

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. IV.

LONDON:

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

Shakspeare Press,

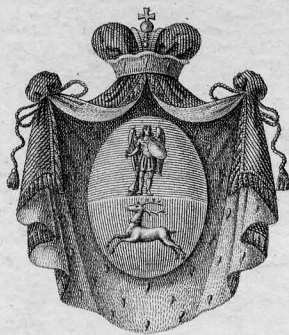
AND PUBLISHED BY LONGMAN, HURST, & CO.; PAYNE & FOSS;
WHITE & COCHRANE; JOHN MURRAY; AND J. & A. ARCH.

1815.



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*De la Bibliothèque
du Prince Alexandre
Labanoff de Rostoff.
N.º*

ADVERTISEMENT.

AFTER the lapse of a twelvemonth, the fourth and last volume of this Work is presented to the Public. Whatever errors it may contain, there will still be found, I trust, a sufficient body of information and amusement to render it acceptable to the lovers of rare books, and to the skilful in Bibliography.

In regard to variety and splendour, the volume now published may be considered superior to those which have preceded it. The ITALIAN BOOKS, although few in number, are precious for their rarity and intrinsic worth; while the account of the publications from the earliest presses of OUR OWN COUNTRY, will be found to contain many curious topics connected with the state of

Ancient English Literature. In the SUPPLEMENT, many uncommon and interesting articles are introduced; and the Embellishments throughout the volume, whether upon Wood or Copper, have been selected and executed with equal attention to singularity and fidelity. Nor are the INDEXES the least useful portions of a work which contains such multifarious matter.

Such then is the faithful and minute description of what may probably be considered as the foundation only of the SPENCER LIBRARY. To describe the remainder of the same Collection with equal minuteness, would by no means answer the like useful purpose; since the publications of the XVIth, and of the following Centuries are, comparatively, of less curiosity and rarity, and in general are familiar to the Bibliographer and Collector.

I cannot however terminate my present labours, or shut the door of the Library in which I have passed so many hours with equal instruction and delight, without addressing its

Owner and chief Ornament—in the language of a distinguished Bibliographer to a Nobleman, whose treasures were laid open to the grateful eulogist with the same readiness and liberality as those of EARL SPENCER have been to myself. . ‘Tu primùm (says the author to his Patron) stimulos addidisti: in frequentibus quæ tecum nunquam habui, quin instructior abirem, colloquiis sæpius me submonuisti, unde lucubrationibus meis plurimum momenti et lucis accederet: crebrò tua, quod nescio an in ullâ aliâ repererim, suggessit bibliotheca: ad Te et ad hanc facilis semper patuit aditus.’*

* MAITTAIRE, to the EARL OF PEMBROKE; in the Dedication of the ‘*Annales Typographici*,’ 1719, 4to.

MISCELLANEOUS

AUTHORS

continued.

MISCELLANEOUS
AUTHORS
continued.



Miscellaneous Authors.

776. SHIRVODUS (IOHANNES) LUDUS ARITHMOMACHIÆ. *Printed at Rome. 1482. Quarto.*

EDITIO PRINCEPS. This is in every point of view an interesting little tract. The author of it, JOHN SHIRWOOD, Bishop of Durham, was among our most distinguished literary characters at the close of the fifteenth century;* and the present seems to be the first impression

* Upon the whole, Pits gives the best account of John Shirwood; not however without incorporating (as Bale and Godwin have done) the brief biography of the same character by Leland. The words of Pits are these: ‘IOANNES SHIRVODUS natione Anglus, vir omni bonarum litterarum genere instructissimus, linguæ tum Latine tum Græcæ peritissimus; Poëta, Rhetor, Philosophus, et Theologus insignis. Postquàm Anglicas Academias multo tempore magno cum fructu frequentasset: in Galliam se contulit, Parisijs studuit, vbi Rocco Carthusiano viro pio et erudito propter morum et doctrinæ similitudinem, vsus est familiarissimè. Deinde in Italiam perrexit, vbi Græcarum litterarum studium in Anglia inchoatum, in Gallia auctum, ad perfectum perduxit. Ibi etiam selectissimos auctores Græcos indagavit, inuenit, coëmit, et secùm in Angliam aduexit. Quem librorum thesaurum neglectum diù, ferunt Archilandiae delituisse, donec longo post tempore Cuthbertus Tonstallus doctissimus ille, et omnium postremus Episcopus Dunelmensis, de codicibus illis repertis lætatus est, tanquam qui inuenit spolia multa. Existimat, et meritò, Lelandus Shirvodium hunc multas eximias lucubrationes edidisse, quarum tamen ne titulos quidem nunc inuenimus. Ipse quidem refert se aliquando versus quosdam elegantes in cœnobio Fontanensi legisse, quorum hunc asserit fuisse fabricatorem.’ *De Rebus Anglicis*; p. 882.

Pitts adds, that, from his virtue and erudition, he was promoted to the see of Durham, and flourished in the reign of Edward the IVth. Leland observes that he was particularly fond of Greek books; and Richardson, the editor of Godwin, informs us that he died at

