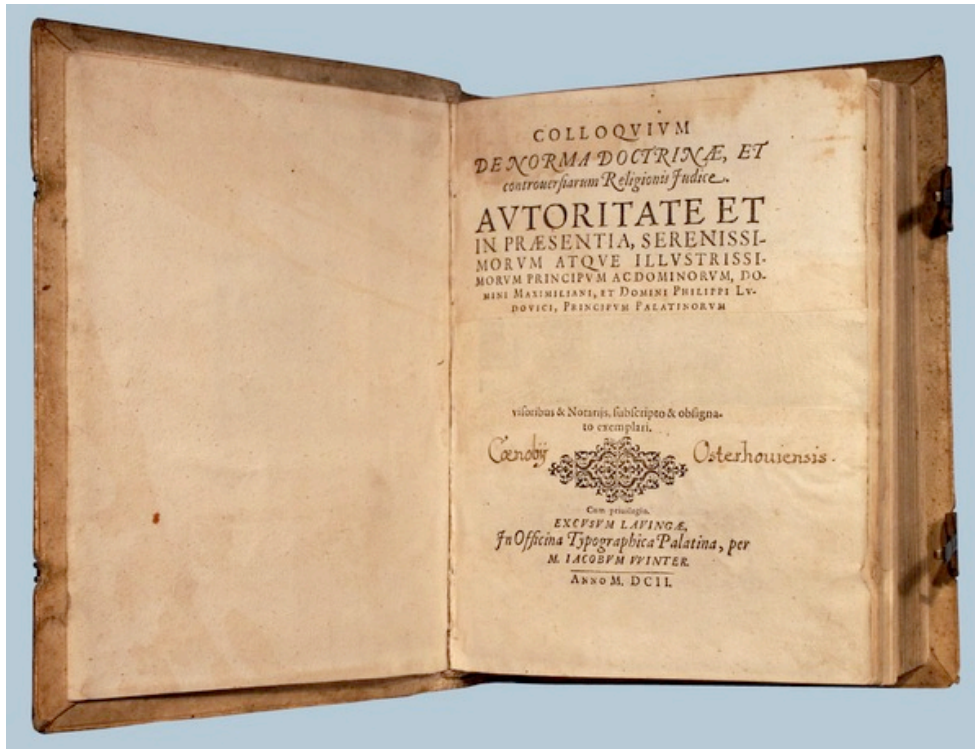


The MoneyMuseum Book Collection: Books of the 17th century

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All this new information was put down into books – some of them beautifully illustrated. Among them were the valuable Topographiae of Matthäus Merian, epoch making works on historical events, or standard works of science. Some especially attractive examples are shown here.

Colloquium De Norma Doctrinae, Et controuersiarum Religionis Iudice



Avtoritate Et In Praesentia, Serenissimorum Atque Illvstrissimorum Principvm Ac dominorum, Domini Maximiliani, Et Domini Philippi Lvdovici, Principvm Palatinorum

Excvsvm Lavingae In Officina Typographica Palatina, per M. Iacobvm Wvinter. Anno M. DCII. [Lauingen 1602]

When Martin Luther hammered his theses to the door of the castle church of Wittenberg, he presumably did not picture what he was about to initiate. The pious monk did actually only try to eradicate some specific grievances in his church – for instance the practice of selling indulgences. Structural changes Luther did not have in mind – at least not in the beginning.

Nevertheless, the outcome of Luther's religious demands were conflicts, the schism of the Catholic Church, and the development of two different beliefs. Initially the Catholic Church tried to impede the Reformation and to convince its adherents with arguments. This resulted in numerous religious-academic disputes between Reformers and Counter-Reformers.

Luther's theses spread quickly all over the Holy Roman Empire and beyond, not least thanks to the new innovation of letterpress printing. To publish the arguments of the opponents as well, the disputations were printed. This book is the first issue of the dispute initiated by Duke Maximilian I of Bavaria (*1573, †1651) in November 1601, to win Count Palatine Philip Louis of Neuburg (*1547, †1614) for Counter-Reformation. The Catholics were represented by Albert Hunger and Jakob Gretser, the Protestants by Aegidius Hunnius, Philipp and Jakob Heilbrunner and David Rungius.

The arguments of the disputers were recorded literally. To clearly distinguish the single debaters from one another, the name of the specific talker was put before the paragraph with his text, and the

paragraph in addition printed in a different font. However, what makes the book especially interesting are the underlines and the handwritten comments by one of its contemporary readers.

Nautica mediterranea.

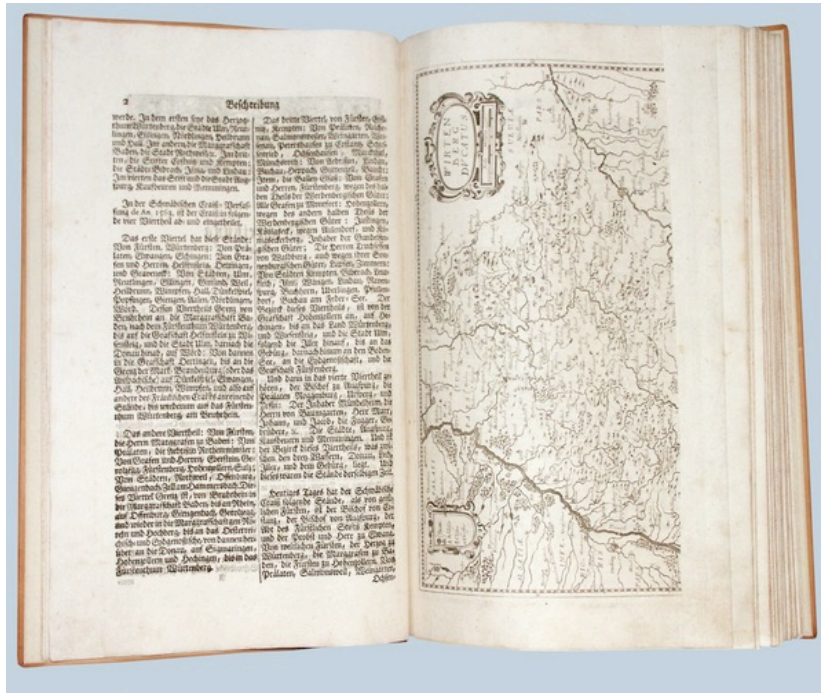


Di Bartolomeo Crescentio Romano.
In Roma Appresso Bartolomeo Bonfadino 1607

Bartolomeo Crescentio Romano is regarded as one of the most significant experts on navigation of the 16th and 17th centuries. The Roman was admiral of the papal fleet – it was the time of the Turkish wars in Europe, and the popes participated actively in the battle against the Moslems.

In 1602, Crescentio released his *Nautica Mediterranea* for the first time; five years later a second edition followed. On more than 550 pages the book discussed shipbuilding and navigation, the armament of warships, the correct handling of those weapons and maritime warfare – one chapter was devoted to the "art of getting rid of pirates and to defeat the Turks." Furthermore Crescentio gave advice on how to properly read nautical maps. He personally corrected the magnetic deviation on many maps of the Mediterranean and in this way eliminated errors that had mislead generations of seamen.

Topographia Sveviae



das ist Beschreib: vnd Aigentliche Abcontrafeitung der fürnembsten Stätt vnd Plätz in Ober vnd Nider Schwaben, Hertzogthum Württemberg, Marggraffschafft Baden vnd andern zu dem Hochlöbl: Schwabischen Craisse gehörigen Landtschafften vnd Orten

An Tag gegeben vndt Verlegt durch Matthaeum Merian. Franckfurt am Mayn M.DC.XLIII. [1643]

"Topography" comes from Greek and means a detailed description of a place. This is the *Topographia Sveviae*, an illustrated travel book on Swabia, illustrated by the famous Basel copperplate engraver Matthäus Merian (*1593, †1650). The work gives account on the history of Swabia and explains the geographical and economical situation, for instance the occurrence of salt in Hall. It also describes points of interest such as the castle of Lichtenstein and, in alphabetical order, Lindau, Tuebingen, Stuttgart and other important towns; all the locations are illustrated by Merian's copperplates.

Merian's etchings of the German and other European towns were so famous that the Merian travel books of today have been named after this great engraver.

Topographia Helvetiae, Rhaetiae, Et Valesiae



Das ist Beschreibung vnnnd eygentliche Abbildung der vornehmsten Staette und Plaetze in der Hochloeblichen Eydgenosschafft Graubuendten / Wallis / vnd etlicher zugewandten Orthen

Frankfurt am Mayn / Zum Truck verlegt von denen Merianischen Erben. Im Jahr M DC LIV. [1649]

Matthäus Merian (*1593, †1650) was engraver, publisher and the most famous illustrator of his time. Born in the town of Basel, yet educated in Zurich, Lorraine and Paris, he reached the peak of his creative work in the early 1620s in Basel. In 1624, he took over the publishing house of his departed father-in-law Jan T. de Bry in Frankfurt on the Main.

Merian soon became famous for his topographical views. His main work was the *Topographia Germaniae*, for which Martin Zeller wrote the texts. The work was published from 1642 to 1654 in initially 16 volumes; until 1688 more volumes about other European countries. The complete work contains altogether 92 maps – city maps, maps on landscapes, and a world map – as well as 1486 copperplate engravings and 2142 single views on towns, villages, castles, fortresses, and monasteries. The first volume of the *Topographia Germaniae* is dedicated to Switzerland: *Topographia Helvetiae, Rhaetiae et Valesiae*.

Matthäus Merian, by the way, had an equally talented daughter. Anna Maria Sibylla Merian was a naturalist and scientific illustrator. She studied plants and insects especially in Suriname, and made detailed paintings about them. Her comprehensive observations and documentation of the metamorphosis of the butterfly make her a significant, albeit not well known, contributor to entomology.

Topographia Bohemiae, Moraviae Et Silesiae



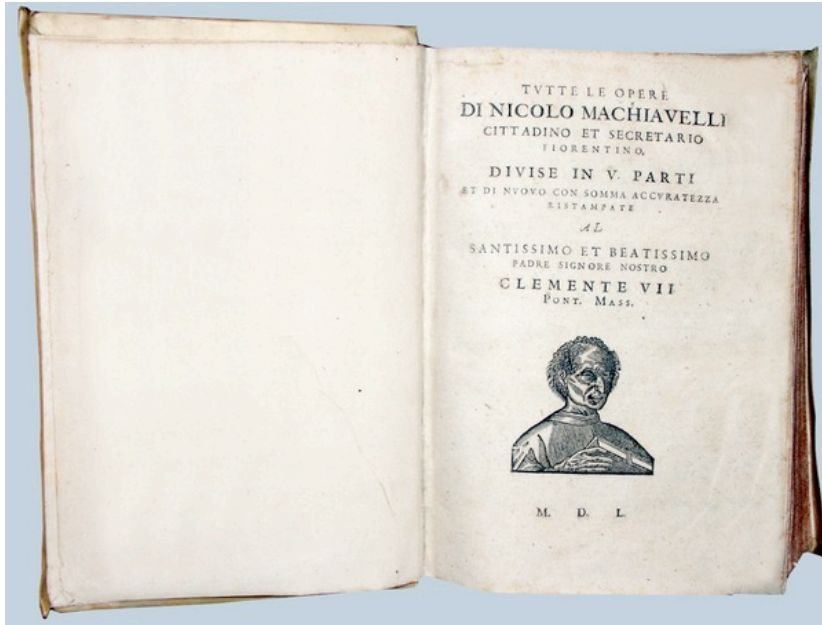
das ist, Beschreibung vnd eigentliche Abbildung der vornehmsten vnd bekantisten Stätte und Plätze in dem Königreich Boheim vnd einverleibten Landern Mähren vnd Schlesien

An tag gegeben vnnndt Verlegt durch: Matthaeum Merian zu Franckfurt [a. M.]. 1650

This volume of Matthäus Merian (*1593, †1650) is dedicated to a particularly history laden region in the heart of Europe: Bohemia, Moravia and Silesia have been scenes of wars again and again.

Prague, the "golden city," became the capital of the Holy Roman Empire under Emperor Charles IV (1355-1378). Charles founded the first German university in Prague and turned the town into an intellectual and artistic centre in Central Europe. Moreover, Prague was an international trading centre through the nearby silver mines of Kutna Hora. The mines had delivered the silver for the money supply of the whole country from the 14th century. Merian's lovely views of Prague are a highlight of this *Topographia*.

Tutte Le Opere di Nicolo Machiavelli Cittadino Et Secretario Fiorentino

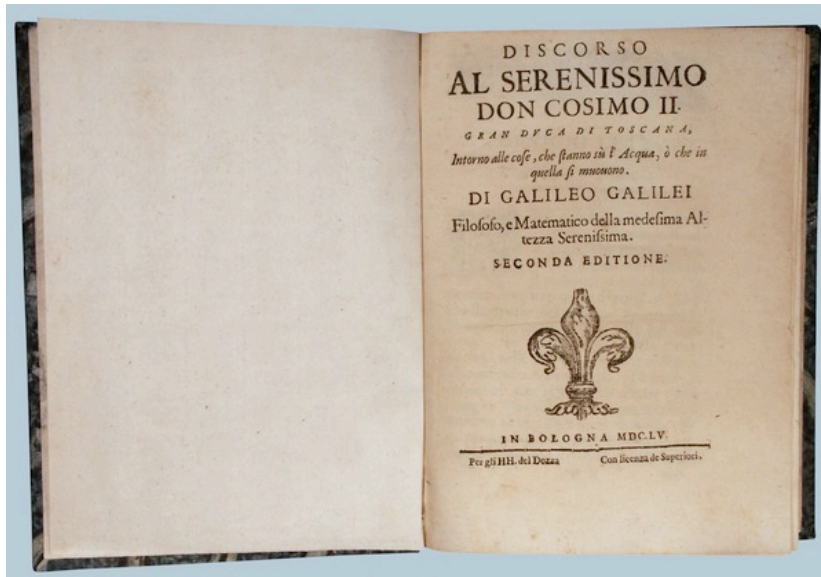


Divise In V. Parti

M. D. L. [Geneva 1650]

Niccolò Machiavelli (*1469, †1527) from Florence was a statesman and writer. He is regarded as the founder of historical philosophy and modern political sciences. In the spirit of the Renaissance he based his thesis on studies of human nature. His main work *Il Principe* (The Prince) thought rulers how to put the interest of the state above moral norms. European rulers have been educated with this treatise from the time of its publication until the 18th century. Today, however, "Machiavellism" stands for unscrupulous politics, which was not quite the intention of its inventor.

Discorso All Serenissimo Don Cosimo II. Gran Dvca Di Toscana, Intorno alle cose, che stanno sù l'Acqua, ò che in quella si muouono



Di Galileo Galilei, Filosofo, e Matematico della medesima Altezza Serenissima. In Bologna MDCLV. [1655]

Galileo Galilei (*1564, †1642), Italian astronomer, mathematician and physicist, is regarded as founder of modern natural science thanks to his research and the introduction of systematic experimenting. Galilei developed important fundaments in physics, especially in classic mechanics; he founded kinematics and dynamics, and formulated significant parts of the law of inertia. With his self-made telescope he also made numerous astronomical discoveries. Additionally it is remarkable that Galilei wrote his texts in Italian during a time in which Latin still dominated science by far.

Galileo's physical discoveries are put down in the writings *Discorso* and *Discorsi e dimostrazioni matematiche*. The *Discorso intorno alle cose, che stanno sù l'acqua* shown here is a "Treatise on Things that Can Stay on the Water."

Scientists like Galileo made their discoveries with the financial support of rich patrons. One of them was Cosimo II de' Medici (1608-1621) – the *Discorso intorno alle cose, che stanno sù l'acqua* is dedicated to him. After Cosimo II had become archduke of Tuscany he summoned Galileo to his court to let scientist do his research without financial worries. In return Galilei praised the Medici into the skies: in honour of his patron he called the moons of Jupiter that he had discovered the "Medicean stars."

Vollkommene Unterweisung / wie Raketen / Feuer-Wasser-Sturm-Kugeln / Granaten / Pech-Sturm-Kraentze / und allerhand Lust und Ernsthafte Feuerwercke zubereiten



Sampt gruendlicher Anleitung zur Artillerie (...)

Osnabrueck / Truckts auff Kosten Johann Georg Schwaenders Tilman Bucholtz (...) / im Jahr 1660.

The history of "delightful and serious fireworks" began with the development of black powder. In China this special mixture of sulfur, charcoal, and saltpeter, was known around the year 1000 AD already – the first Chinese firecracker went off in the time of the Sung dynasty (960-1279).

The first use of black powder for military purposes followed soon thereafter – even though in the beginning the powder was mainly used to terrify the enemies. Later weapons were developed, and before long there was no war fought without the use of firearms.

In Europe experiments with black powder began in the 13th century. It was also the advent of the profession of gunsmiths – and of their technical literature. The oldest workbook on the handling of firework we know of was the *Feuerwerksbuch*

The Vollkommene Unterweisung, wie Raketen, Feuer-Wasser-Sturmkuugeln, Granaten, Pech-Sturm-Kraentze und allerhand Lust und ernsthafte Feuer-Wercke zubereiten (Complete Instruction on the Making of Rockets, Fire-, Water- and Storm-Bullets, Granados, Pitch- and Storm-Wreaths and Every Kind of Delightful and Serious Fireworks) shown here gives advise on how to produce explosive device. The instructions are illustrated on 50 copper engravings. Unfortunately both the author and the engraver are unknown.

L'Ambassade De la Compagnie Orientale Des Provinces Unies Vers l'Empereur De La Chine, Ou Grand Cam De Tartarie

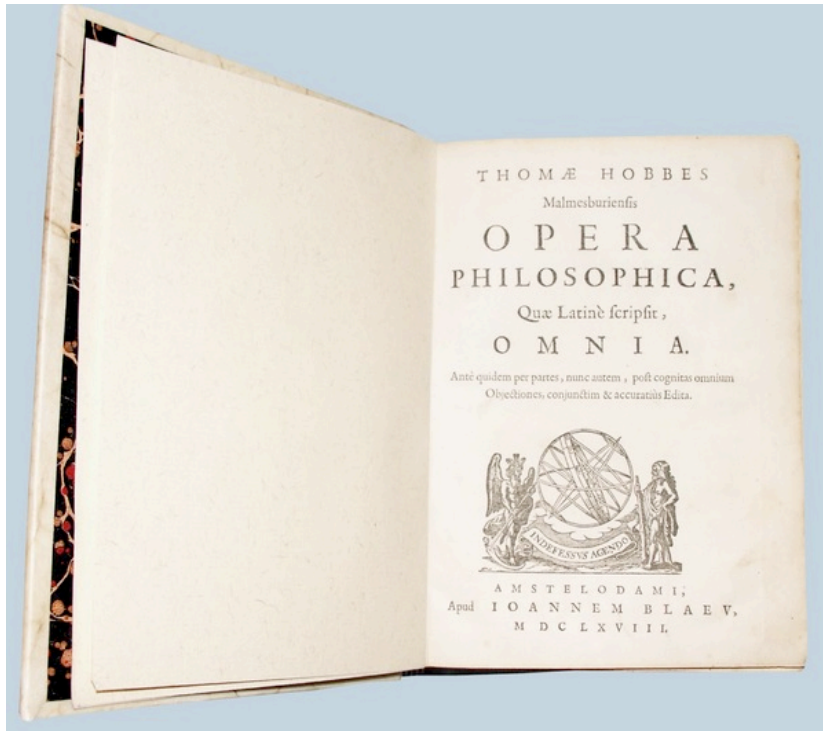


*Faite Par Les Sts. Pierre De Goyer, & Jacob De Keyser
A Leyde. (...) 1665*

Just as we are interested in Feng Shui, Zen Buddhist gardens and the rites of the aborigines today, the people of the 17th century were fascinated by distant China. Yet since only very few people were able to travel at that time, illustrated volumes like this one represented the only possibility to get an idea of the country, its architecture and its customs.

This travel documentary on China was commissioned by Jean Maatziiker, general governor of the Dutch East Indian Company. He sent Jacob de Keyser and Pierre de Goyer from Batavia on a two-year journey in 1655. The book was the result of their travel. How highly valued it was shows the dedication, addressing Jean Baptiste Colbert, counselor and finance minister of Louis XIV, the Sun King.

Thomae Hobbes Malmesburiensis Opera Philosophica, Quae Latinè scripsit, Omnia



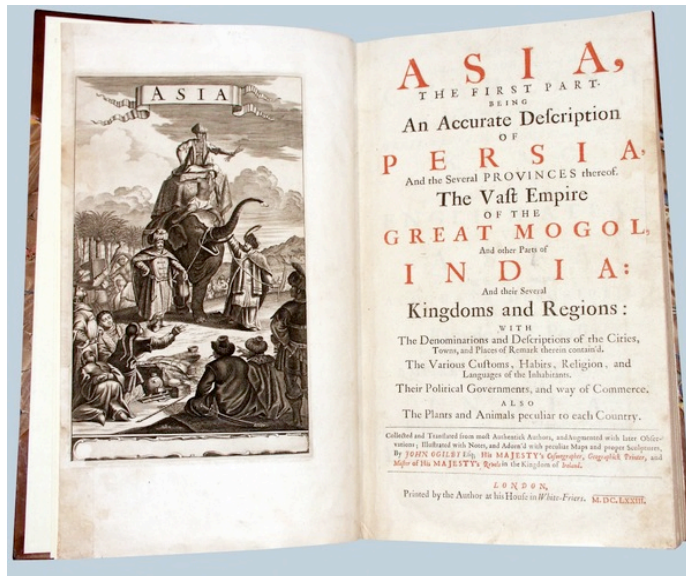
Amstelodami, Apud Ioannem Blaeu, MDC LXVIII. [1668]

The English philosopher Thomas Hobbes (*1588, †1679) lived in difficult times, and it is thus not amazing that his theories were marked by a deeply pessimistic view. In the 17th century, England was shaken by conspiracies, revolutions and a civil war (1642-1649). At the same time the European continent suffered under the Thirty Years' War (1618-1648) – the bloodiest conflict that Europe had experienced so far.

Hobbes witnessed both wars very close. Being a monarchist the philosopher had to flee his home country in 1640. He went to Paris where he composed his work *Leviathan; or, The Matter, Form and Power of a Commonwealth Ecclesiasticall and Civil*. In this work Hobbes presented his opinion that man is egotistic and quarrelsome by nature, and that therefore a social contract is necessary that transfers absolute power over all citizens to an absolute monarch. With his philosophy Hobbes thus provided the theoretical justification for absolute monarchy.

The work shown here is called *Opera Philosophica* and was published in 1668 in Amsterdam. The first part combines the writings "De Corpore," "De Homine" and "De Cive" – Hobbes's teachings on nature, mankind and the state. The second part is a collection of mathematical and physical writings, and the third part is the Latin translation of "Leviathan."

Asia, The First Part



Being An Accurate Description Of Persia, And the Several Provinces thereof. The Vast Empire of the Great Mogol, And other Parts of India: And their Several Kingdoms and Regions

By John Ogilby Esq; His Majesty's Cosmographer, Geographick Printer, and Master of His Majesty's Revels in the Kingdom of Ireland. London, Printed by the Author at his House in White-Friers. M. DC. LXXIII. [1673]

When this wonderful book was published in 1673, it offered the same as television or internet today: an insight in exotic worlds and foreign cultures, accounts on strange peoples, great cities, curious animals. In the 17th century all these things were shown on numerous illustrations – gigantic spiders creeping along, men wearing turbans and smoking hookahs, multiple-armed goddesses. Maps explained which part of the earth the stories were about.

Comprehensive texts described the habits and customs in those foreign countries in detail. Europeans thus learned that Persian women used to calm their men with opium, and that the consumption of tobacco, coffee and tea was highly popular in those lands. On the other hand, the amazed reader learned, those people did not drink wine or any other form of alcohol. From India it was reported the barbarous custom of burning the widows with their dead husbands; tables illustrated how such procedures took place. Even concrete data were given – on the temperatures in summer and in winter for instance, or on the use of coins.

Asia was one of several books that John Ogilby (*1600, †1676) published around the mid-17th century. Others of his travel reports were dedicated to life in China, Japan, Africa and America. All those books were realised in collaboration with the Dutch publisher Jacob van Meurs – for instance the work shown here.