

Adopt a Book

**GLOUCESTER
CATHEDRAL**

Library and Archives

Gloucester Cathedral was founded by Henry VIII on 2 January 1541. It was created from the remains of the Abbey of St Peter's Gloucester that had existed for over 500 years. The culture of literacy and learning that was part of the Abbey's foundation continued with the formation of the Cathedral Library in 1648.

The Library, which now resides in the historic monks' library above the North Transept of the Cathedral, continues to host researchers and visitors eager to deepen their understanding of the life and work of the Cathedral. The library collection now contains over 5000 books, nearly a quarter of which require care and attention to ensure that they are preserved for future generations.

Gloucester Cathedral is working with the Winchester Bindery to repair bindings on our printed books, and with Victoria Stevens to conserve archival and manuscript items, but we need your help.

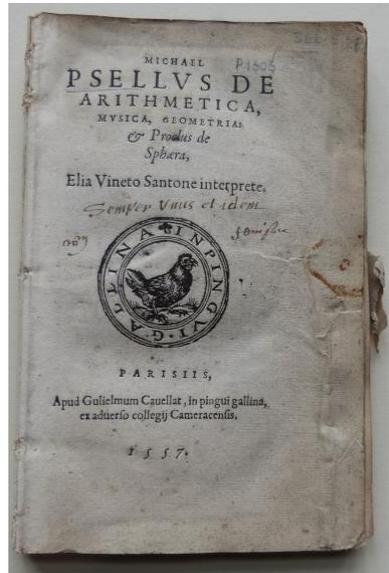
Our Cathedral resources can only fund preventative conservation of the collections, ie slowing further deterioration. We cannot fund remedial repairs that so many of our books and archives desperately need in order to be handled safely.

Can you help? This brochure gives a sample of items in our collection that require care. If you have a particular interest that is not recorded here, please let us know and we will try to match you to a book in need of care. On the last page you will find details of how to contribute.

Thank you

Psellus, *De Arithmetica, musica, geometria et proclus de sphaera* (1557)

This is a book of discourses on arithmetic, music, geometry and the spheres, with many diagrams and some manuscript notes in the margin. Michael Psellus was a Byzantine Greek monk who wrote this text in the 11th Century. He is better known for his work “*Chronographia*” or a chronicle of the Byzantine Empire. This edition of Psellus’ work was published in Paris by Guillaume Cavellat.



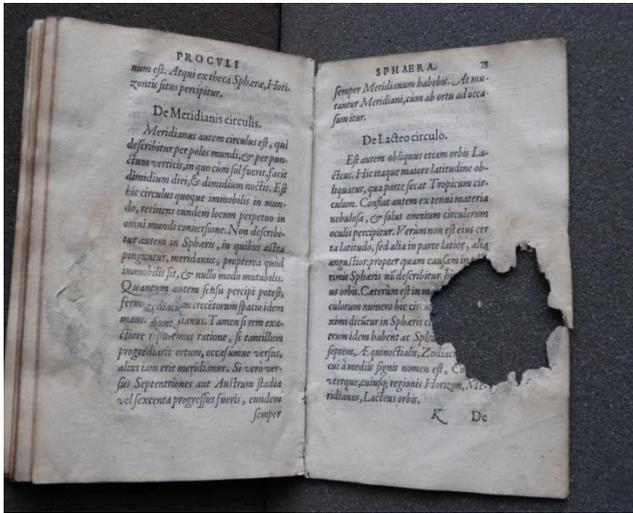
The beautiful diagrams in this book are used as an accompaniment to the mathematical explanations in the text. It is likely that this work would have been a student pocket guide or introduction to these areas of study, due to its particularly small size.

Title page of *De Arithmetica, musica, geometria et proclus de sphaera*. There is no cover remaining on the volume

Work Needed:

This volume has lost its binding, leaving the pages separated from one another. The last four pages (as shown below) need repairs and strengthening. It will be necessary to wash

and re-size pages and repair as necessary. The volume will then be resewn onto three recessed cords (as original) and rebound in full vellum, with the title written in calligraphical acid free black ink.

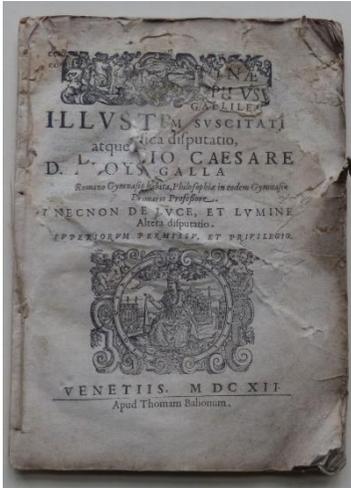


Cost £750

This is just one example of the bad damage that this volume has undergone, especially on the last four pages of the volume.

La Galla, *De phenomenis in orbe lunae* (1612)

Giulio Cesare la Galla was a professor of philosophy in Rome in the 17th Century. He was a contemporary of Galileo and this book is in response to Galileo's "*Sidereus Nuncius*"- observations of the moon by means of a telescope. He was an opponent of the Copernican Heliocentric theory. The crater Lagalla on the Moon is named after him.



The title page of this volume is badly damaged with the first few pages stuck together. The volume is also without a cover

Our copy is possibly a first edition, certainly printed in the first year of publication. It was donated by John Selden's executors, and is part of a group of about 200 duplicate volumes that were transferred from the Bodleian to the Cathedral after Selden's death.

The volume is a key example of the 'scientific revolution'. The works of La Galla and other contemporaries explored the realms of astronomy in order to create an accurate calendar for the Church, enabling the celebration of Easter at the correct time.

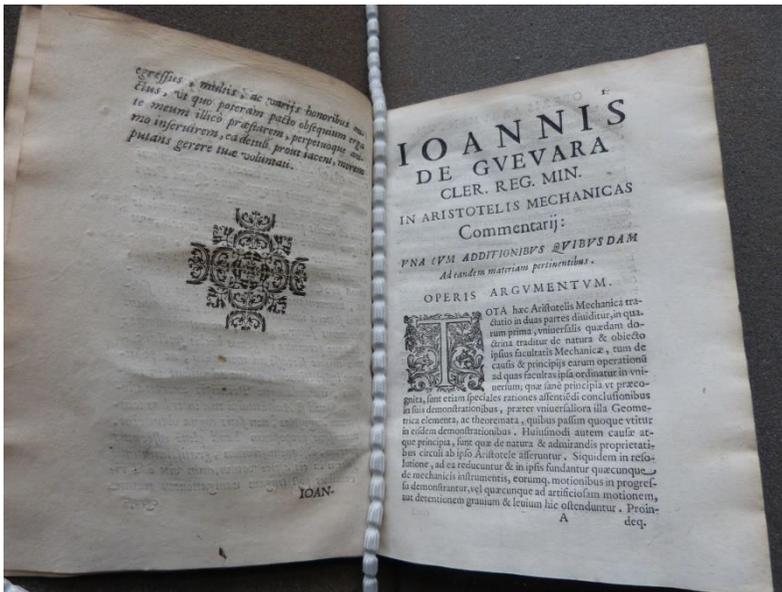
Work Needed:

This volume has been very badly damaged by damp, as it was never formally bound; only pierced. Some pages need resizing, repairing and dog-eared ears flattened out. The volume will be re-sewn as currently with a limp binding (leather and suede) with title on the front. A purpose made slip case will provide further protection for the volume.

Cost £850

Joannes de Guevara, *In Aristotelis mechanicas commentarii* (1627)

This book is a restating of Aristotle's principles of mechanics, with a commentary and additions. It is enlivened by a wealth of diagrams inserted amongst the text. This first edition was published in Rome by James Mascardum.



This is an additional title page of the volume, with the initial few pages being an introduction to the works. The volume's spine is delicate and cannot be fully opened

Work Needed:

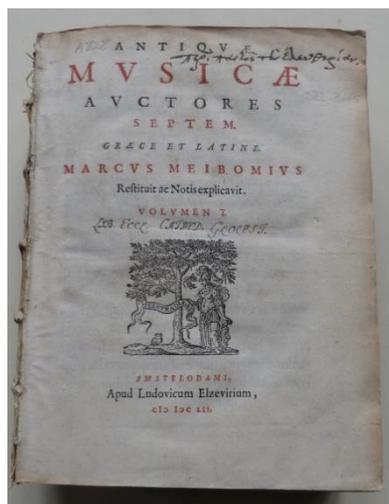
The book seems to have been well kept by previous owners as there are few internal markings or added comments. However, the original binding has been lost, but the volume

remains sewn on vellum cords. It will be re-sewn onto raised cords, with new end-papers and boards. The replacement binding will be full calf leather with lettering on its spine.

Cost £650

Marcus Meibomius, *Antiquae musicae auctores septem* (1652)

Marcus Meibomius was a Danish general scholar from 17th Century, best known as a historian of music. This is his masterwork, which is made up of three books within the one volume. It draws on works by Aristoxenos, Cleonides, Gaudentius, Nicomachus, Alypius, Bacchius, and Aristides Quintilianus. It represents pioneering musical scholarship. The book has three large inserted tables and a Cantata to Saints Ambrose and Augustine at the front. This first edition was printed by Elzevir in Amsterdam in 1652.



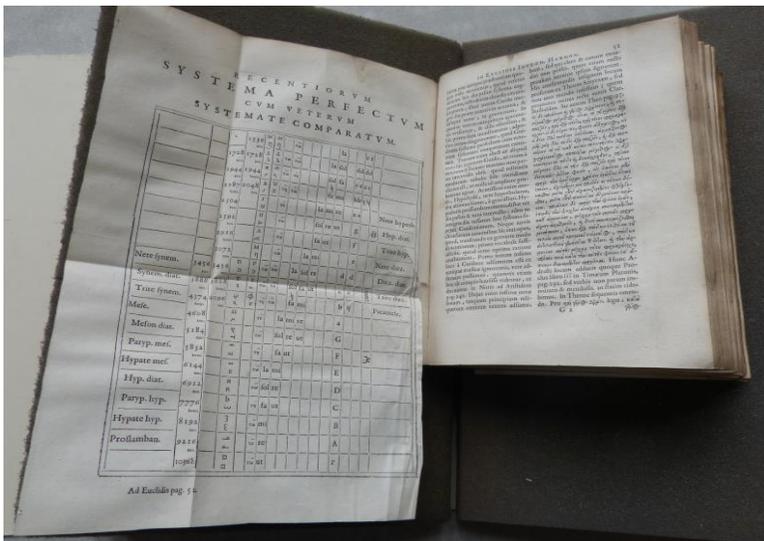
Title page of *Antiquae musicae auctores septem*, there is no cover remaining as so the volume is likely to become more damaged if not repaired

There are several coloured pages within the volume, quite unusual to such an early book, as this would have most likely been done by hand. Evidently, this would have been a costly process.

Work needed:

Unfortunately, this volume is unprotected by any cover and has deteriorated since it was published in the 1600s. As this original binding has been removed, it needs to be re-sewn onto raised cords, with a new binding in full leather and gold lettering added. Some sections are already loose, and the tables need mending. New boards and headbands will be provided with any donations provided for this marvellous edition.

Cost £750



This is an example of one of the three tables which is given throughout the book, this one of which is better preserved

B Salerno, Regime sanitatis Magnini Mediolanensis Medici (1482)

This is a verse description of medicine, with origins in the Arabic world, which was probably first written in the 12th or 13th Century. Although claiming to be connected to the Salerno medical school, the actual author is unknown. It consists of domestic hygiene and diet advice, and could therefore be seen as a precursor of the modern self-help manuals.



Open Cover and Title Page. On the title page there are added comments in ink but the cover is badly damaged

A legend gives an even more interesting Gloucester connection, the original text may have been written for Robert Duke of Normandy, whose effigy lies in the Cathedral today.



**Front cover of *Regime sanitatis
Magnini Mediolanensis Medici***

It is bound in an excellent example of Agnus Dei binding dating from the late 15th Century. On the front cover of this book there are double-headed birds eating their tails and the lamb and flag. This makes its preservation all the more important.

Work Needed:

The front signature is loose and needs to be re-sewn. This volume will be re-backed in leather to match and attach to existing oak boards and covers, retaining as much as is possible of the original.

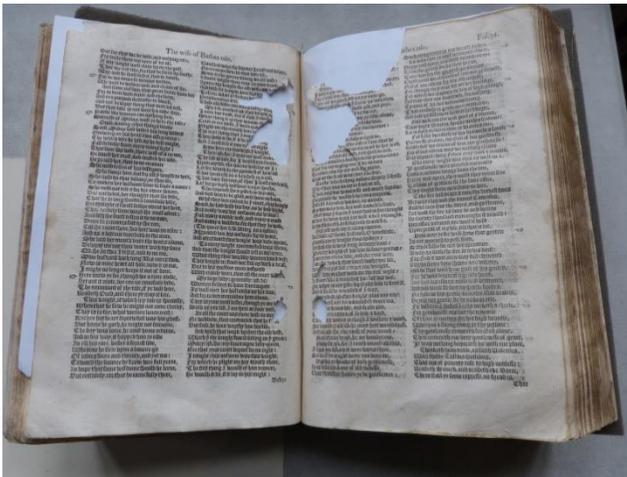
Cost £750

Geoffrey Chaucer, *His complete works* (1602)

Chaucer needs no introduction! There is a wonderful woodcut at the beginning of the Knights Tale and many pointing hands throughout the text and ornate capitals. This printed edition of all Chaucer's works includes the Plowman's tale which is not by Chaucer. A facsimile of the last four pages of "Hard Words" has been added at some point. There are manuscript and loose papers presently stored with this volume.

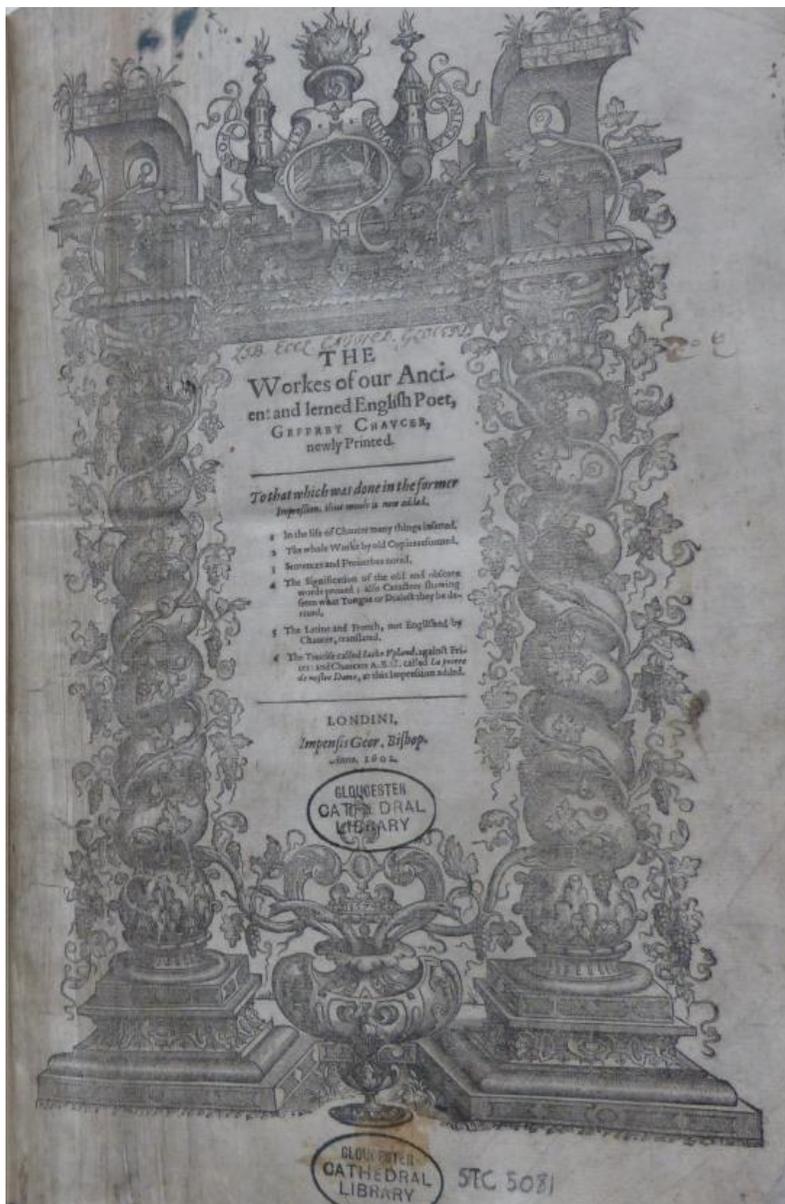
Work Needed:

This book is in a sorry state, without covers and with many pages damaged by insects and wear and tear. We will repair torn pages; including using salvaged parts of pages where these are identifiable. The volume will have the old binding glue removed and will be rebound in a new quarter leather cover. Cost £750



This is a page spread showing damage, however it can be repaired to prevent further deterioration

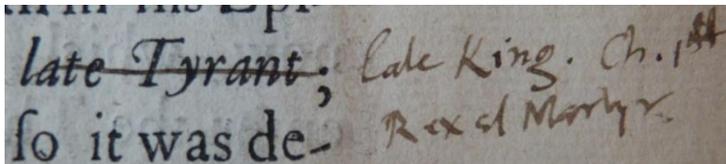
A custom made box will be constructed to hold the newly bound book, and loose manuscript and other papers stored with the volume. This will keep the book in a good condition and prevent the further degeneration of this extraordinary work of Chaucer. Cost £250



Title page of Chaucer

John Selden, *Of the dominion, or, ownership of the sea* (1652)

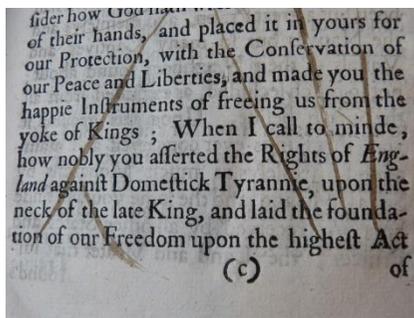
This book was originally written in Latin and titled “*Mare Clausum*”. It supported the claim of the English monarchs to rule the sea. It was translated with additional evidences and discourses by Marchamont Newham, who altered it to support the British domination of the sea, removing the Monarchy.



Here 'late Tyrant' refers to King Charles I, this is then crossed out to 'late King' and is labelled a martyr

The owner of this reprint must have been an ardent Royalist and did not agree with this translation. Throughout the book are manuscript annotations and corrections. In the Epistle Dedicatory, there are words scrubbed out and reworded in the margin, showing the strengths of feeling during and after the Civil War.

The book also includes a charming map of England reproduced as the back cover to this brochure.

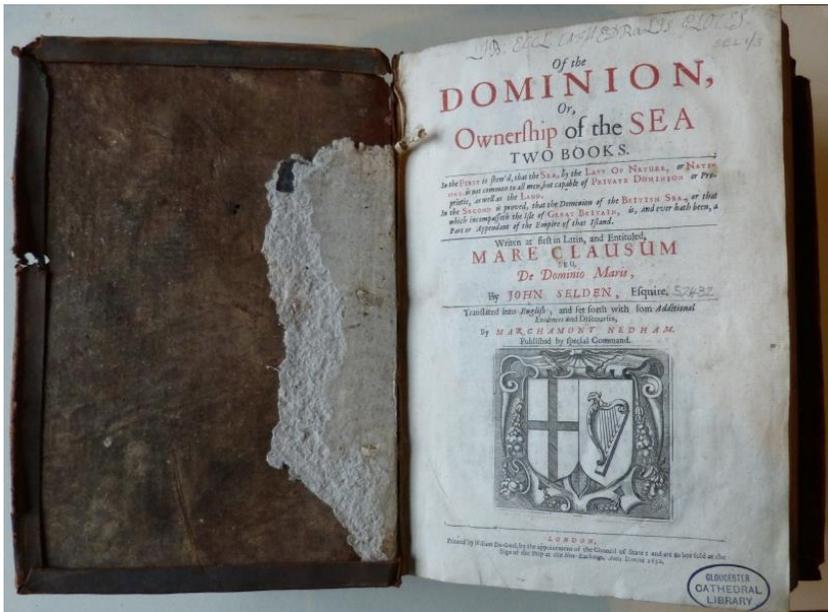


Another example of the owner's feelings, he strikes out 'freeing us from the yoke of Kings'

Work Needed:

This volume has lost its boards, and so the existing leather covers will be used with new boards in its new binding. We will reuse the existing spine label if possible.

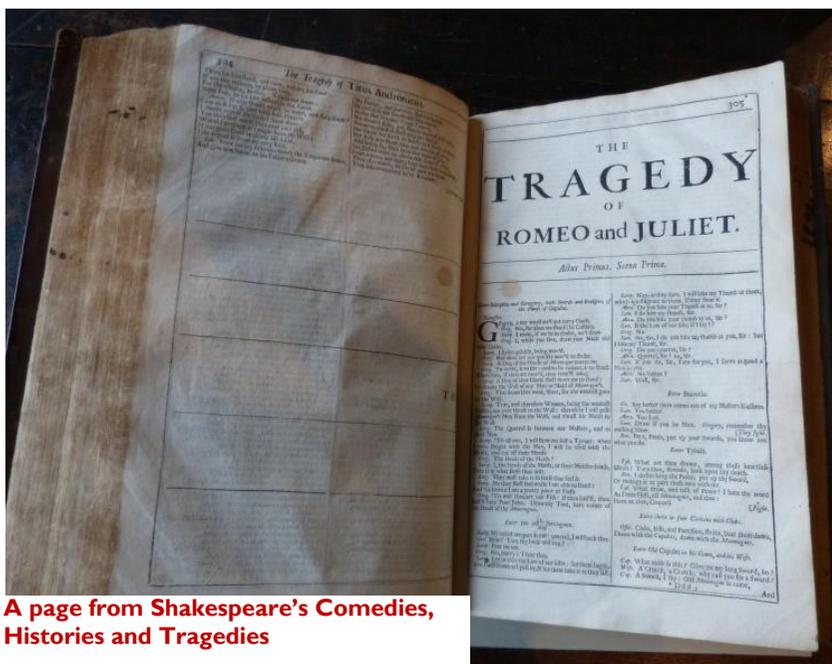
Cost £850



Cover and title page of the *Dominion, or, ownership of the sea*. The cover is badly damaged having lost its boards and only the existing leather remains

William Shakespeare, *Comedies, Histories and Tragedies* (1685)

This is a fourth folio edition of the complete works of Shakespeare. Seven additional plays were included in this printing, although these were not by Shakespeare himself. This book was given to the Cathedral Library in 1745 by Bishop Martin Benson.



A page from Shakespeare's *Comedies, Histories and Tragedies*

The volume also includes several markings by previous owners, as can be seen on the title page given opposite. This adds even more value to the volume as it provides an idea of how the work may have been used and on the thoughts of these owners on Shakespeare's work.

Work Needed:

The title page has been badly damaged by iron gall ink and has been repaired previously in a less than sympathetic manner. The binding has also been repaired having been re-backed once. The volume needs to be re-backed again, which includes the addition of new end papers and head bands. The title page will be conserved so far as is possible without causing any further damage.

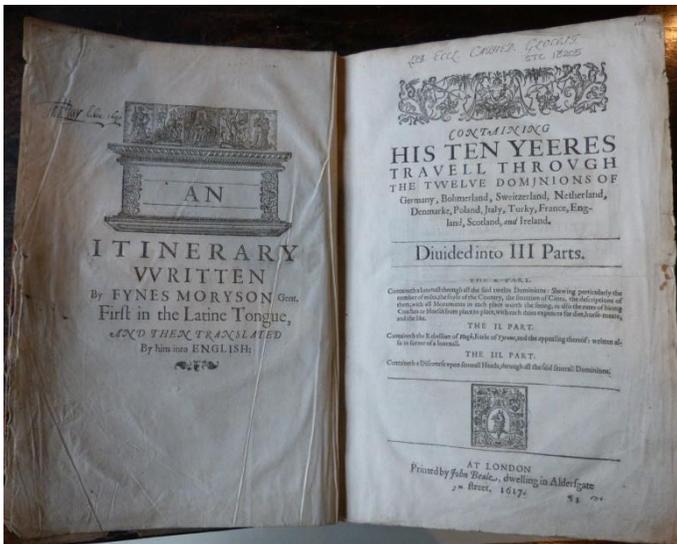
Cost £750



Damaged title page and cover of Shakespeare

Fynes Moryson, *An Itinerary* (1617)

Early travel guide (small maps in the text) through Germany Bohmerland, (sic) Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, Poland, Italy, Turkey, France, England, Scotland and Ireland. The volume is separated into three different parts giving different details on travel. The book also contains the signature of Thomas Pury, an English politician who sat in the House of Commons variously between 1640 and 1659.



Title pages of *An Itinerary*

fought on the Parliamentary side in the English Civil War and was the son of Walter Pury of Gloucester. In 1626, he was sheriff of Gloucester. There are in addition, some beautifully elaborate capital letters placed throughout the volume. Some manuscript notes are in the margins of this volume.

Work Needed:

The covers of this book have become detached, and some pages are slightly damaged and folded. The volume will be re-backed in complimentary leather to match and reattach the existing covers. As this volume is particularly attached to Gloucestershire, we intend to keep as much of the volume's integrity as possible when repairing.

Cost £500

Vegetius Renatus, Flavius, *De re militari* (1532) and Valturius Robertus – *De re military* (1535)

This is a glorious volume of military engineering with woodcuts of machines, weapons, ladders, etc. This is a pair of books bound as one volume ever since their purchase from the printers in the 16th Century.



Two illustrations of trebuchets

Work Needed:

This volume has no binding, covers or spine surviving. The two printed books have been divided from each other. It needs to be re-sewn as one volume onto double cords with a new full calf skin binding with replacement clasps.

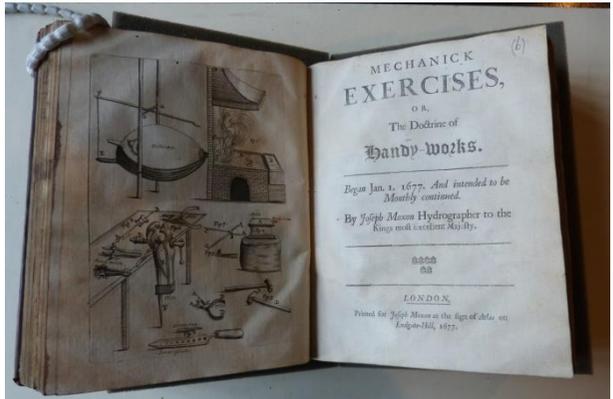
Cost £1,100



Title Page of the *De re militari*

A collection of mechanics and architecture (c.1668 – 1696)

The volume contains four separate books within one volume and clearly divided by illustrated title pages. The authors of these works are shown in order of their occurrence within the volume. There are plentiful ink additions made in the volume by a previous owner, which provide an insight into how the volume was used as well as what it was used for.



Joseph Moxon - **The volume is divided into several sections, each with a printed illustration and title page**
**'Mechanick-powers:
or the Myftery of Nature and Art unvail'd' (1696)**

This first book explains how the 'mechanick' Art is a science which contemplates the moving forces, gravity and how this applies to engines.

Joseph Moxon – 'Mechainck exercises, or, The Doctrine of handy works' (1677)

This book highlights the uses of Geometry, astronomy, navigation and architecture, but promotes how their practicalities in manual

work are essentially what make these areas useful. The book considers how science and manual operations interact at a time when practical applications were only just becoming popular over more academic knowledge. It is a collection of monthly articles gathered together within one book, within the volume.

Andrea Palladio – ‘*The first book of architecture*’ (1693)

Palladio’s work was original wrote in Italian, translated to French by P. Muet and then translated again to English by Godfrey Richards. This book is concerned with the reintroduction of classical styles of architecture, which Godfrey Richards considered to have been reduced by the ‘Goths’ and other barbarians. This is very much a guide on how to design, plan and build a renaissance/classical styled building.

Moxon – ‘*Mechanick Exercises, or, the doctrine of Handy-works*’ (c.1668)

Unfortunately, this final book has the first few pages, including the title page torn out so the date and author is only an approximation. The book deals with a series of topics much like book two within this volume. It covers topics such as globes and sundials.

Work Needed:

Due to the nature of this volume, it is essential to make repairs on the volume as a whole, as if left to deteriorate further, four books would suffer not just one. There are numerous internal papers to be repaired and the volume needs to be re-backed with new headbands. Cost £ TBC

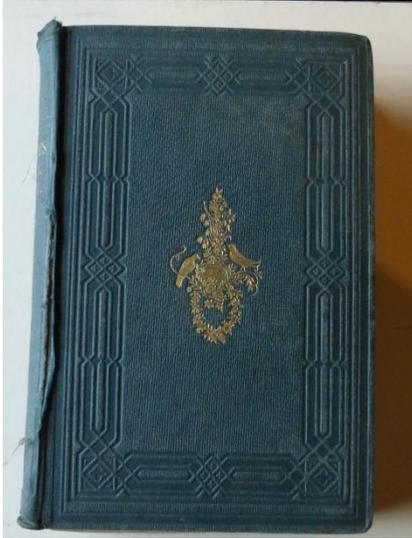


Above we can see the addition of ink markings to the book, which indicate where each section is. This does not seem to be a part of the original print but instead a later addition by a previous owner.

Below we can see the damage occurring to the spine and cover



Oliver Goldsmith, *A History of the Earth and Animated Nature* (1830)



As one of our later volumes in the collection, the cover and remainder of the book has colour throughout

This lovely, bright volume is primarily Oliver Goldsmith's own work but as a later edition, it also holds an introduction by Baron Cuvier and a life of the author by Washington Irving. Goldsmith was an Irish novelist playwright and poet of the 18th century. Our copy was published only a short time after his death. He writes in a very pleasing manner which is excellently matched by the numerous illustrations inserted throughout this volume.

The volume comprises a sketch of the universe, the globe, fossils, caves, minerals, natural disasters, the human senses and vast amounts of animals.

This is one of many illustrations that are present within this book, but that need careful attention in order to preserve them



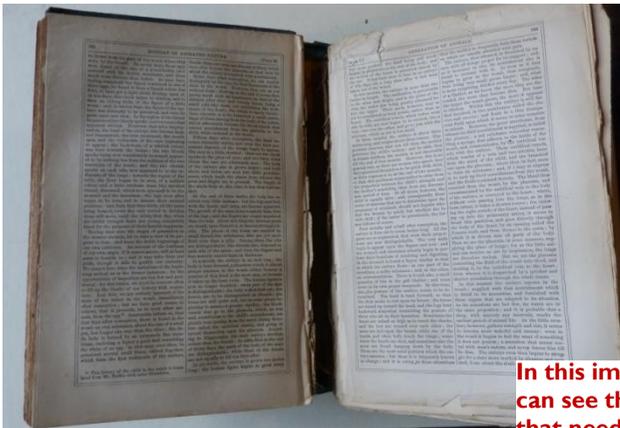
Overall, this volume gives the reader an idea of the universe and life as a whole making it an inspiring read

Work Needed:

Some pages, which have suffered with damp and folding making them fragile, will be repaired. We will also re-sew the pages onto tapes, and put back in to original cloth binding which is still intact except along the spine.

As this is such a lovely volume of Goldsmith's work, it would truly be a shame to see them damaged any further.

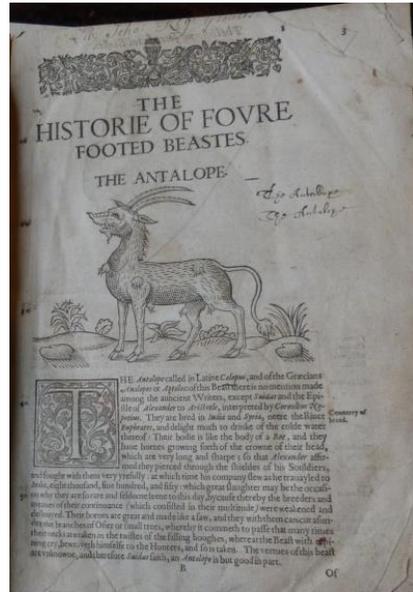
Cost £400



In this image we can see the work that needs doing to the binding as the book is only held in place by the thin fabric of the cover

Edward Topsell, *The Historie of Foure-footed Beasts* (1607)

With profuse illustrations of over two hundred and thirty four footed animals, there's very little not to like about this book. Some of the beasts are mythical- as the unicorn (p711) and the satyr (p12), others quite recognisable- the badger, the squirrel, cat and deer, hog and horse. Where applicable the book also gives medicinal use for various parts of the animals' i.e. "medicines of the mule" (p565) and there are forty pages devoted to the horse- horsemen and the orders of chivalry, ailments, disposition, breaking of etc.



Despite the lovely illustrations, the book needs to be urgently repaired in order to preserve particularly the title cover (shown above) and various other pages within

Topsell was clearly a dog lover, devoting a staggering fifty-two pages to the species, in comparison to cats which only featured on a sorry six pages. But whether you are a cat lover or a dog lover, this book is truly one to be preserved.

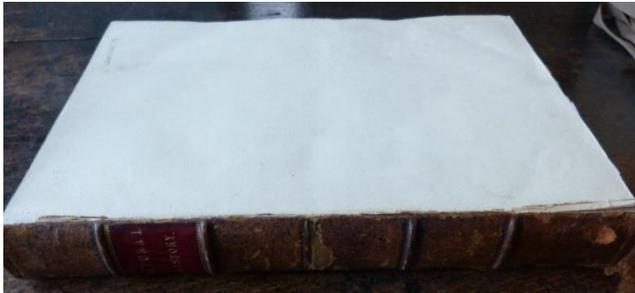
This book is part of the historic library of King's School, and shows evidence of the students activities. There are multiple written comments added by pupils. They ascribe names of teachers or friends to certain animals.

The index at the back gives the names where known of the beast in Hebrew, Arabic, Saracen, Persian, Greek, Latin, Italian and Spanish, French and German. All together a fascinating book.

Work Needed:

We need to repair a number of pages at the start and within the book. It needs a new front board in half leather to match the back that is still intact. It will be re-sewn on tapes, with a new headband and spine.

Cost £850

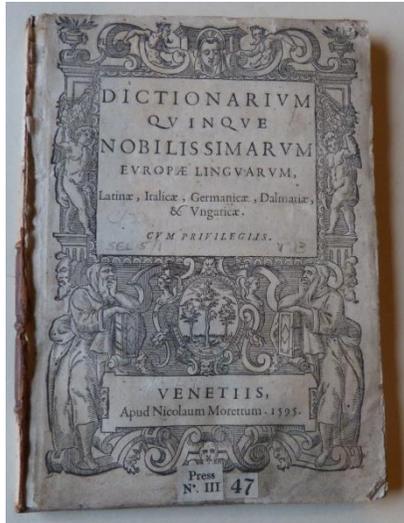


Here we can see the desperate state this book is in; with the front cover missing the book is more likely to become damaged

Dictionary of Five European Languages (1595)

This is a dictionary of the five most noble European languages- Latin, Italian, German, Dalmatian and Hungarian. It is an elegant little book with the languages in five consecutive vertical columns. Dated internally as 1595, the spine claims 1565, but this is likely to be a bookbinders error.

There are some marginal notes, implying this book could have been used as a language text book.

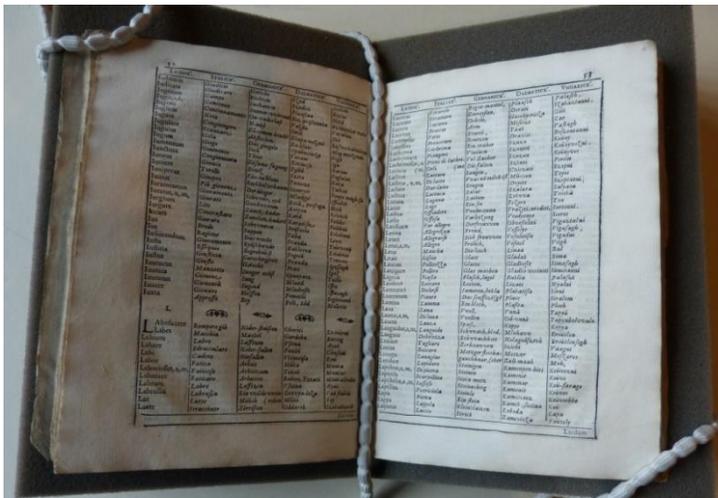


This is the title page of the dictionary; unfortunately this page has become detached from the rest

The author of the dictionary is believed to be Alfonso Carrillo de Albornoz who was a bishop of Avila and Catania in the late 15th century, appointed by the King of Spain and approved by Pope Innocent VIII and Alexander VI. At our cathedral library we have over 50 types of dictionary varying in their specialities. This one is particularly unique due to its age and extensive knowledge of these five languages.

With the cover missing, the front and back pages have become damaged and if we allow this to continue we will surely lose this incredibly detailed and beautifully annotated volume of work.

This is a spread of pages showing the columns used to organise the text. There are five columns for each language on each page

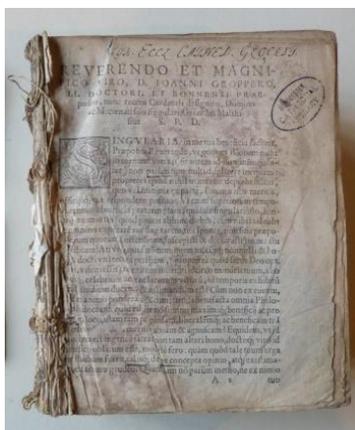


Work Needed:

We need to remove all existing repairs to the last eight pages and mend with sap tissue. We shall then re sew and rebind in one quarter leather and new end paper.

Cost £500

A commentary on Aristotle (1565) and St Thomas Aquinas (1566) works by Gerald Matthisii



This is the title page of Aristotle's works, and evidently in a rather poorly condition

This volume is a collection of two works by Aristotle and Aquinas, with an accompanying commentary by Gerald Matthisii. All text is in Latin as academics during this period preferred to read works in their original language in order to properly understand its contents. Aristotle's works is, in essence, what would be referred to as 'natural philosophy' in the 1500s, with Aquinas adapting these works to Catholic beliefs.

Work Needed:

These two works were once bound as one, but have been separated and are now too dissimilar to be reunited.

Aquinas will be rebound in full leather, using new boards.

Cost £500

Aristotle is now too fragile to be repaired, and so a new protective box will be made. Cost £250

How to Donate

It is not necessary to fund the whole cost of a single book to help us to repair our Library collections. A donation of as little as £25 can help us to make protective enclosures for fragile books.

Our suggested donations are:

- £25 – your donation will be acknowledged on our online donors register.
- £100 – you will also receive a limited edition gift based on the Library collection.
- Full cost of the repair to a book –you will also be invited to attend our annual donors tour, where you will be able to see the books repaired during that year and speak to the archivist, conservators and books binders who have worked on these items during the year. In addition a name of your choice will be included as part of the record of the repair that will form part of the repaired book.

Enclosed with this brochure is a donations form

Gloucester Cathedral

A charity by Act of Parliament; registration no. X9493/1



Map of England from pp.366 of Selden John – *Of the dominion, or, ownership of the sea*, 1652