



Christ's College Library, Cambridge

# Sponsor-a-Book 2020-21



## Items Available for Sponsorship

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Supporting the conservation of  
a unique collection

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Image courtesy of Cambridge Colleges' Conservation Consortium



# The Sponsor-a-Book Scheme

For more than 500 years, the Old Library's rich collections of early printed books and manuscripts have informed, entertained, and inspired some of the greatest minds of their age.

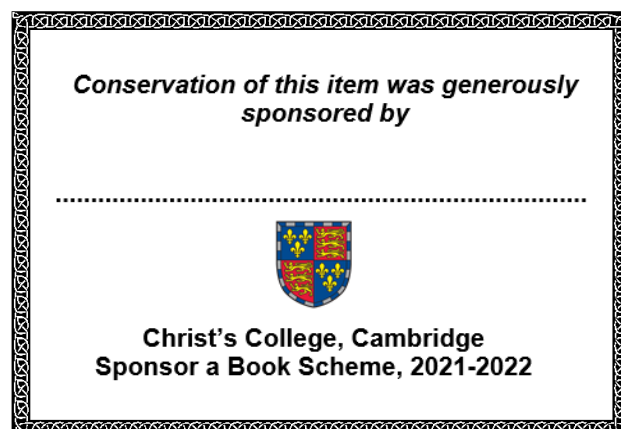
By providing for their long-term care we can ensure that they continue to enthuse and inform generations to come.

If you would like to assist in conserving our important collections, why not consider sponsoring a book in need of repair?

From as little as £340, you can choose to support a range of items and items requiring urgent conservation. The money you donate will fund tailored treatment by a team of specialist conservators.

Items may be sponsored by individuals or on behalf of others as a personal and lasting gift, ideal for marking special occasions.

In recognition of your support, a personalised book-plate acknowledging your sponsorship will be placed inside your chosen volume, and you will receive an illustrated report detailing the work carried out. As a sponsor you will also enjoy privileged access to the Old Library and its collections.



Sponsor a Book book-plate

# This Year's Highlights

We are delighted to present 10 of our treasures for this year's Sponsor-a-Book brochure. Our 2020-2021 selection is, as usual, very diverse:



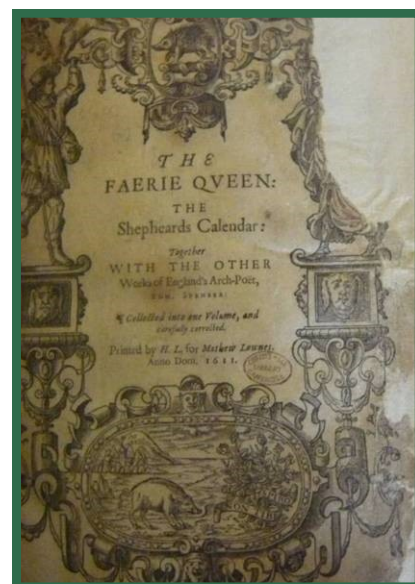
SB20-21/1: John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (illustrated by Gustave Doré) (London, 1882), £340



SB20-21/3: Albrecht Dürer, *Geometriae* (Basel, 1532), £600



SB20-21/9: Johannes de Sacrobosco, *De Sphaera Mundi* (Venice, 1490), £1800



SB20-21/10: Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queen* (London, 1611), £1800

# Items Available for Sponsorship

## John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (illustrated by Gustave

### Doré) (London, 1882)



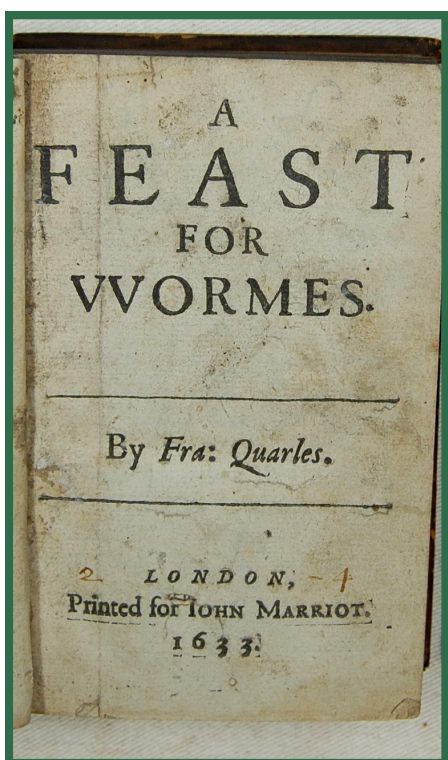
This wonderful edition of *Paradise lost* is illustrated by the renowned 19th-century artist and wood engraver Gustave Doré (1832-83). The fifty plates produced for this edition of Milton's classic are among the most exquisite of Doré's hand-carved wood engravings.

Among numerous other literary landmarks, Doré produced illustrated editions of Coleridge's *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* (1876) and Edgar Allen Poe's *Raven* (1884). Sponsorship of this book will fund the cleaning and reshaping of the book's spine, and will ensure the pages are reattached to the covers. It will also fund a case for the book, which reduces stress on the binding.

Cost: £340

Ref.: SB20-21/1

## Francis Quarles, *A Feast for Wormes* (London, 1633)



Francis Quarles—Christ's alumnus, poet, puritan, and cupbearer to Elizabeth I—was born in Essex in 1592 and graduated from the College with his brother in 1609. *A Feast for Wormes* was his first publication, and forms part of a significant collection of items relating to the poet held by the College. It includes one of only two extant autograph poems presented by Quarles himself in 1625.

In his epistle "To the reader", he explains the book's lugubrious title: "Wonder not at the title, for it is a Song of Mercy: what greater Feast than Mercy? And what are Men but Wormes?" The text includes biblical paraphrases in verse (a popular genre of the time), including Jonah, Esther, Samson and Job. Quarles went on to publish the work which secured his fame, *Emblemes*, just two years later.

Sadly, the front board of our copy is detached and its joints also require attention including aero-cotton repairs. Sponsorship would also fund trepair of the spine with leather to match the original.

Cost: £450

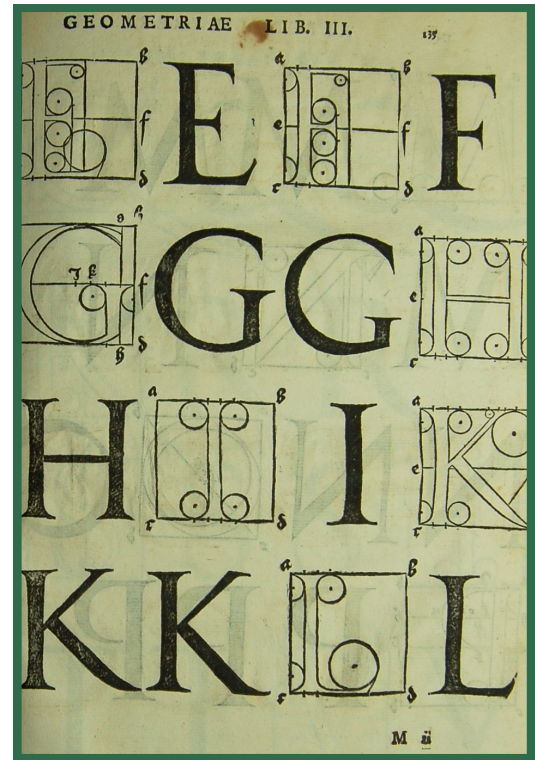
Ref.: SB20-21/2

## Albrecht Dürer, *Geometriae* (Basel, 1532)

Considered one of the greatest figures in European art during the Renaissance, Albrecht Dürer originally published his four-book treatise on geometrical forms in German in 1525 under the title *Underweysung der Messung*, or *Instruction in Measurement*.

The exquisite woodcut shown here illustrates how projection can be used to represent three-dimensional objects on the two-dimensional page.

Our version of the treatise is a Latin translation published by the famous 16th-century printer Christian Wechel (1495-1554), widely reputed for the beauty of his editions. Sponsorship of this item would fund the repair of tears and the reduction of staining, as well as consolidation of the spine and provision of a purpose-made box for the volume.



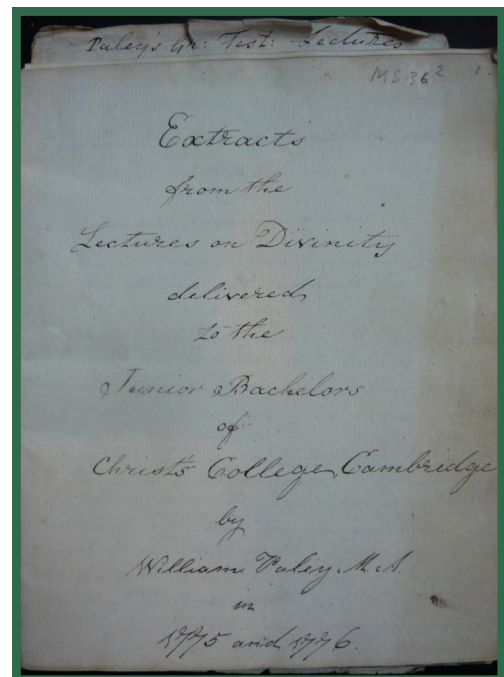
Ref.: SB20-21/3

Cost: £600

## Manuscript notes from William Paley's lectures (eighteenth century)

One of the eighteenth century's leading theologians and moralists, William Paley (1743-1805) was a Fellow at Christ's, where previously he had been a student, from the late 1760s. The manuscript here contains extracts from a series of his divinity lectures, many of the arguments of which later resurfaced in his famous published works.

Sponsorship of this item would allow for the treatment of degraded pages, and the protection of a section of loose leaves currently tucked into the main body of the manuscript. A custom-made box will allow for the various sections to be stored together.



Ref.: SB20-21/4

Cost: £600

## Commemorative John Milton copper medal by John Dassier (1676-1763)



Crafted by John Dassier, chief engraver at the Geneva mint for most of the eighteenth century, the face of this eye-catching copper medal features a portrait of John Milton.

The reverse depicts Adam and Eve underneath a serpent-encircled tree. Sponsorship of this item would also fund conservation of the documents which accompany the object, and enable production of a mount and purpose-made box to protect the medal.

**Cost: £700**

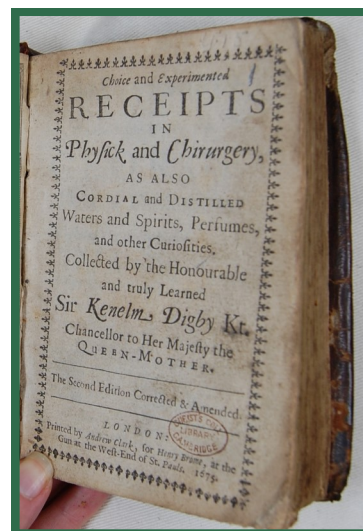
**Ref.: SB20-21/5**

## Kenelm Digby, *Choice and Experimented Receipts in Physick and Chirurgery* (1675)

*Choice and Experimented Receipts* is a fascinating example of a medical 'receipt' or recipe book. Such manuals of domestic medicine were an extremely popular genre in the early modern period, a time when the majority of medical care was administered at home.

Diverse treatments are offered, from "Wounds or Sores in Man or Beast" cured with "Hog's grease" to a "cordial water of sweet marjoram" for the "head and the memory". Sir Kenelm Digby (1603-65) was a voracious collector of books and manuscripts from all over Europe. Many of Digby's receipts name-drop eminent contacts, but others are more clearly a result of his own experimentation.

Sponsorship of *Choice and Experimented Receipts* would allow for paper repair, the extension of sewing supports, reinforcement of the spine, and a box to house and protect the book.



**Ref.: SB20-21/6**

**Cost: £875**

## Thomas Boreman, *A Description of Above Three Hundred Animals* (1797)



“The Humming-bird is the least of all birds: the head, together with the feathers, is of the bigness of a mean-sized sweet cherry”. 300 such imaginative descriptions grace the pages of Thomas Boreman’s (fl.1730-43) illustrated guide to worldly (and occasionally otherworldly) birds and beasts. Boreman was the first publisher to target the juvenile market, and this innovative book was the “first work on natural history published for children”.

The book was extremely popular, running to 38 editions by the end of the 19th century, and influenced many later natural history publications. Sponsorship would fund cleaning and repair of the pages, mending of the spine, and a custom-made box.

Cost: £1000

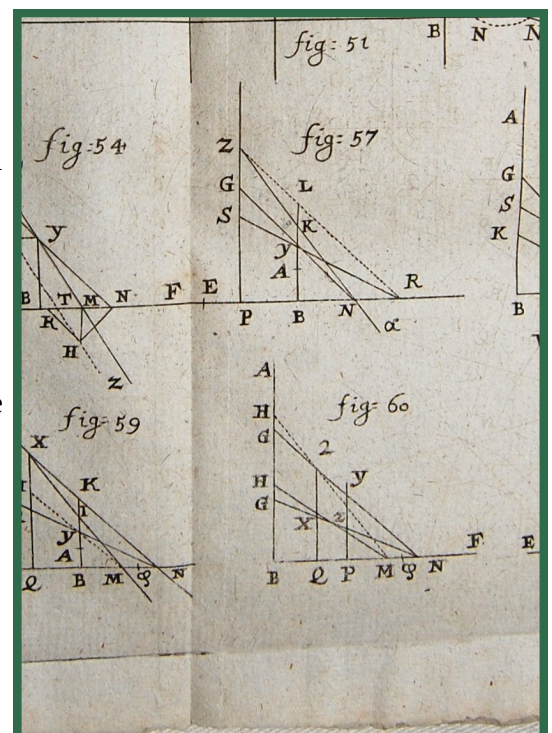
Ref.: SB20-21/7

## Isaac Barrow, *Lectiones opticae & geometricae* (London, 1674)

One of the last of the true Renaissance men, Isaac Barrow (1630-77) was as adept in Greek and Hebrew as he was in the fields of mathematics with which his name is typically associated. In 1673, Barrow was appointed as the inaugural Lucasian Professor of Mathematics, a post subsequently held by his protégé, Isaac Newton (1643-1727).

During his incumbency of the Lucasian professorship, Barrow delivered three sets of lectures on mathematics, geometry and optics. With Newton’s assistance, these were published to universal acclaim: “He [Barrow] may be esteemed as having shewn a compass of invention equal, if not superior, to any of the moderns ... [Newton] only excepted”, effused one contemporary.

Sponsorship of this book would fund the repair and reinforcement of the spine, as well as a custom-made box to protect the volume.



Ref.: SB20-21/8

Cost: £1200

## Johannes de Sacrobosco, *De Sphaera Mundi* (Venice, 1490)

Written around 1230, Johannes de Sacrobosco's *De Sphaera Mundi* was one of the most widely read and influential works of medieval astronomy. It drew heavily on Ptolemy's *Almagest* but also incorporated material drawn from Islamic science, which had recently arrived in medieval Europe.

Copied hundreds of times in manuscript form, *De sphaera* was first printed in 1472, thereafter going through some 84 editions in the next two hundred years. Christ's College's copy was produced in Venice in 1490, and features superb woodcut illustrations (including some rare examples of early colour printing), demonstrating the trajectories and dimensions of the heavenly spheres.

Unfortunately, the early pages of our copy have been degraded, and require urgent stabilisation. Sponsorship of *De Sphaera Mundi* would fund this, as well as repairs to detached parts of the binding, re-backing, and preparation of a custom-made box.

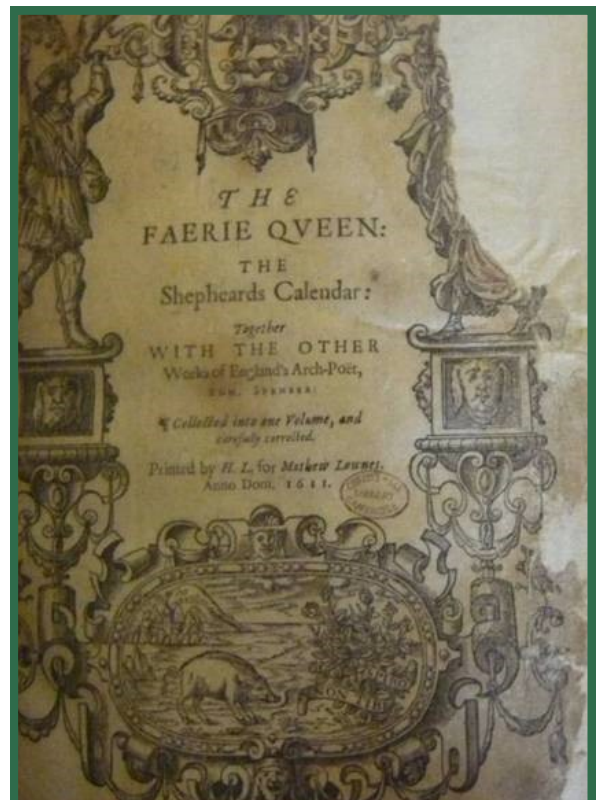


Ref.: SB20-21/9 Cost: £1800

## Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queen* (London, 1611)

This copy of Spenser's magnum opus also includes some of his shorter poems, and his first major poetic work, the series of pastorals known as *The Shepherds Calendar*. Parts of the book are of the first printing of *The Faerie Queene* of 1609, with later additions.

Perfect for anyone with a passion for English literature, sponsorship of this item would fund the removal of staining, and the support of edges previously subject to mould damage. It would also replace earlier restoration work with conservation grade material, and support fragmentary areas of the pages.



Ref.: SB20-21/10

Cost: £1800



# Will you sponsor a book?

To sponsor one or more of the items listed in this brochure, please contact the College's Alumni Officer by email ([alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:alumni@christs.cam.ac.uk)) or telephone (01223 761769).

Alternatively, please write to:  
The Development Office  
Christ's College  
Cambridge CB2 3BU

Please quote the reference number(s) of the item(s) that you are interested in sponsoring. These can be found at the bottom of the item entries.

**Thank you for helping to support the conservation of Christ's College's unique collections.**



Old Library, Christ's College Cambridge



Model of HMS *Beagle*, Christ's College Cambridge