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A Catalogue of Fifteenth-Century Printed Books in Glasgow Libraries and Museums Volume I. By Jack, Baldwin. D.S. Brewer, 2020. xxxiv + 353.

This is the first of two volumes cataloguing the extensive collection of fifteenth century printed books held primarily in the University of Glasgow Library and in other Glasgow institutions including the Mitchell Library, the Library of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, the Burrell Collection, and the University of Strathclyde Andersonian Library. Volume I features the full catalogue of those incunables held by the University of Glasgow Library alongside a detailed introduction which reveals the development of the collection from the founding of the University of Glasgow in 1451. This volume also includes an exemplary overview of the methodology and the form of entries. Volume II includes extensive indexes of authors, provenance, and bindings, as well as the entries of those incunables held in the additional Glasgow libraries and museums which complete the catalogue, taking the final tally to over 1,100 books.

Fifteenth-century printed books, known as incunabula, are subject to particular attention and indeed enthusiasm from book historians, librarians and archivists, and collectors. Largely this is because books from the fifteenth-century, from the earliest days of printing, are fewer in surviving numbers than their sixteenth century counterparts. The condition of early printed books can also suffer from re-bindings or 'cleaning' attempts. Nevertheless, a significant number of these early printed texts do survive. This catalogue highlights the 1,036 books printed before 1501 held by the University of Glasgow Library. Of these it is noted in the introduction to this volume that, accounting for duplicates, there are 965 discrete editions described. Moreover, there are eleven incunables that are believed to be unique copies and sixty-seven that are editions not found in other British libraries. This is an expansive and rare collection and indeed as the author reminds us the University of Glasgow Library incunable collection is 'one of the richest rare book collections in the United Kingdom' (p. xxv) supplementing those held at London, Oxford, Cambridge, and Manchester.

Jack Baldwin and colleagues at the University of Glasgow Library began work on the catalogue back in 2009 with the Glasgow Incunabula Project which set out on a full-scale investigation of the library's pre-1501 books. The initial output was a web catalogue, completed in 2017, and which continues to complement the printed catalogues (see gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/incunabula). The publication of the printed catalogue has allowed for further revisions. It is certainly true that the printed catalogue benefits enormously from its online counterpart; this volume has no images for example, but substantial images are available online. Images are especially helpful for clarifying the descriptions and will be of particular help to students who are still in the process of developing an 'eye' as it were.

The catalogue is 'essentially a short-title' (p. ix) one with links to the standard bibliographies of the field, the *Incunabula short-title catalogue (ISTC)* and Goff's *Incunabula in American libraries (Goff)* included. The catalogue is alphabetical with entries noting collations, bindings, decoration, provenance, and annotations. These are all easily identified in each entry, making this a resource for scholars and students.

It is in the provenance of these books that Baldwin and the team have excelled themselves. Details of each book's earliest known owner are given wherever possible and follow chronologically to its arrival in the current collections. Provenance is enhanced by details of any manuscript inscriptions (remarkably features in over 90% of the incunables in the catalogue), as well as 'evidence from bookplates, book labels, armorial bindings, identifiable shelfmarks, mottoes etc' (p. xi). The provenance of each entry is enhanced by the introduction to the collection at the University of Glasgow Library where Baldwin traces the collection from its earliest days in 1578, with the donation by George Buchanan of two incunables as part of a larger donation of texts, through bequests from collectors including William Hunter (in 1807) and William Euing (first in 1862, followed in 1872 and 1874).

Overall, the printed catalogue illuminates the rare collection of incunabula at the University of Glasgow Library and will attract experts and learners alike with its exemplary scholarship, methodology, and accessibility.

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