

PRODIGIOUS HISTORIES: A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO RARE BOOK DIGITISATION AND ACCESS

Krzysztof Murawski, Area Sales Manager
Prague, May 2013

START
HERE.

ProQuest

Early English Books microfilm series begun by Eugene Power in 1930s

- University Microfilms founded 1938; filmed holdings of British libraries threatened by war damage, 1940-
- Bibliographic basis:
 - Alfred W. Pollard and G.R. Redgrave, *A short-title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland, & Ireland and of English books printed abroad, 1475-1640*
 - Donald Wing, *Short-title catalogue of books printed in England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, and British America, and of English books printed in other countries, 1641-1700*
- *Early English Books Online* (EEBO) published 1998, now available in 1,600+ sites worldwide
- 128,000+ items filmed and digitised to date



Early European Books: Project Scope

All materials printed in Europe or in European languages,
c.1455-1700

- Successor & complement to EEBO
- Scan in colour from original volumes (not microfilm)
 - Scanning on site on library premises
 - Today's technology allows capturing every facet of the book
- Long-term commitment
 - Aim: build a library of Western culture over the next 10+ years
 - EEBO's 128,000 books will become a subset of Early European Books
 - Contribute to and collaborate with the wider network of European digitisation projects
 - Add tools to aid teaching, scholarship and user curation



ProQuest funds the creation of digital files and metadata

- ProQuest returns master copies to the source library
- Library owns master copies and can use them for facsimiles, digitisation on demand

Free access in many countries where collections are based

- ProQuest has commercial rights to the collection elsewhere
- Royalty paid to Library
- Commitment to eventual open access
- ProQuest can use geo-IP recognition to provide free access to a single country from launch

Close consultation between ProQuest, the library and the scanning company to decide:

- Physical location of operation
- Logistics of providing books to scan operators
- Protocols for book handling

Pilot Phase, 2009-2011

- Smaller collections, selected contents
- The Royal Library, Copenhagen
 - Launched December 2009
 - Completed April 2010
 - 2,600 books / 500,000 pages
 - Danish National Collection, 1482-1600 plus C17 works by Tycho Brahe and Johannes Kepler
- Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze
 - Launched November 2010
 - Completing July 2011
 - 3,000 books / 600,000 pages
 - Aldine Press collection, Postillati, Sacre Rappresentazione, Incunabula



*Christian II New Testament, Leipzig 1524.
Royal Library Copenhagen*

Full Implementation, July 2011-

- Multiple sites in operation
- Combination of national libraries and specialist research collections
- Not selective
- Digitise entire library holdings
 - Regardless of language or place of publication
 - Prioritise where appropriate
- Opens up new connections between European national collections
- Collection 3 completed July 2012, Collection 4 launched October 2012



*Petrarca, Trionfi e Canzoniere. Venezia, 1478.
Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze.*

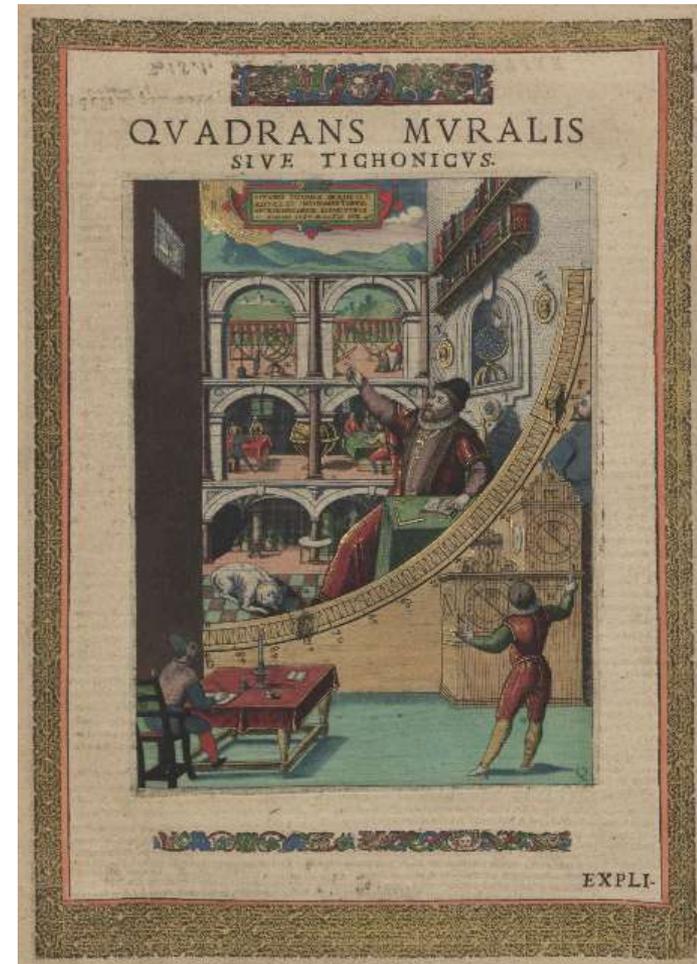
Project partners:

- **Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze**
 - Entire holdings up to 1700
 - 50,000+ books
 - Starting with Incunabula and Fondo Magliabechiano
- **Koninklijke Bibliotheek, Den Haag**
 - Scanning started April 2011; launching July 2011
 - 30–60,000 books and pamphlets
- **Wellcome Library, London**
 - Scanning starts July 2011; launching Nov 2011
 - 15,500 books (medicine and science)
- **Royal Library Copenhagen**
 - Returning in autumn 2011
 - 20–30,000 books
- **Bibliothèque Nationale de France**
 - From 2013
 - 70,000 volumes will be added from the early modern collection



Den Bloem-Hof van de Nederlantsche Jeught, Amsterdam, 1608. Koninklijke Bibliotheek.

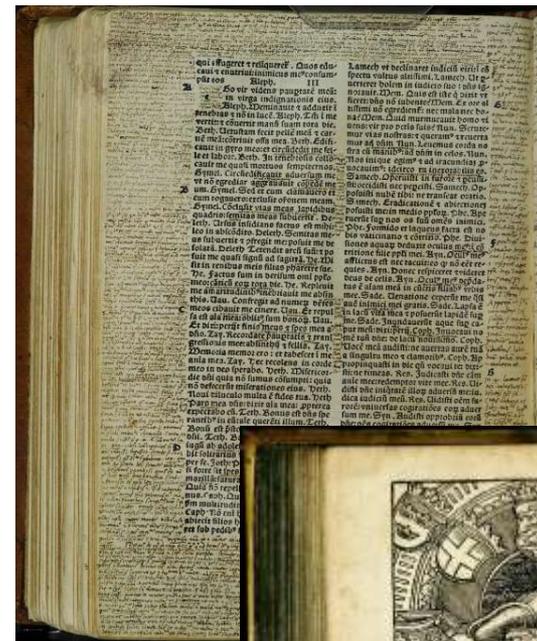
- Nicolaus Copernicus
 - From Torun, Royal Prussia (in Poland).
 - *De Revolutionibus* (Latin, Nuremberg, 1543; EEB has Basel 1556 edition from BNCF)
- Tycho Brahe
 - From Scania (was Denmark, now Sweden)
 - *De Nova Stella*, Latin, Copenhagen, 1573 (EEB copy from KBDK)
- Johannes Kepler
 - From Free Imperial City of Weil der Stadt, in the Holy Roman Empire
 - *Epitome astronomiae Copernicanæ*, Latin, Linz (Austria), 1618 (EEB copy from KBDK)
- Galileo Galilei
 - From Duchy of Florence
 - *Discorsi e dimostrazioni matematiche*, (Italian, Leiden, 1638; copy in Wellcome)



Tycho Brahe, *Astronomiæ instauratæ mechanica*. Wandsbek, 1598. Royal Library, Copenhagen

Variant Copies and Provenance

- **Girolamo Savonarola**
 - Preacher and ruler of Florence in 1490s, led the ‘Bonfire of the Vanities’
 - Individual printings of sermons and letters
 - “La Bibbia del Savonarola”: full of manuscript notes and drafts of sermons by Fra Domenico Buonvicini
- **Christian II of Denmark**
 - Exiled Protestant king
 - Commissioned the first Nordic-language New Testament translation
 - Portrait by Lucas Cranach, was removed from most surviving copies



Case Study: Descartes

'Je pense, donc je suis'

Discours de la methode (French) Published in Leiden, 1637

[Early European Books copy from Wellcome Library]

'Cogito ergo sum'

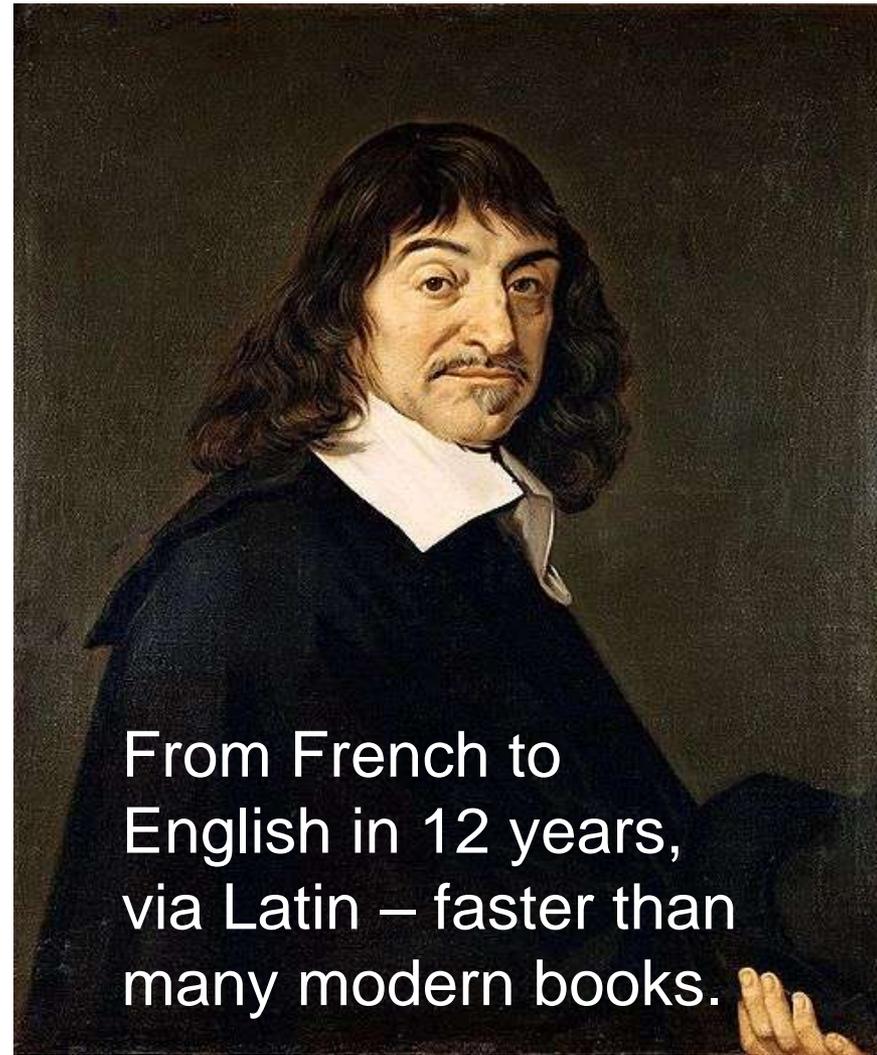
Principia Philosophiae (Latin) Published in Amsterdam by Elzevir, 1644

[Early European Books copy from KB Netherlands]

'I think, therefore I am'

A discourse of a method... (English) Published in London, 1649

[Copy in Early English Books Online]



From French to
English in 12 years,
via Latin – faster than
many modern books.

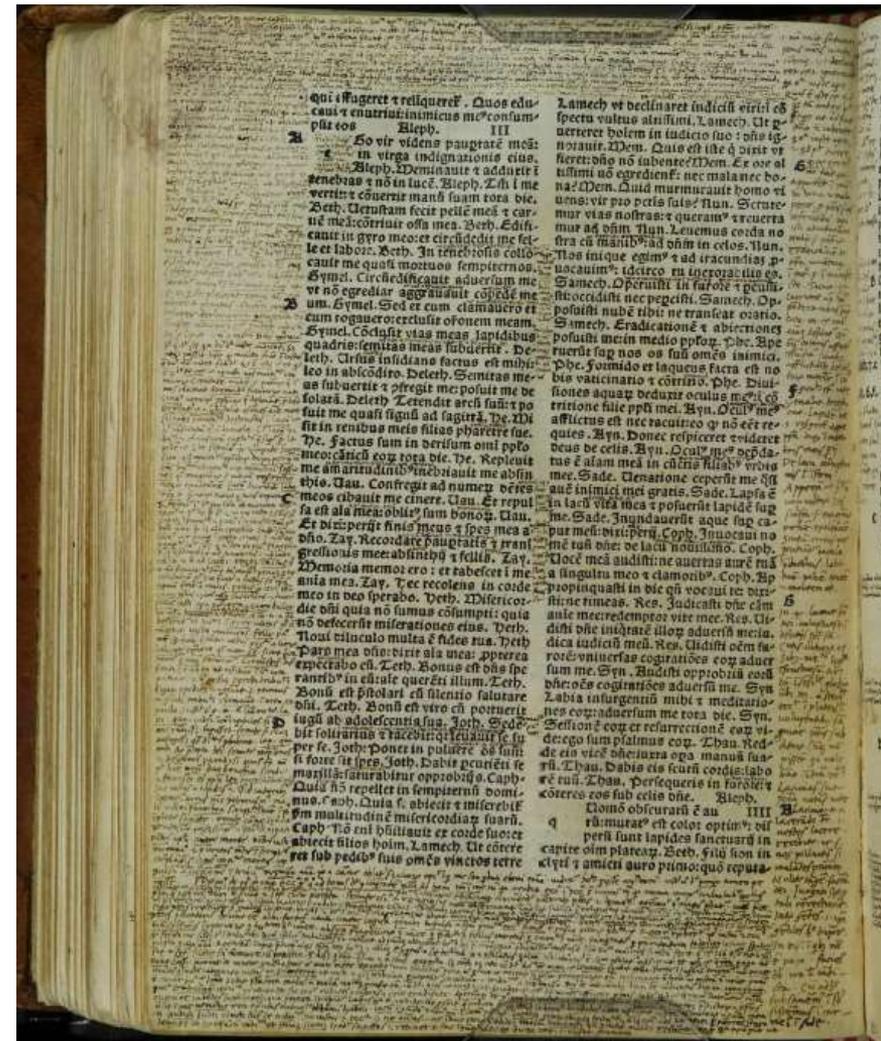
Variant Copies and Provenance

“La Bibbia del Savonarola”

- Biblia Latina (Johann Froben, Basel, 1491): more than 200 copies survive in libraries
- This copy, in the BNCF, owned and annotated by Fra Domenico Buonvicini
- Associate of Girolamo Savonarola, preacher and ruler of Florence in 1490s, led the ‘Bonfire of the Vanities’
- Full of manuscript notes and drafts of sermons

Many more examples

- Policy to include duplicates unless the library excludes them
- Wellcome Library: books owned by William Morris, Sir Hans Sloane, John Dee, Florence Nightingale



Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze

- Scan in high-resolution colour from original volumes (not microfilm), 400 dpi, full color
- Include every page:
 - Covers, spines, blank pages, endpapers, loose inserts, fold-outs, spines & edges
- Captures vital information about each book:
 - Format, ownership, annotations, history of publishing & readership
 - Information which is often missing from other microfilm & scanning projects
- Specialist search and display interface
 - Designed around the specific needs of researchers using rare books



Early European Books: Methods

- Book handling:
 - Fragile valuable items require expert handling and scanning on site
- Scanning:
 - Manual page turning required
 - Different sizes of books
 - Fold-outs
 - Tight bindings (prism used for 45° openings)
 - Capturing spines and page edges
- Metadata:
 - Accurately capturing page features (page numbering, maps, portraits, marginalia)
 - Cataloguing, including copy-specific information



Numen's DINAR-VLAD method



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Images reproduced by courtesy of the Royal Library, Copenhagen.
[N 870 8° copy 1]



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Firenze.
Postillati 36



Pius papa secundus eloquentissimus qui obiit
Anno. M. cccc. lxi. ii. i. Ancona. dum proficisci
proposuerit contra thurcos. composuit zc.

Ius Epus seruus seruorum dei. Illustri
Machumeti p̄icipi thurcorum. Ti mo
rem diuini nōis & amorem scripturi
ad te aliqua pro tua salute & gloria. p̄q̄ comuni
multarū gentium cōsolatione & pace. Hortamur
ut benigne audias uerba nostra. Nec prius dānes
q̄ iudices. Nec prius iudices q̄ singula diligenter
intelligas. Accipe que scribimus in bonam partē
& usq̄ in finem patienter audi. Si bona sunt que
suademus. amplectere. Sin mala. respue & in ignē
mitte. Neq̄ id circo epistolam reicias. Quia xp̄iā
hominis est. & eius christiani qui ceteris p̄est. Nō
enim te odio persequimur. Neq̄ tuo insidiamur
capiti q̄uis nr̄e religionis hostis existas. & armis
christianam urgas plebem. Operibus tuis tibi n̄
sumus offensi. Diligimus iubente domino inimi
cos nostros. & pro p̄secutoribus nostris oramus
Sapientibus & insipientibus debitores sumus &
omnes cupimus fieri saluos. Grecos. Latinos. Iu
deos. Saracenos. oibus optamus bona. Sed scimus
uera bona neminem assequi posse q̄ extra euangeliū
degit. & a xp̄o dño n̄o est aliēus. Noli autem au
res claudere. aut oculos auertere cū xp̄i noīamur



DESCRIZIONE DEL MAGNO TORNIAMENTO DI
M. GIO. BENTIVOGLI. Mccc. lxx.

FER quello eccesso e glorioso frutto
Che nel tuo uentre gloriosa e pia
Volse incarnare p̄ cotal cōstrutto
E cauar fuori della prigion via
I sancti padri chognuom era distrutto
Per li tuo preghi o uergine maria
Che obombrasti de spirito sancto
Pregħa per me el tuo figliol alquanto

Che prestī gratia al mio debile ingegno
A ciò chio possa dire in uersi e rima
E chio me troui dintellecto degno
E di pulirli bem con ogni lima
Magnificar una citā dun regno
Qual se nē facto sempre grande stima
Ma piu al presente per ogni paese
Bologna dicta con tuttō bolognese.

Spechio e luce di tutto luniuerso
Non si potrebbe replicar ne dire
El mio intellecto si sarebbe perso
La sua nobilita nolē seguire
Perche non pur a glihuomini diuerso
Questa mia storia nel bel proferire
Cominciaremo cum molto solazo
Quel che si fe apie del gram palazzo.



tua mia nō repellis: exaudi p̄ces no-
stras, quas p̄ illi^o ppli obsecratione
deserim^o: vt agnita veritatis tue lu-
ce, quæ Christus est, a suis tenebris
eruantur. Per eun. Amen.

O Rem^o & p̄ paganis: vt De^o oī-
potēs auferat iniquitatē a cordi-
b^o eorū: vt relictis idolis suis, cōuer-
tant ad Deū viuū & verū: & vnicū
filiū ei^o Iesū Ch̄m Deum & d̄m
nostrū: cū quo viuūt & reg. *Nō re-
spondetur* Amen. **O** remus. Fle-
ctamus genua. Amen. Leuate.

O Mnipotēs sēpiterne de^o, q̄ nō
mortē p̄cōre, sed vitā sēper i-
gris: suscipe p̄piti^o ofonē nostrā: &
libera eos ab idolorū cultura: & ag-
grega Ecclesiā tue s̄ctę, ad laudē &
gl̄iam n̄minis tui. Per d. Amen.
Cōpletis oronib^o sacerdos deponit
crucē in casula, p̄cedit ad cornu epl̄e, &

ibi ī posteriori parte angulari altaris accipit crucē à ministris sibi p̄pa-
ratā, quā verā facie ad chorū, à sū-
mitate parū discoopit, incipiens sol^o
aīa. Ecce lignū crucis, Ab illo loco
in antea iuuat ī cātu a ministris vs-
que ad Venite ador. Choro verō
cantante. Venite ador. oēs se p̄ster
nūt. Deinde procedit ad anteriore
partē anguli eiusdem cornu episto-
le: & discooperiens amplius crucē,
elevant eā paulisp̄ altius, quam pri-
mo, incipit. Ecce lignū crucis, alijs
cantantibus & adorantibus, vt supra.
Deinde sacerdos p̄cedit ad mediū
altaris: & discooperiēs crucē totali-
ter, ac eleuando eā tertio, altius in-
cipit. Ecce lignum crucis: alijs can-
tantibus, & adorantibus, vt supra.
Postea sacerdos deponit crucē in
loco ad hoc preparato ante altare.



Ecce lignum crucis, in quo salus mundi pe pen-

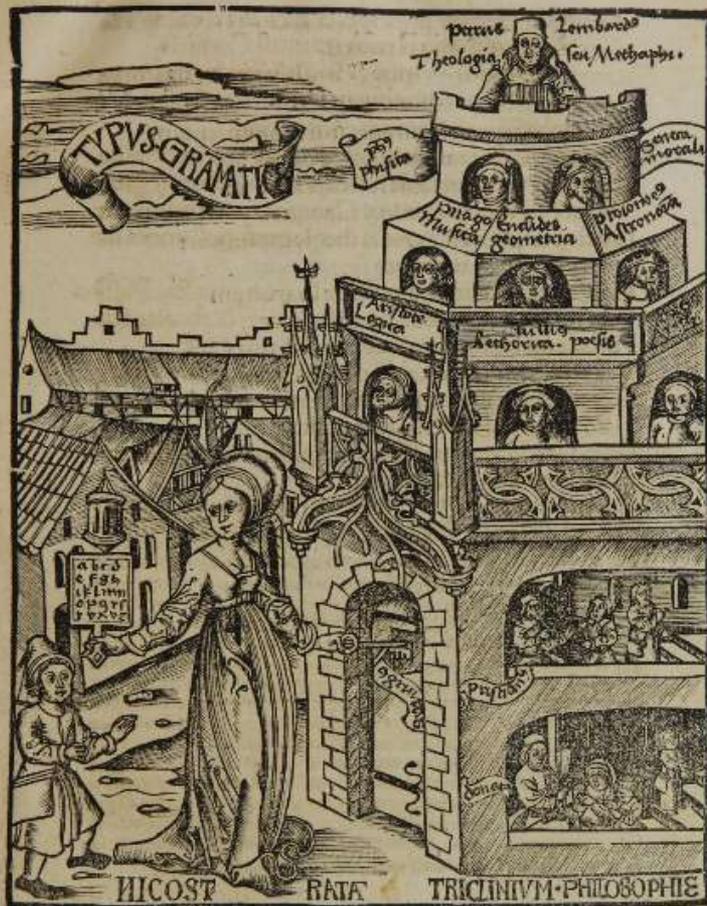


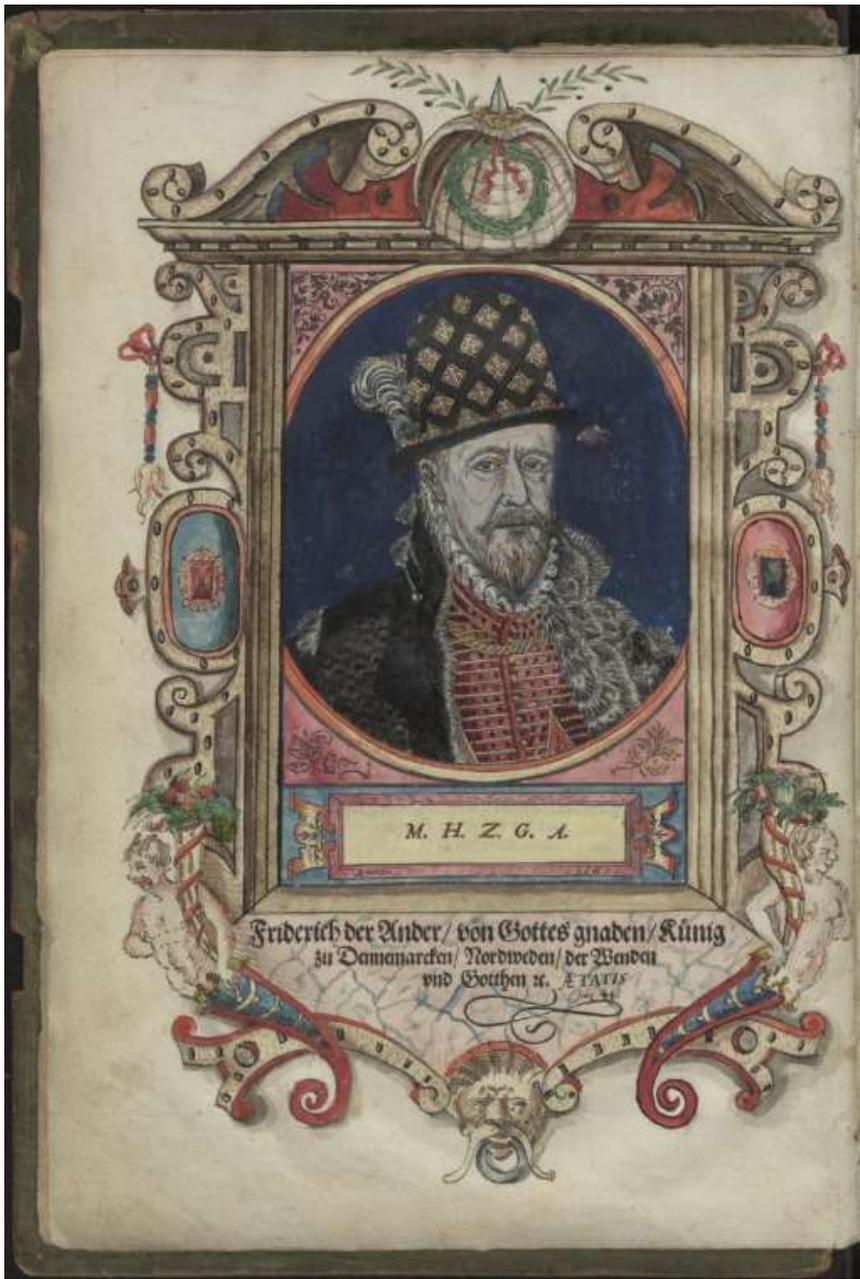
dit. Chorus. Amen. Venite te adoremus.

Deinde deponit eam cāmēta: & ac-
cedit ad adorandū crucē, ter genua
flexens ante deosculatiōē crucis.
Hoc factō, reuertit, & accipit calcia-
mētā & casulā. Postmodū ministri
altaris, deinde alij ter genib^o flexis, vt
dictū est, crucē adorāt: Interim dū

sit ad os, cātant ī propria, & alia q̄
sequūtur totaliter, vel in parte, p̄ut
multitudo adorantiū vel paucitas re-
grit, hoc modo. Duo cātōres cātāt
ī medio chori. *Popule me^o. vsq̄
ad Agios otheos. Popule me^o qd
feci tibi? aut in quo cōtristauī te?*

rīde







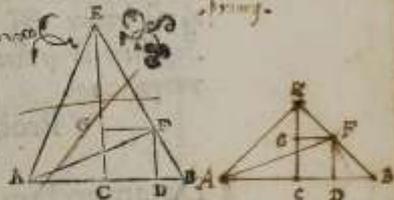
Reverendissimo ac illustrissimo
 principi et domino D. fide
 rico eius nominis secundo
 Dama Norwicia Slavoniarum
 et Gothorum Regi, Duci
 Slesviciae, Holsatiae, Stormar-
 riae et Ditmarsiae, Comiti
 Oldenburgensi et Delmen-
 horvensi et Dno suo cla-
 rissimo, humillime
 offero

Nicolanus
 Hemmingius

ἀπὸ τῆς ἀνίσωρ ὅλης τμημάτων τετραγώνου,
 διπλασιάσει τῆτε ἀπὸ τῆς ἡμισείας, εἰ τὸ ἀπὸ τῆς
 μεταξὺ τῆς ἡμῶν τετραγώνου.

Theor. 9. Propo. 9.

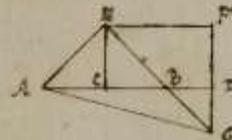
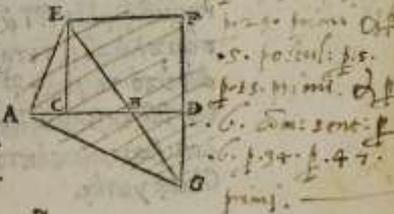
Si recta linea secetur in æqualia & non
 æqualia: quadrata quæ ab inæqualibus
 totius segmentis fiunt, du-
 plicia sunt & eius quod à
 dimidia, & eius quod ab
 intermedia sectionū sit,
 quadratorum.



Ἐὰν αἰθεῖα γογγυῖ τμηθῆ δίχα, προσεθῆ δέ τις
 αὐτῆ αἰθεῖα ἐπ' εὐθείας, ἢ ἀπὸ τῆς ὅλης σὺ τῆς
 προσκειμένης, ἢ ἀπὸ τῆς προσκειμένης τὰ σωμα-
 φότερα τετραγώνου, διπλασιάσει τῆτε ἀπὸ τῆς
 ἡμισείας, ἢ τῆς ἀπὸ τῆς συνημμένης ἔτε τῆς ἡμι-
 σείας ἢ τῆς προσκειμένης, ὡς ἀπὸ μᾶς ἀναγε-
 φάντ τετραγώνου.

Theor. 10. Propo. 10.

Si recta linea secetur bifariam, adiciatur
 autē ei in rectū quæpiā re-
 cta linea: quod à tota cū
 adiuncta, & quod ab ad-
 iuncta, ytraque simul qua-
 drata, duplicia sunt & e-

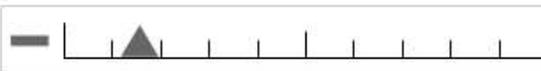




scroll



reset



zoom



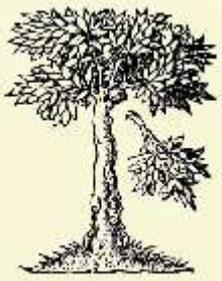
rotate

Cataloguing

- We retain source library's cataloguing
- We add standardised terms to aid searching
- Longer term: creating full rare-book MARC records, as in EEBO

Title:	True relations of sundry conferences had between certaine Protestant doctours and a Iesuite called M. Fisher (then prisoner in London for the Catholique fayth:) together with defences of the same. In which is shewed, that there hath always beene, since Christ, a visible church, and in it a visible succession of doctours & pastours, teaching the vnchanged doctrine of fayth, left by Christ and his apostles, in all points necessary to saluation and that not Protestants, but only Roman Catholiques haue had, and can shew such a visible church, and in it such a succession of pastours and doctours, of whome men may securely learne what pointe of fayth are necessary to saluation. / By A.C. ↵
Additional titles:	Reple to jesuit Fishers answere to certain questions propounded by king James. Romish Fisher caught and held in his owne net.
Author:	A. C. ↵
Other authors:	Sweet, John, 1570-1632. ↵ Floyd, John, 1572-1649. ↵ Fisher, John, 1569-1641.
Imprint:	[Saint-Omer : English College Press], Permissu superiorum M. DC. XXXVI. [1626]
Date:	1626
Bib name / number:	STC (2nd ed.) / 10916.5 Allison & Rogers. Catholic Books, 610. /
Physical description:	[16], 74, [4], 72, [16], 178 p.
Notes:	Sometimes attributed to John Sweet, to John Floyd, and to John Fisher. Imprint from STC. A reply to STC 25382: White, Francis. A reple to jesuit Fishers answere to certain questions propounded by king James. Also a reply to STC 10378: Featley, Daniel. The Romish Fisher caught and held in his owne net. In three parts. Part 2, *An answer to a pamphlet, intituled: The Fisher caught in his owne net*, (with publication date 1623) is a reissue of STC 10910.4 with added (leaves L-M4): *An appendix containing an answere to .. D. White, and D. Fealty*. Part 3 is subdivided into two parts (both with publication date 1625): 1) *Reply to D. VWhite and D. Fealty .. The first part* and 2) *A reply to D. VWhite, and Doctour Featly. The second part*); but register and pagination are continuous. Formerly STC 23530; part 3 formerly 10915. Part 3 identified as STC 10915 on UMI microfilm reel 885. Imperfect: part 1 title page stained, affecting text. Imperfect as filmed; part 2 not filmed; reel 885 contains only part 3; reel 1815 contains only part 1. Reproductions of the originals in the Harvard University Library (all three parts) and in the Cambridge University Library (part 3 only). Appears at UMI microfilm reels 885 (Cambridge University Library copy) and 1815 (Harvard University copy).
Copy from:	Harvard University Library
UMI Collection /	STC / 885:16
reel number:	STC / 1815:27
Subject:	White, Francis, 1564?-1630. Featley, Daniel, 1562-1645. Catholic Church -- Apologetic works. Catholics -- Early works to 1800.

Enhancing EEB: CERL Thesaurus



Created by the Consortium of European Research Libraries (CERL)

- Database of variants of place names, author names & printer names
- Includes Latin forms and abbreviations (Venetii, Ventiis), historical variants (Venegia, Veneza), modern European forms (Venice, Venise, Venedig)
- Contains 70,000 records

Enhance searchability

- ProQuest's partnership with CERL allows us to integrate this data into our search
- We display one standardised form in the record, but users can search on any variants and get hits

Contribute to the Thesaurus

- When we find new variants in the EEB data, we feed this back to CERL for inclusion in the Thesaurus

Conclusions (so far)

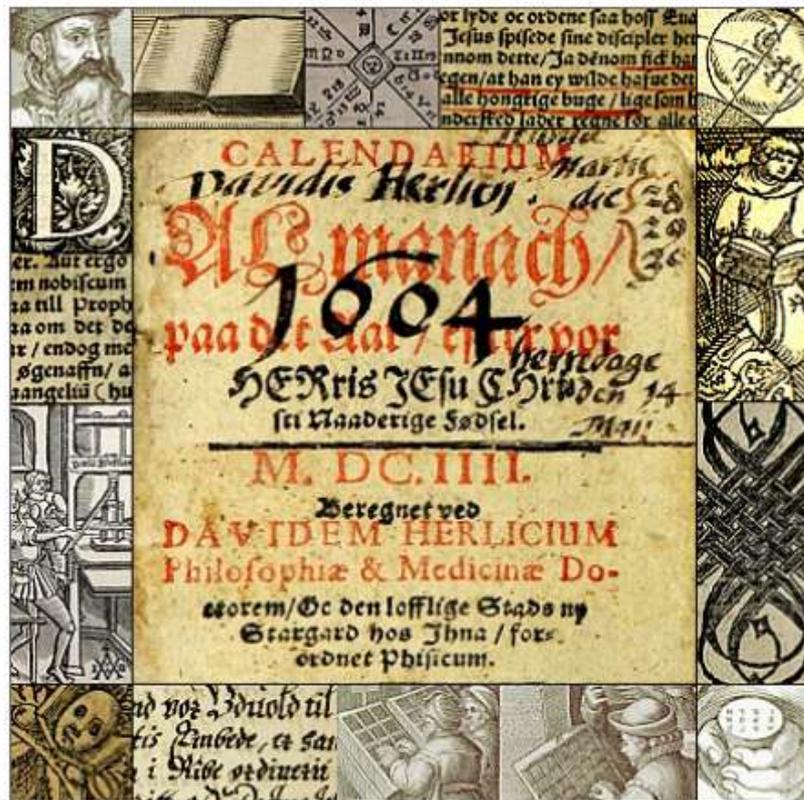
- A viable model which opens up access to national collections
- A resource with huge benefit for scholars and students globally
- Allows new discoveries in early modern history
- A specialist approach to capturing and displaying early modern texts
- Advantage for libraries of working with an experienced and trusted partner



Welcome to *Early European Books*

Early European Books traces the history of printing in Europe from its origins through to the close of the seventeenth century, offering full-colour, high-resolution facsimile images of rare and hard-to-access printed sources.

[Read more about *Early European Books*](#) or find out [what's new](#)



Featured content

The poems of Francesco Petrarca (Petrarch), published in Basel in 1582, with commentary by Lodovico Castelvetro, and with manuscript notes throughout in the hand of Galileo Galilei.



What Users Are Saying

“I have seen tears well up in the eyes of a graduate student as I introduced the resource...”

-- Ann Bristow, Indiana University, Bloomington

"I just wanted to say that Early English Books Online is one of the two greatest research tools for historians I have ever seen."*

"Thank you 1000 times for making my dissertation work immeasurably easier."*

“Your spectacular database has totally transformed my professional life.”*

“The benefits to genealogists continue to astonish.”

-- Leslie Corn, New York
Genealogical and Biographical Society

* Unsolicited comments from scholars via website