

Adopt a Rare Book

The following books are a snapshot of the 27,000 books the Library holds in its safe. If there is a title you would rather adopt please do contact Bethany McNaboe, who will be happy to discuss this with you, on 020 7766 4719 or email bethany.mcnaboe@londonlibrary.co.uk

1. Rivander, Zacharias Bachmann, 1553-1594 Lupus excoriatus ... Wittemberg : [s.n.], 1591.

Written by Zacharias 'Rivander' Bachmann, a Lutheran clergyman, the book is an attack on both Calvinists and Zwinglians. Its title translates as 'The wolf stripped of its skin' and it blames non Lutheran Protestants for the failure of the Concordia Wittenbergensis, which in 1536 tried to unite the opponents of Roman Catholicism. The Concordia is depicted in the book as a sheep being devoured by rapacious Calvinist wolves. *There appears to be only one other extant copy, dated 1582, in the UK.*
Adoption cost: £1,500



2. Luther, Martin, 1483-1546. Wider das Bapstum zu Rom vom Teuffel gestiftt. Wittemberg : Durch Hans Lufft, 1545.

This is one of Luther's very graphic attacks on the papacy. The title translates as Against the papacy in Rome founded by the Devil and it depicts the pope seated on a throne erected in the mouth of Hell and surrounded by demons. It also depicts him as an old man riding a sow around Germany carrying excrement in his outstretched hand and as a bagpipe playing ass. *One of 8 extant copies in the UK.*
Adoption cost: £1,000



3. Parsons, Robert, 1546-1610. De persecutione Anglicana libellus ... Romae : Ex Typographia Georgii Ferrarii, 1582.

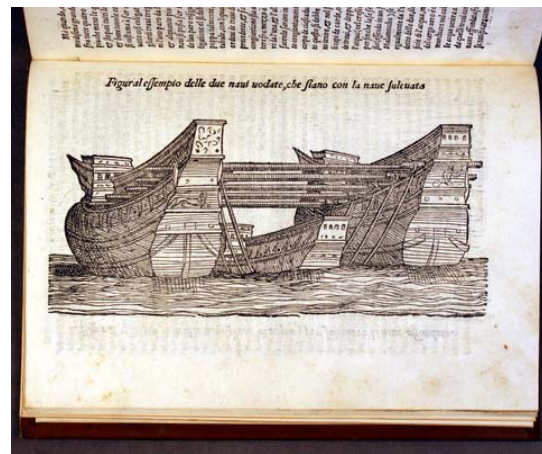
The English Jesuit's eulogy to his fellow missionary and fallen comrade, Edmund Campion. While on a clandestine Catholic mission in Elizabethan England, Campion was captured, tortured and executed for treason. Parsons fled back to Rome where he wrote this book and had it published with graphic illustrations of Campion's torments. *One of 11 extant copies in the UK.*
Adoption cost: £750



4. Tartaglia, Niccolò, d. 1557. Regola generale da sollevare con ragione e misura nō solamēte ogni affondata naue: ma una torre solida di metallo. [Venetia : Nicolo Bascarini], 1551.

When When Niccolo Fontana was a boy living in Brescia he was attacked by a French soldier who cut through his jaw with a sabre leaving. The boy survived but was left with a stammer that earned the nickname 'Tartaglia'. He was a mathematical prodigy and grew to become one of the first men to find a solution to cubic equations. He was also interested in the study of artillery and wrote this book on marine salvage, which includes engravings illustrating methods of raising sunken ships and designs for diving bells. *One of 9 extant copies in the UK.*

Adoption cost: £1,000



5. Nicolay, Nicolas de, 1517-1583. Vier Bucher von der Raisz und Shiffart in die Turckey. Antorff [Antwerp] : Wilhelm Silvium, 1577.

Nickolay was a French diplomat, cartographer and possibly spy who travelled to the Court of Suleyman the Magnificent in 1551. During the course of his travels around the Mediterranean he made drawings of the men and women he saw. The result is a book that contains over 60 beautiful, sometimes startlingly faithful, depictions of ordinary people. These later served as the inspiration for some of the characters in Shakespeare's *The Merchant of Venice*. *There appears to be only one other extant copy of this edition in the UK.*

Adoption cost: £1,500



6. Zuallart, Jean, b. 1541. Il devotissimo viaggio di Gerusalemme. Stampato in Roma. : Per F. Zanetti, & Gia. Ruffinelli, 1587.

A traveller from the Low Countries, Zuallart visited the Holy Land in 1586. The judge, historian and Knight of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre was also a self-taught artist who produced a travel book full of romantic images of the exotic East. His drawings of biblical cities nestling in sand dunes and bathed in sunshine were so accurate and precise that they are still a key source for architectural historians today. *One of 10 extant copies in the UK.*

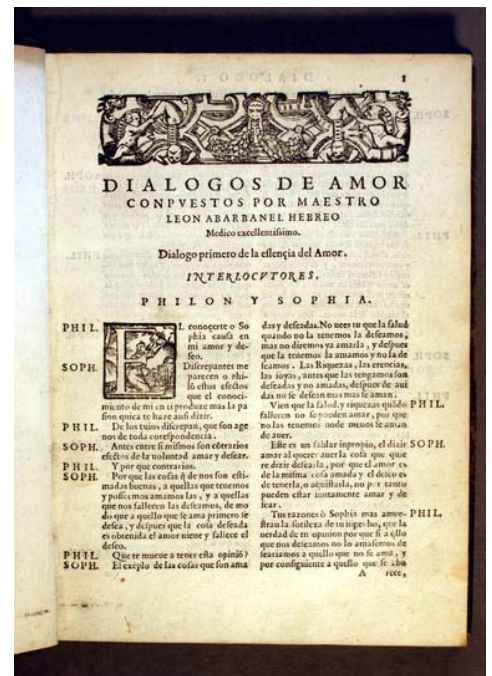
Adoption cost: £750



7. León, Hebreo, b. ca. 1460. Los diálogos de amor. En Venetia : [s.n.], 1568.

The Lisbon-born Jewish philosopher, poet and physician approached the subject of love from a purely intellectual stance. In this, his most famous work, two allegorical characters, Love and Wisdom, discuss the true nature of love. Love is impetuous and carnal and the mere sight of Wisdom awakens desire in him. Wisdom is calm and measured and tells Love that he only desires her because he does not possess her. She believes that once we obtain our wish, love replaces lust. *One of 4 extant copies in the UK.*

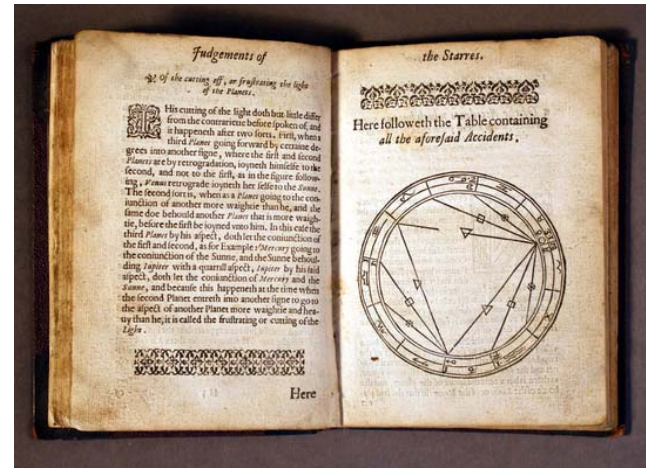
Adoption cost: £1,500



8. Dariot, Claude, 1533-1594. A briefe and most easie introduction to the astrologicall judgement of the starres London : Thomas Purfoot, 1598.

The French physician and astrologer lived both in the world of reason and in the world of magic. He believed that the alignment of the celestial bodies created both propitious and inauspicious days for mixing medical preparations and carrying out surgical procedures. *One of 13 extant copies in the UK.*

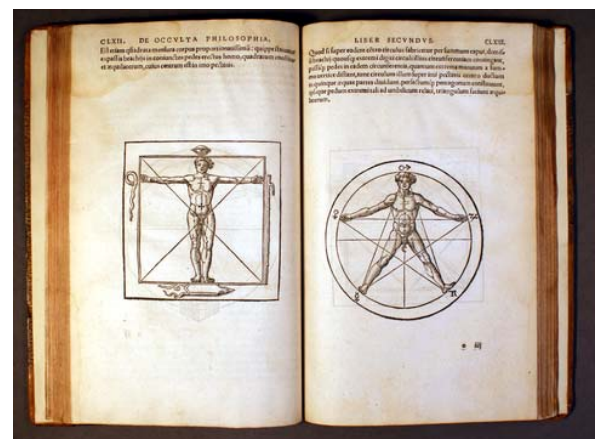
Adoption cost: £750



9. Agrippa von Nettesheim, Heinrich Cornelius, 1486?-1535. De occulta philosophia. [Cologne : J. Soler], 1533.

Despite being a Catholic theologian, von Nettesheim was also a mercenary and a philosopher and most surprising of all he was one of the most important early modern writers on magic and the occult. He lived an eventful life but was never persecuted for his esoteric beliefs. *One of 21 extant copies in the UK.*

Adoption cost: £750



10. San Pedro, Diego de, fl. 1500. Carcer d'amore / [Stampato in Venetia : Per Francesco Bindoni & Mapheo Pasini compagni, 1530].

"Prison of love" is the tragic story of Leriano's unrequited love for Laureola. This classic novel of courtly love sees the hero sending ardent love letters to the object of his passions who does not reciprocate his feelings but is polite enough to write back until a jealous rival accuses Laureola of having compromised her honour. The young woman's father locks her in a tower but even after Leriano rescues her she is unable to respond to his love. Broken-hearted, Leriano starves himself to death, breaking his fast only to drink a cup of water mixed with the torn pieces of Laureola's insipid letters. *There appears to be only one other extant copy of this edition in the UK.*

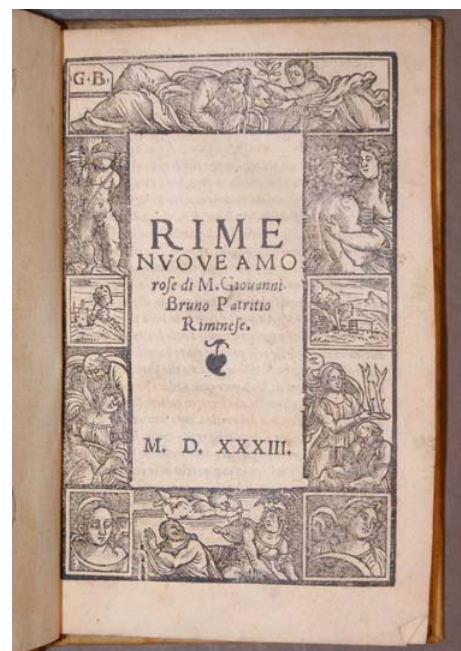
Adoption cost: £1,500



11. Bruni, Giovanni, 1474-1540. Rime nuove amoroze. [In Venetia : per maestro Bernardino Vitale, 1533].

The poet Italian love poet was devastated when his muse died in 1500. However, he was able to recover enough to marry another woman the following year and to go on to father 10 children. He has been described as a passionate dilettante and a mediocre poet. This little volume of chaste and gentle love poems has a strangely misleading title page decorated with suggestive scenes. *There appears to be only one other extant copy of this edition in the UK.*

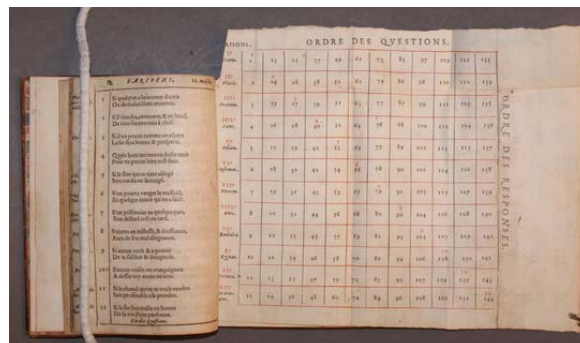
Adoption cost: £1,500



12. Jean, de Meun, d. 1305? Le dodechedron de fortune : livre non moins plaisant & recreatif, que subtil & ingenieux entre tous les jeux & passetemps de fortune. A Paris : Pour Gilles Robinot, 1556.

Jean de Meun is best known as the French poet who continued Guillaume de Lorris' *Roman de la Rose*. He further indulged the playful and irreverent side of his personality by writing this little book on fortune-telling through dice. The book includes a table of set questions with numbers translated into set answers and comes with a warning in the preface that none of it should be taken seriously. *One of 3 extant copies in the UK.*

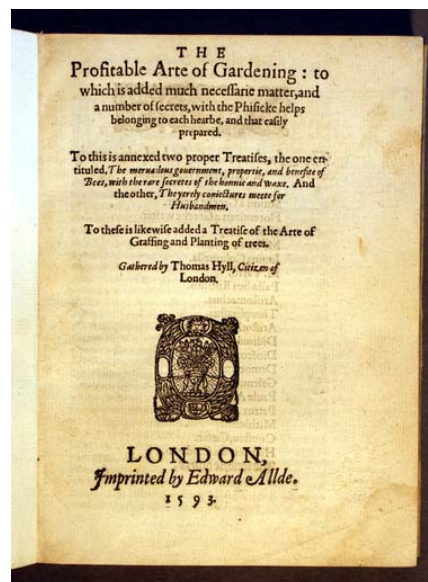
Adoption cost: £1,500



13. Hill, Thomas, b. ca. 1528. The profitable arte of gardening London : Imprinted by Edward Allde, 1593.

The London author and translator claimed he had been 'rudely taughte' but he knew enough Italian and Latin to produce books in a variety of subjects using classical authors as his source material. He wrote the first popular books on gardening in the English language. This one includes treatise on beekeeping. *One of 7 extant copies in the UK.*

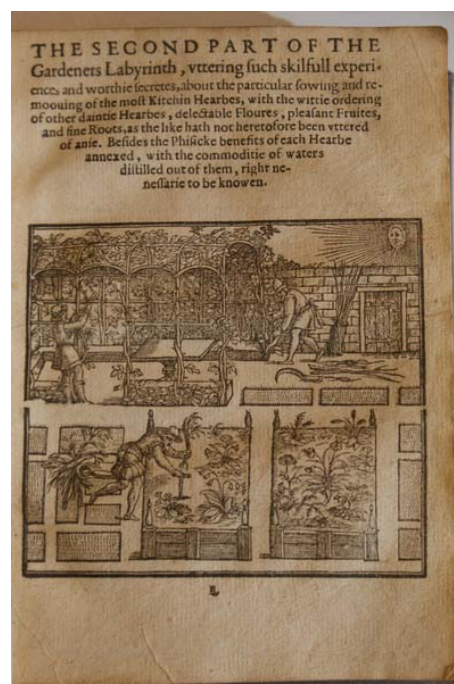
Adoption cost: £1,000



14. Hill, Thomas, b. ca. 1528. The gardeners labyrinth ... Printed at London : by Iohn VVolve, 1586.

Hill's other book on gardening. The writer, who acquired the posthumous pseudonym 'Dydymus Mountaine', produced books with charming illustrations of Elizabethan gardens, including many different maze designs. The books include sections on the medicinal properties of different plants and tips on landscaping and the 'beautifying' of gardens. *One of 5 extant copies in the UK.*

Adoption cost: £1,000



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