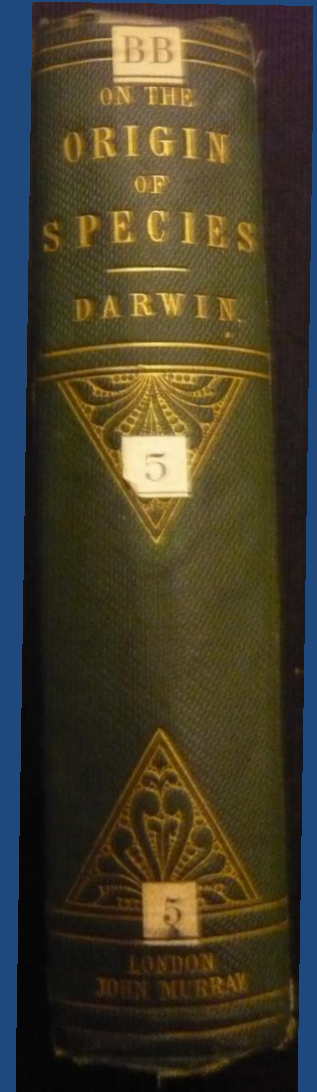
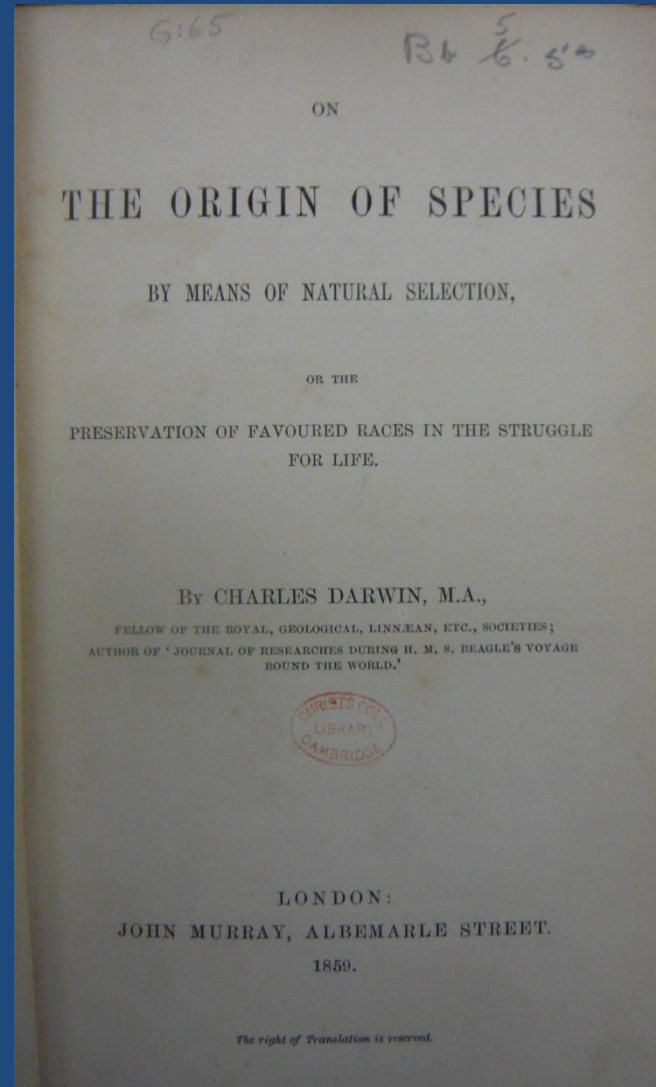
Charles Darwin, *On the origin of species* (London: John Murray, 1859)

The naturalist and biologist Charles Darwin (1809-1882) is one of the College's most famous alumni.

We are fortunate to hold several copies of the first edition of his most famous work, *On the origin of species*.

Printed in 1859 and selling out almost immediately, it outlines the theory of evolution by natural selection.

Christ's College, BB.5.5.a





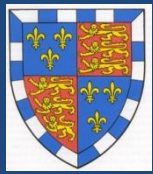
Charles Darwin, Letter to William Darwin Fox, 30 June 1828

In addition to numerous first editions of his works, the College also holds a series of Charles Darwin's letters to his cousin William Darwin Fox.

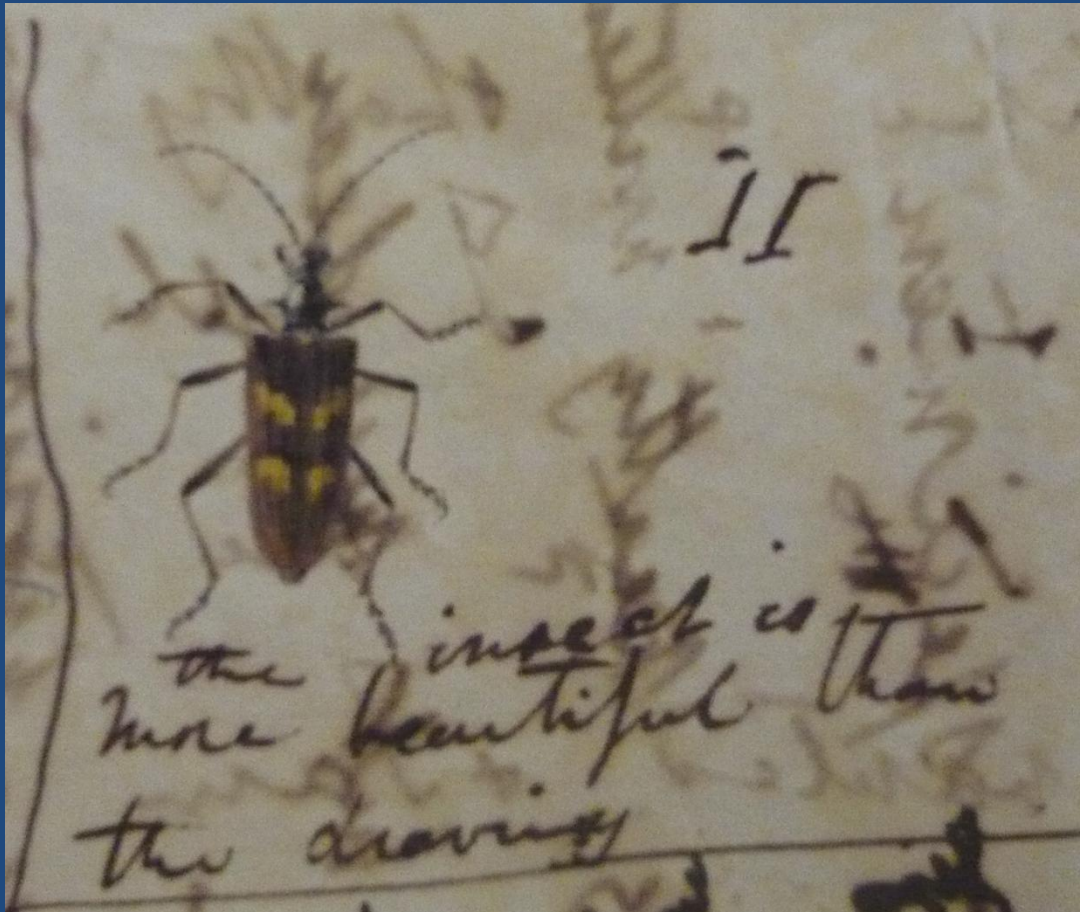
The beautifully drawn beetles in this letter were probably sketched by Darwin's sister Caroline.

Christ's College, MS Fox 116





Charles Darwin, Letter to William Darwin Fox, 30 June 1828



In this letter, Charles Darwin comments that the insect in real life “is more beautiful than the drawing.”



Charles Lesingham Smith's Private Diary, 1871

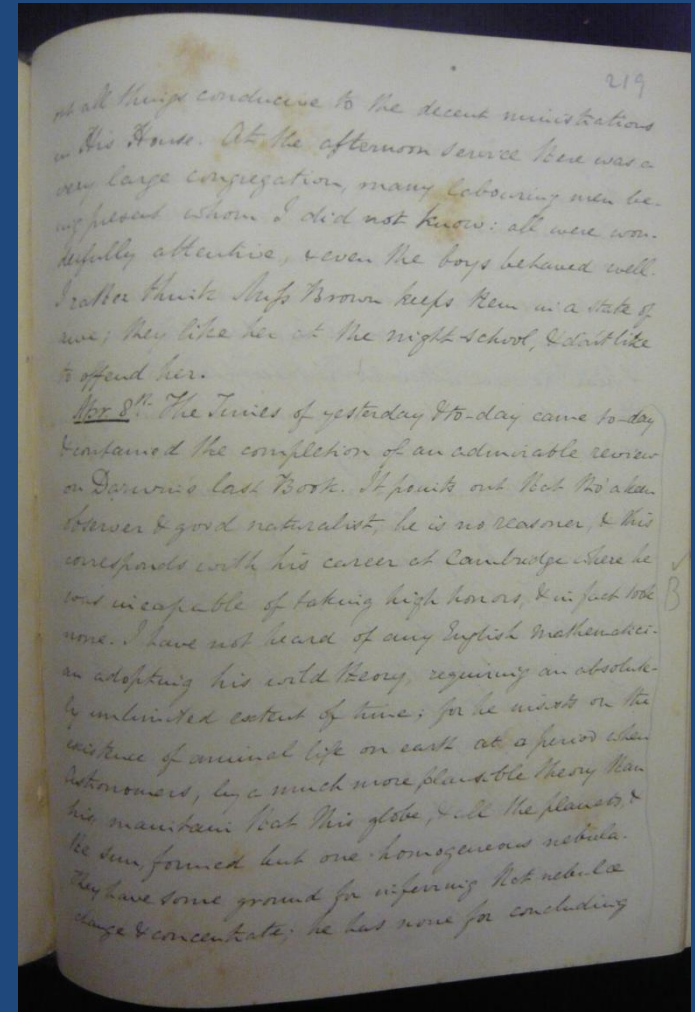
The Library of former Fellow Charles Lesingham Smith was bequeathed to the College in 1878.

It included about a thousand mathematical books, and a number of manuscripts.

In the early 1930s, his private diary for 1871 turned up in a second-hand bookshop in Australia.

It was purchased for the price of seven pence halfpenny.

Christ's College, Box 44.i





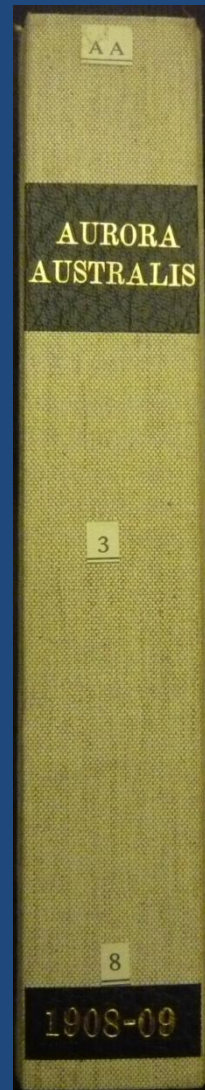
Aurora Australis (1908-1909)

Aurora Australis was printed in Antarctica “at the sign of the Penguins” during Sir Ernest Shackleton’s *Nimrod* expedition of 1907-9.

The improvised binding consists of two wooden covers fashioned from provision cases.

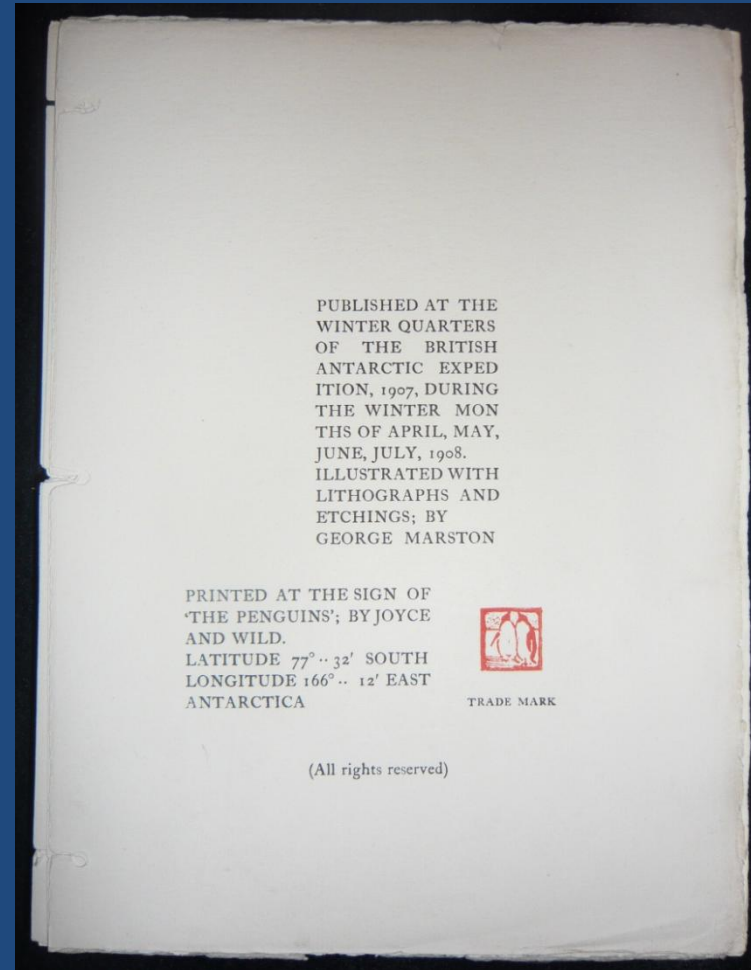
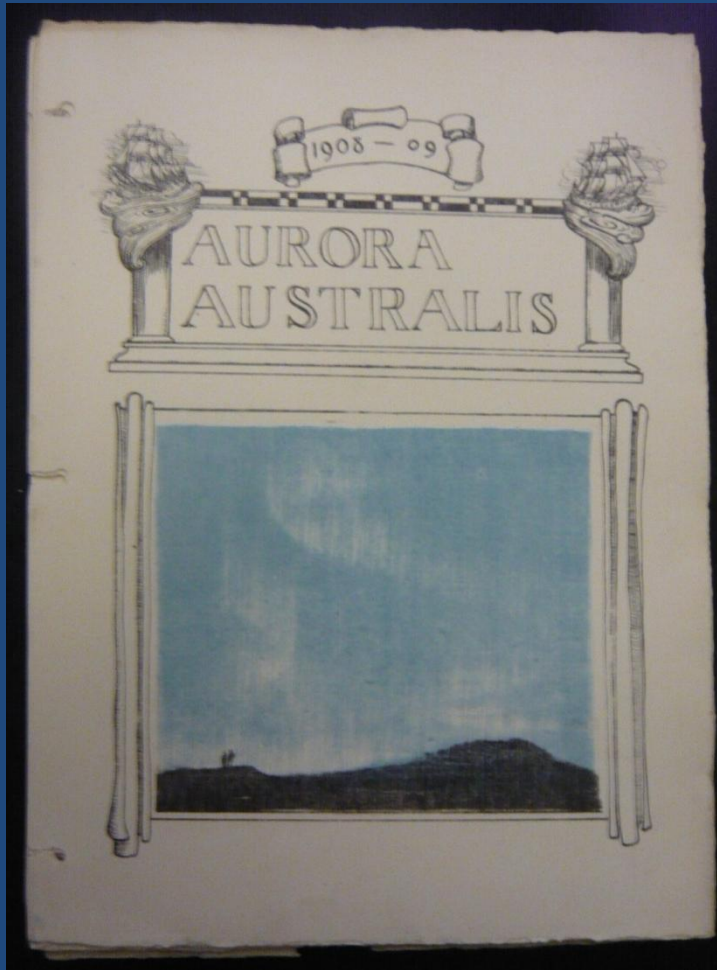
To pass the time during the long winter months, members of the expedition wrote essays and poems that were printed using a printing press taken along for the purpose.

Christ’s College, AA.3.8





Aurora Australis (1908-1909)



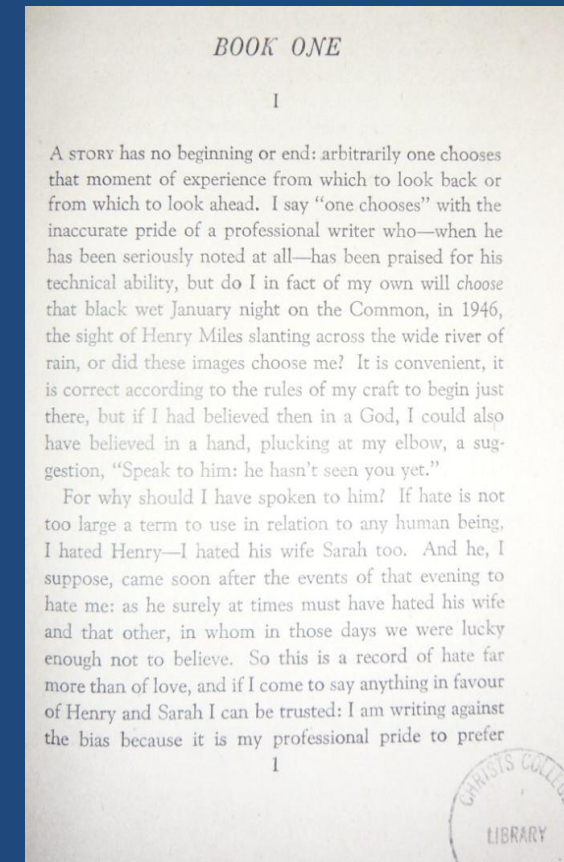
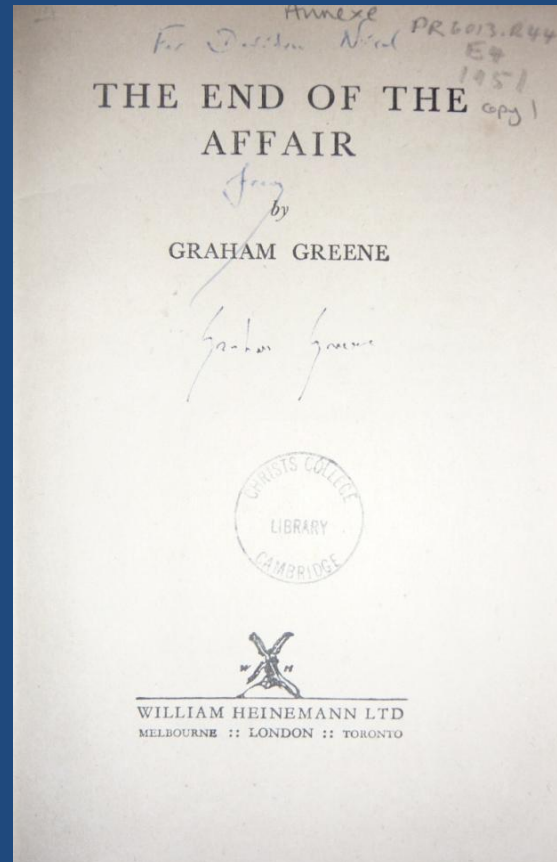


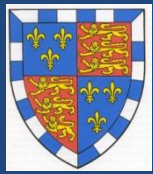
Graham Greene *The end of the affair* (London: William Heinemann, 1951)

This signed first edition of Graham Greene's novel *The end of the affair* was given to the college by Davidson Nicol (1992-1994), to whom the title page is inscribed.

Graduating from Christ's in 1946, Davidson Nicol was a Sierra Leonean academic, diplomat, physician, writer and poet.

Christ's College, Annexe
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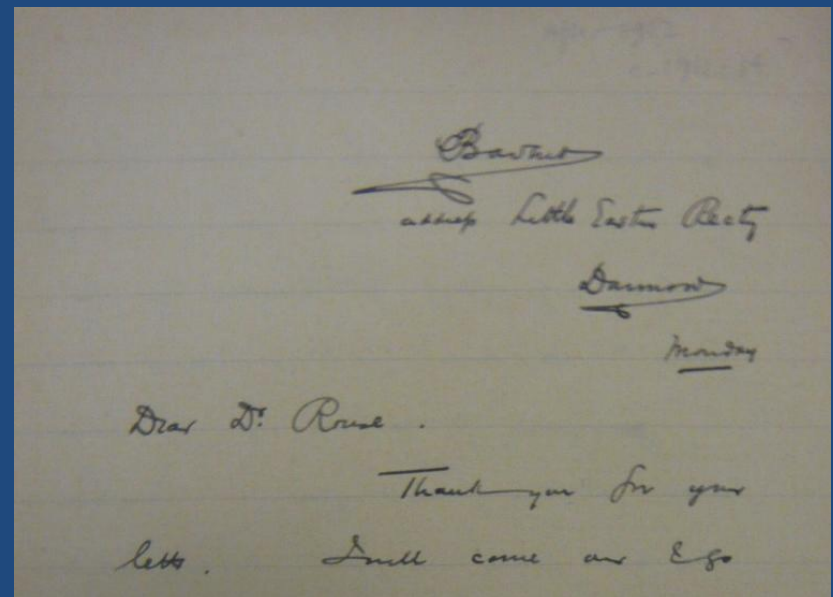
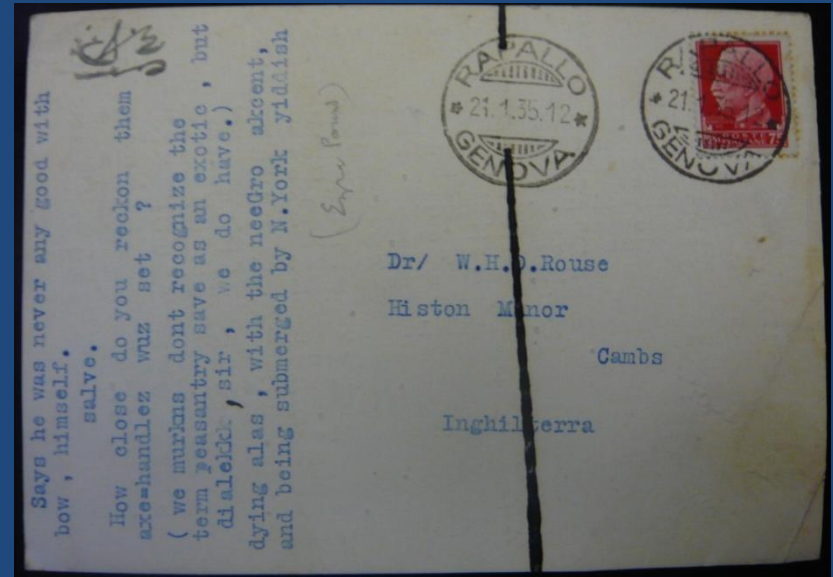
W.H.D. Rouse Correspondence (ca. 1880-1950)

W.H.D. Rouse (1863-1950) studied Classics at Christ's and became a Fellow in 1888.

As well as a large number of books and manuscripts, Rouse left the college his collection of correspondence.

This includes a number of letters from famous literary and political figures, including C.S. Lewis, Walter de la Mare, Ezra Pound and H.G. Wells.

Christ's College, Box 200.ix





Letters to W.H.D. Rouse from Ezra Pound and C.S. Lewis (1935 and 1947)

Says he was never any good with bow, himself.
How close do you reckon them axe-handles wuz set?
(we murks dont recognize the term peasantry save as an exotic, but dialectic, sir, we do have.)
dying alas, with the negro alcent, and being submerged by N.York yiddish

(Ezra Pound)

RAPALLO
* 21.1.35.12 *
GENOVA

Dr/ W.H.D. Rouse
Histon Manor
Cambs
Inghilterra

at the time
VIA MARRALA 193
21/5
RAPALLO

EZRA POUND

Dear Doc Rouse: My ole man wuz riz among injuns. That is, he was the first white child born in the north of Wisconsin, and had an indian bambinina, and later a half-breed if not exactly tutor, at least ~~HEHEHEH~~ accompanier. He surprised me by saying that the bow was still used, a lot of indians having no guns (or at any rate that is his childhood memory), and arrows still used for deer and prairie chickens.

Now, cannibals the old man has heard of. He has been very much interested in Ulysses, the Cyclops, that's O/K/ that dont worry him, but that lie about the twelve axe-handles, arouses his frank incredulity.

Gods and so on, he wd. swallow, or at any rate his conversation

shows signs of capacity for assimilation.

REF. 314/47.

Magdalen College,
Oxford.
22nd. May 1947.

Author of Seventy-five Letters

Dear Sir,

Thank you very much for sending me Homer's Words, which I look forward to reading with interest. It was Charles Williams (not Smith) whom I praised, and his preface is in the new World's Classics edition of Milton's poetry.

yours faithfully,

C. S. Lewis

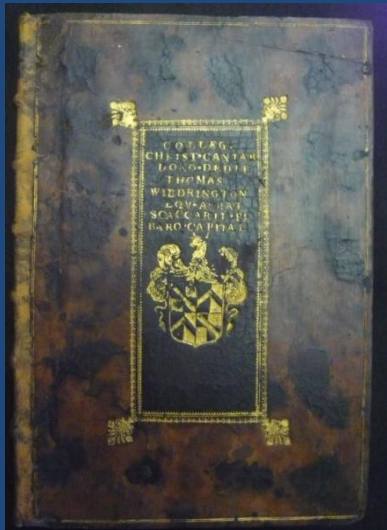


Fine bindings

In addition to books of interest for their intellectual content, the Library holds a large number of volumes in fine bindings, of which a small selection is shown here.



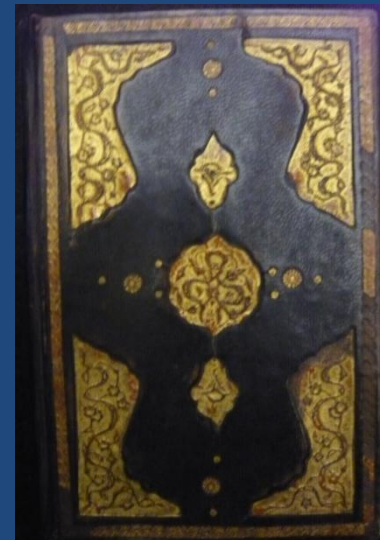
Christ's College, DD.3.12



Christ's College, L.8.18



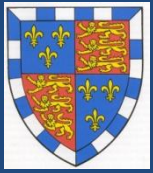
Christ's College, DD.4.16



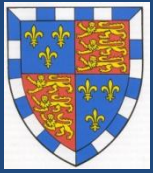
Christ's College, DD.7.8



Christ's College, DD.6.7



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