

Sales catalogue: Sotheby's

Publication/Creation

18 July 1928

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/zc9jvyfd>

License and attribution

This work has been identified as being free of known restrictions under copyright law, including all related and neighbouring rights and is being made available under the Creative Commons, Public Domain Mark.

You can copy, modify, distribute and perform the work, even for commercial purposes, without asking permission.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

WA/4mm/am/Sal/20/749

SOTHEBY AND Co.

34 & 35 NEW BOND STREET, LONDON, W. (1)

CATALOGUE
OF A
COPY OF THE KELMSCOTT CHAUCER
PRINTED UPON VELLUM,
AND OF
THE EXTREMELY FINE
MANUSCRIPT OF VIRGIL'S ÆNEID,
by WILLIAM MORRIS.

The Property of a Gentleman.

Day of Sale.

WEDNESDAY, THE 18TH OF JULY,
AT 2.30 P.M.

1928.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR MESSRS. SOTHEBY'S
CATALOGUES AND PRICE LISTS FOR ONE SEASON.

(All Subscriptions include postage.)

PLAIN CATALOGUES.

	£	s.	d.
Antiquities (Primitive, Egyptian, Greek, etc.) ...	0	1	6
Autograph Letters ...	0	2	0
Books and Manuscripts ...	0	5	0
Coins and Medals ...	0	2	6
Engravings, Etchings, Drawings and Pictures ...	0	4	0
Japanese Colour Prints and Works of Art ...	0	1	0
Persian Drawings and Works of Art ...	0	1	0
Works of Art (including Armour, China, Furniture, Glass, Jewellery, Miniatures, Silver, Textiles, etc.) ...	0	4	0
	<u>£1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>

ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUES.

(To include Plain Copies where no Illustrated Catalogues are issued.)

	£	s.	d.
Antiquities (Primitive, Egyptian, Greek, etc.). ...	0	5	0
Autograph Letters ...	0	5	0
Books and Manuscripts ...	2	0	0
Coins and Medals ...	0	10	0
Engravings, Etchings, Drawings and Pictures ...	1	0	0
Japanese Colour Prints and Works of Art ...	0	2	6
Persian Drawings and Works of Art ...	0	2	6
Works of Art (as above) ...	1	0	0
	<u>£5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>0</u>

PRINTED LISTS OF PRICES AND BUYERS' NAMES.

	£	s.	d.
Books, Manuscripts and Autograph Letters ...	9	0	0
Coins, Medals and Antiquities ...	2	10	0
Engravings (Old) ...	3	0	0
Etchings (Modern) ...	2	10	0
Pictures and Drawings ...	2	10	0
Works of Art (as above) ...	5	10	0
	<u>£25</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

CATALOGUE
OF A
COPY OF THE KELMSCOTT CHAUCER
PRINTED UPON VELLUM,
AND OF
THE EXTREMELY FINE
MANUSCRIPT OF VIRGIL'S ÆNEID,
by WILLIAM MORRIS.

The Property of a Gentleman.

WHICH WILL BE SOLD BY AUCTION
BY MESSRS.

SOTHEBY & Co.

The Rt. Hon. SIR MONTAGUE BARLOW, Bt., K.B.E., G. D. HOBSON, M.V.O. F. W. WARRE, O.B.E., M.C.
C. G. DES GRAZ, B.A. MISS E. BARLOW. C. V. PILKINGTON, B.A.

Auctioneers of Literary Property & Works illustrative of the Fine Arts.

AT THEIR LARGE GALLERIES, 34 & 35, NEW BOND STREET, W. (1)

On WEDNESDAY, the 18th of JULY, 1928,

AT 2.30 P.M.

May be Viewed Two Days prior.

Catalogues may be had.

Illustrated Catalogues (4 Plates), Price 1s.

Printed by J. Davy & Sons, Ltd., 8-9, Frith Street, W.1, England.

CONDITIONS OF SALE.

- I. The highest bidder to be the buyer; and if any dispute arise between bidders, the lot so disputed shall be immediately put up again, provided the auctioneer cannot decide the said dispute.
- II. No person to advance less than 1s.; above five pounds 2s. 6d.; and so on in proportion.
- III. All lots are sold subject to the right of the seller or his agent to bid, or else to impose a reserve.
- IV. The purchasers to give in their names and places of abode, and to pay down 10s. in the pound, if required, in part payment of the purchase-money, in default of which the lot or lots purchased to be immediately put up again and re-sold.
- V. The lots to be taken away, at the buyer's expense, immediately after the conclusion of the sale; in default of which Messrs. SOTHEBY & Co. will not hold themselves responsible if lost, stolen, damaged or otherwise destroyed, but they will be left at the sole risk of the purchaser. If, at the expiration of ONE WEEK after the conclusion of the sale, the books or other property are not cleared or paid for, they will then be catalogued for immediate sale, and the expenses, the same as if re-sold, will be added to the amount at which the books were bought. Messrs. SOTHEBY & Co. will have the option of re-selling the lots uncleared, either by public or private sale, without any notice being given to the defaulter.
- VI. All the books are presumed to be perfect, unless otherwise expressed; but if, upon collating, any should prove defective, the purchaser will be at liberty to take or reject them, provided they are received back within FOURTEEN DAYS after the conclusion of the sale, when the purchase-money will be returned.
- VII. The sale of any book or books is not to be set aside on account of any worm-holes, stained or short leaves of text or plates, want of list of plates or blank leaves, or on account of the publication of any subsequent volume, supplement, appendix, or plates. All the manuscripts, autographs, all magazines and reviews, all books in lots, and all tracts in lots or volumes, will be sold with all faults, imperfections and errors of description. The sale of any illustrated book, lot of prints or drawings, is not to be set aside on account of any error in the enumeration of the numbers stated, or error of description.
- VIII. No Imperfect Book will be taken back, unless a note accompanies each book, stating its imperfections, with the number of lot and date of the sale at which the same was purchased.
- IX. To prevent inaccuracy in the delivery, and inconvenience in the settlement of the purchases, no lot can on any account be removed during the time of sale.
- X. Upon failure of complying with the above conditions, the money required and deposited in part of payment shall be forfeited; and *if any loss is sustained in the re-selling of such lots as are not cleared or paid for, all charges on such re-sale shall be made good by the defaulters at this sale.*

Messrs. SOTHEBY & CO. are prepared to execute bids, and in addition to advise intending purchasers as far as possible, if requested by them to do so, without making any charge for either service. Lots will be procured as cheaply as is permitted by other bids or reserves, if any.

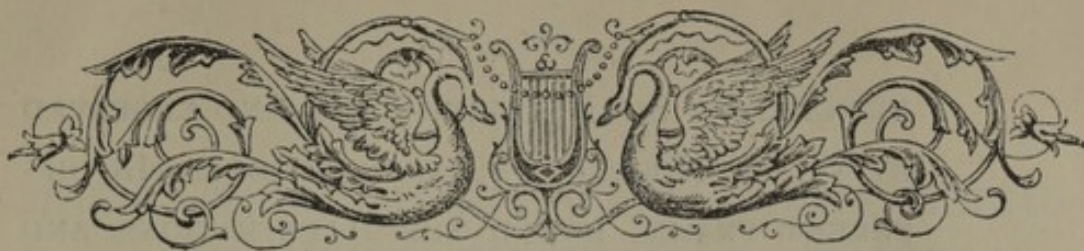
34 & 35, New Bond Street, London, W. (1)

Telegraphic Address:
"Abinitio, Wesdo, London."
A.B.C. Code 5th Edition.

Telephone: (3 lines)
Mayfair 6682, 6683, 6684.

In sending Commissions this Catalogue may be referred to as "PAROS."

COMMISSIONS SENT BY TELEPHONE ARE ACCEPTED ONLY AT THE SENDER'S RISK,
AND MUST BE CONFIRMED BY LETTER OR TELEGRAM.



CATALOGUE
OF A
COPY OF THE KELMSCOTT CHAUCER
PRINTED UPON VELLUM,
AND OF
THE EXTREMELY FINE
MANUSCRIPT OF VIRGIL'S AENEID,
by WILLIAM MORRIS.

The Property of a Gentleman.

DAY OF SALE.

Wednesday, July 18th, 1928,
AT 2.30 P.M.

LOT 1.



KELMSCOTT PRESS. CHAUCER
(GEOFFREY) WORKS; EDITED BY F. S.
ELLIS, PRINTED ON VELLUM (ONE OF
13 COPIES, SO PRINTED) IN BLACK AND RED,
WOODCUT TITLE, AND 87 WOODCUT ILLUSTRATIONS

DESIGNED BY SIR E. BURNE-JONES, AND ENGRAVED
 BY W. H. HOOPER, 14 LARGE BORDERS, 18 DIFFERENT
 FRAMES ROUND THE ILLUSTRATIONS, AND 26 LARGE
 INITIAL WORDS DESIGNED FOR THE BOOK BY WILLIAM
 MORRIS, MANY OF THEM ENGRAVED BY C. E. KEATES,
crushed green morocco, double frame sides, decorated with interlaced knot-work' arabesques, and a conventional rose stamp, raised bands, gilt inside border

folio. Kelmscott Press, W. Morris, 1896

* * * A MAGNIFICENT COPY PRINTED ON VELLUM OF THE MOST FAMOUS MODERN PRINTED BOOK. Loosely inserted, a 4to sheet of Four Stanzas on Chaucer, Burne-Jones, and William Morris, headed "In librum aureum / trium poetarum opus," signed S. E. and dated, July / mdcccxcvi.

LOT 2.

MORRIS (WILLIAM) and Hewitt (Graily) THE AENEID OF VIRGIL, MANUSCRIPT ON VELLUM, 370 pp. folio ($13\frac{5}{8}$ in. by $8\frac{3}{4}$ in.), WITH DECORATIONS BY WILLIAM MORRIS and Mrs. Louise Powell, and large historiated miniatures after drawings by Burne-Jones by the late Charles Fairfax Murray, *white and purple vellum end-papers, brown morocco, blind-tooled in imitation of twelfth century bindings by Messrs. Leighton, brown morocco, pull-off case*

* * * A MASTERPIECE OF MODERN CALLIGRAPHY AND A MANUSCRIPT OF THE GREATEST INTEREST. Some account of it is given by Miss May Morris in the introduction to vol. XI of the Collected Works of William Morris, 1921, pp. XXI-XXVI, and we are able to supplement what she says by information from the two survivors of the four who worked on the manuscript.

It was begun by Morris in the winter of 1874-5, and, with the exception of the first page of Books II-VI inclusive, was written to the foot of p. 177, almost at the end of Book VI: a half-page miniature of Venus and Aeneas, after a drawing by Burne-Jones, was painted on the opening page, and the text on the same page written, with the red "bole" ready for gilding, on a grey-purple ground "of strange and lovely quality," as Miss Morris says; also twenty-two decorative initials of exquisite beauty were placed in the margins of various pages between 45 and 72 inclusive. Then, for some reason,

the work was abandoned, and the unfinished manuscript was subsequently sold to Fairfax Murray. For him the body of the manuscript was completed by Mr. Graily Hewitt, who also gilded the text on the opening page of Book I, wrote in letters of gold the opening pages of Books II-VI inclusive, and generally filled in the blue and gold initials in the text up to p. 72 inclusive; in addition he wrote the head-lines, "P. Virgilii Maronis," in blue on the dexter pages, "Aeneidos Liber [I-XII]" in gold on the sinister pages; nevertheless, a few of the initial letters—e. g. on pp. 46-7—are the work of William Morris, as well as the head-lines on the same two pages; all the initials after p. 72, and some of those before, are merely pencilled in. Murray then got Mrs. Louise Powell to draw fine borders of floral and foliate decoration, based on the Kelmscott Chaucer borders, to the opening pages of the twelve books [see FRONTISPIECE and Pl. IV]; the first of these was gilded by Mr. Hewitt, those to Books VII, VIII (see Pl. IV) and IX were coloured by Mrs. Powell, the rest are merely pencilled in. Finally, Murray himself painted half-page miniatures (some not quite finished) to the opening pages of all the Books except III (see Pl. IV), and painted five historiated miniatures (see Pl. III) in the margins of other pages, all from the designs by Burne-Jones which are now in the Fitzwilliam Museum. Long before this, as recorded by Miss May Morris, he had, at her father's request, almost entirely repainted the miniature of Venus and Aeneas (see FRONTISPIECE) so that only the head of Aeneas now remains of Morris's original work.

The manuscript then is composite—four hands have worked on it—and even so it is incomplete. None the less, it is of great beauty and importance: Miss Morris calls it “the noblest of all his [her father’s] painted books . . . the writing is splendid and certain throughout—not a sign of fatigue or haste anywhere . . . The wonderful first page [*see FRONTISPIECE*] is simple enough in plan, but how superb !”

The miniature by Fairfax Murray, after Burne-Jones, reproduced on Pl. III, she calls “one of the most romantic of the ‘storied’ ornaments—tantalizing for its poetic charm and the regret felt over the unfinished state of the ornament as a whole (the picture is complete except for the gold).”

Of her father’s floriated letters, two of which are shown on Pl. II, she says that

“the arrangement and relation to the page, the quality of colour and the handling are quite the finest of his work. The painting is solid and luminous, the broadly-designed leafage, carefully modelled and finished, is at once strong and delicate, reminding one of the finest early French Gothic sculptured ornament. He made a beautiful and dexterous use of white in finishing and also played with the gold with evident enjoyment. Sometimes two colours were used—a pale silvery gold (the colour of a harvest moon) beside one of richer tone, or the gold itself glazed with thin red and painted with red veins.”

Printed by J. Davy & Sons, Limited,



8-9, Frith Street, London, W., England.

VALUATIONS.

Messrs. SOTHEY & Co. make Valuations for Probate, Insurance, etc., at 1 per cent. with a minimum fee

In London	£5	5	0
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	---	---

In the Country	£10	10	0
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	---

Together with Travelling Expenses.

INSPECTIONS.

Properties are inspected and Owners advised with view to a Sale by Auction, at a fee

In London	£2	2	0
-----------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	---	---

In the Country	£3	3	0
----------------	-----	-----	-----	-----	----	---	---

Together with Travelling Expenses.

NOTICES OF SALES.

NOTICES OF ALL SALES APPEAR IN THE FOLLOWING PAPERS :

<i>Mondays</i>	Daily Telegraph; Morning Post.
<i>Tuesdays</i>	Times.

NOTICES OF SPECIAL SALES APPEAR IN THE FOLLOWING PAPERS :

A. ENGLISH.

<i>Thursdays</i>	...	Times, Literary Supplement; Scotsman; Glasgow Herald; and Western Mail.
------------------	-----	---

<i>Saturdays</i>	...	Country Life; Sphere; Graphic; Illustrated London News; Field; Publishers' Circular; Clique;
------------------	-----	--

and *Monthly* in the Burlington Magazine; Connoisseur; Apollo; and London Mercury.

B. FOREIGN.

Journal des Arts (Paris).

Gazette de l'Hotel Drouot (Paris).

Renaissance de l'Art Français.

American Art News.

Chicago Daily News.

Philadelphia North American.

New York Times.

New York Evening Post.

Boston Evening Transcript.

International Studio.

BAKER, LEIGH & SOTHEBY.

THE FIRM COMMENCING WITH SAMUEL BAKER IN

1744.

SOTHEBY AND CO.

1928.