



Women and the Ancient Library

Ancient Library Exhibition





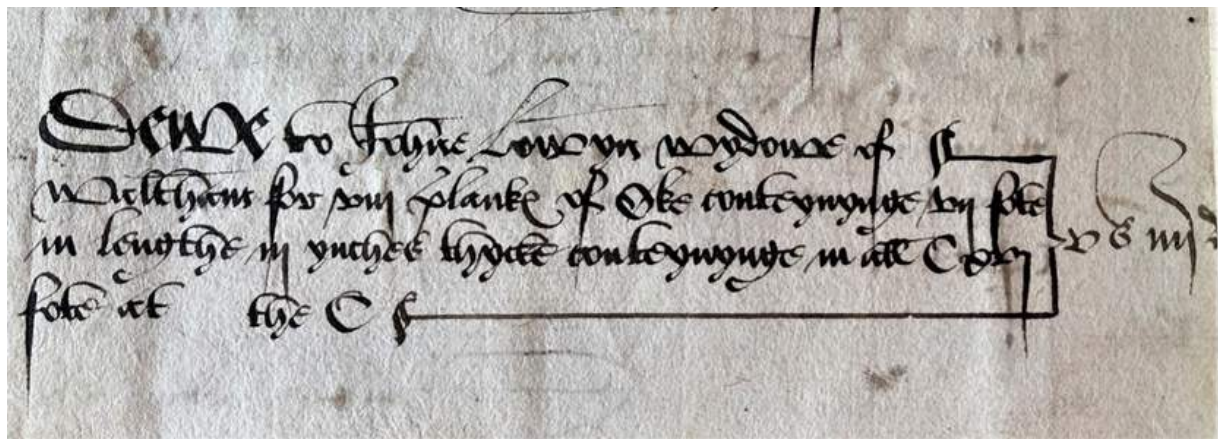
The library was founded in the reign of Elizabeth and, as you might expect, a number of books were dedicated to her. These included Robert Dodoen's *A nieuwe herbal* (London, 1578) and Andrew Willet's *General View of Papistry* (London, 1592) [above].



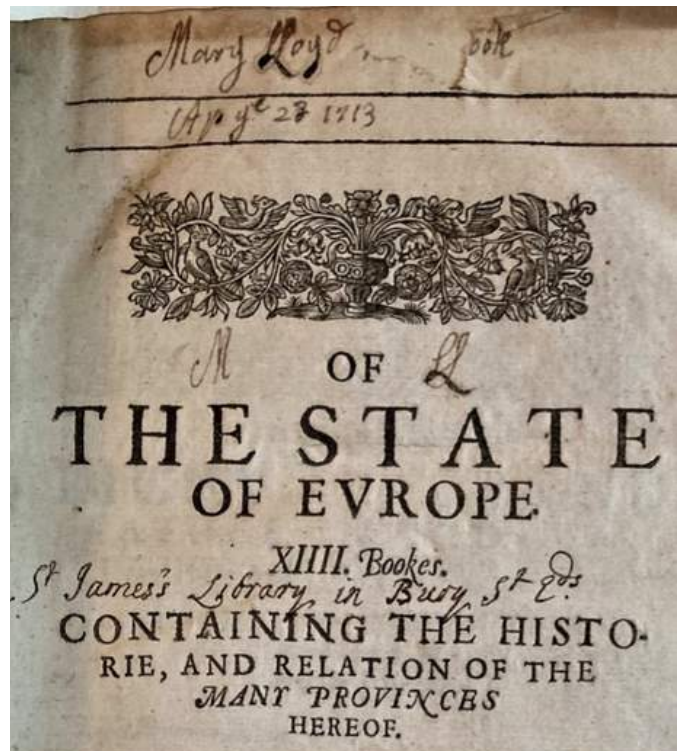
Volumes of Moses Pitt's *The English Atlas* (Oxford, 1680-83) were dedicated to Charles II's queen, Catherine of Braganza, and to the Duchess of York, wife of the future James II. These very fine engravings are by Edward Davis and Peter Vandrebanc.



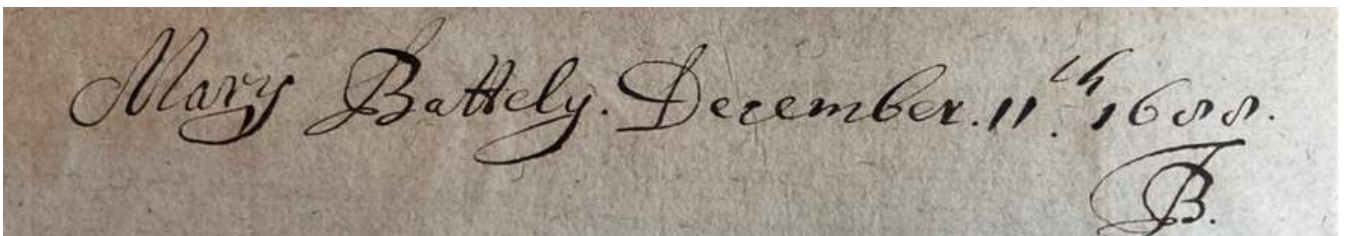
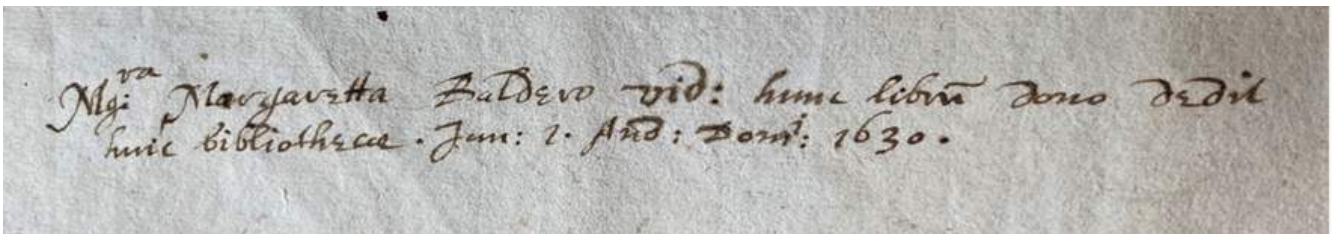
This is the printer's mark of Charlotte Guillard (c1487-1557) in Jean Gagné's *Clarissim et facillima*. She was responsible for nearly 200 publications from her premises at the sign of *The Golden Sun* in the Rue Sainte-Jacques, Paris.



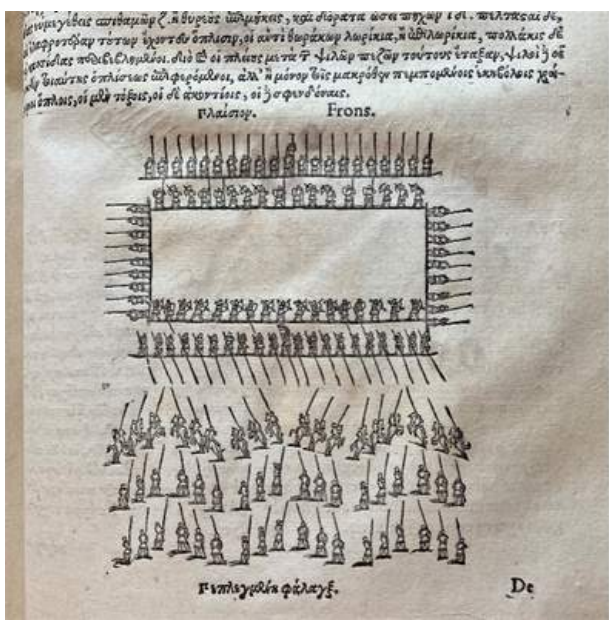
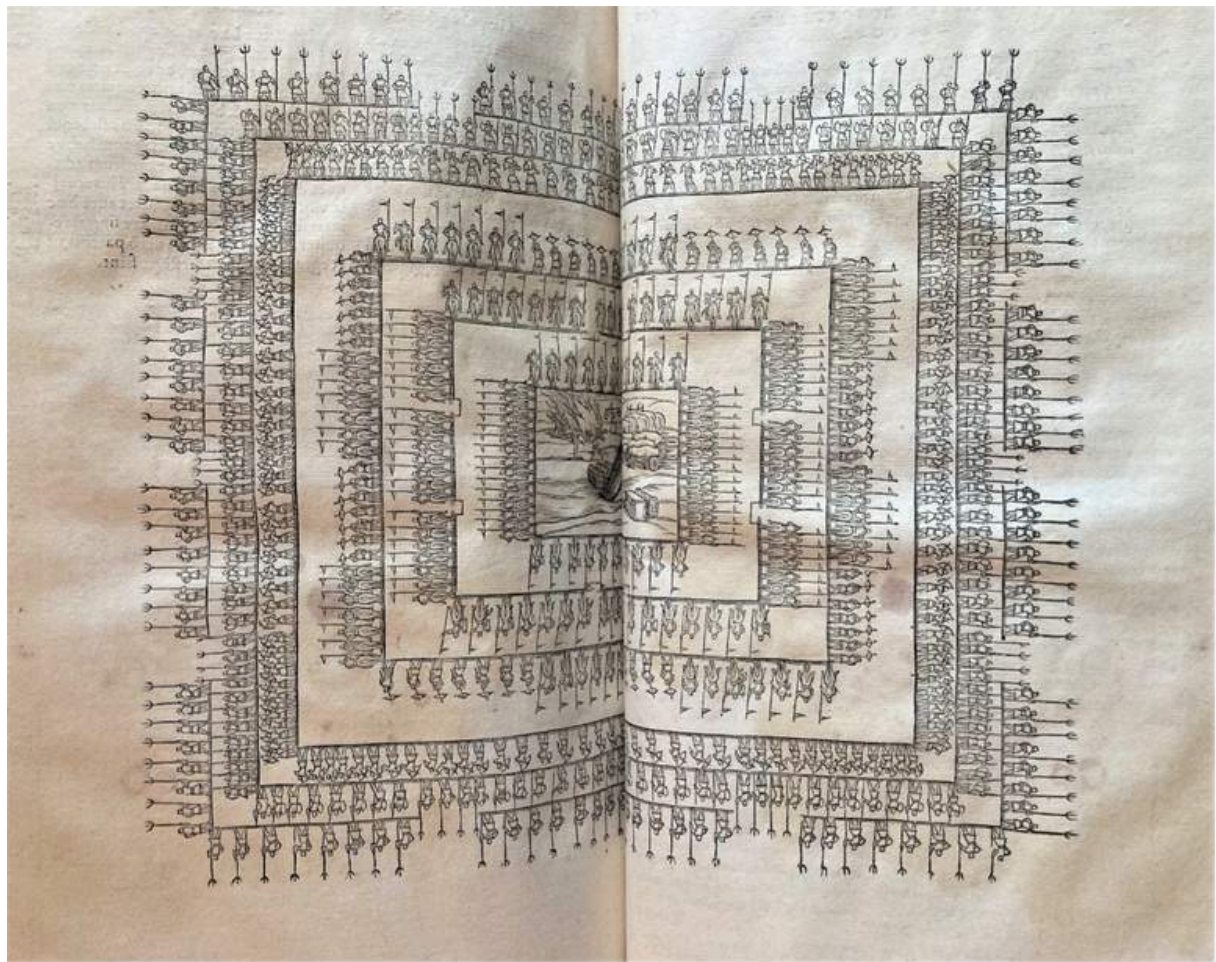
There is also evidence of women in other trades. Johne Lowyn, widow of Waltham, supplied '8 planks of Oke' to be used in the building works at the royal palace of Enfield in 1547 (these accounts are bound into our volumes of the works of Luther).



Inscriptions show that women owned and donated books on a range of topics: Mrs Susannah Russell gave Serres' *A generall historie of France* (London, 1611) in 1718 and Mary Lloyd once owned an early travel book – Richardson's *Of the state of Europe* (Oxford, 1627).



Margaretta Boldero, whose family owned Fornham Priory, now the site of the Priory Hotel, gave *Commentariorum ac Disputationum in S. Thomae* (Ingolstadt, 1610-11) by the Jesuit, Vasquez, and Mary Bately, from the Bury family of apothecaries and preachers, gave *The Revelation of Saint John* (Amsterdam, 1644) by Thomas Brightman, who believed the Pope was anti-Christ.



Mrs Ashfield even gave the *Opera quae extant omnia* of Claudius Aelianus (Zurich, 1556) including the *Taktikē theōria* of Aelianus Tacticus (AD 106) which has detailed diagrams of the ways Alexander the Great deployed infantry to defeat cavalry.