

**BIBLIOTHECA  
SPENCERIANA.**

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BIBLIOTHECA  
SPENCERIANA;  
OR  
A DESCRIPTIVE CATALOGUE  
OF THE BOOKS PRINTED IN

**The Fifteenth Century,**  
AND OF MANY VALUABLE FIRST EDITIONS,  
IN THE LIBRARY OF  
GEORGE JOHN EARL SPENCER, K. G.  
&c. &c. &c.



BY THE REVEREND  
THOMAS FROGNALL DIBDIN.

VOL. III.

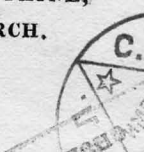
LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR, BY W. BULMER AND CO.

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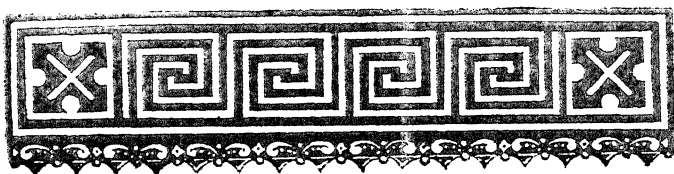
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WHITE & COCHRANE; JOHN MURRAY; AND J. & A. ARCH.

1814.



COLLECTIONS  
OF  
CLASSES.





## Collections of Classics.

524. ANTHOLOGIA GRÆCA. *Printed by Laurentius, the Son of Franciscus de Alopa. Florence. 1494. Quarto.*

WE commence our account of the more important COLLECTIONS of CLASSICAL WRITERS, with the present celebrated production. It is the first, and the most beautiful, of all the publications, printed IN CAPITAL LETTERS, which came from the press of Laurentius de Alopa; a Venetian by birth. Collectors, for the last century, have been anxious to possess fine copies of it, especially UPON VELLUM; but a more splendid vellum copy of it, than the one under description, is probably no where to be found. It formerly belonged to the Chancellor D'Aguesseau; at whose sale, in 1785, it was purchased by the late Count Reviczky for 1000 livres; and from the subjoined description of the copy,\* the reader cannot but regret, with the

\* IMPRIME' SUR VELIN. Cet Exemplaire est de la plus belle conservation, et porte 9 pouces 4 lignes de haut, sur 5 pouces 11 lignes de large; il est relié en bois, couvert de maroquin rouge, avec dentelles et un médaillon en relief sur chaque côté de la couverture: l'un des deux médaillons représente Alexandre. Le premier feuillet de ce livre est orné d'un cadre supérieurement peint en miniature, et l'on aperçoit au milieu de la marge d'en haut les ARMES DE MEDICIS surmontées d'une petite croix, et d'un chapeau de Cardinal: d'où il faut inférer que c'est ici l'exemplaire qui a été donné au Cardinal de Médicis, qui depuis fut élu pape sous le nom de LEON X. En 1494 il pouvoit avoir 17 ans; et depuis trois ans il étoit décoré de la pourpre. On sent bien qu'alors ce livre convenoit parfaitement à un jeune Prince qui aimoit les Lettres, et que ce Présent étoit digne de lui être offert. On peut assurer que, par sa rareté et sa beauté, cet ouvrage peut encore figurer dans les Bibliothèques les plus riches en raretés typographiques. Il est complet.

*Cat. d'Aguesseau, p. 193, no. 2942.*

present noble Owner of it, that its original exterior has been exchanged for a modern and less appropriate binding. We proceed to a bibliographical description of the volume. The recto of the first leaf is blank. On the reverse, is an account of the contents of the impression; preceded by the Greek alphabet. On the recto of A II, the text commences thus:

ΑΡΧΙΟΥ. ΕΙΣ ΤΟΥΣ ΤΕΣΣΑΡΑΣ  
ΑΓΩΝΑΣ.

ΕΣΣΑΡΕ΄Σ Ε΄ΙΣΙΝ Α΄ΓΩΝΕΣ Α΄ΝΕ΄ΑΛΛΑ΄ΔΑ. ΤΕ΄Σ  
ΣΑΡΕΣ Ι΄ΡΟΙ΄.

Ο΄Ι ΔΥ΄Ο ΜΕΝ, ΘΝΗΤΩΝ. Ο΄Ι ΔΥ΄Ο Δ΄Α΄ΘΑ.  
ΝΑ΄ΤΩΝ

&c. &c. &c.

On the recto of the concluding leaf of the Greek text, we read the epigram of LASCARIS, subscribed ΛΑΣΚΑΡΕΩΣ. The signatures extend entirely through the first alphabet, and as far as KK VIII of the second; uniformly in eights. The Latin epistle of the same scholar, to PIETRO DE MEDICI, follows on the reverse of this leaf; and occupies, inclusively, 7 leaves; without any signature. On the reverse of this 7th and last leaf, we read the imprint, thus:

IMPRESSVM FLORENTIAE PER LAVRENTIVM FRANCISCI  
DE ALOPA VENETVM. III. IDVS AVGVSTI. M. CCCC  
LXXXXIII.

The reader must again be reminded that the entire impression is executed in CAPITAL LETTERS. He must also be informed that this Latin epistle of Lascaridis is sometimes missing, and supplied by a reprint: — a circumstance which excited so lively an indignation in Maittaire ('verùm non patiar hoc *κειμήλιον* diutius, tanquam pro deperdito, præ magnâ Exemplarium paucitate haberi, et in omnium, quotquot sunt doctrinæ reconditoris studiosi, manibus non frequentari'\*) that he reprinted it, line for line, in the first edition of his *Annal. Typog.* 1719, p. 270-283; but unaccountably omitted the

\* Maittaire thus continues: 'Apagē vilem illam, invidiam, et nunquam satis exhibendam exagitandamque quorundam angustioribus animis hominum *φιλαυτίαν*, qui modis omnibus, quicquid uspiam est pretiosioris litterariæ suppellectilis, per sordidam et insatiabilem orexin corrādunt, non tam ut ipsi, quàm ut soli, congestis thesauris incubent?' &c. *Ibid.*

reimpression in his second edition of the same volume:—for which he has been severely criticised by Seiz, in his *Ann. Sæc. Tert. Art. Typog.* 1741, 8vo. p. 11. For want of seeing this epistle (which, as the reader may have already remarked, has the preceding date *subjoined*,) bibliographers have mentioned an edition of the Anthology, printed in like manner, without date or place; which is no other than a mutilated copy of the present edition. Seemiller notices three copies with such deficiency; and all the vellum copies seen by De Bure appear to have been equally defective. *Incunab. Typog. Fasc.* iv. p. 54; *Bibliogr. Instruct.* vol. iii. p. 200. Clement, although he mentions a fine and perfect copy of it UPON VELLUM, in the Royal library at Paris, has described it ‘sans lieu ni date,’\* in the text of his *Bibl. Curieuse*, vol. i. p. 361. The same bibliographer needed not, for one moment, have countenanced the supposition that there was a Florentine impression of the date of 1488—according to the intimation of the *Bibl. Marciana*, pt. i. p. 111, 1727, 8vo.

There does not appear to have been any vellum copy of this EDITIO PRINCEPS, in the Harleian or Mead Collections; but Dr. Askew had a similar copy, which was purchased at his sale by Dr. Hunter for 28l. 7s. and is now in the Hunter Museum at Glasgow. The Duke de la Valliere’s vellum copy was returned, upon his death, to the monastery of St. Genevieve, by order of the Duchess de Chastillon: it having been lent him only during life. *Cat. de la Valliere*, vol. ii. n°. 2353. The Gaignat and Loménie copies were upon paper; the former having the reprint of the epistle. *Cat. de Gaignat*. vol. i. n°. 1520; *Index Libror.* vol. ii. p. 193-4. In the copy of it, UPON VELLUM, which was in the Soubise Collection, some ignorant scribe had effaced the word ‘Impressum’ and substituted ‘Scriptum.’ *Cat. de Soubise*, p. 325, n°. 4713. A very beautiful vellum copy of it is in the Cracherode Collection, in the British Museum; of which the ancient binding is in perfect taste. The condition of the present very splendid and desirable copy has been before described.

It remains to observe, that this interesting Collection of fugitive pieces of ancient Greek poetry, was compiled by MAXIMUS PLANUDES,† a monk and professor of rhetoric at Constantinople, in

\* Even De Thou’s copy (according to Renouard’s *Catalogue Des Livres d’Assortiment*, 1813, no. 180) had the reimpression of the Epistle of Lascaris.

† Consult the various authorities referred to by Saxius, in his *Onomast. Literar.* vol. ii. p. 354-5; and Harles’s *Fabric. Bibl. Græc.* vol. iv. p. 429.

the xivth century; who has been accused of having mutilated the materials which lay before him, and of having rejected, from bad taste, many of the more exquisite pieces, which were happily restored by SALMASIUS in the XVIIth century. BRUNCK has supplied many of the deficiencies which were obvious even in the labours of Salmasius; and has added other pieces, which, in turn, have been rejected by JACOBS, the last and best editor of this truly interesting Collection. A Vatican MS., now in the Imperial Library at Paris, is reported to contain yet more authentic materials; and Mons. Chardon has given an earnest of the fruits which the public are likely to gather from his collation of this MS. and from a publication of its contents. The foregoing intelligence is supplied by a very interesting preface prefixed to a recent edition of *English Translations from the Greek Anthology*, 1813, 8vo. :\* a

\* By the Revd. Robert Bland, and others. Although it is most probable that this book will be upon the shelf of every lover of ancient classical literature, I cannot refrain from the gratification of extracting the original prologue, (perhaps a little out of place here) and two specimens of the version—the latter, rather indiscriminately selected.

PROLOGUE.

Thou little wreath, by Fancy twined  
In summer's sun and winter's wind,  
That thro' an age of deepest gloom  
Hast kept thy fragrance and thy bloom,  
Tho' now whole centuries have roll'd,  
And nations, since thy birth, grown old,  
Tho' time have wither'd many a leaf,  
And silent envy play'd the thief,  
And clowns have breathed in evil hour  
A poison into thy sweet flower,—  
Yet dost thou live—nor tyrants' rage  
Hath nipt thee quite, nor wars, nor age.

Yet not, as once, the gentle earth  
Thou dost adorn that gave thee birth,  
When, all unforced by pains and toil,  
Wild shooting in thy native soil,  
The sweetest buds that deck'd the land  
Were pluck'd by Meleager's hand,  
Who curl'd Anacreon's blushing vine  
Around Erinne's eglantine,  
And Myro's lilies cull'd, to shade  
The roses of the Lesbian Maid,  
And pluck'd the myrtle from thy grove,  
Callimachus, the sprig of love.  
With these my venturous hand shall wreath  
The baleful plants that sadly breathe,



work, equally distinguished for its fidelity and elegance ; and exhibiting one of the most successful poetical versions from the Greek, of which any country can boast.

525. *ASTRONOMI VETERES. GR. ET LAT. Printed by Aldus. Venice. 1499. 2 vols. Folio.*

There are few Aldine publications more beautiful and interesting than the present. Renouard has been particular in his account of it, but we may add to his description. On the recto of the first leaf (sign. \* 1,) we read the title, which informs us that the impression con-

That with a sigh the tragic muse  
Around her path majestic strews ;  
And I will twine, these flowers among,  
Menander, prince of comic song !  
Pluck'd from thy many garlands bright,  
So charming once and new to sight,  
Some honours spared by age and clime,  
That live to grace an after-time.  
Our unavailing sorrows mourn  
Thy roses pale, thy lilies torn ;  
Thy garden rifled of its bloom,  
Thy violets robb'd of their perfume:  
Thy gaudy tulips now have lost  
Their smiles by many a chilling frost ;  
Thy spring's rich wardrobe now is scant ;  
And now some sad and wintry plant,  
Some wither'd shrub of power malign,  
Of all that graced thy garden fine  
Remains of thee, or sickly yew  
Where buds of heavenly fragrance grew,  
Or mourner cypress spreads a shade,  
Or plant of Daphne, hapless maid !  
Yet 'mid the melancholy night,  
Some scatter'd honours give delight ;  
And here and there a rose is found  
Neglected on the chilly ground,  
And a chance lily sheds its snow  
Beneath the darker shrubs of woe.  
Oh, not as erst, thou modest wreath,  
Shall thou of all thy fragrance breathe !  
Oh, not as erst, when Genius knew  
To give thy colours to the view,  
And Taste was ready to display  
The flowers that fell in Fancy's way !

tains the 8 *entire Books* of JULIUS FIRMICUS, with emendations, and recently brought from Scythia: also the 5 *Books* of MANILIUS; the *Phenomena* of ARATUS, translated from the Greek by Germanicus Cæsar, with a Commentary, and Cuts; a *Fragment* of ARATUS, by Cicero; a *Paraphrase* of ARATUS by Ruffus Festus Avienus; the *Greek text* of ARATUS, with the *Greek Commentary* of Theon; the *Greek text* of PROCLUS upon the *Sphere*; and LINACRE's *Version* of Proclus.

For zephyrs soft that fann'd thy youth,  
How wilt thou meet the gale uncouth?  
Torn from a genial summer's smile,  
How wilt thou bear a northern isle?  
Far from home and native sky,  
Meek stranger, wilt thou live or die?

B.

## AMATORY.

BEAUTY COMPARED WITH FLOWERS. M.

*Paulus*, 17. iii. 76.

We ask no flowers to crown the blushing rose,  
Nor glittering gems thy beauteous form to deck,  
The pearl, in Persia's precious gulph that glows,  
Yields to the dazzling whiteness of thy neck.  
Gold adds not to the lustre of thy hair,  
But, vanquish'd, sheds a fainter radiance there.

The Indian hyacinth's celestial hue  
Shrinks from the bright effulgence of thine eye,  
The Paphian cestus bathed thy lips in dew,  
And gave thy form ambrosial harmony.  
My soul would perish in the melting gaze,  
But for thine eyes, where Hope for ever plays.

p. 13.

## MORAL.

*Leonidas*.

HOME. B.

Cling to thy home! If there the meanest shed  
Yield thee a hearth and shelter for thy head,  
And some poor plot, with vegetables stored,  
Be all that heaven allots thee for thy board,  
Unsavoury bread, and herbs that scatter'd grow,  
Wild on the river-brink or mountain-brow,  
Yet e'en this cheerless mansion shall provide  
More heart's repose than all the world beside.

p. 111.

Six preliminary leaves, including the foregoing, upon sign. \*, precede the text of Firmicus; containing a letter from Aldus to Guido Pheretrius, Duke of Urbino, dated Nov. 1499—with another from P. F. Niger to Cardinal Hippolitus d'Este, dated 1497; and a table of the Contents of Firmicus, upon three leaves. The 1st book of Firmicus begins on a i, and concludes on the recto of b 12; the previous signature having only 10 leaves:—next ensue signatures c, d, e, f, g, in tens, and h in twelves. Then a a, on which the 5th book of Firmicus begins: having running titles, in capitals, as far as signature ii. The signatures ii and kk have only 8 leaves each. On the recto of kk viij, we read the following colophon:

Venetiis in ædibus Aldi Romani mense Junio. M.ID.  
Ne quis impune integros hos, ac emendatos Materni  
libros, hinc ad annos decem formis iterum queat excu-  
dere, cautum est.

The recto of the 1st leaf of the SECOND VOLUME contains a title in the middle, in two lines. The reverse is blank. On A, recto, the text of Manilius begins; and ends on the reverse of F v. A table of one leaf follows. Then the Life of Aratus, from the Greek, on G (i). On G ii, there is a very excellent wood-cut of the signs of the Zodiac, much superior to the cuts in the body of the text; which latter, as Renouard justly observes, are not equal to those in the HYGINUS of 1482, although borrowed from them. The fac-similes from this latter, in the following pages, prove the truth of this remark. The Commentary upon Aratus concludes on K iii recto. The Fragment follows, ending on the reverse of K 9. The version of the same, by Avienus, follows on L (i) recto, and concludes on N vj recto. The reverse is blank. Next comes the Greek text of Aratus, surrounded by the Scholia, which terminates on S vij, recto. It is immediately followed, on the reverse, by the Greek text of Proclus; which latter has only 7 pages, and is succeeded by Linacre's Latin version.

Two interesting Epistles precede Linacre's version. One is by Aldus, to his friend Albertus Pius Carpus; in which Linacre and Grocin (names for ever dear to Englishmen!) are strenuously extolled. The Latinity of Grocin is held up as a model of imitation for contemporaneous writers; and Aldus calls upon his countrymen 'to emulate the British' in this particular. His epistle bears date October, 1499. The other letter is by Grocin; who displays great enthusiasm in the cause of litera-

ture and philosophy; and tells Aldus that his friend Thomas Linacre had first made him acquainted with the labours of his press. The following passage from it is too interesting to be withheld: 'Noster item LINACRUS nuntiauit mihi te rem multo magis admirandam moliri, iamque statutum habere, ut libros sacros ueteris quidem testamenti trifariam, latine, græce, et habraice, Noui autem bifariam, græce et latine imprimas, Opus plane arduum et christiano uiro dignissimum. In quo, si modo perficere licebit, non modo cæteros omnes, qui unquam in hoc genere floruerunt, sed etiam te ipsum longo interuallo superabis. Age igitur MI ALDE auspicare tandem opus, quod cogitas, & quod iandiu parturis, aliquando parias. Non enim adduci possum, ut credam, posse opus tam diuinum secundis carere successibus. Nam quod ad nos attinet, nihil planè prætermitemus, quod huic rei futurum adiumento uidebitur. De iis, quæ tibi a nobis priuatim debentur, noli laborare. Curauius, ut prope diem satis tibi fiat. Vale. *Ex Vrbe Londino. vi. Calen. Septembr.*

The translation of Linacre occupies only 8 pages. The last leaf but one contains a register of the gatherings in each volume. Those in the first have been already described. The second volume contains signatures A, B, C, and D, in tens; but signature A has 11 leaves, as the first leaf is not noticed. E has 12, F 6, and G to M, inclusively, have 10 leaves. There are two signatures of N: one has 6, the other 10 leaves. O, P, Q, R, and S, have each 10; but T has only 8. On the recto of T viij, we have the colophon, thus:

Venetiis cura, & diligentia Aldi Ro. Mense octob.

M. ID. Cui concessum est ab Ill. S. V. ne hos

quoq; libros alii cuiquam impune for-

mis excudere liceat.

Renouard remarks that the Greek texts of Aratus and Proclus are sometimes wanting in copies of this impression; and that Clement, without being aware of such defection, has described an edition of Aratus, 'Sans lieu ni date. Edition ancienne et très-rare,' as if it had preceded the Aldine; whereas it is no other than the one just described. *L'Imprim. des Alde*, vol. i. p. 26-8; *Bibliothèque Curieuse*, vol. ii. p. 4, note 7. The present copy, although some leaves in the first volume are inlaid, may be called a fine one. It is in blue morocco. A beautiful copy was purchased at the Roxburgh sale, by Sir M. M. Sykes, for 19l. 19s.

526. AUGUSTÆ HISTORIÆ SCRIPTORES. *Printed by Philip de Lavagna. Milan. 1475. Folio.*

EDITIO PRINCEPS. Before we describe this exceedingly elegant volume, it may be as well to give a brief account of the blunders which have been committed, by the older bibliographers, in regard to the date of it. Happening to possess two of the earlier editions of the *Bibliotheca Latina* by Fabricius, as well as the last and best impression of it by Ernesti, I consulted the edition of 1721, 3 vols. 8vo.—as referred to by Saxius, in his *Hist. Lit. Typog. Mediol.* p. DLIX, note (a)—and there I discovered that Fabricius, in vol. i. p. 551, had adopted the error of Salmasius (*Edit. Script. Aug. Hist. Paris, 1620,*) in supposing that the Editio Princeps of this work had been published in 1465. This error arose from Salmasius having possessed an imperfect copy of it, in which the colophon was wanting; or, as Ernesti suggests, Salmasius might have possessed the very copy of it which was sold at the sale of Henry Justice's library, at the Hague, in 1763, in old French binding; with the ms. memorandum. '*Hist. Aug. Scriptores Mediolani, 1465.*' In fact, this identical copy also is in the present Library, and contains only a part of the work.

Mollerus, who wrote a dissertation upon SPARTIANUS, (one of the Historians of the Augustan age, and contained in this impression,) was not content with the antiquity of the date assigned by Salmasius, but affirmed that this volume was put forth in 1455.\* Fabricius and Ernesti properly correct so gross an error. J. Casaubon had supposed the first edition to have been printed in 1480. Meerman presents us with a copious note respecting the genuine date of the present impression; in which he tells us, that he had examined the libraries of William Cavendish, Duke of Devonshire—Charles Spencer, Earl of Sunderland—Thomas Herbert, Earl of Pembroke—and Edward Harley, Earl of Oxford—and that no Milan impression, with the date of 1465, could be found in them. Meerman is strenuous in opposing the inference which may be drawn from the Prolegomena of Saxius, p. LXXXVIII, that the Milan press was exercised as early as 1465. But Saxius is himself the best opponent of this assertion. Whoever reads the first three articles in the List of Books (see p. DLIX.) published at

\* *Dissert. de Spartiano, Altorf: 1687, p. 15. Fabr. Bibl. Lat, vol. ii. p. 6, edit. 1723, 4to.*

Milan before the year 1470, will see how feebly the existence of them is maintained. Both Meerman and Ernesti are particular and correct in their descriptions of the volume under notice. Consult the *Orig. Typog.* vol. ii. p. 242, note s: *Fabr. Bibl. Lat.* vol. iii. p. 98, &c. De Bure is also concise and exact. *Bibliogr. Instruct.* vol. v. p. 609.

On the recto of the first leaf we read the address of Bonus Accursius Pisanus, having the following prefix :

**BONVS ACCVRSIVS PISANVS** Salutem dicit plurimā  
Magnifico equiti aurato & sapiētissimo ac primo du-  
cali secretario Cicho Simonetæ.

This address occupies a page and a half. Towards the conclusion of it, Pisanus talks of having diligently examined, and accurately corrected, the texts of SÜETONIUS, ÆLIUS SPARTIANUS, JULIUS CAPITOLINUS, ÆLIUS LAMPRIDIUS, TREVELLIUS POLLIO, FLAVIUS VOPISCUS, EUTROPIUS, and PAULUS DIACONUS: the writers, who are contained in this important volume. Three sets of hexameter and pentameter verses, concerning the geneology, times, and deaths of the Cæsars, follow the preface; and conclude on the recto of the second leaf. On the recto of the fifth leaf the text of Suetonius begins. As Panzer has justly observed, the impression is divided into three parts. The *First Part*, which contains the Lives of the XII Cæsars, concludes on the recto of the 104th leaf; with this colophon :

Mediolani Impressum per Magistrum Philippum de  
lauagnia. 1475. die 20. Iulii.

Some brief chapters ensue, relating to the actions of Nerva and Trajan; with the oration of Pope Gregory, which pronounces the soul of Trajan to be freed from eternal misery. The *Second Part* may be said to comprise the texts of the other writers, before mentioned, as far as those of Eutropius and P. Diaconus; which two latter Historians are comprehended in the *Third Part*. On the reverse of fol. 247 and last, from the beginning of the volume, we read the ensuing colophon :

Informatum est hoc Opus per Magistrum Philippum de  
Lauagna anno a Natiuitate Christi. M.cccc.Lxxv. Vn  
decimo kalendas Ianuarias Mediolani.

It is allowed by Fabricius that the text of this valuable impression entirely agrees 'cum codice præstantissimo Palatino,' which was consulted in the compilation of it. The beauty of the press-work is equal to its intrinsic worth. Laire examined four copies which were divested of signatures, but both himself and Fossi properly observe that there are copies which contain them—between the text of Suetonius and that of Eutropius. *Index Libror.* vol. i. p. 365-6; *Bibl. Magliabech*, vol. ii. col. 601. In the present beautiful copy they are to be found (but most of them cut away in the binding) in the extreme corner of the bottom margin. This copy is in most desirable condition; bound in red morocco.

527. EPISTOLOGRAPHI; seu EPISTOLARUM GRÆCARUM COLLECTIO. *Printed by Aldus. Venice. 1499. Quarto.*

EDITIO PRINCEPS. The order of the *Two Parts* of the present impression being different from that which is observed by Renouard, the ensuing description will necessarily vary; but only in form. The recto of the first leaf presents us with the title of the work, in Greek and Latin, each having the same number of lines. The latter is as follows:

Epistolæ diuersorum philosophorum . ora-  
torum . Rhetorum sex & uiginti .  
Quorum nomina in se  
quenti inuenies  
Pagina .

On the reverse of the same leaf, is a list of the several authors of the Epistles, in Greek; having, on the recto of the second leaf, a Latin version of them, in three columns. The names are these, 'Synesius, Demosthenes, Plato, Aristoteles, Philippus, Alexander, Hippocrates, Democritus, Heraclitus, Diogenes, Crates, Anacharsis, Euripides, Theano, Melissa, Mya, Alciphron, Philostratus, Theophylactus, Aelianus, Aeneas, Procopius, Dionysius, Lysis, Amasis, Musonius.' Beneath the Greek list of names are some Greek verses, of which the ensuing is also a version:—it being printed beneath the Latin names, on the opposite page:

Epistolarum congregatio uirorum doctorum  
Quos priscum produxit ceu rosas tempus.