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/ by John Ferguson.**

**Contributors**

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

ON

HISTORIES OF INVENTIONS

AND

BOOKS OF SECRETS

PART III

BY

JOHN FERGUSON, M.A.

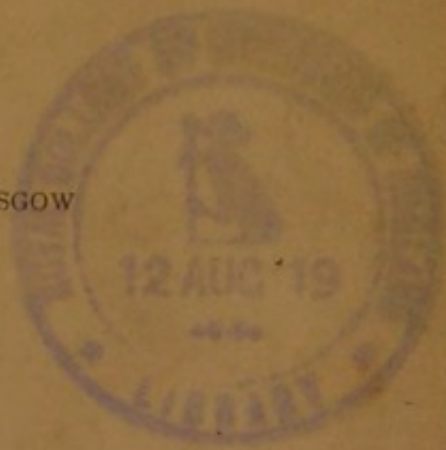
PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW

[*Read to the Archæological Society of Glasgow, 18th December, 1884*]

GLASGOW

STRATHERN & FREEMAN, 145 WEST NILE STREET

1885





DICTIONARIAL NOTES  
HISTORIES OF INVENTIONS  
BOOKS OF SECRETS

PART II.

JOHN WILKINSON

Author of the "Secrets of the Great Pyramid"

London: Published by J. WILKINSON, 10, Pall Mall.

1804.

Printed by J. WILKINSON, 10, Pall Mall.

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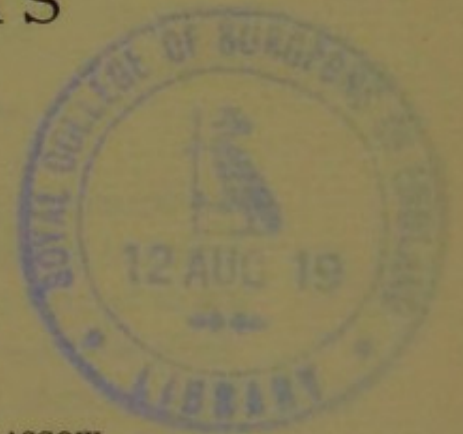
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BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES

# HISTORIES OF INVENTIONS

## BOOKS OF SECRETS

PART III

(100 Copies Reprinted).

JOHN HENSON, M.A.

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OF SECRETS

AND THE HISTORY OF INVENTIONS

1907



# BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON HISTORIES OF INVENTIONS AND BOOKS OF SECRETS.

## PART III.

BY

JOHN FERGUSON, M.A.,

PROFESSOR OF CHEMISTRY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW.

[*Read at a Meeting of the Society held at Glasgow on 18th December, 1884.*]

THE acquisition of a considerable amount of new material has induced me to solicit once more the attention of the Society to the literature of technical receipts and "secrets," especially as several of the books to be referred to are even more curious than those brought forward on previous occasions. Among them are some, remarkable for their contents; others, attractive from their rarity; while a third set consists of first editions, always of value, as representing the works as they left their authors' hands. The notes will treat, as formerly, I. of histories of inventions; II. of books of secrets. Under the second head there will be a sub-division into, A, notes on editions of works different from those already quoted; and, B, notes on works referred to now for the first time, which will form the fourth, and, as I intend, the concluding part of this research.

I. HISTORIES OF INVENTIONS.—In the enumeration of these histories by Labbe,<sup>1</sup> Teissier,<sup>2</sup> and Beckmann,<sup>3</sup> there is one, *De originibus rerum*, by

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<sup>1</sup> Labbe, *Bibliotheca Bibliothecarum*, Rothomagi, 1678, p. 73.

<sup>2</sup> Teissier, *Catalogus auctorum qui Librorum Catalogos . . . scriptis consignarunt*, Genevæ, 1686, p. 119.

<sup>3</sup> Beckmann, *Beyträge zur Geschichte der Erfindungen*, Leipzig, 1792, III. p. 456. *Trans. Archaeol. Soc. Glasg.*, 1883, II. p. 231.



Gulielmus Pastregicus, printed in 1547. Having come into possession of a copy of it, I have been led to make some inquiries about the writer, but have failed to find anything in detail about him in English books of reference. It is not surprising, however, that his name has been passed over, for Tiraboschi<sup>1</sup> says that it was hardly known in Italy, while beyond that country it was as good as unknown; he might have added that even in Italy, last century, his very existence was called in question.<sup>2</sup>

He was born at Pastrengo<sup>3</sup> early in the fourteenth century, and may have belonged to the illustrious family of the Guarienti. He tells us that he studied jurisprudence under Oldrado da Lodi, a distinguished lawyer, and he ultimately acquired the posts of notary and judge, which he filled at Verona. In 1335 he was despatched to Pope Benedict XII. at Avignon, from Mastino

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<sup>1</sup> Tiraboschi, *Storia della Letteratura Italiana*, Firenze, 1807, Tomo V. p. 401.

<sup>2</sup> This seems to have been done by Signor Francesco Arisi. His averments were criticised and shown to be quite erroneous by the editor of the *Giornale de' Letterati d'Italia*, Venezia, 1713, Tomo XV. p. 198, sqq. The editor quotes several earlier Italian authorities who have mentioned and commended Pastrengo, and he also refers to his book. It is remarkable that Tiraboschi has taken no notice of this article, but has given Maffei—whose work, *Verona Illustrata*, did not appear for twenty years after—the credit of having been the first to recover Pastrengo's name from oblivion and to show how highly he was to be esteemed for his efforts in literature and history.

<sup>3</sup> Beckmann (*Beyträge*, Leipzig, 1792, III. p. 456) says: "He was called Pastregicus, Pastregius, Pastrengus, Pastergicus, and Guglielmo Pastrengo, from the little village of Pastrengo, which in Jonson's map: Territorio di Verona, is situate on the Adige, between Verona and the Lago di Garda." From a more minute account of its location by Schreiner (Ersch and Gruber's *Allgemeine Encyclopädie*, Leipzig, 1840, Sect. III. Th. XIII. p. 216), one gathers that it lies on an eminence of the same name, in a valley separated from that of the Adige by a ridge, three-quarters of a German mile from the lake, and two German miles from the capital. This agrees fairly well with the position assigned it in Spruner and Menke's *Hand-Atlas für die Geschichte des Mittelalters und der neueren Zeit*, Gotha, 1871-80. Map No. 28.

According to the article in the *Giornale*, XV. p. 200, it is a village in the province of Verona, not very far from Pescentina on the Adige. It was in this neighbourhood that the estates of the Guarienti lay. Our author is sometimes erroneously considered a native of Verona, while Maffei has fallen into the opposite mistake of distinguishing him from *Gulielmus Veronensis orator*, as he is styled by Petrarch. With regard to the different forms of his name, it may be observed that Maffei and Tiraboschi call him Guglielmo da Pastrengo; the *Giornale*, Guglielmo Pastrengo; and Montfaucon (*Diarium Italicum*, Paris. 1702, p. 48), Guillelmus Pastrengicus.



della Scala, the lord of Verona, and his brother Alberto, to obtain for them confirmation of the dominion of Parma.<sup>1</sup> On this embassy he probably became acquainted with Petrarch. Three years later he was again sent on a message from Mastino della Scala to Avignon. With his own hand Mastino della Scala had assassinated his cousin, Bartolomeo della Scala, Bishop of Verona, and he soon found it not unadvisable to make his peace with the Pope. Pastrengo was successful in this delicate mission, and got the criminal relieved from the ban under which he had been laid. While at Avignon, Pastrengo renewed his acquaintance with Petrarch. The poet having heard of Pastrengo's arrival came to Avignon, but, finding that he could not endure the pain of seeing the places associated with Laura, made his escape to Vaucluse before Pastrengo could visit him at the house where he usually resided when he ventured into Avignon. Thereupon ensued some correspondence between them, which ended apparently in Pastrengo's going to Vaucluse; and in one of Petrarch's verse epistles there is a charming glimpse of the manner in which two such scholars—just five hundred years ago—could divert themselves.<sup>2</sup> After Petrarch had been crowned at Rome in

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<sup>1</sup> A narrative of the events will be found in brief in Sismondi's *Histoire des Républiques Italiennes*, Paris, 1818, T. V. chap. 33. Villani (*Cronica*, L. XI. cap. 30) does not speak of this embassy of Pastrengo's. That is done, however, by Maffei (*Verona Illustrata*, Verona, 1732, Parte Seconda, col. 59), and by the Abbé de Sade in the *Mémoires pour la vie de François Pétrarque*, Amsterdam, 1764, I. p. 270. Tiraboschi has pointed out this discrepancy, but thinks that Maffei had probably good grounds for his statement. From de Sade it has passed into the *Life of Petrarch* by Mrs. Dobson, London, 1797, vol. I. p. 72, and into the *Life of Petrarch* by Campbell, London, 1841, vol. I. p. 151. Misled apparently by the order of Maffei's narrative, G. M. S. Fischer, who has written the article on Pastrengo in Ersch and Gruber's *Allgemeine Encyclopädie*, Leipzig, 1840, Sect. III. Th. XIII. p. 215, has transposed the dates of Pastrengo's two embassies to the Pope at Avignon.

<sup>2</sup> The letters which passed between Petrarch and Pastrengo are to be found in the *Variarum Epistolarum Liber* of the former. Tiraboschi numbers those from Petrarch to Pastrengo, 32, 35, 36, 37, 38; and from Pastrengo to Petrarch, 31, 33, 34. In the copy before me, edited by Chalasius, and printed: *Lugduni, apud Samuelem Crispinum, M.DCI.* 8vo, they are numbered 24, 25, 26, 30, 31, 32 (obviously misprints for 27, 28, 29), 30, 31. Besides these misprints, there are graver errors; for No. 24 and No. 30 (or, as it ought to be, No. 27) are assigned to Petrarch, whereas these two are letters from Pastrengo to Petrarch. The same mistake exists apparently in a Basil edition, and has misled Maffei, as Tiraboschi has shown. The poetical letters are addressed to *Gulielmus Veronensis orator*, and are to be found in the *Epistolarum Libri III.* contained in *Francisci Petrarcae*. . .



1341, he resided for about a year at Parma and wrote to Pastrengo, but they do not appear to have met. In 1345, however, Petrarch saw Pastrengo at Verona, and one of the letters describes how Petrarch on his return to Avignon was accompanied by Pastrengo to the Veronese frontier, and the sorrow with which they parted. From their letters, indeed, it is plain that they were on the most affectionate terms with each other,<sup>1</sup> and as a further proof of it Petrarch sent his son in 1352 to Pastrengo to be educated. The last we know of Pastrengo is that he was still alive in 1361, for in the same year Petrarch sent him a letter on the death of this son. It is thought probable that Pastrengo died before 1370, for in that year Petrarch made a will in which he left some token of remembrance to every one of his friends, but among these is no mention of Pastrengo.

Apart from his connection with Petrarch, his official position in Verona, and his concern with the politics of his time, Pastrengo is known as the compiler of the first biographical and historical dictionary. Other attempts before his had been made, but they were limited in scope. Pastrengo, not ignorant of the difficulties of his task, took a much wider range, included all authors, sacred and profane, and added geography, history, and discovery. When we consider the very defective means at his command, we need not feel surprised at there being gaps and errors in his book, and at the same time we can agree with Tiraboschi and others in admiring his extensive erudition and his unstinted labour.

A manuscript of his work existed in the seventeenth century in the library of St. John and St. Paul at Venice,<sup>2</sup> and there were two manuscripts of it at Rome, which were examined by Montfaucon.

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*poëmata omnia*, Basileae, 1541, 8vo. They are the following: Lib. II. 18 (Tiraboschi says 19); and Lib. III. 3, 11, 12, 20, 34. See also De Sade, *Mémoires pour la vie de Pétrarque*, Amst. 1764, I. p. 377, sqq.; Tiraboschi, *Storia*, Firenze, 1807, V. p. 402.

<sup>1</sup> Montfaucon's statement (*Diarium Italicum*, Paris. 1702, p. 48) that Pastrengo was Petrarch's teacher is considered by Maffei (*Verona Illustrata*, Parte Seconda, col. 58) and subsequent writers to be an error. Evidence of any such relationship is not forthcoming. In one of his verse Epistles (Lib. III. 34), Petrarch tried to induce Pastrengo to go with him to the jubilee at Rome in 1350, but Pastrengo was unable to absent himself from Verona.

<sup>2</sup> Tomasini, *Bibliothecæ Venatæ Manuscriptæ*, Vtini, 1650, p. 27. "Gulielmus Pastregicus, vel Pastrengicus Veronensis causidicus de Viris Illustribus." Curiously enough he does



Two hundred years after it was composed, the work was printed at Venice in 1547, edited by Michelangiolo Blondo. The following is an account of it:

De Originibvs | Rervm Libellvs | Avthore Gvlielmo | Pastregico Veronense. | In  
Qvo Agitvr De Scriptv- | ris Virorum Illustrium. De fundatoribus Vr- | bium.  
De primis rerum nominibus. De | inuentoribus Rerum. De primis | dignitati-  
bus. Deq; magni- | ficis Institutionibus. | Expvrgatvs Omni Errore | atq;  
litura, nunc primum é tenebris eductus | in lucem, in suffragium studentium à |  
Michaeleangelo | Blondo, solerti rerum | exploratore. | 5 | Cum Priuilegio  
P. in X. Annos.

It is a small 8vo, printed in italics, contains 131 leaves numbered, and a blank leaf.

The colophon is on the recto of f. 131:

Impressum Venetijs per Nicolaum de Bascarinis. | Anno Domini. M.D.XLVII.

On f. 131 verso, is a letter to the booksellers and printers warning them against tampering with the printing and sale of certain books. It is dated 1547.

This book is of the highest degree of rarity. After examining all the library catalogues at my command, I can find only one other copy in this country, and it is in the British Museum. There was no copy of it in the Sunderland Library, the place above all others where one might have expected to find such a work.

Montfaucon<sup>1</sup>—who gives the work its correct title, *De Viris Illustribus*—said that it was as completely lost sight of in Venice as if it had never existed, but having got a copy he was minded to bring out a new edition, amending

not tell its size, or say whether it is in one volume or in two. Weiss, however (*Biographie Universelle*, Paris, 1823, Tome 33, p. 113; repeated in the later edition, Paris, no date, Tome 32, p. 242), says that it is in two volumes folio, and that it contains a species of lexicon of writers, and that the second part is a historical and geographical dictionary. Blondo's edition, he adds, contains the second part only. This account of the matter is repeated by Fischer (Ersch and Gruber's *Encyclopädie*, 1840, Sect. III. Th. XIII. p. 215), who commits the error of calling the editor Blando. Brunet (*Manuel du Libraire*, Paris, 1863, IV. col. 428) also says that this MS. is in two volumes, and that Blondo's edition contains only the second part of the work. All this, however, is absolutely wrong. Blondo's edition contains this dictionary of authors—which is indeed by far the largest section—as well as that of history, geography, &c. Blondo's mistake consisted in not retaining the author's title, *De Viris Illustribus*, and this has misled subsequent writers who have probably failed to see a copy of this very rare book.

<sup>1</sup> *Diarium Italicum*, Paris. 1702, p. 48. This passage is repeated by Fabricius, *Bibliotheca Latina mediæ et infimæ Ætatis*, Hamburgi, 1735, L. VII. p. 474; and by Freytag, *Analecta Litteraria*, Lipsiæ, 1750, p. 662.



Blondo's errors, and collating the text with the two Roman MSS., which, however, he did not accomplish. Maffei<sup>1</sup> also had the intention of editing Blondo's work, but neither did he carry it out.

When Beckmann<sup>2</sup> first described the book, he said: "This rare book I myself have never seen," and he took his description from Labbe. Some twelve years later he<sup>3</sup> stated that he had been favoured with the inspection of a copy sent him from the Ducal Library at Oldenburg, from which it may be inferred that its scarcity in Germany is as great as in this country and in Italy. Tiraboschi does not say whether he ever saw a copy or not, but from the way he speaks of the book having become *rarissima*, it may be supposed that he had not. Every writer has emphasised its rarity. I have noted but a few references to the book in English. The first is by Mrs. Dobson,<sup>4</sup> who has given a more correct description of it than most writers who had access to the same sources of information as she had. The second is by Watt,<sup>5</sup> to whose credit it must be written that he allowed as little as possible to escape him. The third is by Campbell,<sup>6</sup> who has shown himself quite ignorant of the book, and quite ignorant of his ignorance; and the last is in a modern abstract of biography.<sup>7</sup> Others there may be, of course.

The work itself is divided into six heads, as specified in the title, and the material of each is arranged in a classified alphabetical order. The first section relating to the writings of illustrious men is much the longest, but as can be supposed from the extent of the subject and the size of the book the space allotted to each name is very limited. The section on the inventors of things occupies from f. 78 to f. 90, and is even shorter than the corresponding

<sup>1</sup> *Verona Illustrata*, Verona, 1732, Parte Seconda, col. 60.

<sup>2</sup> *Beyträge*, Leipzig, 1792, III. p. 456.

<sup>3</sup> *Beyträge*, Leipzig, 1805, V. p. 306.

<sup>4</sup> *The Life of Petrarch*, London, 1797, vol. I. p. 73. Her account is taken from De Sade's *Mémoires*, Amst. 1764, I. p. 274.

<sup>5</sup> *Bibliotheca Britannica*, Edinburgh, 1824, vol. II. 736j. Watt may have got his information from Gesner's *Bibliotheca*, ed. Simler, Tiguri, 1574, p. 260.

<sup>6</sup> *Life of Petrarch*, London, 1841, vol. I. p. 152.

<sup>7</sup> Woodward and Cates, *Encyclopædia of Chronology*, London, 1872, p. 1097.



section in Contarino's *Il vago e dilettevole Giardino*, formerly referred to. The notices occupy only a few lines each, and are taken chiefly from classical authorities; there is, of course, nothing that would contribute now to the chronicling of invention. But, however defective Pastrengo's work may be in plan and execution, it will always remain a notable landmark in literary history, as being one of the earliest attempts at the construction of a dictionary of the kind. Competent writers in successive periods have given Pastrengo abundant praise. Not to speak of Petrarch, who may be thought too partial, we have the judgments of Onofrio Panvini, Giambattista Peretti, Antonio Torresano,<sup>1</sup> and especially Maffei.<sup>2</sup> Montfaucon<sup>3</sup> commends the work for its references to writers and to books up to its time unnoticed; Beckmann<sup>4</sup> similarly for its record of books that never got into print, and of writers elsewhere unmentioned; Tiraboschi<sup>5</sup> is still more flattering; Savigny<sup>6</sup> says that the work is doubly interesting for legal literature. Graesse<sup>7</sup> gives him a place in his great chronicle for the same reason, and a more recent allusion to him speaks of him as the representative of learning in his time at Verona.<sup>8</sup>

While admitting, however, all that can be said in praise of Pastrengo, it does not detract from his fame to remember that he had as his contemporary Bartholomew Glanville, and that a century earlier flourished men of as great powers, of even greater learning and of immensely greater production. The epoch of Albertus Magnus, Thomas Aquinas, Vincent de Beauvais, Roger Bacon, all living in the thirteenth century, is not eclipsed for scholarship and labour by any other in the history of science and literature.

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<sup>1</sup> These writers are quoted in the *Giornale de' Letterati d' Italia*, Tom. XV. pp. 199, sqq.

<sup>2</sup> *Verona Illustrata*, Verona, 1732, Parte Seconda, col. 60. He not only praised the grandeur of Pastrengo's idea of a general dictionary of authors, but quotes him several times as an authority.

<sup>3</sup> *Diarium Italicum*, Paris. 1702, p. 48.

<sup>4</sup> *Beyträge*, V. p. 307.

<sup>5</sup> *Storia*, Firenze, 1807, V. p. 404.

<sup>6</sup> *Geschichte des Römischen Rechts*, Heidelberg, 1834, III. pp. 32-4.

<sup>7</sup> Graesse, *Lehrbuch einer Allgemeinen Literärgeschichte*, Dresden, 1843, Bd. II. Abth. III. p. 573.

<sup>8</sup> Voigt, *Die Wiederbelebung des classischen Alterthums*, Berlin, 1880, Bd. I. p. 443.



In a former note<sup>1</sup> reference was made to a work *De origine et laudibus Scientiarum* by Zacharias Lilius, canon of Vicenza, printed at Florence in 1496, but at the time I had not seen it. I have since managed to get a copy of this very rare book.<sup>2</sup> It contains five tracts, of which that on the sciences is the first and longest. As was to be expected, those described are the so-called liberal sciences: grammar, rhetoric, poetry, history, dialectic, arithmetic, geometry, music, astrology, philosophy, medicine, botany, military affairs, civil and canon law, theology. They are dealt with very briefly and the book is partly a history, partly a catalogue and a criticism of writers on the different topics. It is intermediate between the works of Pastrengo and Polydore Vergil both in time and treatment of the subject.

Notwithstanding the numerous editions of Polydore Vergil's treatise, I have observed in catalogues only a very few copies since my last paper. One was of the edition of 1525, in folio, with Holbein's frontispiece; another, of 1546 printed at Lyons by Gryphius. I failed to get either, but by way of compensation have quite accidentally fallen in with a copy of Guarinus' edition of 1563. Guarinus apparently succeeded Isingrinus at Basel; at all events he both used the device of that printer on the title and carried on the Basel tradition, for this copy closely follows the pattern of 1544 and 1546 in size, type and general arrangement. It is not quite so handsome a book as that of 1546, but it has a decided advantage over it, from the student's point of view, in possessing a long index.

The opportunity also has offered itself to me of comparing the two editions of the expurgated version, published at Rome in 1576 and 1585 respectively. The 1576 edition was printed *Romae, Apud Haeredes Antonij Bladij Impressores Camerales*. That of 1585: *Romae, ex officina Bartholomæi Grassi*. The devices on the title page are different. The introductory epistle from Pope Gregory XIII. is quite different. In the 1585 edition, the letter of the author to Odaxius and the first leaf of the Index Capitum have been set up anew, but in the rest of the book no difference between the two editions is

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<sup>1</sup>*Trans. Archaeol. Soc. Glasg.*, 1883, II. p. 232, note ‡

<sup>2</sup>Brunet (*Manuel*, Paris, 1862, III. col. 1078), speaks of his works as rare and little known. Audiffredi (*Specimen . . . Editionum Italicarum*, Romæ, 1794, p. 348), praises the book for its appearance.



detectable until we arrive at the last leaf containing the errata, the register and colophon. The errata in the two editions are different, which would lead one to suppose that the book had been really reprinted; but this is not so: for, so far as I compared them, the errata mentioned as in the 1576 edition exist in the later edition, and vice versa. The register has been obviously reset. The colophon of the 1585 edition, however, has the imprint of Antonius Bladius and the date 1576. So that there was no attempt to conceal the obvious fact that this was the edition of nine years previous, and that, disguised with a new title page, a new date, a new letter from the Pope, and a new *table* of errata, but with the old errata in the text and with the old printer's name and old date in the colophon, the eight books of Polydore Vergil's history, *denuo recogniti et expurgati*, as the title page does not blush to affirm, were again offered to an unwilling public. The expurgated edition—which is besides as ugly as one could desire—must have proved rather dead stock when such desperate means had to be resorted to to galvanise it into life. Comparison of these two issues thus affords an interesting glimpse into some of the publishing devices of the sixteenth century.<sup>1</sup>

I have also got a copy of the Strasburg edition of 1606. It is a compact little volume, printed by Zetzner, the well-known printer, and, in addition to the history of Polydore Vergil, contains extracts from Pliny, Sardus and others, as in one or two of the editions formerly quoted, but there is nothing specially important about it.

Connected, however, with Vergil's work, the question of greatest interest is the date of the first edition. The difficulty I formerly had in answering it was caused by the statements of Panzer and Hain conflicting with those in the Bodleian Catalogue, and in Graesse's *Trésor*.<sup>2</sup> The former authorities give 1499 as the date of the first edition, while the latter two assign 1498 apparently to actual copies. A visit I paid this last autumn to the Bodleian Library has enabled me to ascertain among other things that 1498 assigned to the *De Inventoribus Rerum* in its catalogue is merely a misprint for 1499,

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<sup>1</sup> For further details about the expurgated editions see the work of Dr. Reusch: *Der Index der Verbotenen Bücher*, Bonn, 1883, I. p. 154.

<sup>2</sup> *Trans. Archaeol. Soc. Glasg.*, 1883, II. p. 236.



and that it has no copy dated 1498. The date, 1498, therefore, rests now solely upon Graesse's authority, and as his statement is based ultimately on a second-hand book catalogue of Weigel, it is likely that the latter has misread the rather unfamiliar form MCCCCLXXXXVIII, 1499, and taken it for MCCCCLXXXXVIII, 1498. Though I know by experience how very rash it is to deny the existence of a book which one has not actually seen, I am now convinced that there is no edition of 1498. Hain gives none, Panzer says positively that it is spurious, and I have met with no authentic copy in any library catalogue; the British Museum and the Bodleian have each a copy of 1499 only.<sup>1</sup> But apart from all this, the author's own history is against it. In the preface, the author, while claiming to be the first who had approached the subject, says—with a glance at Erasmus—that there are possibly others with more learning than he, who might have done the work better, as happened in the case of the proverbs "quorum libellum proximo anno Guido principi Urbini duci inscripsimus"—"a collection of which we dedicated to Guido Duke of Urbino, last year." This work, of which I have a copy, is dated in the colophon April 10, 1498.

In the letter to his brother from London, December 5, 1517, prefixed to the 1521, and also to the 1528 edition of the *De Inventoribus Rerum*, Vergil tells us that it took him nine months to compose this history. The colophon of the *De Inventoribus Rerum* is dated August 31, 1499, so that supposing he began to write it immediately after the proverb-book was out of his hands, say in May 1498, the manuscript could not have been finished before January 1499, and the printing would still have to be done. There is another obstacle in the way of a 1498 edition. The prefatory letter to Odaxius in the 1499 and 1528 editions is not dated, but in the 1544, 1546, 1563, 1585, and possibly in some earlier editions as well, it has the date August 5, 1499. In what edition this date was first inserted I do not know, but it seems to have been added by the author, in which case it would indicate that the preface of the book was finished full three weeks prior to the printing of the colophon. Consequently a few months must have elapsed between his completing the *Proverbiorum Libellus* and his beginning the *De Inventoribus*

<sup>1</sup> It may be added that Reusch (*Der Index der Verbotenen Bücher*, Bonn, 1883, I. p. 154) calls the edition of 1499 the first.



*Rerum*, and this space of time sufficed to give him a notion of the popularity of his first literary attempt, which was what spurred him on to make a second. These considerations seem to me to prove definitely that an edition of 1498 does not only not exist, but never could have existed.

In the Bodleian<sup>1</sup> I had the opportunity of collating the edition printed by Senant at Paris early in the sixteenth century. It is the first-mentioned edition in the list already given by me;<sup>2</sup> and as I know of no description of it anywhere, one may be introduced here for the convenience of subsequent investigators.

*Fol. 1 a* Title: Polidori Vergilii | Vrbinatis de Inuentoribus Rerum | Libri Tres operosissima nuper | cura emēdati & seueriore | Lima q accuratissime | expoliti |

*Followed by Senant's device, consisting of a large square woodcut of a tree with two birds in the branches, and below it two men with cross bows. Round three sides in black letter are the words: En le monde fault bien | tirer Qui en | Paradis veult monter | and at the bottom: Oliuer Senant.*

*Fol. ij* ¶ Polydori Vergilij Vrbinatis ad Lodouicum | Odaxium Patauinum Præfatio. |

*Fol. lxi a* ¶ Finit Polydori Vergilij Vrbinatis de Inuētoribus rerū | opus Impressum Parisius (*sic*) Pro Oliuero senant Cōmorāte | in vico diui Iacobi ad intersigniū diue Barbare virginis. |

*Fol. lxi b* ¶ Polydori Vergilij Vrbinatis de inuentoribus rerum. | Tabula Primi Libri | *which ends fol. lxiiij b.* Lavs Deo.

It is in small quarto size, and it contains 61 leaves numbered, and 2 leaves of the table not numbered; the last leaf, forming sig. l 4, and probably blank, is wanting. It is printed in Roman character, except the first line of the title and the motto and name round the device, which are in Gothic character. There is no date. This is one of the rarest, if it be not the very rarest, of all the editions. It is not mentioned by any bibliographer, and I know of no other copy except this one in the Bodleian. There is none in the British Museum.

From the list of editions in the British Museum formerly given, I find that two have been omitted. One is the issue of the English version, printed in April, 1546, by Grafton, quoted by Dibdin, and—as I had seen no copy—merely alluded to on a former occasion; the other is the reprint of Langley's

<sup>1</sup> I would again repeat my acknowledgment of the kindness of F. Madan, Esq., of the Bodleian Library, who enabled me to consult this and several other works in that collection.

<sup>2</sup> *Trans. Archæol. Soc. Glasg.*, 1883, II. p. 233.



translation, London, 1663. These, together with the editions already described in Part II. of these notes, are all that exist in English, so far as I know. They amount to eight: three in 1546, and one each in 1551, (1570), 1659, 1663, 1868.<sup>1</sup> The only other point of interest is that the little book entitled *A Pleasant and Compendious History*, is nothing but Langley's Pelydore Vergil, alphabetically arranged, curtailed, modernised, and with a supplement about English inventions added.

In the enumeration of the different editions of Pancirollo's history there was one omitted. It appeared at Amberg in 1612 in a small 8vo form, and it is entitled the third edition. The portion which I have got contains the first volume relating to the memorable things devised by the ancients. It is complete in itself, and I do not know whether the second book was published at the same time or not. I have seen two copies of this volume without the second. Long after came the quarto editions, three of which have been already before the Society. The present edition is not referred to by any one except by Graesse, so far as I have observed. In its original vellum cover it forms a much more attractive volume than the later foxy quartos. The second edition of the English translation appeared at London in 1727. It is merely a re-issue of that of 1715, with a new title page. (See *Notes*, Part II. Index, No. 96).

In the common-place book, or classified subject index to classical literature and antiquities by Johannes Ravisius Textor,<sup>2</sup> entitled *Officina*, there is a good deal relating to inventions, but it is in the form of mere notes or

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<sup>1</sup> As I intend giving an account of the English editions in fuller detail, it is unnecessary to do more than mention them on the present occasion.

<sup>2</sup> Jean Tixier, Seigneur de Ravisi, was born about 1480. He taught the Humanities, rose to the position of Rector of the University of Paris in 1520, and died in 1524. He was author of several works, most of which went through a great number of editions. The *Officina* was first printed early in the 16th century, but the copies I have seen are late: Basil, 1617; Basil, 1626—practically a reprint of the preceding; and an Epitome, Geneva, 1626. Beckmann (*Beyträge*, Leipzig, 1805, V. p. 153) knew only the second of these, but mentions the Geneva edition on Morhof's authority, with the remark that if Morhof be right the work must have appeared at two places in the same year, which he apparently thought improbable. The Geneva epitome, however, is considerably altered in arrangement from the complete work. Morhof (*Polyhistor*, Lubecæ, 1714, I. p. 244) calls it specifically an epitome, but that distinction has escaped Beckmann.



jottings, with only occasional references to authorities, and in no sense can it be viewed as a historical treatment of the subject. The work came accidentally under my notice, but I found that Beckmann had already reckoned it among the histories, although under protest. Book IV. throughout deals more or less with arts and discoveries, but chapter cii. is specifically entitled "De diversarum rerum inventoribus." This section will be found in vol. II. p. 97, of the Geneva edition. It is a mere catalogue, however, even more curt in its notices than that of Pastrengo.

Another of the books mentioned by Beckmann (*Trans. Archæol. Soc., Glasg.*, 1883, vol. II. p. 231) has recently come into my hands. It is the one entitled *Verum Inventum, Hoc est, Munera Germaniæ*, by Count Michael Maier, printed at Frankfurt in 1619. It is a sort of defence of the German people against one of Owen's epigrams, and among the inventions claimed for them are gunpowder, printing, the reformation of religion, the reform of medicine by Paracelsus, and the secrets of the Rosicrucians. It is not a systematic history and not a minute research, but it shows that the author, with all his fantastic beliefs, was a man of learning and acquirements. The Count was a voluminous writer, and his works, even a century and a half ago, were described by Dufresnoy as rare and much sought after by the curious. They are so still.

A history, purely English in its origin and treatment, appeared anonymously in 1661. Although the life of the author has been recorded by Wood,<sup>1</sup> and the work has been described in detail by William Oldys,<sup>2</sup> as well as mentioned by other writers, both the author and his work are practically unknown. The author was Thomas Powell, a native of Brecknock, who lived between the years 1608 and 1660. He wrote a few other works, some original, others translated from the Latin, the French, and the Italian; but that which is of special interest to us at present is entitled *Humane Industry: or, a History of most Manual Arts*, London, 1661. It was forgotten until Bolton Corney,<sup>3</sup> having got the book, observed that his name had dropped out of the biographical dictionaries, and then hunted up the author in Wood's *Athenæ*.

<sup>1</sup> *Athenæ Oxonienses*, ed. Bliss, London, 1817, vol. III. col. 507.

<sup>2</sup> *British Librarian*, London, 1738, pp. 42-59.

<sup>3</sup> *Notes and Queries*, London, 1849, vol. I. p. 102.



This was, of course, before the days of Allibone, who has given Powell a place,<sup>1</sup> and has quoted Wood and Oldys, the only authorities on the subject. Bolton Corney's copy of the *Humane Industry* belonged previously to the well-known antiquarian, John Brand. Corney concludes his notice by speaking of the work "as one which deserves a place in every choice collection of English books." Long before him, however, Oldys had perceived its value, and had displayed a particular interest in it, as I have ascertained definitely by referring to his copy, now in the British Museum.<sup>2</sup> That copy is a historical one, and belonged to several notable men. On the inside of the first board are the following notes. At the very top: "F. C. Waldron." Below that, "Nov. 12, 1760. This Book was presented to me "by Francis Grose, Esq., Richmond Herald. And. Ducarel. The MSS. Notes "are by Will. Oldys, Esq., Norroy, who had given it to Mr. Grose. This "Book to go among my Manuscripts on account of the MS. notes. And. "Coltee Ducarel, Oct. 15, 1761."<sup>3</sup> On the title page: "William Waldron, 1812," and also, "W. O., 1715;" *i.e.*, William Oldys. After the words *Humane wit* stands in Oldys' writing: "By Dr. Tho. Powell, Canon of St. David's, who dyd 1660." On the last board is pasted the book-plate of Ducarel, with his name: "Andrew Coltee Ducarel, LL.D., Doctors' Commons."

This copy is especially interesting by the labour Oldys has expended on it. He has inserted in his very neat and distinct handwriting many new entries in the Index, and has appended the pagination to the whole of it. There are numerous marginal notes, additions, and criticisms throughout, and Oldys was in the fair way to have brought out a revised and enlarged edition. That, however, he never did, but twenty-three years later published a long abstract of the original.<sup>4</sup> The introduction to his abstract may be quoted:

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<sup>1</sup> *Dictionary*, vol. II. p. 1656.

<sup>2</sup> 7944 aaa.

<sup>3</sup> Andrew Coltee Ducarel was Librarian at Lambeth Palace from 1757 to 1785, and was one of the most distinguished antiquarians of his time. See Cave-Browne, *Lambeth Palace and its Associations*, Edinburgh, 1883, p. 105.

<sup>4</sup> *British Librarian*, Lond., 1738, pp. 42-59. The British Museum copy of this book also is an interesting one. It contains bound along with it several MSS., including a short notice of Oldys, one signed by Ducarel, a pedigree of the Oldys family, &c., but these, though interesting in themselves, are in no way connected with our present sketch.



“The Author of this learned Book has, with great Labour, join’d many dispersed Rarities of Art under several Heads; with much Modesty, brought a great deal of Reading into a little Compass; and, withall, omitted to prefix his Name to it. Yet, in justice to his Memory, we have been obliged with it by another Hand. [In a foot-note he quotes Anthony a Wood]. There is a short Preface or Advertisement to the Reader, seemingly by the Bookseller, in Commendation of the Work; wherein he says, *You will imagine yourself, even among the Mechanic Arts, to be conversant in the Liberal.* Tho’ from the Defect of the alphabetical Catalogue, intended at the beginning, of the principal Authors mentioned in this Work; with some Errors in the Table of Contents, and the Omissions in the Index of any Reference to the pages; we might, alone, without any other Knowledge of the Author, or the time when he died, have presumed he did not supervise the Press, yet are those Imperfections of little moment, because the Work is concise.”

In this he refers to deficiencies, which, as I have already mentioned, he tried to supply in his own copy.

Powell’s little work is divided into twelve chapters, each of which he glorifies with a Greek title. They are: of Dials; of Spheres; of Machines for Motion; of Writing; of Printing; of Painting; of Spinning; of Music; of Glass; of Sailing; of Taming of Wild Beasts; of certain pretty knacks and extravagancies of Art. The brevity of the treatment shows the author’s mastery of the material, and all that has been said of Powell and his book will be confirmed by every unbiassed reader. Of course, one would never place Powell’s book in comparison with Polydore Vergil’s. It is not nearly so detailed or so comprehensive, and the author seems to have aimed at chronicling discoveries which Vergil had omitted. Powell’s book besides, contains no controversial matter; it is written without extravagance, and has an agreeable flavour of quaintness and humour.

From the abridgement and from Bohn’s edition of Beckmann’s history, already spoken of, no one could form any idea of the genuine English translation. The second edition printed in four octavo volumes, in 1814, I have recently seen and it is undoubtedly the best reproduction of the original. Not to speak of its very much handsomer appearance, it contains many notes—full of interesting matter—that are omitted by Bohn, and each volume is furnished with very valuable indexes both of authors and of subjects. This edition is superior to the first, as it contains a fourth volume, but I have found that even in this edition the whole of the original is not present. The article, for instance, on the bibliography of the histories, which has been so



often referred to is not in it, but there can be no doubt that this is the best English edition of the book.

With Beckmann and the other historians, I thought the modern list had been exhausted, but there are still one or two works which had escaped me. One by J. Fred. Lake Williams was published at London in 1820, the other by Wm. Pulleyn in 1828. Both of these books leave a curious impression on the reader, chiefly of surprise, not merely at the increase and development of practical invention, but at the complete change of thought and expression, in less than sixty years in this country.

Williams' book bears directly on the subject of these notes—being a history of inventions for the well-being of man. In the introduction he speaks very correctly of the importance of his theme, and the little attention that had been paid to it, and then he enumerates the authors who have dealt with it, among whom are Polydore Vergil, Pancirollus, D'Origny, Beckmann, names now familiar to us. He is severe on Beckmann, for the desultory and non-systematic character of his history. Having already pointed out Beckmann's merits, which not only far outweigh his want of system, but leave his work even now quite unsurpassed, it is unnecessary to vindicate him from Mr. Williams' criticism. The best answer is given in Williams' own book, for it is to Beckmann that he is practically indebted for a very large proportion of his history.<sup>1</sup> Williams' book is antiquated in matter and in manner. Of

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<sup>1</sup> Williams' history might have been allowed to rest in oblivion, but his treatment of Beckmann deserves more than a passing notice. It is not enough to say that he has copied a large part of his book from Beckmann's. In the midst of his unlimited drafts on Beckmann's learning and research, he occasionally quotes Beckmann's name in the text and notes! speaks of him as "a very respectable authority"! insinuates in one place that Beckmann raises a difficulty in order that he may parade his erudition! and then says that no one can have a greater respect for Beckmann's learning than he has! This—considering the use that Williams has made of it—is the very finest original remark that Williams ever made. Comparison of the articles on Apothecaries by the two writers will illustrate Williams' method. Beckmann begins with an apology for his want of a technical knowledge of pharmacy and wishes that the article had been written by a physician. Williams also begins with an apology; next he gives a short extract from Diodorus Siculus and one from Sir Thomas Browne, and then he proceeds to the main theme, "at the same time, lamenting that it is not treated of by a medical professor"!! What follows is a condensed copy of Beckmann's article, in the words of the English translation of 1814—but with one or two misspelt foreign names.



the great discoveries in chemistry which had been making for the previous forty years he takes no notice—the very name of the science is not even mentioned!

Pulley's book, *The Etymological Compendium, or Portfolio of Origins and Inventions*, is a curious gossiping collection, full of odds and ends of information. It has no pretensions to scientific or complete treatment, and is nothing more than a printed scrap or common-place book.

In the first part of these Notes I merely mentioned a book by Francis Sellon White. An opportunity has occurred to me of seeing it. Its title runs thus: *A History of Inventions and Discoveries: Alphabetically arranged. By Francis Sellon White, Esq. F.A.S. Many years on the Military Staff in India. Printed for C. and J. Rivington, London, by Creasy and Baker, North Street, Brighton. 1827.* It is fairly well done, readable, without any pretension to profound research or to the elucidation of any theory or principle, and contains no reference to any books, although it gives a list of authors and discoverers and inventors mentioned in course of the work. The information is reasonably accurate—as accurate as was going at the time—but in the article on "Books," the first printed book is said to be the Vulgate of 1462, and the second Cicero *De Officiis*, 1466; but in that on "Printing" the first book printed with metal types is the Latin Bible, 1450, then in 1457, came Fust and Schoeffer's Psalter, and Duranti *Rationale Divinorum Officiorum* in

About half-way through the article, Williams deliberately says that for what follows about continental apothecaries he is indebted to Beckmann's work, just as if he had not been quite as much indebted to the same work for the previous portion! and what is even more startling, though he has copied this same English translation almost word for word, yet he hopes that his immature acquaintance with the original language may not have prevented his rendering the sense; and, accordingly, he places himself upon the liberality of the public—a body, by the way, to which he often refers, and his self-imposed duty to which seems to have made him oblivious of his duty to Beckmann.

If it were not appalling, such—conveyance (as the wise would call it), such attempts not merely to throw dust in the eyes of "the public," but to make it high-gravel blind, such astonishing confidence that the parallelism between his book and Beckmann's could not be detected, would simply create inextinguishable laughter. Let us hope that the reviewers of 1820 did not hesitate to give a true opinion of Williams' history. One would like to know whether or not Sign. Narducci, to be presently mentioned, would consider this a case of plagiarism.



1459. Such slips, doubtless, detract from the book, and there are probably others; but on the whole the book is not a bad one.

Under the title: *Chronologische Uebersicht der Erfindungen und Entdeckungen*, Adolph Poppe drew up a list of inventions and discoveries in the physical sciences, of which I have the second edition, printed at Frankfurt in 1857. It forms a small pamphlet and is a disappointing production, in which the subject is dealt with in a very meagre way. Considering the material at his disposal, it is far inferior to the lists of Pastrengo, Contarino, and Textor.

It should have been pointed out before that Karmarsch in his *Geschichte der Technologie* devotes the last section to a consideration of the literature and history of technological science in the modern period, and enumerates some of the chief works of a general character, histories, encyclopædias, dictionaries, magazines, journals, and proceedings of societies, which have appeared during the last hundred years.

II. BOOKS OF SECRETS. A.—Coming now to Secrets and Receipts some additional copies of books already referred to may first be mentioned.

Foremost among these is the *Speculum Doctrinale* of Vincent de Beauvais, which deals more particularly with practical arts. As, however, I have already spoken this evening about Vincent's whole work, there is nothing more to add at present.

Of the encyclopædia of Bartholomew Glanville there have been quite recently four copies in catalogues, besides that of 1485 formerly described by me. One is of an early edition, without date, but printed about 1472, another of 1491, a third of 1492, by Koburger, and a fourth—the most valuable of all—the English version of Trevisa, printed by Wynkyn de Worde. It is somewhat remarkable that so many copies of this old work should have been met with for sale within the last couple of years, while other books of much more recent date have kept quite persistently out of sight. But all of these, I regret to say, have proved unattainable. I have here, however, a copy of the *De Proprietatibus Rerum* written on paper, in a small and very contracted hand, belonging, so far as I can judge, to the 15th century. It shows how much the book was thought of when manuscript copies were



multiplied as they seem to have been. Glanville's book is of a very miscellaneous description, and contains many practical receipts.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Since the above was written I have met with a paper by Sign. E. Narducci, read to the Accademia dei Lincei at Rome, in January, entitled: *Intorno ad una Enciclopedia finora sconosciuta di Egidio Colonna, romano, ed al plagio fattone dall' inglese Bartolomeo Glanville (Atti della Reale Accademia dei Lincei. Serie Quarta, Roma, 1885. Vol. I. p. 67)*. The author describes a vellum MS. in 12mo, written in a very small and contracted hand of the end of the 13th century, and containing 164 leaves, in the first 121 of which there is a treatise in seven parts on the heavens, animals, minerals, &c. It concludes: *Explicit liber de proprietatibus rerum*. The name of the author has been obliterated, but Narducci endeavours to prove that the work was composed between 1281 and 1291—that the author was Egidio Colonna, and that besides this MS. there are probably a few others containing the same compilation.

The second part of the paper contains an attempt to substantiate for the first time a charge of plagiarism of this encyclopædia against Bartholomew Glanville. The author asserts that in many places Glanville has copied *ad litteram* from Colonna and the proofs are as follows:

*First*—Glanville has distinctly stated that his work is a mere compilation, and that he has put in very little of his own, and he gives a list of 105 authors from whom he has borrowed, besides quoting others in the text. Neither in this list, nor in the text does Colonna's name occur, and consequently, the author argues, it has been deliberately suppressed.

*Secondly*—Comparison of the two works displays resemblances which can only be accounted for by supposing that Glanville actually copied from Colonna. As a proof of this the author quotes a paragraph *de Magnete* from each, and prints them in parallel columns for the sake of comparison.

As to the first argument it seems to dispose of itself; for if Glanville quotes in good faith every author and does not quote Colonna, the conclusion seems to be not that he stole from him and did not tell, but that he did not know him at all, and consequently could not steal from him. The author appears to me to assume the plagiarism and then to interpret Glanville's silence in the most unfavourable way.

*Secondly*—Parallel passages are after all the best proof of copying if any such existed. I have gone with some care over the passage quoted, and I assume that Sign. Narducci has chosen one that will set the plagiarism in as strong a light as possible.

The paragraph from Colonna contains 51 lines, that from Glanville 42 lines. Of these, 23 lines are identical, simply because they are both using confessedly the same authorities, namely Isidorus, St. Augustine, and Dioscorides. Of the remaining 19 lines in Glanville not one occurs in Colonna, and the remaining 28 lines of Colonna which contain a mystical application of the magnetic attraction are wanting in Glanville. The plagiarism therefore consists in each of them copying the same authors, and Sign. Narducci should prove that Glanville took the passages from Colonna and not from the originals. But Glanville's quotation from Isidorus is longer than Colonna's.

I am not concerned much to vindicate Glanville, even if the preceding be not the strongest evidence against him, but one or two additional points may be mentioned in his favour.



In the previous notes I just alluded to the tracts *De Secretis*, by Albertus Magnus, but I can omit them no longer without leaving the present research more defective than it need be. They are, besides, so closely connected with the corresponding work of Michael Scotus, to which I hope to return before long, that the bibliography of them must be taken either with that of books of secrets in general or with that of Michael's. I prefer the former arrangement, and will enumerate the editions which I have seen, leaving the historians of early physiology to deal with the contents. That part of the subject would be, besides, somewhat out of place in the present society.

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So far as can be judged by Sign. Narducci's description Colonna's encyclopædia must be much smaller than Glanville's. The MS. has 121 leaves, 12mo, and contains seven books. Glanville's work contains nineteen books and in all the forms of it I have seen, both printed and manuscript it is a bulky volume, *ingens volumen*, as Bale calls it (see the list in Part II. of these notes). Thus my MS. above mentioned contains only fifteen books. It is in small folio, double columns, it is written in a small and very contracted hand, and these fifteen books fill 98 leaves, each of which probably contains three or four times as much as the other. At the same rate the complete work would occupy about 125 leaves. It is obvious, therefore, that even supposing Glanville had incorporated the whole of Colonna's encyclopædia as it stood (and it has been proved by the above analysis that he did not), he must have had other sources from which he gathered the rest of his material.

Glanville's book as I have shown formerly, as well as on the present occasion was printed repeatedly. Hain (*Repertorium Bibliographicum*, I. Nos. 2498—2523) enumerates 26 editions in Latin and other languages printed before 1501; Atkinson (*Medical Bibliography*, p. 176), enumerates 42 editions in all. Sign. Narducci makes no attempt to explain how Glanville's encyclopædia had so wide a circulation and how Colonna's, to which, he thinks, Glanville was so much indebted, had little circulation as a manuscript, never got into print at all, and has been utterly lost sight of for 600 years. Glanville's book undoubtedly served its day and generation, and if any of Colonna's material was incorporated in it—which has not yet been proved—then it is the only portion of that writer's compilations which was ever turned to any account, had even a chance of being known, and proved ever to be of any general use. If Glanville copied, then it was he who put so much of Colonna's work in circulation which Colonna obviously could not do for himself.

Is there any proof that Glanville did plagiarise in the nineteenth century meaning of the word? Both were compilers—and compiling in their time meant copying and arranging. Did Glanville appropriate Colonna's original ideas in his actual words, without acknowledgment, and attempt to pass them off as his own? There is no evidence of this. Did Glanville do more than, finding certain passages, transfer them to his pages? As far as Sign. Narducci's quotation shows Glanville copied from three authors who had been already copied by Colonna. But he did more, he made a longer quotation from one of them than Colonna made, and he quoted another writer whom Colonna did not quote.



Two different compilations are ascribed to Albertus Magnus. One is styled *Liber aggregationis seu Liber Secretorum de virtutibus Herbarum, Lapidum, et Animalium quorundam*. The other is *De Secretis Mulierum*, which has been ascribed to Henricus de Saxonia, a pupil of Albertus. These two tracts are sometimes printed separate, sometimes together. They passed through a very great number of editions, both before and after 1501. Of these there are certainly far more than fifty, and it would not surprise me in the least to be told that, with the reprints in chap-book form, there is double that number. Forty-two editions prior to 1501 of the two tracts are enumerated by Hain, and between thirty and forty editions are entered in the British Museum Catalogue. I have not gone into the details of this bibliography, but as I happen to have a few of the editions, and to have consulted some of those in the British Museum, I may notice them as briefly as will serve for their identification.

The first I have is that numbered 555 by Hain. It is a small quarto of 33 leaves, without date, place, and name of printer. The text is printed in a medium Gothic character; the commentary in one somewhat smaller. As Hain's account corresponds exactly with the copy I possess, description is unnecessary.

The second copy is similarly described with perfect accuracy by Hain under number 563. In it only the first two or three words of the text of each chapter are given, and the rest is made up of commentary. The com-

But there is another point worth considering: how much were they both indebted to a much greater compiler, Vincent de Beauvais?

After all it is of little importance if Glanville be proved to be as much an appropriator of other men's compilations as Mr. J. F. Williams already mentioned. If it were proved, I for one would accept the inevitable, but I do not think that Sign. Narducci has established his accusation.

Those who are concerned to know more about Glanville may consult, among others, the accounts of him given by Bale (*Illustrium Maioris Britanniae Scriptorum . . . Summarium*, Gippeswici, 1548, f. 153 b); Pits (*De Rebus Anglicis*, Parisiis, 1619, p. 494); Cave (*Scriptorum Ecclesiasticorum Historia Literaria*, Oxonii, 1743, Vol. II., Appendix, p. 66); Oudin (*Commentarius de Scriptoribus Ecclesiæ*, Lipsiæ, 1722, col. 969); Quétif and Echard (*Scriptores Ordinis Prædicatorum*, Lutet. Paris. 1719, Tom. I. p. 486); Tanner (*Bibliotheca Britannico-Hibernica*, Londini, 1748, p. 326); and the articles in the encyclopædias and the biographical dictionaries.



mentary, however, is different from what one usually finds, and according to Hain is the same as that which was printed at Vienna by Johann Winterberg.<sup>1</sup>

This edition is further distinguished by a curious misprint in the colophon, which runs:

Explicit liber Alberti magni de secretis mulierum. | 1428. vicesimaquarta die mensis Junii. |

The year in this case is obviously wrong; it may be either 1478 or 1482. I take it to be 1482. The volume is a small quarto of 56 leaves, printed in Gothic character, and has no place or printer specified.

The next copy is one of such surpassing rarity that Hain never heard of it, and only two copies altogether are known. It is the edition printed by Machlinia in London about 1483, and is one of the finest specimens of the press of that printer. As an account of this volume would take too much space here, I intend considering it in a separate paper.<sup>2</sup>

The fourth copy is also undescribed by Hain, but the probability is that, if he knew it, he considered it later than 1500. As I have found no mention of it anywhere, the following description may prove useful:

*F. 1 a, with signature, a. r.* (s) Cribit philosophus | philosophorum prin | ceps. quarto. ethico | rum. Hō est opti- | mum eoru3 que sūt | in mundo. Et mun- | dus sumitur etc. *F. 44 b, l. 16:* Finit tractatulus venerabilis Alberti magni. | Sequuntur capitula huius libri. | *Ends:* Ca. duodecimū & vltimū de gñatiōe spermatis in viro. |

It is a quarto, with signatures a-e in eights and f4, 44 leaves in all. It is printed in Gothic character, with 33 lines to the page, and has neither date, place, nor printer's name. This edition contains the text in full, with the usual commentary.

After getting into the sixteenth century, we pass from quartos to copies of a smaller size. I have one such here. The title is as follows:

¶ Secreta mulierū et vi- | rorū ab alberto magno nu | perrime composita. | 1526. |

<sup>1</sup> In this edition (Hain 562) Henricus de Saxonia is distinctly specified: *F. 2 b.* Tractatus Henrici de saxonia Alberti magni discipuli de secretis mulierū quē ab Alberto excerpit feliciter incipit. I have not seen this book.

<sup>2</sup> The paper containing an account of this volume and of the almost equally rare *Liber aggregationis* also printed by Machlinia, was subsequently read to the Society of Antiquaries, London, Feb. 19, 1885.



*On the reverse of the title:* Scribit philosophus philosophorum princeps | Hō est optimu3 eoꝝ q sunt in mūdo & mundus | etc. *The text begins on fol. 2 a, with signature Aij.*

*Then f. 36 b, l. 22:* ¶ Finit Tractatulus venerabilis Alberti | magni de secretis mulierū & virorum. | *followed by the fleur de lis.*

It is a 16mo, with signatures A—D in eights, and E 4, 36 leaves in all. It is printed in a small Gothic character, 40 lines to the page; has no catch-words, but has titles to the different sections of the text printed on the outer margin. There is no place, or name of printer. This reprint contains the usual text and commentary. The title-page is enclosed in an ornamental border, and the device is a large fleur-de-lis.

Among the copies in the British Museum I examined one printed at Antwerp in 1538. The title goes wide of the usual form, and as this book is not a common one, the following account may be inserted:

*F. 1 a. Title.* Alberti | Cognomento Magni | Libellus qui inscribitur de Formatione ho- | minis in vtero Materno, vel vt notiori Titu | lo, Secreta Mulierum, Nunc recens ex Ar- | chetypo exscriptus, exactiori diligentia | recognitus & à multis prodigiosis | mendis repurgatus. Cui tandem | accesserunt scolìa non minus | philosophiæ, quàm Me- | dicinæ candidatis | vtilia.

Respuit ornatum, per se contenta doceri

Ingeniosa physis, respuit & phaleras.

Id quod permuncta olfaciēs hic nare libellus,

Rudius & crasso disserit ore Physin.

*F. 1 b.* Prohemivm. | Scribit Philosophus Philosophorum prin- | &c.

*F. 2 b.* Dilecto sibi in Christo socio & | amico. N. clerico de tali loco | veræ sapientiæ &c.

*F. 55 b.* Finis lib. Alberti cognomento Magni de homine, | quod si mauis, vt alij, de embryonis figmento, seu | secreta mulierum cum commentariis auctis, & re- | cognitis (*sic*) singulis, exactéque ad limam reuocatis. | Antuerpiæ, ex officina Viduæ Martini Cæ | saris. Anno à Christi natiuitate, M.D. | XXXVIII. mense Octobri. |

Small 8vo, signatures A—G, in all 56 leaves, of which f. 56 is blank. The text is in roman character, the commentary in italics.

The next copies I have to mention display one of those mysteries of printing and publishing, the meaning of which I do not profess to explain.

*F. 1 a.* Alberti | Cognomento | Magni de secretis Mulie- | rum, Libellus, scholijs auctis, & à | mendis repurgatus. | Eiusdem De Vir | tutibus Herbarum, Lapidum,



& Ani- | malium quorundam libellus. | Item De Mirabilibus | mundi, ac de quibusdam effectibus | causatis à quibusdam ani- | malibus, &c. | Lvgdvni | 1566.

*F. 2 a.* (With signature A 2.) Prooemium. | Scribit philosophus philosophorū | princeps: Homo est optimū eorum | quæ sunt in mundo: &c. *Ends: Dd 8a:* Alberti Magni De | Proprietatibus Herbarum, | Lapidum, & Animalium | quorundam. | Finis. |

This is a 32mo, signatures A—Dd 8, in eights, ff. 216. Catchwords. The text is printed in italics 16 lines to the page; the commentary in roman character, 23 lines to the page. The printer's name is not given.

The second copy is as follows:

*Title.* Alberti Co- | gnomento Ma- | gni de secretis Mulierum, Li- | bellus, scholijs auctus, & | à mendis repur- | gatus. | Eiusdem De Virtv- | tibus Herbarū, Lapidum, | & Animalium quo- | rundā libellus. | Item De Mirabilibus | mundi, ac de quibusdam effectibus | causatis à quibusdam ani- | malibus, &c. | Lvgdvni | 1566.

*F. 2 a.* (With signature A 2.) Prooemium. | Scribit philosophus philosophorū | princeps: Homo est optimū eo- | rum quæ sunt in mudo (*sic*): &c.

*F. Dd 8a.* Alberti Magni De | Proprietatibus Herbarum, | Lapidum, & Animalium | quorundam. | Finis. |

This is a 32mo, signatures A—Dd 8, in eights, ff. 216. Catchwords. The text is printed in italics, 17 lines to the page: the commentary in roman character, 22 lines to the page. The printer's name is not given.

Though printed at the same place, in the same year, and in the same size and style, these two books are quite different. I am inclined to think, however, from the superior finish of the latter copy, that it is a later reprint, copied, it may be, even to the date.

These editions, it will be observed, contain both the tracts.

Just at the close of the century a new start was made in the printing of Albertus' tract. It was accompanied by that of Michael Scot, and a great number of editions appeared. The earliest I know of is dated 1580, but that which I have seen is of 1598, and there is a copy in the Douce Collection in the Bodleian.

As the title of this occurs in later editions, it may be quoted as typical:

Alberti | Magni, | De Secretis Mvliervm | libellus, scholijs auctus, & à | mendis repurgatus. | Eiusdem de virtutibus herbarum, lapidum, & | animalium quorundam



libellus. | Item de mirabilibus mundi, ac de quibus- | dam effectibus causatis à  
quibusdam animalibus, &c. | Adiecimus & ob materiæ similitudinem Mi- |  
chaëlis Scoti philosophi, De secretis naturæ | opusculum. | Cum Indice  
locupletissimo. | Lvgdvni, | Apvd Anthonivm De Harsy. | MDXCVIII.

It is a square 16mo, pp. 381; Index, pp. 9, not numbered; and a blank leaf.

A reprint of this book, in the same form, was brought out in 1607 at Strassburg, by the well-known printer and editor Lazarus Zetzner. There is a copy in Sir William Hamilton's Collection in the University Library.

In 1615, at Frankfurt, the tracts of Albertus and Michael were published simultaneously, but in separate volumes. They were printed by Johann Bringer, and were got up in exactly the same style. The title of that of Albertus is as follows, taken from the copy in the British Museum:

Tractatus | Henrici | de Saxonia, Al | berti Magni Disci- | pvli, De Secretis Mvlie- |  
rum, in Germania nunquam | editus. | Accessit Insyper Eivs- | dem de virtutibus  
herbarum, lapidum, | quorundam animalium, aliorum- | que libellus. | Franco-  
fvrti | Excudebat Iohannes Brin- | gervs, opera & impensa Pe- | tri Mvscvli. |  
M.DC.XV.

The text is practically the same as in the common editions, but it is differently divided. The commentary also is different, but whether it is identical with that in Winterberger's and the 1428 (*sic*) editions, or is different from it, I am unable to say. The second part of the volume contains the *Liber Aggregationis*.

A republication of these tracts was subsequently carried on at Amsterdam. The earliest edition I have met with is in the British Museum:

Albertvs | Magnvs | de | Secretis | Mvliervm. | Item | De Virtutibus Herba- |  
rum Lapidum et | Animalium. | Amstelodami, | Apud Iodocum Iansso- |  
nium. A°. 1643.

It is a small volume in 24mo, with an engraved title, 366 pages of text, and 5 leaves of Index. This work appeared several times with some variations in the number of pages and in other details. It is unnecessary to do more here than give the dates: 1648, 1655, 1662, 1665, 1669 (2 issues), 1702. There were also editions of 1652 and 1760 in Latin, but I have not seen them.

Notwithstanding these and a great many more editions in Latin, the work was translated into the modern languages—French, German, English, and even Polish.



The French translation was first printed about the middle of the sixteenth century, and from that date to the beginning of last century only a very few editions were published. Last century, however, a translation with additions and alterations was issued in 1706, and a considerable number of editions followed; ten have been enumerated. To one, that of Cologne 1722, reference has been already made, and I have seen a reprint of this which professes to have been printed at Lyons, and has the date 1729.

The present century is that of chap reprints. Nisard has mentioned some of these, and I have one printed at Lyons, with the false date 6518, that is: 1856 or 1865. It is entitled *Les admirables Secrets d'Albert le Grand*, and it forms a small 12mo, with a frontispiece and four woodcuts of the vilest chap-book character. They are hideous caricatures of the engravings in the 1722 edition.

A much more important work is the treatise *Les Secres des Dames*, edited from ancient manuscripts by the Drs. Colson, and published at Paris by Rouveyre in 1880. This is a critical edition, giving in the introduction an account of the MSS., followed by the text, with notes, a glossary, and supplemental notes, including a bibliography of the French translations. In the meantime this, so far as I know, is the best work on the subject; while, apart from its literary merit, it has the additional attraction of being beautifully printed in black letter; and there are, besides, only 342 copies printed. It has, therefore, all the qualifications for becoming a bibliophile's book. It ought to be remarked, however, that only the matter of this book is taken from Albertus Magnus, and that it is not an actual translation of the *De Secretis Mulierum*. The relationship of the two works is discussed by the editors in their introduction.

Of the German versions there seem to be varieties also. Of an older form, I have a copy entitled *Eln Newer Albertus Magnus*, printed at Frankfurt by Weygandt Han, without date, but early in the sixteenth century. In this the *De Secretis Mulierum* is reduced to a minimum, and practical directions are given which are not contained in the earlier edition.<sup>1</sup> This

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<sup>1</sup> This edition is well supplied with woodcuts, which were reproduced in the corresponding English treatise, entitled "*The Birth of Mankind*," by T. Raynalde. This latter is said to be a translation of the work of Eucharius Röslin: *Der Swangern Frauen und*



is followed by an account of the secrets of plants, animals, and minerals; and then come receipts for curing various bodily afflictions, and a special tract upon the plague. Having only one edition, I am unable to trace the history of this compilation, but there are undoubtedly earlier editions, possibly with a closer resemblance to Albertus' work.

The more modern translation is based on the joint edition of Albertus and Scotus. The oldest copy I have seen is in the British Museum:

Von den Geheimnüssen derer Weiber: wie auch von den Tugenden derer Kräuter,  
Steine und Thiere: und den Wunderwercken der Welt. . . . Nürnberg,  
In Verlegung Johann Hoffmanns, seel. Wittb. und Engelbert Streck, . . 1701.

The engraved title-page, however (which is a very poor reproduction of that found in all the Amsterdam issues) bears date 1678. So it would seem as if there had been an early edition, and that residual copies of the title-page had been prefixed to that of later date.

In 1725 the same book appeared at Nürnberg, published by the same firm. Both of these books are in small 12mo, uniform with the Latin editions.

The English editions are to us perhaps the most interesting. The title is given by Lowndes:

—The Booke of Secretes— of the Vertues of Herbes, Stones, and certaine Beastes.  
Also a Booke of the same author of the maruaylous thinges of the world, and of  
certain effectes caused of certayne Beastes. London, by Wm. Copland.

16mo. Black letter. A to L 4, in eights, the last leaf blank. This description is obviously taken from an actual copy. It is not in the British Museum. The one which is there is of a later edition:

The Secrets | of Albertvs | Magnvs. | Of the Vertues of Hearbs, | Stones, and certaine |  
Beasts. | Whereunto (*sic*) is newly added, a short dis- | course of the seuen

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*Hebammen Rosengarten*, s. a., 4to, (for which see *Geschichte der Medicin*, by Haeser, Jena, 1881, vol. II. p. 205). It is possible that the practical directions in the *Newer Albertus Magnus* are borrowed from Röslin's treatise, but I have had no opportunity of comparing them. The first edition of Raynalde's book, or translation, if it be really such, appeared at London in 1540. As described by Lowndes, and as may be seen from a copy in the Hunterian Library, it contains the same pictures as are contained in the German version now under consideration. They were repeated afterwards in the 1565 edition, of which I have a copy, with all the illustrations complete. The British Museum has no copy dated 1540, and its 1565 copy is imperfect. An account of this work of Raynalde's was communicated to the Society by Professor Young, M.D.



Planets, gouerning | the Natiuities of Children. | Also a Booke of the same Author  
| of the maruellous (or marnellous?) things of the | World, and of certaine effects |  
caused by certaine | Beasts. | Printed by W. Iaggard. 1617.

It is a 16mo. Signatures A—H, in eights (ff. 64). Black letter, but the title, preface to the reader (A2), head-lines, headings of the sections, words and lines in the text, are roman. Iaggard's translation compared with the other Latin copies exhibits some differences.

Twenty years later the book again appeared. I take the title as given by William Cooper:<sup>1</sup>

Albertus Magnus, his secrets of the Virtues of Herbs, Stones, Beasts, &c. Lond.  
1637, 8.

This book is not in the British Museum, and I have seen no copy of it elsewhere.

The translation of the *De Secretis Mulierum* was only executed last century. The title is given by Lowndes, and there is a copy in the British Museum from which I have taken it:

De Secretis Mulierum: Or, The Mysteries of Human Generation Fully Revealed.  
Written in Latin by Albertvs Magnvs. Faithfully rendered into English (*sic*),  
with Explanatory Notes, and Approved by, the late, John Quincy. M.D.  
London: Printed for E. Curll, at the Dial and Bible, over against  
Catherine-street in the Strand. M.D.CC.XX.V. (Price 2s.)

It is a small 8vo, pp. viii; account of the author, [4]; text, 108.

This book seems to be not unknown to readers in the Museum, but it is not one from the perusal of which much, if any, profit can be got.

The preceding list will give a notion of the number and variety of the editions of this book which passes under the name of Albertus.

Allusion has been made repeatedly to a small German treatise on the arts, entitled *Kunstbüchlein*, of which the oldest version described belonged to 1531, and of which there were subsequent issues both in German and in Dutch.<sup>2</sup> I can now add other two to the list. The first is in German, and is entitled *Ettliche Künste, auff mancherley weisz Dinten vnd allerhand Farben zu bereyten*. It is a small octavo volume, printed by Christian Müller at

<sup>1</sup> *A Catalogue of Chymicall Books*, London, 1675, Part I.

<sup>2</sup> *Trans. Archæol. Soc. Glasg.*, 1883, vol. II. p. 263, Nos. 10, 11, 12, and p. 269, No. 110.



Strassburg in 1563, and it consists of the sections relating to ink, colours, and etching upon steel contained in the *Kunstbüchlein*, evidently reprinted for the use of a special class of artists. The second is the English translation of this tract, to which reference was made on a former occasion.<sup>1</sup> It is mentioned by Lowndes, as then stated, and I observed a copy in a catalogue some time ago which I failed in procuring, but I have since examined that in the British Museum (C 31 c 21). Its title is as follows:

*Fol. 1 a. Title.* A | Booke of Secrets: | Shewing diuers waies to make and prepare all | sorts of Inke, and Colours: as Blacke, White, | Blew, Greene, Red, Yellow, and other Colours. | Also to write with Gold and Siluer, or any kind of Mettall | out of the Pen: with many other profitable secrets, | as to colour Quils and Parchment of | any colour: and to graue with | strong Water in Steele | and Iron. | Necessarie to be knowne of all Scriueners, Painters, | and others that delight in such Arts. Translated out of | Dutch into English, by W. P. |

Hereunto is annexed a little Treatise, | intituled, Instructions for ordering of Wines: | Shewing how to make Wine, That it may continue | good and faint not, Neither become sower, nor loose colour. And | how you may remedie faint Wine, take away the hoari- | nesse, with other instructions for the pre- | seruation of the same. | Written first in Italian, and now newly translated | into English by W. P. |

London, | Printed by Adam Islip for Edward | White, and are to be sold at his shop | at the little North dore of Pouls, | at the signe of the Gun. | 1596.

Sm. 4to. No pagination. Title, A3 and A4, B4, C4, D4, and E4 [ff. 19]. Printed in black letter.

The first tract contains a translation of pp. 33-74 and 84-88 of the *Kunst-Büchlein*, Frankfurt, 1687, corresponding therefore practically with the *Ettliche Künste*. A few receipts have been omitted, and there is nothing about dyeing leather or cleansing fabrics. Half of the date has been cut off, but it is obviously 1596, and is so marked on the back and in the catalogue of the British Museum. The second tract is of course from an entirely different source, and has nothing in common with the German and Dutch collections. The translator's name is W. Phillip, and I have no doubt that "Dutch" here means "High Dutch," that is German.

Of Levinus Lemnius' treatise *De Occultis Naturæ, Libri IV.* two editions have come into my hands. One was printed at Frankfurt by Wechel in

<sup>1</sup> *Trans. Archæol. Soc. Glasg.*, 1883, vol. II. p. 252, note.



1590, and is uniform with the later editions of 1604 and 1611, as well as with the 1592 edition of Mizauld's collection to be afterwards described. The other was printed at Leyden by Abraham Commelin, about 1651-55. It has an emblematic engraved title; in the centre is a winged draped female figure, pointing with her left hand to a pile of books, musical instruments, armour, &c., while with her right she holds to her mouth a curved horn, wherewith she is proclaiming the emptiness of human works, as indicated by the word *Vanitas* which issues from the bell of the horn. At her feet in one corner is a little boy seated on a skull, engaged in blowing soap bubbles. The book contains an elaborate dedication to certain Amstelodamians. This is an interesting volume. It is one of two works printed by Commelin in the Elzevier style, and Willems<sup>1</sup> says of it: "La plus jolie des nombreuses éditions de ce livre curieux, faite sur celle de Plantin, Anvers, 1564, in-8 . . . . Le volume ne porte point de date; mais l'épître dédicatoire d'Abr. Commelin aux magistrats d'Amsterdam témoigne qu'il a vu le jour en 1651." There is no doubt that this is really the neatest of the editions. According to Willems it has eleven preliminary leaves, of which the first is blank—that leaf is wanting in my copy.

One of the most noteworthy additions I have been able to make to my list is a copy of the *Thesaurus de Remediis Secretis* of Gesner, quite unknown and undescribed. Every bibliographer I have consulted says the book was first published at Zurich in 1554, and I repeated the statement, with a copy of that edition before me.<sup>2</sup> But that which I have since got is dated 1552, and besides having a different title page, in which Gesner's name does not appear, exhibits distinct typographical variations. This is the earliest edition I know of; it says: *nunc primum in lucem editus*, but whether it is the first edition of all I am not at present prepared to say. It is a nicely printed book, more attractive than the edition of 1554, which, although corresponding with it page for page, and even line for line, is not identical with it.

<sup>1</sup> *Les Elzevier*, Bruxelles, 1880. No. 1667. See also his introduction, pp. 422, 423.

<sup>2</sup> *Trans. Archaeol. Soc. Glasg.*, 1883, vol. II, p. 265, No. 40. The edition of 1554 is there described as complete with pp. 580, and index pp. 38. It ought, however, to have a supplement: *Iacobi Bessoni De Absoluta Ratione Extrahendi Olea. . . . Tiguri, . . . 1559*; pp. 42 and 3 (?) blank leaves. The 1552 edition does not contain this supplement.



In addition to the copy of the Lyons edition of 1555 bearing the name Balthazar Arnollet, I have got an exactly similar copy of the same date, with the name of Antoine Vincent, who, as was formerly pointed out, published a French translation in 1559. There must have been some curious arrangements among the Lyons printers in the 16th century. I have already referred to two quite different issues of Albertus Magnus at Lyons in 1566, and now here are two identical copies with different publishers. Was it the habit to divide an edition among several publishers, and to let each have a title-page for himself—just as now-a-days manufacturers put on their goods the names of the different dealers, who are to retail them? The printer's name, however, at the end is Arnollet's, so that Vincent must have cancelled the other title-page, or else had one specially printed for himself, not caring whether the colophon agreed with it or not.

In attempting to ascertain when the first edition of the Secrets of Alexis, or Alessio of Piedmont, appeared, I have encountered a difficulty.

This standard collection is in four parts, which came out in different years. Brunet<sup>1</sup> makes a decided statement: "De' secreti (*sic*) del reverendo Donno Alessio Piemontese sei libri. In Venezia, per Sigismondo Bordogna, 1555, in-8." From the statement of the author, or nominal author, we seem warranted in drawing a different conclusion as to the language and date of the first edition. In his general preface, Alexis recounts what led to his committing his secrets to writing. He had laboured long and eagerly to acquire knowledge, especially of the secrets of nature and of medicine; he knew many languages, had travelled incessantly, like Paracelsus had consorted with all kinds of people—scholars and artizans, rich and poor—and had amassed learning till he had become vain of his acquirements, a miser of his skill, and jealous of any one

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<sup>1</sup> *Manuel*, Paris, 1860, I. col. 159. This is considered the first edition.

Watt (*Bibl. Brit.*, I. 20m.) must have made an error when he says the first edition appeared at Basel in 1536, which place and date I repeated without knowing any better (*Trans. Archaeol. Soc. Glasg.*, 1882, II. p. 190). The place is wrong, and the date is plainly impossible; for if Alexis was in his 83rd year before he began his compilations at all, and the first part appeared in 1536, then he must have been in his 104th year when he revised the second Italian edition in 1557! But the preface to this edition disposes of such an absurdity as that, and shows that this must have been a mere misprint in Watt's list, though a misleading one.



knowing what he knew. So it happened that in his 83d year he came to Milan, where he was asked by a surgeon to assist in relieving the suffering of a patient; but seeing that the surgeon would claim the credit of the cure, Alexis refused until it was too late, and the patient died. He thereupon reproached himself with having been, through his jealousy and vain-glory, nothing less than the poor man's murderer, and the feeling of remorse was so strong that he withdrew himself to a solitary house in the country, and resolved to make amends by revealing all he knew for the good of mankind. He accordingly wrote out the first part of his secrets.

This was in 1555 (?) or 1556; for in the epistle prefixed to the Italian edition dated 1557 he tells us that in the previous year, actuated by the motives just described, he had compiled his secrets. The compilation, *which was in Latin*, was hurriedly done, contained mistakes and corrections and additions; but just as it was, without revision, it had to go to Venice to be printed.<sup>1</sup> A few months later he was gladdened by hearing that it had already appeared in Italian, and had been very well received. In the meantime he had gone on preparing a second part, when, happening to be in a bookseller's shop in Milan, he saw a copy of the Italian translation of part I. He found it well executed, but faulty in various places, either from uncorrected mistakes in his own original work, or by the translator having misunderstood his meaning. The bookseller told him that as the copies had been all sold off, a new edition was going to be printed at Venice, and he added that he thought it was the author's duty to revise it before it appeared. Seeing the force of this, Alexis laid aside for a time the second part on which he was engaged, revised the Italian version of the first part, and added some new matter to it. The edition came out in 1557, and the following account of it is from the copy in the British Museum (42 f 19):

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<sup>1</sup> The difficulty comes in here. If the author's story is to be taken quite literally, that the first edition was in Latin, and appeared the year before the second Italian version, that is, in 1556, then either Brunet's date 1555 is a misprint, or the author's story is inaccurate. The contradiction *may* be reconciled by supposing that though the second Italian edition bears date 1557, the preface was written really in 1556, and then the "previous year" would coincide with Brunet's date, and the edition he quotes would be the Italian translation referred to by Alexis as having been executed immediately after the original Latin work appeared. The fact is, however, I have no confidence in the accuracy of either Brunet or Alexis.



De' Secreti del Reverendo Donno Alessio Piemontese, Prima parte, diuisa in sei libri.  
Opera vtilissima, et uniuersalmente necessaria, & diletteuole à ciascheduno.  
Ora in questa seconda editione dall' autor medesimo tutta ricorretta, &  
migliorata. Et aggiuntovi nel fine d'ogni libro molti bellissimi secreti nuoui.  
Con privilegio dell' illustrissima Signoria di Venetia, & altri Principi, per  
anni XV.

In Venetia per Comin da Trino. M.D.LVII.

It is a small 4to, contains 24 preliminary pages, 191 numbered pages, and one page not numbered. The title is surrounded by a large border consisting of architectural ornaments, curtains, cupids, female winged satyrs, and two aged male figures at the bottom crouching and pointing to the title.

Besides the Venice edition, another appeared at Lucca, also in 1557, and, as I formerly mentioned, a reprint of this second edition was published at Lyons *per Theobaldo Pagano* in 1558.<sup>1</sup> By the entries in the British Museum Catalogue, the further progress of the work can be traced: Part II., Milan, 1558; Parts II. and III., 1559; Parts I.-III., Venice, 1568, already mentioned by me, but not in the Museum. There is also an edition Lucca, 1559, not in the Museum, which I know of only by having seen it in a sale catalogue<sup>2</sup> of alchemical books, along with a number of others of the same class.

Apparently, therefore, the first edition, which was in Latin, appeared in 1555 or 1556, and one can judge of the rapidity with which people got along even then from the fact that it was immediately translated into Italian, that it was translated from Italian into French by 1557, that a copy of the French version reached England, was turned into English, and the translation published in a small quarto volume by November, 1558. I have a copy of the first English edition. It tells its own tale of suffering during its three hundred and thirty years of existence; it was imprisoned in a Cathedral library; it is blotched and tender with damp and mildew; it has been riddled by bookworms; it has been the victim of some scribbler; it has been mutilated by carelessness and neglect, but its old body has been patched up, and it is surprising to see how well it looks. The title is as follows from the Museum copy:

<sup>1</sup> *Trans. Archæol. Soc., Glasg.*, 1883, II. p. 262, No. 4. This is another Lyons piracy, apparently. The title page is an exact copy of that of Venice 1557, so that if one did not know any better, one might be apt to conclude that this was actually the second edition.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Quaritch's *Rough List*, No. 47, Sept. 1880.



The | Secretes | of the Reverende | Maister Alexis of | Piemovnt. | Containyng  
 excellent remedies against | diuers diseases, woundes, and other accidents, | with  
 the manner to make distillations, | parfumes, confitures, diynges, co- | lours,  
 fusions and meltynges. | A worke well approued, ve- | ry profytable and  
 ne- | cessary for every | man. | Translated out of French into English, | by  
 Wyllyam Warde. | Imprynted at London by Iohn Kingstone | for Nicolas  
 Englande, dwellinge in | Poules churchyarde. | Anno 1558. | Menss. Nouemb.

It is printed in black letter in small quarto, contains seven preliminary leaves and one blank (wanting in the Museum copy); text, 123 leaves; index, 10 leaves. In the Museum copy there is inserted before the index a leaf in italics of the table either of another edition, or a cancelled leaf of a table in italics, which was never printed, the printer having set it up in black letter instead. It may be noticed here that this first edition is not mentioned either by Watt or Lowndes. They quote an edition of 1559, of which likewise I have a copy. It is entirely different in typography from the edition of the previous year, and it may be reasonably supposed that the first edition was sold off as soon as it appeared and that a new edition was called for. Of the subsequent issues of this and the other parts I have seen various examples, and I may briefly enumerate those which I have more specially examined.

In the Hunterian Library I have found two sets of Warde's translations. One of these contains the first three parts, each with a separate title-page and pagination.

Part I. The secretes of the reverend Maister Alexis of Piemont. . . .  
 London, Rouland Hall for Nycholas England, 1562.

The device on this title is a draped female figure on a pedestal, holding in each hand the bridle of a rearing horse; the legend "Armipotentia Angliæ" is inscribed in the surrounding scroll ornament.

If Lowndes be correct, this must be the third edition of part I.

Part II. The seconde part of the secretes of Master Alexis of Piemont,  
 . . . London, Jhon Kyngston for Nicholas Englande, 1560.

This is the first edition of this part, and like that of part I. was executed by the same printer. It has, however, an elaborate woodcut border to the title, whereas the title in the first edition of part I. is quite plain.

In the British Museum I have seen what is probably the second edition of this part, printed at London by Rowland Hall for Nicholas Englande, 1563.



Part III. The thynde and last parte of the Secretes of the reuerende Maister Alexis of Piemont, . . . London, Roulande Hall, for Nycholas Englande, 1562.

This, I suppose, is the first edition of part III. The other Hunterian copy has parts I. II. and III. as in the preceding, except that the titles of parts I. and II. are wanting. It contains, however, the first edition of the fourth part, which was published posthumously, and was translated by Richard Androse. The title is as follows:

A verye excellent and profitable Booke conteining sixe hundred foure score and odde experienced Medicines, apperteyning vnto Phisick and Surgerie, long tyme practysed of the expert and Reuerend Mayster Alexis, which he termeth the fourth and finall booke of his secretes, and which in hys latter dayes hee dyd publishe vnto a vniversall benefit, hauing vnto that tyme reserued it onely vnto himselfe, as a most priuate and precyous treasure. Translated out of Italian into Englishe by Richard Androse.

Humilia la anima tua a Dio: a gran signori fa riuerentia, al gridar del pouero inclina le orecchie.

Imprinted at London by Henry Denham, 1569.

These parts are printed in black letter, in small 4to, with separate title-pages and pagination.

Subsequently there was an edition of the first three parts, dated 1568-66, to which was added the 1569 edition of the fourth part. There is a copy of this set in the British Museum, but I have not inspected it.

Of the next genuine edition, which did not come out for some years later, there is a copy in the British Museum, but I have myself got another here. The titles are the same as in the previous editions. Parts I. and II. were "Imprinted at London, by Jhon Kyngston, for Ihon Wight. Anno Domini 1580," and have no border round the title page. The device on the titles is the same draped female figure on a pedestal holding the rearing horses as is found on the 1562 edition of part I. At the end of each part is a woodcut of the standing figure of an elderly man clothed in a doctor's furred robe, with a biretta, holding a volume marked *Sciencia*. On either side of the figure are the letters I. W. The punning legend encircling the whole is "Welcom · The · Wight : that · bringeth · such · light." The third part was "Imprinted at London, by Thomas Dawson, for Iohn Wyght, 1578." The title page has a scroll border, and the device is the doctor with the punning legend.



This edition is in small quarto, with separate pagination. It is a fine specimen of sixteenth century black-letter printing; the characters are narrower, sharper, and neater in every way than those used in the first and second editions.

The whole four parts appeared in 1595 with separate title pages, but uniformly dated and consecutively paged. I have already exhibited a copy wanting the last two leaves, but I can now place before you a perfect specimen of the book. There is no copy of it in the British Museum.

Taken together, these different examples give a very good representation of the earliest issues in English of this famous book. So far as I know it, the order of publication is as follows: Part I. 1558, Part II. 1560, Part III. 1562, Part IV. 1569; first edition collected: Part I. 1562, Part II. 1560, Part III. 1562, Part IV. 1569; second edition collected: Parts I. and II. 1568, Part III. 1566, Part IV. 1569; new corrected and enlarged edition: Parts I. and II. 1580, Part III. 1578; complete uniformly dated edition of the four parts, 1595. Both Watt and Lowndes mention other editions of the separate parts, but as I have no copies to refer to I am unable to say anything about them. The earlier joint editions seem to have been brought out irregularly as regards date; possibly the different parts were printed as they were wanted, and sets were made up with copies of different dates. The fourth part is the least common, and I have nowhere encountered a set of the first issues bound together. One in the British Museum is made up of Part I. 1558, Part II. 1563, Part III. 1562, and Part IV. 1569.

The 1573 edition of Wecker's German translation has been already mentioned.<sup>1</sup> There is an earlier one which, according to the colophon, was printed by Perna at Basel in 1570. Unfortunately, the copy I have wants the title page, but as Wecker's dedication to Countess Anna Alexandria of Fürstenberg is dated 1569, I presume it is of the first edition. It forms a small, very well printed octavo volume, and it contains only the first part of the Secrets, divided into six books. The reprint of 1573 is distinctly inferior, but it contains a translation of the second part. I have not seen a German translation of the third and fourth parts.

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<sup>1</sup> *Trans. Archæol. Soc. Glasg.*, 1883, II. p. 251, and p. 262, No. 8.



A French translation of the first two parts of Alexis, along with a continuation from divers authors, by Christofle Landré, was printed at Paris by Hierosme de Marnef and Guillaume Cavellat in 1576. It is an obese little 16mo of 911 pages, with a copious table of contents and a few woodcuts of apparatus for distillation, which was the chief chemical process of the time. In the British Museum catalogue there is a previous edition by the same printers, 1573. It also has 911 pages, but no table is specified. A shabby reprint in octavo appeared at Rouen in 1637, "reveu et augmenté." The Museum catalogue contains a later reprint, Rouen, 1691. A Lyons edition of 1620 is also mentioned, but it is not in the Museum, and I have not seen it.

It may be remarked that with the exception of the Latin version, 1560, and the English of 1558; 1562-60-62-69, and 1580-78, the remaining editions which have been brought before the Society are, none of them, in the British Museum catalogue. On the other hand, the national collection is rich in the early Italian editions, and has the French translation printed at Antwerp in 1557, a Danish version, 1648, and other editions in Latin and in German.

What impresses me with an idea of the popularity of the work, as much as the number of editions and translations, is the state in which the copies one falls in with often are. They bear evidence of having been in pretty constant use, and they are not unfrequently imperfect. Of the numerous copies of the different divisions of the work which I have consulted and exhibited in part to the Society, six or seven are defective to a greater or less extent. Consequently, though there must have been many copies with a wide circulation, it is seldom that a really fine specimen, especially in English, comes in the way of the student. The two copies of dates 1580-78 and 1595 now shown are, therefore, exceptionally worthy of notice.

In the same volume containing the first edition of Wecker's translation of Alexis, to which it forms a kind of supplement, there is a copy of the first edition of Wecker's own tract about artificial waters, of which the later issue of 1616 has been already mentioned. It was printed at Basel by Perna in 1570.

Of more interest is the English version of Wecker's Secrets, which was



translated from the original Latin by Dr. R. Read,<sup>1</sup> a physician. When engaged with Wecker before, I had no copy at hand; I have since got one, complete with the engraved title, but like all these books rather the worse of the wear. The engraved title contains portraits of Wecker, Read, Lord Bacon, Dr. Harvey, and three notable secret-mongers — Alexis, Albertus Magnus, and Raymund Lully. According to Watt and Lowndes, the book was first published at London in 1660. The present copy is dated 1661. It is possible that this is a genuine second edition, or it may be the original edition with a new-dated title page. In any case, the book is far from being common.

To the books already quoted may now be added Fioravanti's *Secreti Rationali*, Venice, 1564, the first edition, another, 1640, and a very much curtailed translation into Dutch of Baptista Porta's *Magia Naturalis*. This was printed at Leyden, in 1655, in a small octavo volume, and is announced as the third edition. By the elimination of a great amount of matter, the twenty books which the original contains are reduced to four, so that it is little more than the name of the Neapolitan's famous work.

By a copy now before me, I have ascertained that the Signora Cortese's collection of Secrets appeared at Venice in 1565. Whether this is the first edition or not I am unable to say, for unfortunately the authoress has not dated the dedication of her book to the most Reverend Monsignore Mario Chaboga, Archdeacon of Ragusi. The later edition of 1625 is a mere reprint of this one, without any alteration, and there was another reprint which appeared at Venice in 1677.

There is here, also, a rather famous Italian book, which, so far as my experience goes, is most uncommon. It is the first edition<sup>2</sup> of *L'Arte Vitraria*, by Antonio Neri, published at Florence in 1612. It was this work which was translated and annotated by Christopher Merrett in 1662 and 1672, which

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<sup>1</sup> So he is called on the title page, and his initials R. R. are at the end of the address to the reader. But Watt (*Bibliotheca Britannica*, II. 794a) and Lowndes (*Manual*, IV. 2057, Bohn's edition) call him distinctly *Alexander*. I cannot account for this discrepancy, if it be not merely a blunder, unless on the supposition that the issue of 1660, quoted by these two authorities, was edited by actually a different person from that of 1661.

There is said to be an earlier edition of 1592, but I have not been able to find it.



translation again was turned into German by Kunckel. Though of no magnitude, it is interesting as being one of the earliest on the subject. Neri was engaged in the famous works at Murano, where the exquisite Venetian glass was made, and this treatise contains the result of his experience. It is undoubtedly a very important book in the history of the art. It naturally passed through a large number of editions, of which the following are in the British Museum catalogue: Florence, 1612, 1661; Venice, 1663, 1678; Amsterdam, 1668; in German, 1679, 1689, 1756; in French, Paris, 1752; in English, London, 1662, 8vo; and 1826, folio, printed by Sir Thomas Phillips, at Middlehill. Besides the 1612, 1668, 1679 editions, I have put before you also a German translation by Geissler, Frankfurt, 1678; and a Latin edition, Amsterdam, 1686, and to these may be added an edition in Latin dated 1669, Amsterdam, 12mo. This is merely a re-issue of the 1668 edition, with a new-dated title-page.

Another work on glass and another first edition is Blancourt's, *De L'Art de la Verrerie*, Paris, 1697, 12mo. Of this, the English translation of 1699 was formerly mentioned. The volume contains an account of the making of crystal mirrors in France, round which there hangs altogether so curious a history. It hardly falls within the scope of these notes to say anything about the contents of the books, for that would lead us into surveying the whole of the arts and natural and physical sciences; but a narrative of the manner in which Colbert, about the middle of the 17th century, contrived to cut into the Venetian monopoly in these much-prized objects of art would almost tempt one to turn aside from the main topic of the present paper.

On a totally different subject is the book next in order of time: Plattes' *Subterranean Treasure*, reprinted as a thin quarto pamphlet at London in 1679. There is no difference between this and the first edition of 1639.

Lastly, one more edition<sup>1</sup> of a famous book may be mentioned here. It is the 1786 issue of the *Century of Inventions* by the Marquis of Worcester, and it is got up in precisely the same style as those published by Foulis and by Duncan, which have been already before the Society.

Of the *Polygraphice*, by Dr. William Salmon, the 8th edition of which

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<sup>1</sup> I am indebted for it to the kindness of Dr. J. B. Russell, of this Society.



appeared in 1701, I have since seen the 2nd edition printed at London in 1673. It is a much smaller book, and confines itself more to the secrets of the fine arts than to those of the common arts. It contains some specimens of line engraving.

All the preceding are merely additions to the list already given. The concluding part of this research will contain notices of books of Secrets which have not been previously referred to. These stretch over a considerable period of time, and are of a curious, and in certain cases of a bizarre, character. This part will include an alphabetical list of the books referred to in the present and next part.





ERRATA IN TRANSACTIONS, VOLUME II.

*P.* 190, line 1, *for* Basel, *read* Venice.

*P.* 190, line 2, *for* 1536, *read* 1555, or 1556.

*P.* 232. line 12, *for* 1503, *read* 1501.

*Ibid.*, lines 15 and 16, *for* Prebend, *read* Prebendary.

*P.* 233, line 20, col. 2, *for* 1585 Rom. (?), *read* 1585 Romæ 8.

*Ibid.*, notes 2 and 3, *for* Grässe *read* Graesse, and the same correction elsewhere.

*P.* 234, line 11, col. 2, and line 30, *for* Medina, *read* Medina del Campo.

The corresponding pages in the separate reprint of the *Bibliographical Notes*, Parts I. and II. are respectively 11, 22, 23, 24.



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IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office, at the City of New York, this 10th day of June, 1901.

JOHN W. WALKER,  
Mayor of the City of New York.



