



# Cultural Exchanges: Texts and Objects

Books and Cultural Exchange

Ingrid De Smet

Warwick-Johns Hopkins Venice Summer School May-June 2019

# Books as objects of exchange

Individual copies not always identifiable, but:

- Testimonials
  - Paratexts, especially dedicatory epistles
  - Occasional poetry
  - Ego-documents:
    - Autobiographies, diaries, personal papers...
  - Humanist correspondences:
    - cf. EMLO project
  - Quotations, allusions but !!! evidence of reading is not evidence of owning!
- Library catalogues
- House inventories (*inventaires après décès*)
- Wills and testaments: legacies
- Auction catalogues
  - Cf. Book Sale Catalogues Online (Brill)

• Material evidence of copies

- Manuscript annotations:
  - Ex-libris
  - Ex-dono
- Binding: general style; personalized
- Cf. provenance catalogues / library catalogue notes; databases of bindings

Visual evidence of presentation / exchange – MS illumination, frontispiece in printed book

# Renaissance Libraries

- Montaigne's *librairie* ca. 1,000 volumes – currently 105 known
- *Président* Barnabé Brisson more than 2,816 volumes
- Claude Dupuy 853 works, plus a 1,000 others described as *paquets*
- Joseph Scaliger estimated ca. two thousand volumes. (sales catalogue lists 1382 items)
- Pierre de L'Estoile diaries of more than 3,300 titles (many short pamphlets)

\*

- Henri de Mesmes' collection *bibliothecam omni librorum egregiorum copia refertissimam* (Adrien Turnèbe); *e reconditissimis et locupletissimis bibliothecae scriniis* (Denys Lambin)
- Philippe Hurault de Cheverny *tuorum /Copia sit facilis librorum:/ Quos mille Graecos, mille et Hebraicos,/ Et tunc Latinos, tunc patrios tua / Sacro uetustatis uerendos/ Numine bibliotheca seruat* (J. Dorat)

Not everyone had thousands of books!

Changing circumstances also affected the size of book collections (relocation, plundering, fires, death, bequests...)

- Parisian medical doctors mostly owned collections of a few hundreds, rather than thousands of books (F. Lehoux)
- Ditto for *avocats*
- Isaac Casaubon possessed approximately 500 books, when he moved from Geneva to Montpellier in 1596; at his death in 1614, his library must have consisted of about 2,000 printed books (on top of a number of manuscripts)
- Claude Chappuys (c. 1500-1575), canon of the Cathedral at Rouen, well-known as a translator: 'une belle bibliothèque d'humaniste chrétien, devenue anachronique à l'époque où meurt son propriétaire' (M. Venard) - estimated 256 books— including 24 Italian books ('en italien')
- Mathurin Jousse (17<sup>th</sup>-cent. master locksmith): 117 entries in *inventaire après décès*



Michel  
Eyquem de  
Montaigne  
(1533-1592)

# Montaigne- milestones

- 1533 Born to recently ennobled family
- Education:  
At home (speaking Latin)  
Collège de Guyenne (Bordeaux)  
? Studied law at Toulouse?
- Magistrate in the court of Périgueux
- Friendship with Etienne de la Boétie (d. 1563)
- 1565 Marries Françoise de la Chassaigne  
(with one surviving daughter)
- 1580 first edition of the *Essais*, 2 'books' = [A]
- 1580 'voyage d'Italie'
- 1582 second edition of the *Essais*, 2 'books' Twice elected  
Mayor of Bordeaux  
(office troubled by conflicts of Wars of Religion)
- 1588 third edition of the *Essais*, 3 'books' = [B]
- 1592 death of Montaigne
- 1595 posthumous edition of the *Essais* = [C]  
based on revisions in the *Exemplaire de Bordeaux* = [C]



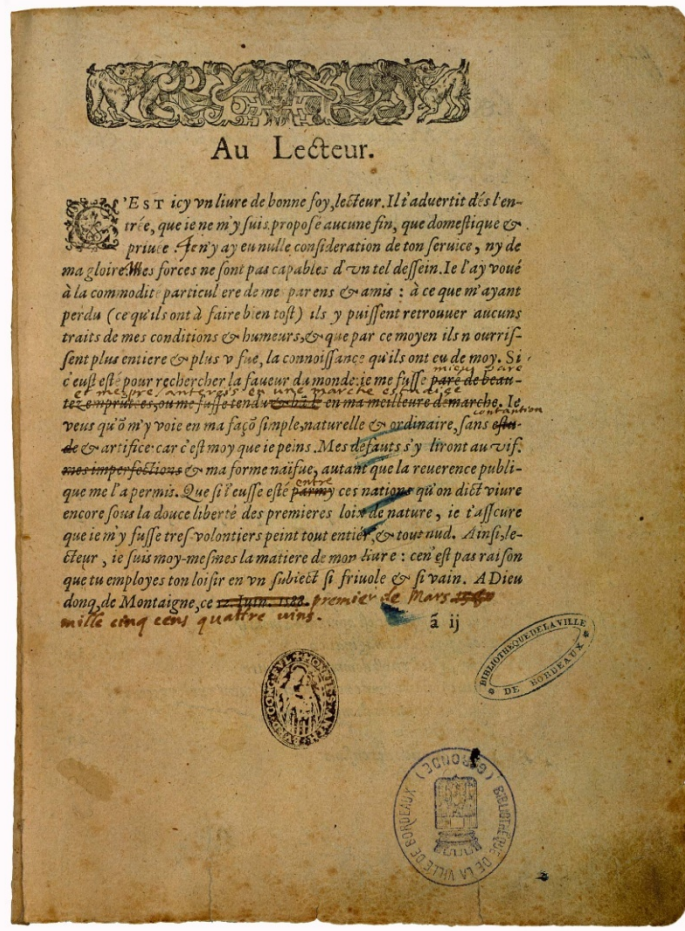
Montaigne's tomb



Title page of the Bordeaux copy

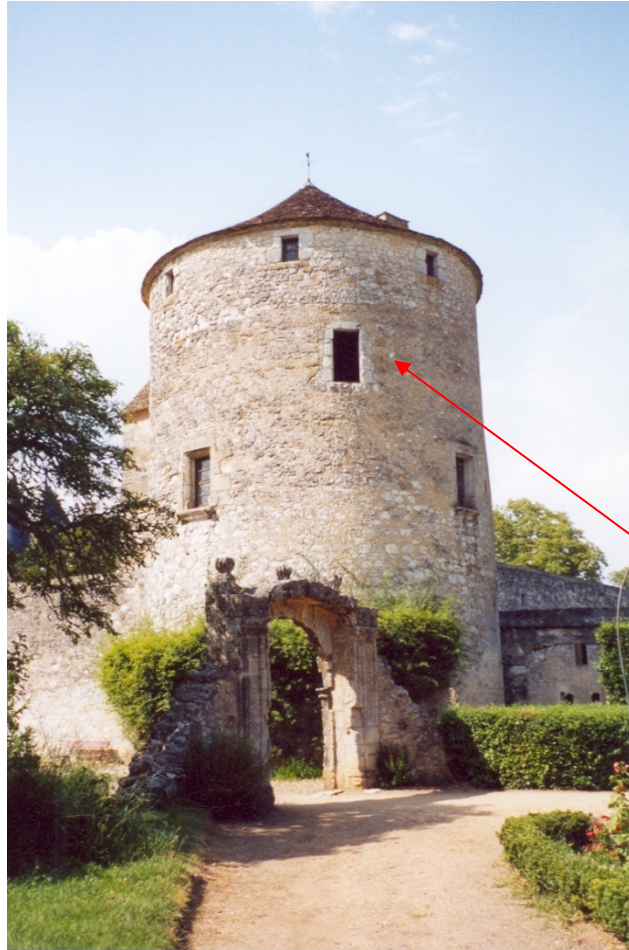
# The *Essais*, or the writing of the self

Au Lecteur



C'est icy un livre de bonne foy, lecteur. Il t'advertit dès l'entrée, que **je ne m'y suis proposé aucune fin, que domestique et privée**. Je n'y ay eu nulle consideration de ton service, ny de ma gloire. Mes forces ne sont pas capables d'un tel dessein. Je l'ay voué à la commodité particuliere de mes parens et amis: à ce que m'ayant perdu (ce qu'ils ont à faire bien tost) ils y puissent retrouver aucuns traits de **mes conditions et humeurs**, et que par ce moyen ils nourrissent plus entiere et plus vivve, la connoissance qu'ils ont eu de moy. Si c'eust esté pour rechercher la faveur du monde, je me fusse mieux paré et me presanterois en une marche estudiée. Je veus qu'on m'y  
→ voie en ma façon simple, naturelle et ordinaire, sans contention et artifice: **car c'est moy que je peins**. Mes defauts s'y liront au vif, et ma forme naïfve, autant que la reverence publique me l'a permis. Que si j'eusse esté entre ces nations qu'on dict vivre encore sous la douce liberté des premieres loix de nature, je t'asseure que je m'y fusse tres-  
→ volontiers peint tout entier, et tout nud. Ainsi, lecteur, **je suis moy-mesmes la matiere de mon livre**: ce n'est pas raison que tu employes ton loisir en un subject si frivole et si vain. A Dieu donq, de Montaigne, ce premier de Mars mille cinq cens quatre vingts.

# La Tour de Montaigne



Chez moy, je me destourne un peu plus souvent à ma librairie, ... Là, je feuillette à cette heure un livre, à cette heure un autre, ...; tantost je resve, tantost j'enregistre et dicte, en me promenant, mes songes que voicy. Elle est au troisieme estage d'une tour. Le premier, c'est ma chapelle, le second une chambre et sa suite, où je me couche souvent, pour estre seul. Au dessus, elle a une grande garderobe. ... Je passe là et la plus part des jours de ma vie, et la plus part des heures du jour. Je n'y suis jamais la nuict.



# Reconstruction



« De trois commerces » (III, 3) : « La figure en est ronde, et n'a de plat, que ce qu'il faut à ma table et à mon siège : et vient m'offrant en se courbant, d'une vue, tous mes livres, rangés sur des pupitres [= ajouté en 1595] à cinq degrez tout à l'environ. Elle a trois vues de riche et libre prospect, et seize pas de vide en diamètre. En hiver j'y suis moins continuellement : [...] C'est là mon siège. J'essaye à m'en rendre la domination pure : et à soustraire ce seul coin, à la communauté et conjugale, et filiale, et civile. »



bibliothèque  
chambre  
chapelle

CAESARVM

VITAE POST SVE-

TONIVM TRANQVIL-

LVM CONSCRI-

PTAE.

Quarum autores sunt: hi,

Dion Cassius Nicæus.

Aelius Spartianus.

Iulius Capitolinus.

Aelius Lampridius.

Vulcatius Gallicanus.

Ioan. Baptistæ Egnatii Veneti in eisdem  
Annotationes.

V  
I  
R  
T  
U  
S  
D  
E  
V  
C  
H



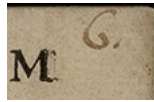
C  
O  
M  
I  
T  
E  
F  
O  
R  
T  
U  
N  
A



APVD SEB. GRYPH-

PHIVM LVGD.

M. D. LI.



The "b" ownership mark of La Boëtie, attested on 20 books (A. Legros)

Montaigne's copy of Egnazio's *Cæsarum vitæ post Suetonium Tranquillum conscriptæ*, Lyon, S. Gryphe, 1551, vol. I et II, with annotations (marginalia and underlinings) by Étienne de La Boëtie (Bordeaux, BM, PF 6647/1 et PF 6647/2 Rés. coffre

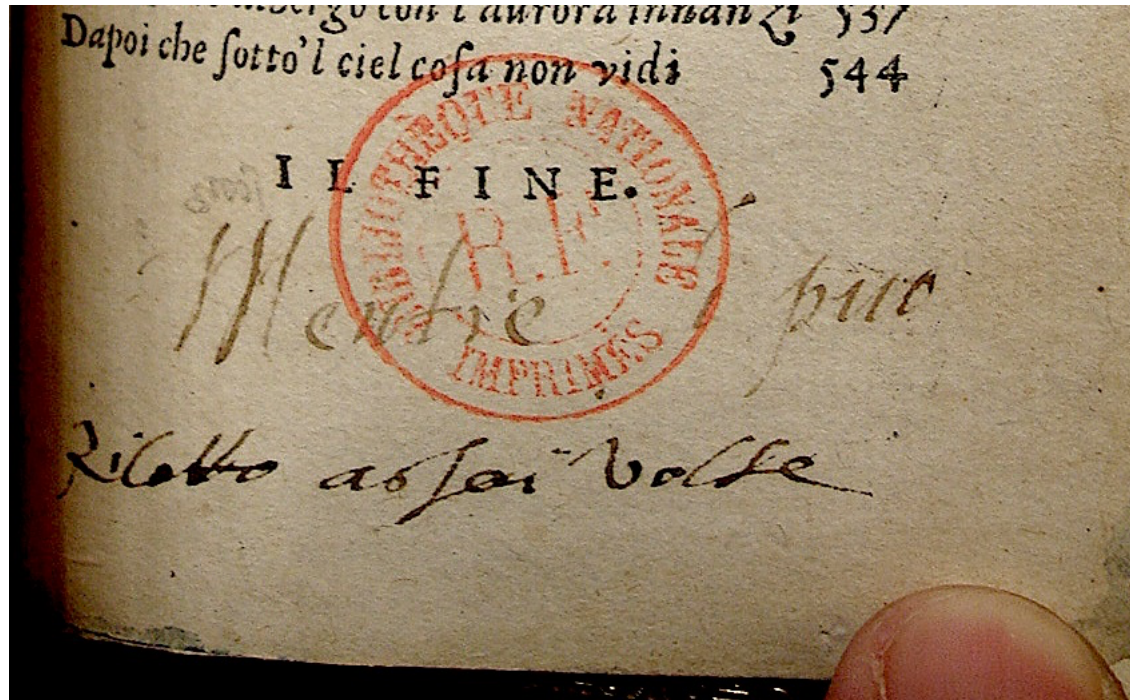
# Montaigne's Petrarch



*Il Petrarca*, Lyon, G. Rouillé, 1550.  
In-8°, italien.

Page de titre : signature *mōtaine* 3. Devise autographe *Mentre si puo* en fin de volume, puis toujours de la main de Montaigne, mais bien plus tard (cf. EB), *Riletto assai volte* (i. e. relu plusieurs fois).

— Paris, BnF : Rés. Z Payen 497.

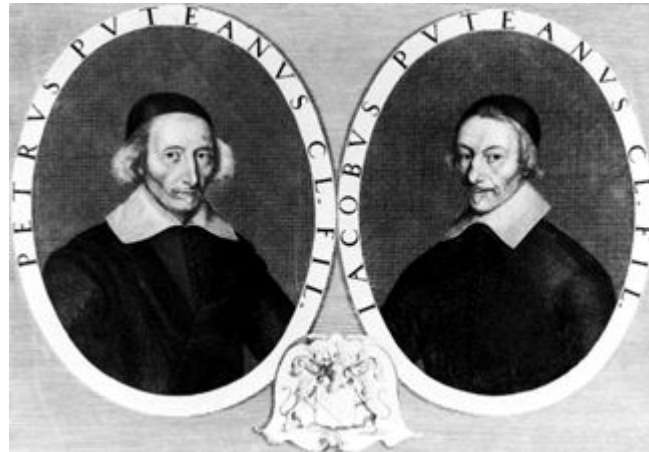
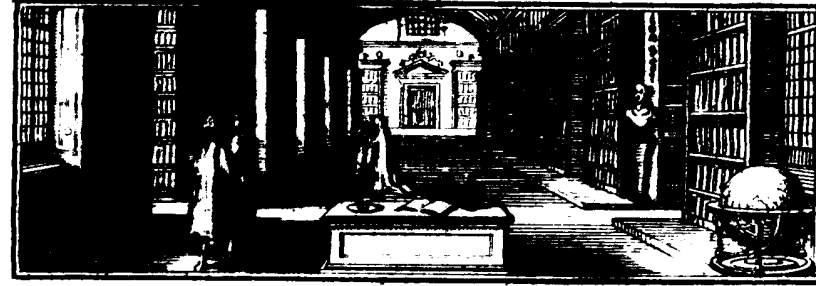


MonLoe : Montaigne à l'œuvre -- <https://montaigne.univ-tours.fr>

- Philip Ford, *The Montaigne Library of Gilbert de Botton at Cambridge University Library* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Library, 2008.)
- — and Neil Kenny (eds). 2012. *La Librairie de Montaigne. Proceedings of the tenth Cambridge French Renaissance Colloquium 2.-4. September 2008 edited by Philip Ford and Neil Kenny. Cambridge 2012.*
- Ingrid A. R. De Smet and Alain Legros, “Un manuscrit de François Baudouin dans la ‘librairie’ de Montaigne”, *Bibliothèque d’Humanisme et Renaissance* 75 (2013), 105-111.
- Barbara Pistilli and Marco Gattoni, *La Biblioteca di Montaigne*, preface by Nicola Panichi (Pisa, 2014).

# Bibliotheca Thuana

- Started 1573
- By 1617 ca. 9,000 works in under 6,000 volumes
- Continued until 1679



Pierre & Jacques Dupuy  
(Puteani)



Ismael Boulliau

Per Iacobinas interdum errare tabernas,  
Teutonicis cum merx libraria venerat oris,  
Et Putei pluteos evolvere saepe juvabat,  
Intactosque manu fasceis tractare sagaci  
Pergulam et admota coram conscendere scala.  
Grande operae pretium fecisse et quisque putabat  
Si quis forte libros fugitivos pulvere posset  
Eruere et socio quaerenti ostendere primus.

In the meantime we liked to browse through the shops of the rue Saint-Jacques, when a new delivery of books had arrived from German shores [*i.e.*, the Frankfurt book fair]. How we loved, time and again, to rummage around the shelves at du Puys', to flick through the brand-new quires with eager fingers, to draw near some steps and climb upon them before the entire band of scholars. Moreover, everyone thought it a priceless achievement if one of us could be the first to draw some long-lost books from underneath the dust and show them to his curious companion.

*Ad V. C. Nicolaum Fabrum Regis praeceptorem*, ms Dupuy 460, fols. 47<sup>r</sup>-55<sup>v</sup> (fol. 47<sup>v</sup>).

## De Thou on book-collecting

Bibliotheca nec ipsa suo caret, aspice, luxu  
Quae mihi morosa tria iam per lustra labore  
Instruitur; quanquam & monitis frugalibus inde  
Ad vitam parce mens instituat agendam,  
Non tamen & frugem servat, spectanda petitis  
Hinc procul & multo variatis pellibus auro.

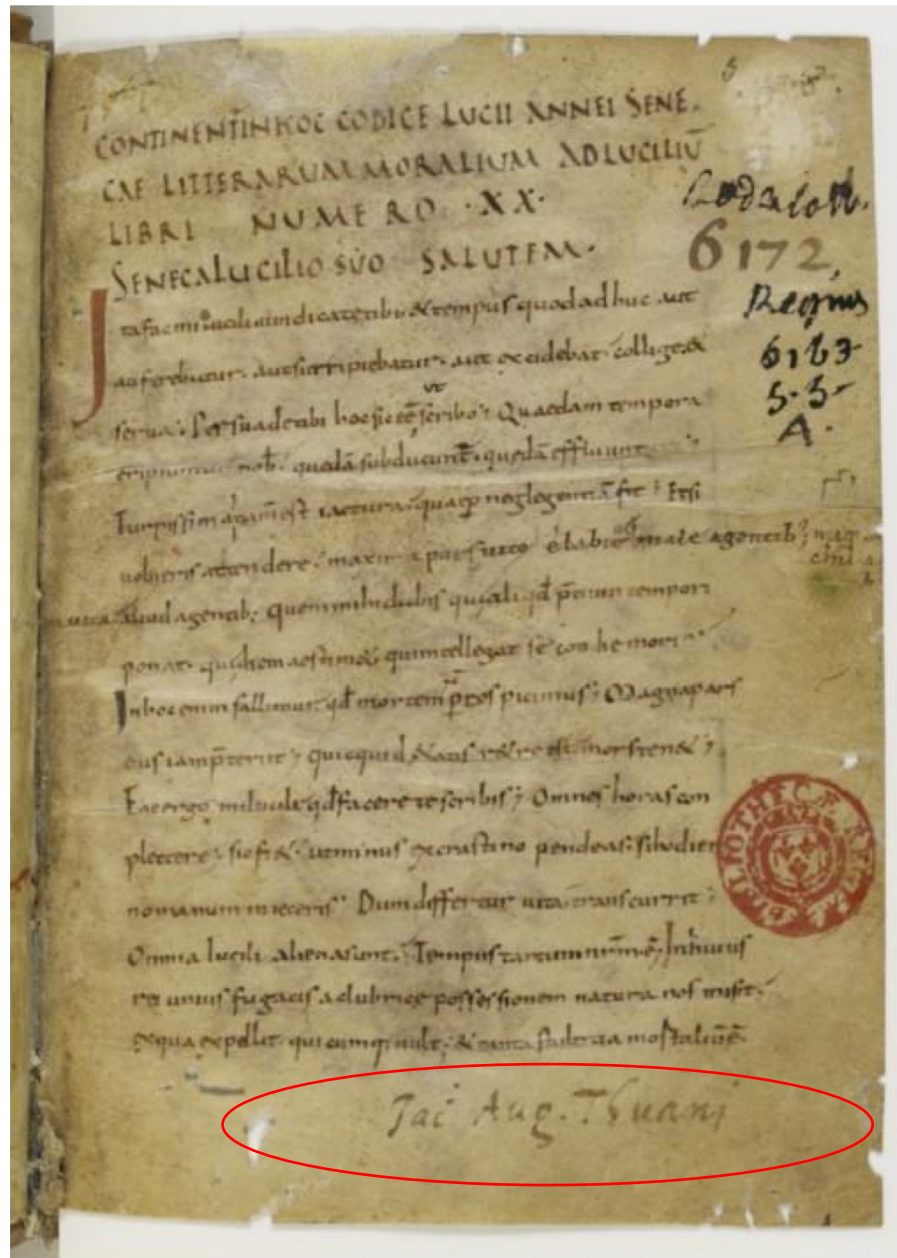
See, the book collection which I have been building up, fastidiously and with much effort, for over fifteen years, is not without its own luxury. Although with its edifying warnings it sets [the reader's] mind to living frugally, it does [itself] not uphold that frugality, if one considers the tomes gathered here from afar and their bindings which shimmer with lavish gold tooling.

*Ad Petrum Pithoeum Epistola*, ms Dupuy 460, fol. 33<sup>r</sup>-36<sup>v</sup> (fol. 34<sup>v</sup>).

- 1588 Lipsius sent de Thou his newly printed *Curae secundae in Tacitum*, using Michel Hurault de l'Hôpital as a courier - current location unknown
- De Thou's presentation copy of Scaliger's *Epistola de vetustate et splendore gentis Scaligerae* (1594), now held in BnF, *Réserve*
- Scaliger's new Manilius edition, sent to de Thou in October 1599, in BL.
- 1595: Casaubon sent de Thou a copy of his *Apuleii Apologia* (Heidelberg, 1594) and of his first Suetonius edition (1595), in order to court his patronage
- 1598: de Thou received from Philippe Duplessis-Mornay a copy of his *De l'Institution, Usage et Doctrine du Saint Sacrement de l'Eucharistie en l'Eglise Ancienne*.

- Dec. 1600, de Thou thanks Hugo Grotius for his gifts of his Martianus Capella edition (1599) and his *Syntagma Arateorum*, as well as for a manuscript Latin poem on the King's marriage to Marie de Médicis.
  - 1604, presentation copy of Konrad Rittershausen's *As fatidicus* (Amberg, 1604) offered to de Thou, now in Beinecke collection, Yale University Library.
  - 1613 Jacques III Cappel sends de Thou a copy of his *Historia sacra et exotica ab Adamo ad Augustum*
  - 1614: John Barclay (1582-1621), presents de Thou with copy of *Icon animorum* (1614), now held in the Bibliothèque de la Sorbonne.
- 
- 1596 de Thou acquires several manuscripts of Pierre Pithou (d. 1596), including a MS of Petronius (BnF, ms lat. 8049, BnF, ms lat. 3358) and the 11th-century chronicle (*Historia*) of Adhémar de Chabannes (BnF ms lat. 5927)
  - 1612, Nicolas Lefèvre leaves his manuscript collection to de Thou by testament; de Thou also received a copy of a printed collection of geometrical texts with annotations by Lefèvre, one of which refers in turn to a manuscript owned by de Thou.





Seneca, Epistolae  
morales (BnF, ms latin  
8658A, fol. 3  
(cote catalogue 1617 P.  
Dupuy [no. 423])

BL. 3178.

PETRI BEM-  
BI EPISTOLARVM  
Leonis decimi Pont. Max.  
nomine scriptarum

Libri XVI.

Placuit præterea eiusdem autoris epistolas  
aliquot sanequã doctas adnectere.

VIDELICET

Ad Longolium	III.
Ad Budæum	II.
Ad Erasmum.	I.



Excudebat Lugduni. M. D. XL.

JAC. AVG. THYANI.



390

PETRI BEMBI

Carolo Hispaniæ Regi.

XXXVI.

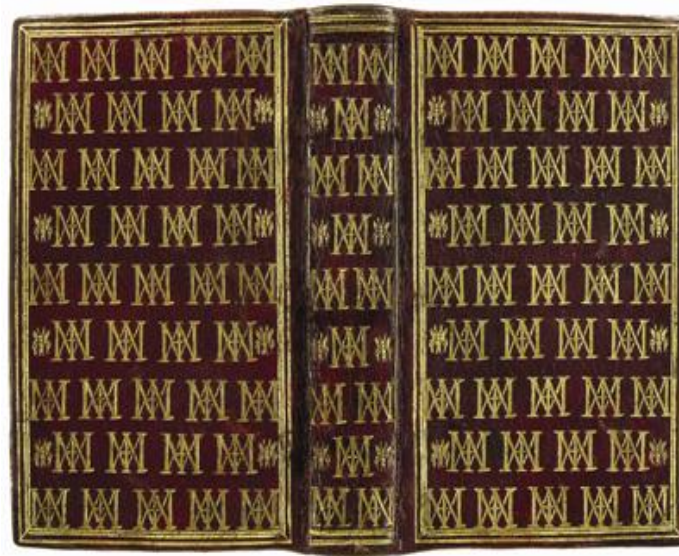
**A**quilas quatuordecim, quibus capiendis idoneas,  
quas mihi Adulfus Vandra familiaris tuus attulit,  
Regium sanè munus libenter, ut accevit, accepi. Et sunt  
enim miræ pulchritudinis, et abs te, quem ego mihi filij  
loco esse duxi: eius præterea generis, quod omnium et no-  
bilibius est et rarius, ut neque multæ ullis in locis capiari  
turque sepe ad nos ueniant. Tu uerò uno munere tot  
mifisti, ut existimem earum capiendarum artem aliquã  
te callere. Nisi forte ipsæ sponte sua omnibus è regionibus  
istò conuolant, ut abs te capiantur, tibiq; seruiant.  
Quod si est, tu eis male gratus fuisti, qui ad me miseris.  
Sed omnino extra iocum, mallet tibi eas retinuisse, quã  
mihi misisses. Quippe, quæ tibi uoluptati multo magis  
fuissent, quàm mihi erunt, qui tantummodo cū autumni  
Romanum cœlum fugio, ualetudinis interdum causa re-  
uatione aucupioq; me oblecto, uel eos potius, qui mecum  
sunt: ut iucundior per agros uagatio et delectabilior  
nos diutius in labore uia teneat. Tu uerò adolescens et  
Rex, ut multas horas omni tempore consumere arbitra-  
tu tuo possis, eis et sæpius usus fuisses, et utilius, addq;  
etiam et decentius. Quod mihi tamen munus ipsum tuum  
multo charius atque amabilius facit, cum eo te defra-  
des ipse, qui uti recte potes, ut mihi des, qui nõ possum.  
Et quoniam bellissime, ut dixi, sunt: dabo operam, ut  
aliquo te remunerer munere. Interea ualebis, nosq; ut se-  
eis diliges. Dat. quarto. Id. Ianuarij. M. D. XLV.  
Anno quarto. Roma.

Petri

# Bindings from the Bibliotheca Thuana:



*Rerum Burgundicarum  
libri sex... Anvers : C.  
Plantin, 1584  
[Dole, 16-G-55-R]*



*Liber Psalmorum: diligenter emandatus, ..., cui  
praefixus est elegans ac pius beati Hieronymi  
prologus. Lyon: Thiebauld Payen, 1559; [bound  
with:] Sequuntur hymni qui in vespers, matutinis,  
atque aliis horis canonicis in ecclesia dei per  
totum annum leguntur. [s.l., s.n., c. 1560]; [and:]  
Pierre Pithou (1539–1596). Comes Theologus,  
sive, Spicilegium ex sacra messe. [s.l., s.n.], 1590.  
Copyright © Bridwell Library, 2006*



*I. Camerarii Pab.  
Commentarii explication',  
orationis Ciceronianæ  
dictæ pro L. Murena.  
1579  
Cat. Drouot  
Sold in 2002 for 28,500  
EUR*

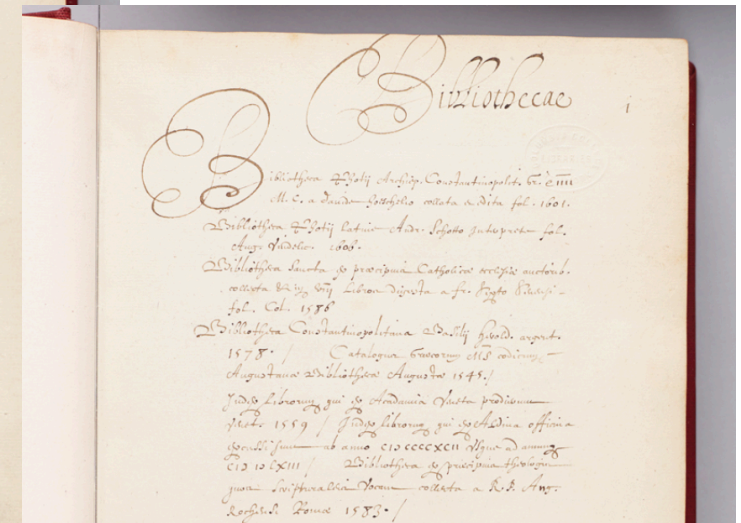
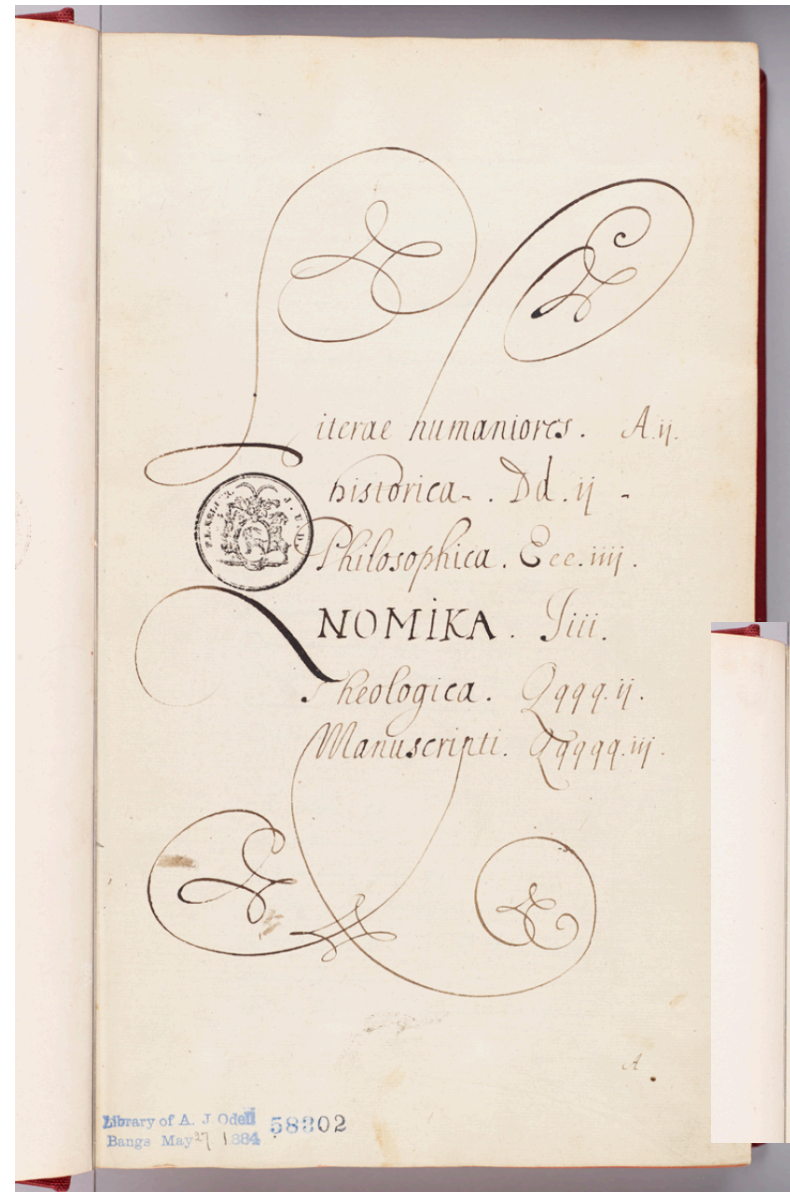
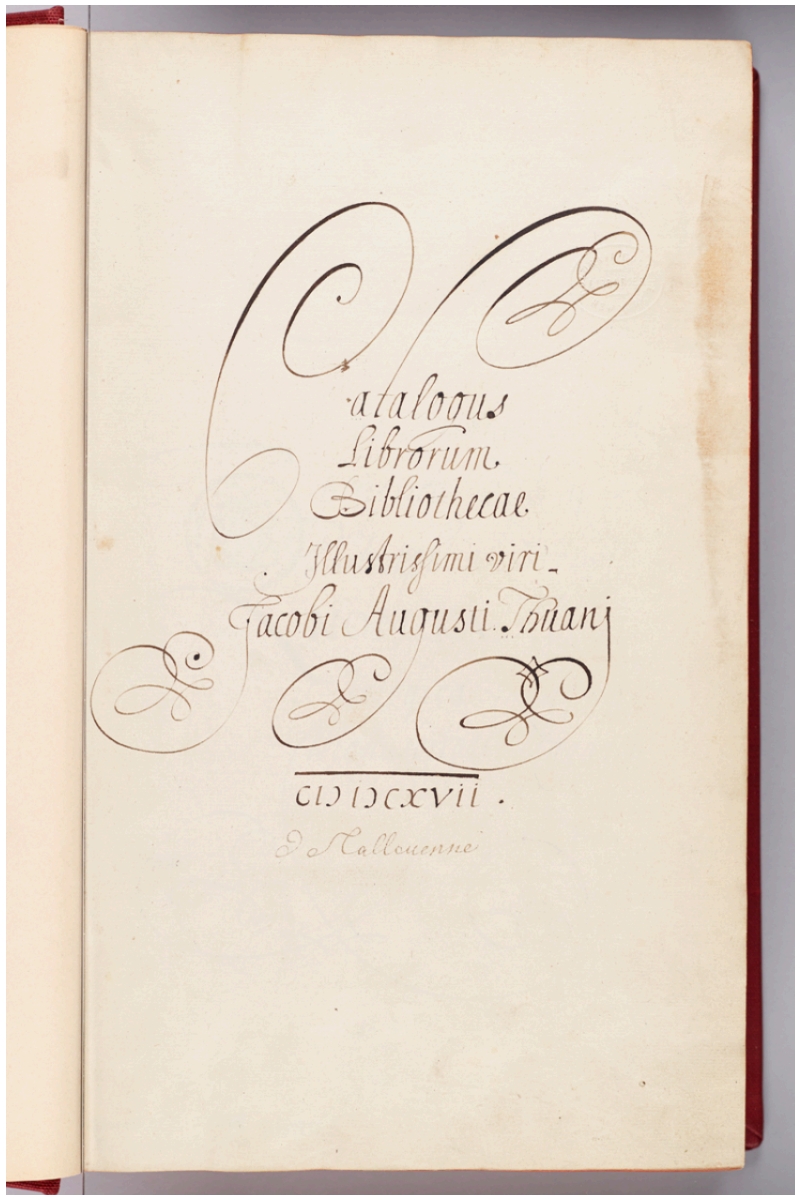
Bible, Latin. With the Glossa ordinaria attributed to Walafrid Strabo and others, and the interlinear gloss of Anselm of Laon. [Strassburg: Adolph Rusch for Anton Koberger, not after 1480]. Chetham's Library (Manchester) MUN A.9.17-20



[http://www.chethams.org.uk/treasures/treasures\\_bude.html](http://www.chethams.org.uk/treasures/treasures_bude.html)

Columbia University Librarian,  
ms Butler 6th Fl. East (Non-  
Circulating) MS X018 T42 Q

Catalogus librorum  
bibliothecae  
illustrissimi viri Jacobi  
Augusti Thuanj (1617)





# Bibliotheca Bongarsiana

library of French diplomat and scholar Jacques Bongars (1554–1612)  
-> Strasburg -> Basel -> Bern

Incorporated into library at Bern in 1632 (today Bern University Library and Burgerbibliothek)

3,000 printed books and 650 Medieval and Renaissance manuscripts – a number of MSS online

Includes part of the MSS that belonged to Pierre Daniel (but care must be taken with attributions)



# links

<http://picus.unica.it> (Biblioteche Filosofiche Private in Età Moderna e Contemporanea)

British Library Database of Bookbindings <http://www.bl.uk/catalogues/bookbindings>

British Armorial Bindings <https://armorial.library.utoronto.ca>

Reliures numérisées de la Bibliothèque nationale de France <http://reliures.bnf.fr>

Decorative bookbinding at the Brera (<http://www.braidense.it/bookbinding/ukd.htm>)

<https://libguides.bodleian.ox.ac.uk/modern-sc/provenance> (refers for example to card indexes)

See also David Pearson, *Provenance Research in Book History: A Handbook* (London: British Library, 1994, repr. with introduction, 1998).

<https://primarysources.brillonline.com/browse/book-sales-catalogues-online> (paying)

CERL Online Provenance Resources (by country / library): <https://www.cerl.org/resources/provenance/geographical>



