

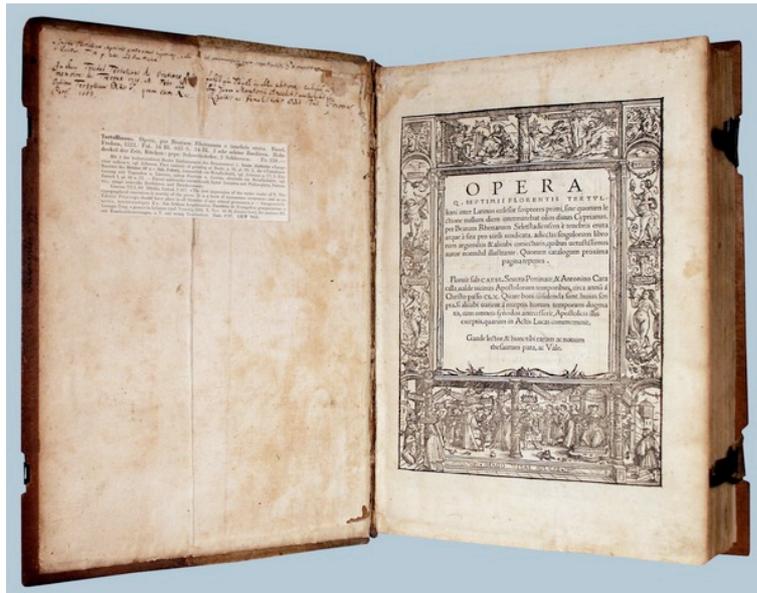
## The MoneyMuseum Book Collection: Books of the Renaissance

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The ancient Greeks and Romans knew a lot about nature and the essence of the world. However, during the Middle Ages, which were aimed on the understanding of the afterlife rather than of this world, much of this ken got lost. In fact, some monastery libraries possessed copies of the works of ancient philosophers and mathematicians, yet they were practically inaccessible.

During the Renaissance, thinking turned towards the here and now again. Now old knowledge was rediscovered and made available for modern times. The development of letterpress printing by Gutenberg made it easy to spread this newly found information. As you will discover here, most of the new editions of antique authors were published in Latin at first. Yet now, these books stood in the libraries of rulers and universities. And more and more, the works were translated into living languages to educate and edify the people.

**Opera Q. Septimii Florentis Tertvliani inter Latinos ecclesiae scriptores primi, sine quorum lectione nullum diem intermittebat olim diuus Cyprianus, per Beatum Rhenanum Selestadiensem è tenebris eruta (...)**



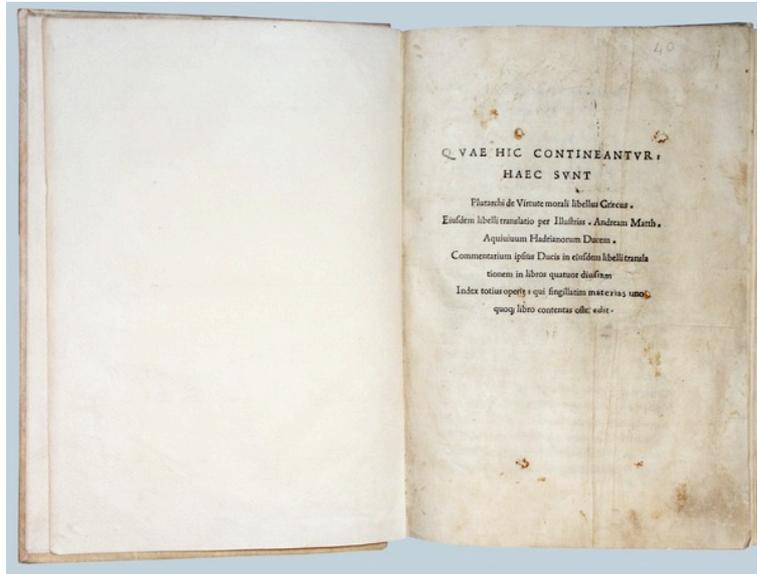
**[Basel, Froben, 1521]**

Quintus Septimus Florens Tertullianus (\*c. 155-160, †c. 220) was one of the most significant Latin ecclesiastical authors. He is considered as the founder of Latin liturgical language. The book shown here was printed in Basel in 1521, and is the first of the collected works of Tertullian. Its editor was Erasmus of Beatus Rhenanus (\*1485, †1547).

Beatus Rhenanus was a philologist and printer – he Latinised his proper name, Beat Bild, as was customary among Humanists. Being a lover and collector of antique works he searched – and found – in diverse libraries for manuscripts that had been considered lost. Since these documents were usually in very bad shape, Rhenanus copied them by hand, and then printed them.

In this edition of works by Tertullian Rhenanus not only reconstructed the text, but also gave an introduction to Tertullian's theological world of thought. Additionally he supplemented the original text with several comments. There are quite a few illustrations in the book – the initials with biblical and pagan scenes derive from an alphabet created by Hans Holbein. Today this book has become rare, yet in 1521 it was very successful, so that it was republished in 1528 and 1539.

## Plutarchi de Virtute morali libellus Graecus



**Eiusdem libelli translatio per Illustriss. Andream Matth. Aquiuuum Hadrianorum Ducem. Commentarium ipsius ducis in eiusdem libelli translationem in libros quatuor divisam (...). [Neapel, A. de Frizis, 1526]**

This is the first and very rare single publication of the Greek text by Plutarch. The volume contains the original Greek text, a Latin translation and a comprehensive comment by Andrea M. Acquaviva, duke of Atri (\*1458, †1529). The comment is divided into three books and illustrated with various woodcuts.

Plutarch (\*c. 45, †125 AD) was one of the most influential and productive authors of late Hellenism. He wrote more than 200 works of which the parallel biographies of great Greeks and Romans were the most popular. His works about various aspects of ethical, natural-philosophical and religious questions are of immense cultural significance, too, however.

Being an admirer of the cultural tradition of Greece, Plutarch was an adherent of Platonism. However, he mitigated the orientation of Platonism towards the hereafter for the benefit of an ethic based on the here and now. On the other hand he also turned against the Epicurean denial of an afterlife, as well as against the determinism of the Stoics.

## Plvtarchi Qvae Vocantvr Parallela

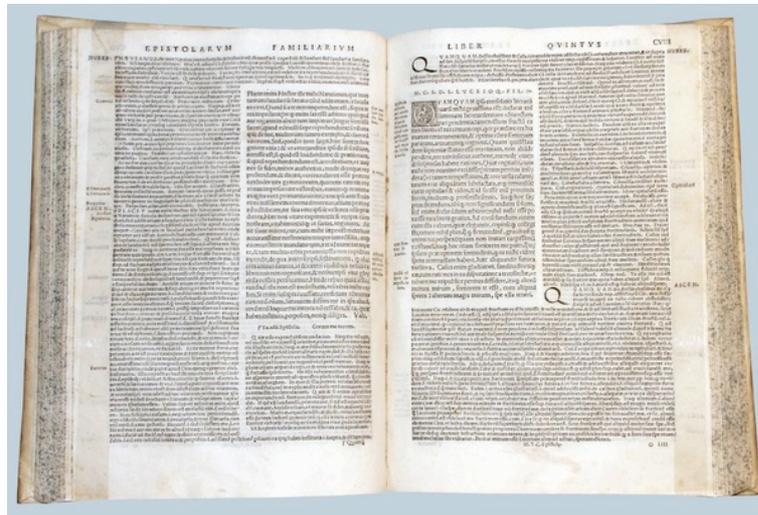


**hoc est, uitae illustrium uirorum graeci nominis ac latini (...).**

**Basileae M. D. XXXIII. [1533]**

Would you like to read a comparative biography of Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin? What is virtually nonexistent today was a long-time runner from antiquity until the 17th and 18th centuries: the parallel biographies ("Bioi Paralleloi") of Plutarch (\*c. 45, †125 AD). The late Hellenistic author composed biographies of famous Greek and Romans in which he compared their accomplishment and personalities. One of those pairs were Alexander the Great and Julius Caesar, another the legendary king of Athens, Theseus, and the legendary founder of Rome, Romulus. With his thrilling biographies, Plutarch influenced the posterities judgment on his subjects significantly. He was the most widely read ancient author, hence it is not amazing that his works were republished during the Renaissance.

## Familiares Epistolae



**M. Tullii Ciceronis**  
**Venetiis, Apud Brandinum, et Octavianum Scoti fratres. M. D. XXXXI [1541]**

The letters in this volume are important witnesses to political events and mirrors to the soul of the ancient personality. They were written by the Roman statesman, speaker and author Marcus Tullius Cicero (\*106, †43 BC). Being a contemporary of Julius Caesar, Cicero experienced the period of civil war towards the end of the Roman Republic. He was a master of all nuances of the Latin language, speaking among his friends in an openness that was very unusual in antiquity. In this letters Cicero unfolded all his political sentimentality, his confidence in the ideal of the "res publica," his reactions to events in family and state. The letters call for the same admiration and sympathy today as in the Renaissance when they were rediscovered by Petrarca and Salutato.

## Anitii Manlii Severini Boethi In Omnibvs Philosophiae Partibvs Inter Latinos & Graecos autores principis Opera (...)

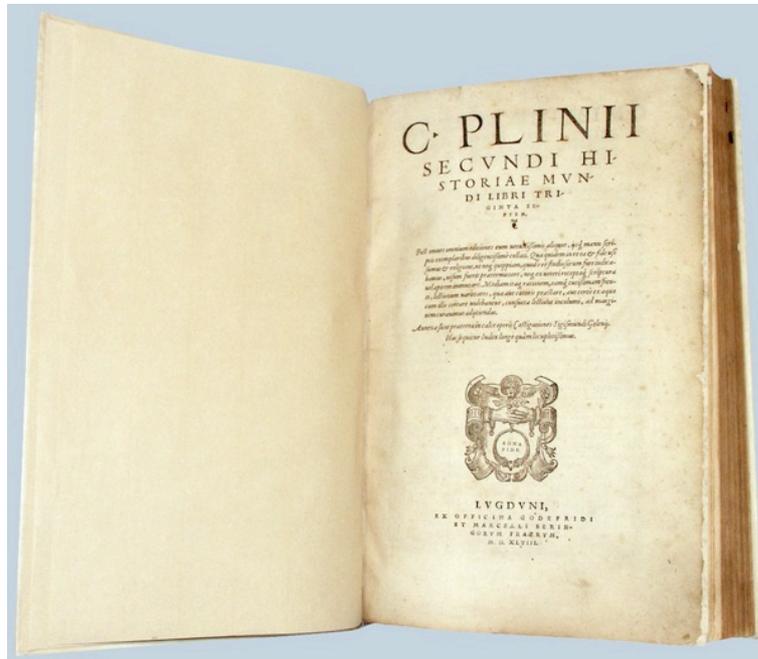


Basileae Apvd Henri Chvm Petrvm. [1546]

The Roman philosopher Anicius Manlius Severinus Boethius (\*c. 480, †524) lived at the threshold from antiquity to Middle Ages. He translated the ancient Greek authors such as Aristotle into Latin and collected encyclopedic knowledge about mathematics, geometry and music. It was his great contribution to pass the knowledge of antiquity on to the Middle Ages.

However, living in times of change is often dangerous. During the reign of the Visigothic king Theodoric Boethius climbed the political ladder, yet in 524 he was sentenced to death for high treason. Before his execution, in the prison tower of Pavia, Boethius wrote his work *Consolation of Philosophy*. It was to become his most popular book, one of the bestsellers of the Middle Ages.

## Secvndi Historiae Mvndi



Libri triginta septem.

C. Plinii

Lvgdvni, Ex Officina Godefridi Et Marcelli Beringorvm Fratrvn, M. D. XLVIII. [Lyon 1548]

Gaius Plinius Secundus (\*23/24, †79), better known as Pliny the Elder, was an ancient author, natural philosopher and naval and military commander in the Roman army. However, he wasn't known for his military victories, but for his mammoth work *Naturalis Historiae* that he became famous. In the 37 volumes of this enormous work Pliny collects and organises the entire scientific knowledge of his time. The first volume includes the world's first bibliography because Pliny was the first author to indicate his sources.

Thanks to Pliny antique knowledge on natural science research into nature was maintained. During the Middle Ages, copies of his work were found in many monastery libraries. The *Naturalis Historiae* was one of the first classical manuscripts to be printed, at Venice in 1469. The edition shown here was printed in 1548 in Lyon.

## En Habes Lector In Omnes De Arte Rhetorica M. Tvl. Ciceronis Libros



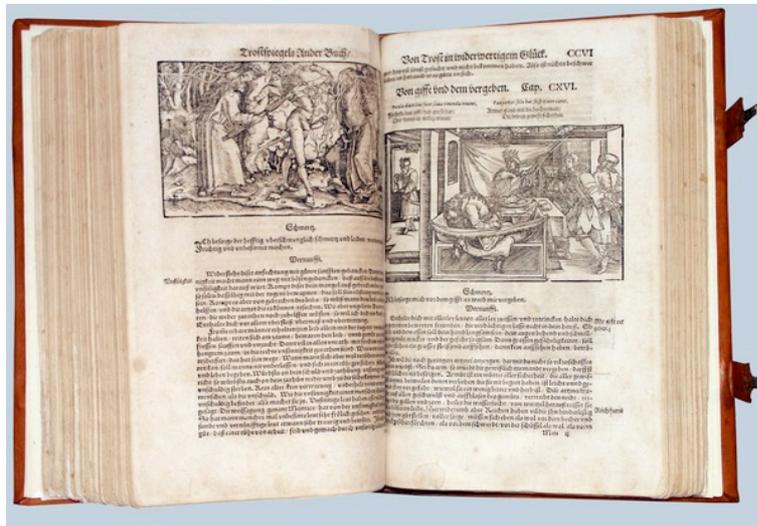
Basileae [16. Jahrhundert]

The first edition of *De Oratore*, the work of the Roman statesman and orator Marcus Tullius Cicero (\*106, †43 BC), was issued in 1465 in Italy.

This was no coincidence, for the Renaissance had awakened a new interest in antiquity. Authors like Aristotle (\*384, †322 BC), Virgil (\*70, †19 BC) and Cicero were rediscovered and found entrance into the libraries of monasteries, royal courts and the newly established universities. Education became an important aim. Not only clerics and princes, but also rich merchant families profited from the flourishing trade in northern Italy. In their education rhetoric played an important role. Rhetoric taught men how to behave adroitly and to play a part in public life. Law, medicine, rhetoric, philosophy and astronomy formed the base of every humanistic academic education.

Besides, the invention of the letterprinting press by Gutenberg (around 1450) made it possible that education, which had hitherto been restricted primarily to monasteries, could now be spread. It was the first democratisation of knowledge.

## Trostspiegel in Glueck vnd Unglueck



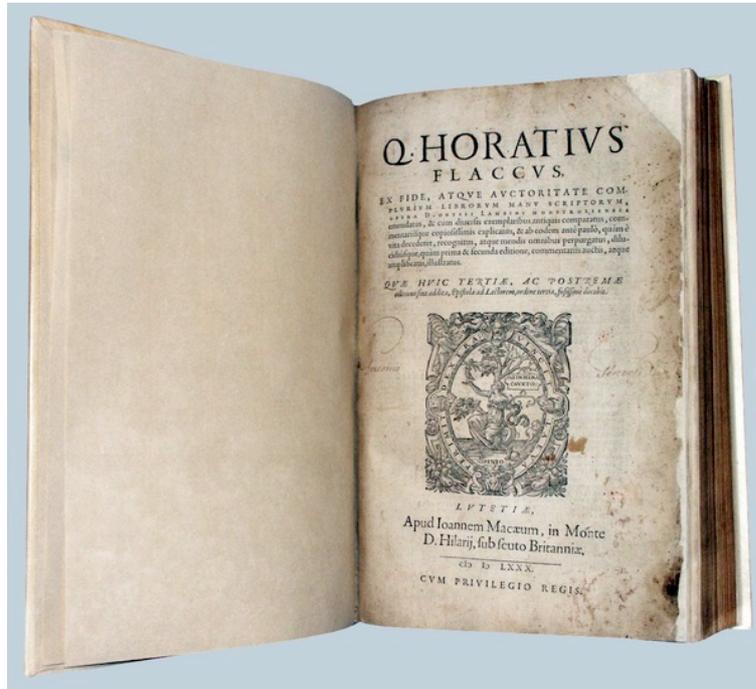
Francisci Petrarche / des Hochberuempten / Fuertrefflichen / vn[d] hoch weisen Poeten vnd Oratorn zwey Trostbuecher / Von Artzney vnd Rath / beides in guotem vnd widerwertigem Glueck (...)

Getruckt zu Franckfort am Meyn / Bey Christian Egenolffs Erben. M. D. LXXII. [1572]

The Florentine Francesco Petrarca (\*1304, †1374) was a poet, scholar and one of the humanists who influenced the view of the world lastingly. He collected ancient texts according to the humanists' motto "ad fontes" (back to the sources).

In the 14th and 15th centuries, Petrarca's fame was based on the writing *De remediis in utriusque fortunae* (Remedies for Both Good and Bad Fortune) that had been published in 1366. The edition here is the German version. *De remedies* gave instructions for living in a Christian sense, but also contained bits of stoic philosophy. Happy and nasty situations of the human existence form an impressive synthesis in beautiful illustrations. This guidebook for daily life was again and again republished. In its time it was as successful as, for example, Dale Carnegie's *How to Stop Worrying and Start Living* in our days.

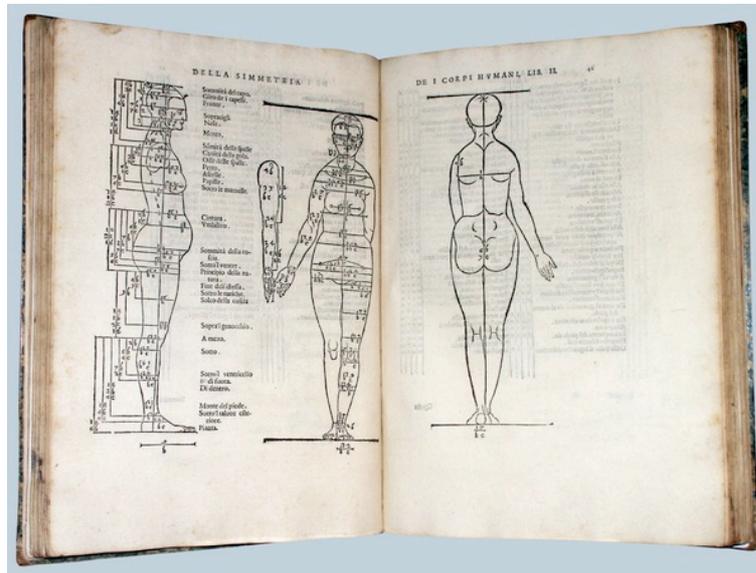
## Q. Horatius Flaccus, Ex Fide, Atque Auctoritate Com Plurimum Librorum Manuscriptorum (...)



Lutetiae, Apud Ioannem Macaeum (...) sub scuto Britanniae. M. D. LXXX. [Paris 1580]

Latin lyric poetry knew two inventors: Virgil (\*70, †19 BC) and Horace, the author of the book shown here. Horatius Flaccus (\*65, †8 BC) was the son of a freed slave and got a good education in Rome and Athens. Yet he was living in a time of disruptions due to the civil war after the assassination of Gaius Julius Caesar in 44 BC. His salvation appeared in the person of the rich politician Gaius Maecenas (\*c. 70, †8 BC), an important patron for the new generation of poets. In 39 BC, Horace was introduced to Maecenas, who presented him with an estate. This freed the way for Horace's poetic creativity: satires, epodes, epistles and the famous odes as well as the "Ars Poetica" that was first translated into English by Queen Elizabeth I.

## Della Simmetria De I Corpi Hvmani



Di Alberto Dvrero Pittore, E Geometra Chiarissimo. Libro Quarto.

In Venetia, M D XCI [1591]. Apresso Domenico Nicolini.

Albrecht Dürer (\*1471, †1528) from Nuremberg was a painter and a graphic artist of enormous creative power. His works lead from the late Gothic period into the Renaissance. He became famous through the woodcuts of Johannes' revelation in which he illustrated the apocalyptic atmosphere of his time. His prints established his reputation across Europe when he was still in his twenties, and he has been conventionally regarded as the greatest artist of the Renaissance in Northern Europe ever since.

This is a rare Italian edition of Dürer's art theory that was published under the title of *Vier Bücher von menschlicher Proportion* (The Four Books on Human Proportion) in 1528 already. The illustrations appear peculiar to modern eyes, but at the time of publication the book was a smash hit. Dürer succeeded in masterfully putting theory into practice.