University of Dayton eCommons

Religious Studies Faculty Publications

Department of Religious Studies

2014

Wonder-Worlds of Words

Sandra A. Yocum *University of Dayton,* syocum1@udayton.edu

Follow this and additional works at: http://ecommons.udayton.edu/rel fac pub

Part of the Engineering Commons, Life Sciences Commons, Medicine and Health Sciences Commons, Physical Sciences and Mathematics Commons, Religion Commons, and the Social and Behavioral Sciences Commons

eCommons Citation

Yocum, Sandra A., "Wonder-Worlds of Words" (2014). *Religious Studies Faculty Publications*. Paper 53. http://ecommons.udayton.edu/rel_fac_pub/53

This Book Chapter is brought to you for free and open access by the Department of Religious Studies at eCommons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Religious Studies Faculty Publications by an authorized administrator of eCommons. For more information, please contact frice1@udayton.edu, mschlangen1@udayton.edu.

WONDER-WORLDS OF WORDS

Sandra Yocum is an associate professor in the religious studies department and served as department chair from 2003 to 2012. Her publications include American Catholic Traditions: Resources for Renewal, co-edited with William Portier; Joining the Revolution in Theology: The College Theology Society, 1954-2004; Clergy Sexual Abuse: Social Science Perspectives, co-edited with Claire M. Renzetti; as well as journal articles and book chapters. As a sophomore in college, she was given Karl Rahner's On the Theology of Death. "It sounds bizarre," she says, "but its existential engagement with human awareness of death in dialogue with the Christian understanding of death in light of Jesus's death on the cross opened up for me the intellectual riches of theological discussion and led to my switching from the study of physics to theology."



Words fill our lives. Even amidst silence, constant chatter fills our inner worlds; words arise within as companions, sometimes to encourage, other times to berate. We mostly take their presence for granted, unless some circumstance robs us of the ability to use words. Their omnipresence obscures the astounding fact that we are born into a world given shape and meaning through words organized into a language. Perhaps engaging in a thought experiment for just a moment will clarify what language allows us to do. Imagine a world in which each individual carries the burden of creating a way to communicate and then having to teach it to every other human being who is simultaneously trying to create his or her own way of communicating. Language celebrates the social nature of our existence, our dependence on a common life, and our desire to participate in and shape that common life.

Words come to us as a gift, offered in most cases through parents. A child utters a first word to the delight of Mom or Dad, Granny or Papa, and the initiation begins in the ways of words, the intricacies of language, the endless possibilities of expression—first in our native tongue and later, for the fortunate, in the tongues of other peoples, which in turn deepens our understanding and appreciation of our first language. As with any gift, the proper response to having language at our disposal is gratitude—a gratitude manifest in honing our skills in the use of language. Our lives cannot be reduced to language, evident in those key moments when words fail to express fully some experience; nonetheless, even in those instances, we draw upon language to deepen our understanding of those events which exceed our linguistic boundaries.

POLYGLOT BIBLE: PSALTER

1516

First edition

In Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, and Arabic "Many of these books were initially controversial and poorly received, gaining influence only by besting their competition over time in the marketplace of ideas.... The genius of these works gave them a selective advantage that allowed them to survive against their intellectually inferior competition."

MARK MASTHAY · PAGE 50

The ability to vocalize thoughts and feelings creates possibilities for engagement with others in day-to-day living. Yet, the

spoken word disappears as quickly as it arises; not so the written word. The human desire to preserve something of "the Self" finds various expressions but none as powerful as writing. Consider for a moment the creation of the written word. Over a period of time, humans developed a series of symbols, distinctive marks, associated with those vocalizations to transfer a thought, idea, feeling, story, or much more into a visible form that continues to communicate

even in a speaker's absence. In his musings on *The Elements of Style*, E.B.White writes in his own elegant style: "All writers, by the way they use the language, reveal something of their spirits,



CHARLES DARWIN

ON THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES

London, 1859 First edition Presentation copy

DIE

TRAUMDEUTUNG

VON

DR. SIGM. FREUD.

FLECTERE SI NEQUEO SUPEROS, ACHERONTA MOVEBO.

LEIPZIG UND WIEN.
FRANZ DEUTICKE.
1900.

Verlags-Nr. 676.

LEFT 23

SIGMUND FREUD

DIE TRAUMDEUTUNG
(THE INTERPRETATION
OF DREAMS)

Leipzig, 1900 First edition Presentation copy

their habits, their capacities, and their biases....All writing is communication; creative writing is communication through revelation—it is the Self escaping into the open. No writer long remains incognito." He then invites his readers to "try rewriting a familiar [and famous] sentence" to better appreciate "that style is something of a mystery." White affirms the human desire to reveal "the Self" and the nearly infinite possibilities offered by the written word for that to occur.

What we celebrate here in *Imprints and Impressions* are the artifacts of that human desire to communicate, mostly in words, first spoken or thought, then written. In some instances, the

cover announces the content's importance; in other cases, the text's modest binding masks its enormous influence on human understanding.

We have the pleasure of seeing a variety of forms of transmission, from the Tibetan scroll with its exquisite black-ink script to the commentary on Aristotle's Logic, another manuscript, i.e., hand (manu) written (script), to examples from the earliest printing presses, such as the fifteenth-century Zevach Pesach or the sixteenth-century Spanish Bible, to a wide variety of nineteenth-and twentieth-century texts in more familiar typeface, such as Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884). Still one finds evidence even in the more recent texts that technological advancements remain deeply rooted in their predecessors. Alex Haley's handwritten editing intertwines with a typewritten text, and that intertwining displays more than the different technologies employed; it displays the writing process itself. The author corrects, edits, restates in pursuit of the best articulation of the

William Strunk Jr., The Elements of Style with Revisions, an Introduction, and a Chapter on Writing by E.B. White. Reprint of 4th edition in honor of 50th anniversary of first publication (New York: Pearson Longman, 2009), 66–67.

Two thousand people, overwhelmingly Negroes, filed past the open coffin during the first four hours Tuesday night.

the second the second between the second below to be the second to the s

Bomb threats also received at Faith Temple, Church of God in Christ, 147th Street and Amsterdam Avenue, where services were scheduled for Saturday at 9:30 a.m. Two floors could hold 2000 persons

Bishop Alvin A. Childs said he had offered his church for the funeral az "as a humanitarian gesture."

happy now as I have ever been, and that is saying a great deal. But the time has come. I am being swept off my feet at last, he added, and then in a low voice, as if to himself he sang softly in the dark:

Emelion is

The Road goes ever on and on
Down from the Boor where it began.
Now far ahead the Road has gone,
And I must follow, if I can,
Pursuing it with eager feet,
Until it joins some larger way
Where many paths and errands meet.
And whither then? I cannot say.

He paused, silent for a moment. Then without another word he turned away from the lights and voices in the fields and tents, and followed by his three companions went round into his garden, and trotted down the long sloping path. He jumped over a low place in

As mast to the gue the field, I cleared up important unsatisfied in wheel-

Night s Morning the pavilis and bottle in boxes, gloves and Then a r and Boffin were stay

TOP · DETAIL

MALCOLM X

THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF MALCOLM X

1963

Written with Alex Haley Original typed draft

BOTTOM · DETAIL

J. R. R. TOLKIEN

THE LORD OF THE RINGS

London, ca. 1953–1955

Page proofs of the first edition with author's final revisions

story he seeks to tell—*The Autobiography of Malcolm X*. Humans have devoted a great deal of time and effort to preserving words spoken and written and increasing their availability to the widest possible audience. Internet access diminishes not a single iota contained in these beautiful texts but only enhances an ability to access and thus appreciate them, as is evident in this essay's citations.

The texts featured in *Imprints and Impressions* offer more than examples of the various techniques humans have used to preserve and communicate their ideas or record their actions and discoveries in words. These books also illustrate the limits of words to express the fullness of what humans desire to communicate. No knowledge of Arabic is required to understand that those who produced the Qur'an sought to communicate that something of surpassing beauty and importance is contained in the text. The elegant calligraphy appears in the decorative framing of blues and gold to highlight that here one finds Allah's precious message, first recited by the Prophet Muhammad. In very different ways and for very different purposes, William Blake's illustrations of the Book of Job and Salvador Dalí's renderings of Alice in her Wonderland display elaborate worlds beyond the boundaries of narrative and even most readers' imagining. We can marvel at the works of Euclid, Galileo Galilei, Nicolaus Copernicus, Johannes Kepler, Isaac Newton, Marie Curie, Albert Einstein, and others who exemplify the human capacity to capture the intricate relations of our physical world, even our universe, in the elegance of mathematical formulas or the simplicity of geometric diagrams. The formulas' 26

laconic character belies their effects on our understanding of the physical world, from Copernicus's solar revolution to Newton's ordering of physical relations to Curie's exploration of radioactivity to Einstein's upsetting the Newtonian applecant with $E=mc^2$. The Second Folio of William Shakespeare's plays and the musical score of Ludwig van Beethoven's Fifth Symphony make clear that some writing cannot rest on the page; it calls for performance.

All of the texts in this exhibit do far more than capture random thoughts; they contain whole systems of thought, testify to wonders, create worlds, offer instructions for living,

and invite explorations beyond themselves. Capturing the spoken word in writing allows human expression to transcend the boundaries of space and time. Plato's *Opera omnia* preserves dialogues—composed in Greece in the fourth century BCE—whose content remains an apropos resource in contemporary dialogues on the human quest for knowledge some twenty-five centuries later.

Words bear witness to the deeply relational qualities of human living. As the speaker presumes a listener, so the writer presumes a reader. Our spoken words hang in the air waiting for someone to hear; those written lie on the page anticipating a reader. Claims have long been made that words facilitate more than human interaction; they mediate the divine. It should come as no surprise that Jewish, Christian, and Muslim texts appear in this exhibit. Deeply embedded in these traditions is a confidence that the ultimate source of existence is personal and seeks to communicate in and through a spoken word, eventually preserved and carefully handed down in a written form. Christians treasure the phrase: "In the beginning was the Word." This opening to John's Gospel seeks to proclaim the fullness of Jesus's identity. The Gospel's author draws from the early Christians' scripture, namely the sacred texts of the Jewish people, in this case, the first chapter of Genesis. In the beginning, in the midst of formlessness, the Lord, or more accurately, the One whose Name cannot be spoken, speaks a word, "light," and light comes to be, and it is good, and then continues to speak other realities into existence, all being good—in fact, very good. The mysterious power of the spoken word is the prime analogy for God's creative and redemptive presence in the world.

RIGHT · DETAIL

LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN
SYMPHONY NO. 5 IN
C MINOR, OPUS 67

1809 First edition of full score



ם ביניכם לבין אהיכם והנה נגלה אהיות והוא שאנחנו כבר כארנו תהיה ההשגחה בו והאיש השלם החשגחה נו תמיד והאיש השלם ההשגחה כו כעת חשכו כשם לכר

Moses Maimonides, The Guide
of the Perplexed, trans. from
the original Arabic text by M.
Friedlander, 2nd ed., revised
throughout (London: George
Routledge & Sons, 1904).

Accessed 1 June 2014.
http://www.teachittome.com/
seforimz/seforim/the_guide_
for_the_perplexed.pdf, 73.

ibid., 71.

interpretations of this text: either a truncated scientific account or ancient fantasy. Earlier commentators, both Jewish and Christian, relish the revelatory power of this text and warn about the difficulties in interpreting it. They frequently caution their readers against human presumption in claiming to understand this text or what it intends to describe—the origin of existence. In The Guide of the Perplexed (twelfth century), Moses Maimonides admonishes those who might overreach in trying to explain the origins of existence: "Our Sages laid down the rule, 'The Ma'aseb Bereshith [acts/accounts of creation] must not be expounded in the presence of two." Whether the Sages included the expounder as one of the two is not clear, but the very next sentence testifies to the exponentially greater responsibility that comes in any attempt to communicate through the written word: "If an author were to explain these principles in writing, it would be equal to expounding them unto thousands of men." After making clear his self-imposed limits and recognizing his responsibility as a writer, Maimonides proceeds to delineate what perplexities The Guide will address. His self-assigned task is "to explain certain words occurring in the prophetic books."3 Of particular interest are those words that perplex the intelligent reader. The specific audience that he has in mind is a former stellar student. Maimonides's acceptance of his intellectual limits grounds his confidence in his own rational abilities, and his love of learning fuels his adeptness with words as he navigates the perplexities of "certain words occurring in the prophetic books."

Contemporary debates on the Genesis text offer two reductive

שכארנו בפרקי זה המאמר עונותיכם היו מנרילי אלי עיון נפלא מאר יסורו כו כפקות ויתגלו בו סור בפרקי ההשגחה כי כפי שיעור שכל כל כעל שכל בהשגתו אשר לא יסור שכלו מה תמיד תהיה ההשג אשר תפנה מחשבתו מהשם קצ עתים תהי

The edition in this exhibit shows evidence of an unknown reader's pursuit of guidance. Someone took the time to sketch a "yad" (Hebrew for hand) in the margins. The yad is the handshaped pointer used to guide the reader's eye in proclaiming a portion from the Torah scroll. The pointer's use signifies both the care required in the act of reading Torah and the preciousness of the parchment on which the Torah is inscribed. Why a reader would take the time to draw a yad rather than making a quick mark is a matter of speculation; perhaps the unknown artist found something unusually worthy or relevant in Maimonides's words that quelled some perplexity. The yad's presence on that page bears witness to the ongoing relationship between reader and writer, linked through a common language, regardless of the spatial or temporal distance between them.

One of Maimonides's most appreciative readers was Thomas Aquinas. Born in 1225, eleven years after the Jewish philosopher's death, the Dominican friar took advantage of Maimonides's faith-filled wisdom. Like his Jewish predecessor, Aquinas assumed a mutually beneficial relationship between faith and reason. As a colleague once quipped, "Aquinas was never afraid of anything he read," and the medieval scholastic read widely. He imbibed not only Aristotle's thought but also the writings of Muslim and Jewish scholars. His *Summa theologica*, a small sampling of his theological and philosophical writings, demonstrates Aquinas's faith-filled reasoning—even in its format: human inquiry arranged by topics, divided into questions, with responses that engage a variety of viewpoints in a systematic and respectful way. The iconic place of the *Summa theologica* in the

DETAIL

MOSES MAIMONIDES

MOREH NEBUKHIM (THE GUIDE OF THE PERPLEXED)

Possibly Rome, ca. 1469
First edition
Translated from
Judeo-Arabic into Hebrew
by Samuel Ibn Tibbon

Said by Anthony Godzieba, PhD, professor of theology and religious studies, Villanova University.



DETAIL

MARIA MONTESSORI
IL METODO DELLA PEDAGOGIA
SCIENTIFICA APPLICATO ALL'EDUCAZIONE
INFANTILE NELLE CASE DEI BAMBINI
(THE MONTESSORI METHOD:
SCIENTIFIC PEDAGOGY AS APPLIED
TO CHILD EDUCATION IN
"THE CHILDREN'S HOUSES")

1909

First edition

Catholic intellectual tradition today obscures the text's origins in the lively interfaith theological debates of Aquinas's day.

Both Aquinas and Maimonides drew their inspiration from the rich traditions of their faith, especially the sacred texts of Jewish and Christian scripture. Relatively early in its development, Christianity accepted the practice of translating its scripture into the vernacular, i.e., the local language—a development that may seem surprising given the text's authority. Of course, the New Testament itself appeared in *koine*, or common Greek, and the Christian community thought it their duty to proclaim the Gospel to every people, requiring translation into their native tongues. In the late fourth century, Jerome, using the best Hebrew and Greek manuscripts available to him, translated the Bible into another commoner's language, Latin. The Vulgate became the standard among Western European Christians, but medieval Christians continued to translate the Bible into a variety of native languages with little controversy.

The fifteenth-century advent of the printing press permitted a proliferation of alternative translations.

Increased availability coincided with Christian reformers' judgment against the Roman church in light of what they read in the Bible. Despite the efforts of Roman ecclesiastical officials to mandate the use of the Vulgate and suppress alternate translations, many reformers translated the Bible into their native tongues. A very fine example of these efforts is the 1569 Spanish Bible displayed in this exhibit. In terms of lasting influence among Spanish Christians, it plays a role comparable to the

King James Bible among English-speakers. The translator, Casiodoro de Reina, while a monk, read Martin Luther's writing, converted, and then fled Spain to escape the Inquisition. A slightly revised translation, the Reina-Valera Bible, remains in use today. This exhibit provides an opportunity to view an edition, printed in Bern, Switzerland, known as the Bear Bible, or Biblia del Oso, from its lovely frontispiece, a bear enjoying honey despite the bees swarming about it. The illustration identifies the printer, Mattias Appiarius, whose last name translates as "beekeeper." Its appearance on a text borne out of strident religious controversy might be viewed as more than the printer's insignia. Perhaps the Spaniards who dared to purchase and read this reformer's translation saw in the frontispiece an affirmation of their willingness to risk the Inquisition's sting so that they might enjoy the sweetness of God's word in their native tongue.5

Based upon overview found at http://manifoldgreatness. wordpress.com/2013/03/16/ casiodoro-de-reina-andthe-bear-bible. Accessed 2 June 2014.

Rabbi Ronald H. Isaacs, "The Rewards for Torah Study."

Accessed 2 June 2014. http://www.myjewishlearning.com/ practices/ritual/torah_study/ how_to_study_torah/reading_ and_studying/rewards.shtml. Some Jewish children had far more direct encounters of honey intermingled with sacred texts. "Torah study sweetens one's life. To emphasize this sweetness, children—especially in Eastern Europe—used to begin their study of Hebrew with letters that had been written in honey. As they learned the letters and enjoyed the honey, they also learned that the study of Torah was sweet." Torah study, however sweet, often came at a high price. In 1493, Don Isaac Abrabanel published the Zevach Pesach in Constantinople, one of many residences after his flight first from Portugal, his birthplace, and then Spain. An accomplished Jewish scholar, his service to the Portuguese and Spanish monarchs, including Queen Isabella, did not prevent his exile.

RIGHT

LA BIBLIA, QUE ES, LOS SACROS LIBROS DEL VIEJO Y NUEVO TESTAMENTO (SPANISH BIBLE)

Basle, 1569 First Spanish edition

QVE ES, LOS SA-

CROS LIBROS DEL

VIEIO Y NVEVO TE-

Trasladada en Español.



דבר אלחיבר יקום לעולם

Lea Palabra del Dios nuestro permanece para siempre. Na. 40.

3 M. D. LXIX.

זכח פסמ ולפי שחיי הארם כחו פוכרו הרופאים ככלנים כארכונה וחנים י בערות וכחרות ווקנה ושיבה כחו יצי שחיי החדם כחו פזכרו הרופחים כבנוים בחרבעה זוונים י נערות ובחדות ווקנה ושיכה במי בזכרתי לכן תקנו לשונות חרבעה כוסות י כי חרבעה הזוה ישנה היודים בחייני זהה התכאר מזה כני שחב המנות הרמוז א בריאת האדם וחייו ומסער סנותיו ונסקרת הנהגנעו וכביסת יצרו ונער גופו - וצלימות נפסו - וסועי המוסה לפני הסס : ולכן קיה זה חב (א) לדורות י ואמריו הקדושים חייב ארש להראות את עצוו כאו חוא יצא ממירים לפי שחה סיורה וידותי על היציאה והחב ככל חקותיו ומספער יכול לכל היצית ולשאר מועדי יא לפי שיוא למוד וחודת עלכל מי מדלנו ולכן נכטור מוטי יכם שהיח כמו הורחם עבבל א מדלנו ולכן נכטוינו להמסיך מיד מספר סבעה הטביפיל סהם ממס פרקי האדם וגבולי זמנו : כמו סאמר ושפרתם לגם ממחרת הטבת סבע סבעורע תמימות תהיינה לפי סהמספר ההדום מורה על ימי חייכו שיהיו כרים לחביע אל השלחות חריוחני סקכלמ כמתן ינורה ימיק יום אחר לחורורת על אחדנה תכותן ית' והמפנה ' והרמו הזה שנמו מימות האדם ושנותיו כא גם כן כחב הסוכות חמותן ית והמפנה יהרחו הזה פנחו מיחות היהים לשלים לים במקוד והקפות ונקרא חב החמיף על אפיפת האדם מחעולם הזה כתו שאו באספך את מעפיך והקפות שבעת ימי החב ושבעת ימי החב בא שבעת ימי החב בפקות היום השביעי יהבל בא להבור ימי מולם פנות דור ודור" בים יסים אדם עיבו והחי יתן ל לבו על עביניו מעצמיים לזכור ימי הכלו ולדקרק עם כה נפרים כני שישים חדם עיכון והחי יתן ש נכו על עניכיו העבויים נזכור יתי הכנו וניקרק עם
כפסו על חסכון ומנו וידע כי קדב קבו ומיעוט פרי החג מורה עליו גם כן:
בכל המנות האלה רמו ככבד ואמתי בעניכיו והוא דרך ישר לפני איש להתלך לפני אי כארטות החיים : וכה נכלם
מה שרניתי לבאר בזמ י והתקלה לאל אשר היישיר לפני דרכו וכבודו עלי זרח : והיתה השלחנו בעיר וואמישיל
ממחזו הטולייא אשר מחלבות כאכולים כיום ארבעה עשר ערב חב הפסח שכת לכו ליעקב שתחה . פש ננפלם
ברוך אי לעולם אמן ואמן .

100 000 בשחיים בשלניתם יולה הלושא פל אתשפיק לבלית כסר החשהים יובהגעלת הכלים המתרלפים וכורך שהרתם רוונו ב'כ על חליקי בתות בני ארם והבסרם יוכבר ראיני במשכת יוויא ספטלר ותניא כן חרש לר שיבור ברווי שתעת ר' חליקי בערם שהייק ר' בסיעל דורם אל בלפח הם ותשובה על כל החת מסם יכבר על מנוק עשה ועשה תשובהלא זו משם עד סיוחלין לי ועל זה נאוור סובו בנים שובבים ארפא מסוביתיכם ו עבר על מצות נא תעסק ועסק פסובה י תשובה תולה ייום הכפורים ווכפר י ועל זה כאמר כי כיום הזה יכפר עליכם לנוהר חתכם ו עבר על חייבי בריתות הארכם מיתות כ'ר 'ועבה חשובה תשובה ויום הככורים הולים י ויסירין המרקין יועל וה נאמי ופקרתי בסבע פסעם רבעשים עוכם אכל אם ים כהם רלול הם אין כח בתמוכה לתלית ולא ביום הכפורים לבפי ולא ישורין למורקי אכל כלם תולין ומיתה ממרקת יועל זה כאמר ועלה כאוני יא בכאות אם יכוער חעון הזה לכם עד תחותון יוהגה התמוכח לפי דעת הפנם היא מטהרה והתגעלה לשביתה החרץ והשאור והגיףיוירוע שבכלים שנשתמש בחם חרץ ד'מיני דיני לבי שים מבני אדם מי שלי כשע בעשותו אחת מכל חשאת האדם אשר לו תעשינה יאבל וא גודרו לעשות מנות עשה היוזבבות את הנסם ו נכלבר חטא כשב ואל תעשה והחטא קוה הוא היותר קל שבחטאים י ועל זה יהיה כל המחילה שם החרטה והתפובה והוא אותרו אינו זו משם עד שתוחלין לו שנא' שוכו בכים פובנים יארפא משובועיבם ורוגמת בחלול הסם סחין לי תקנה כי אם עם החות רוגות כלי חדם סנסתווטו בחם בחמין בכל דבר חיבור שלא יקבל פום תיקון ושעונין שבירה וגרות - ועל זה אחר הנכיא בני ניון היקרים החסולאים בטו איכה נחשבו לנכלי הדם ועשם ידי יוצר רל שאין להם תקנה אלא בפבירה יואחר העגב גבוה האים הזה יבנהו אם כלי אין חפץ בו - הנה תתכאר ווות ליוה נאסרו החמן והשאור ולחה היקה בדיקעו וקתחלת איפורו והגעלת הכלים שנשתחום כו ביום ארכעה עשר לרמוז על שנות הארם שמחם התחיל השמירה ממנו יו ואמנש בוה באיכור ו שבעת ימים לכי שות המכפר מן הימים • ישירעל ימי שנות חירה פחם שבעים שנח י ולרמוז לוח גם כן כחו שבישות חרבה במצות ווהם ימי החופה שבעת יתים כרי שכהם יוכור הארם כמה סכובים מאלה יעברו עלין בימי חייו ויתן אללכו שימי סנותיו טכעים הם יואחרי החוכה יתחייב אדם בסמירת הכרה סבעת ימים לנמדך סבבל ימיו יוהר מהטומאה ויבקס הנקיות . אחר זה כסיוליר בן זבר כוה סאמרו עבור עליו סבעת ימים ימול בסר ערלתו לחעיר על זה עצמו קל סיוול כסר ערלתו לבכו ויצרן : כן זבר כוה שאחרי עבור עליו שבעת יחים יחול בשר עדלתו לחביר על זה ענחו לל שיחול בשר עלתו לבבו זיכרו ו
ולבן כח זה החספר גם כן בשהרת החטורע ובשוחת היוה זו יחי החטיחי לבהבי זו יהוחיר על שמנת השנים יוברי
ברי שתחיר יהיה לגבר עיניו מנין שמותיו וחה שוב חוחרו ביובל ושברת לך כבע שבתות שני שבע שנים שבע שנים שבע מנים שבע מני השחירה חלבר יחיה מערות פאינו חייב בברי
ובר' ורנה בופשרת לך רוקח של עבחך חקה מונה השנים לחיותם יחי השחירה חלבר יחי הנערות פאינו חייב בברי
מיש ויותל שבע משח העניבים נוצר תחיד זה המשבר י חתר כי לחיש עוד שבעם חלני מחשיר ובו זיחל שבע מיש חיים יוותל שבע יוחים ויותל שבע יוחים בע חלבות החורי שבע על משחתים וולבן היו שבעת החייו אביה יווי אבותר בו במשחות החורי שבע על משחתים וולבן היו שבעת יווי אבעיר ושביעות רבות אחרות בחור בשפר יות שלו בעלי הקר שורי שבע על משחתים וולבן היו שבעת היווי אבעית ווכל ביווי בתחות בושי ווכל בו ביווי שלו וועל היווי שבעות היווי אבעיר ביווי שלו ברי שישור ביווי שלו היווי למלאב ביש המוש ביווי מווי בתחות ביווי בתור היווי למלאב משור לו הוווי למלאב ביווי שלו היווי בעלים היווים המשחת היווי בתורים ביווי שלו ביווי שלו היווי בתורים ביווי שלו ביווי בלו ובש י חופה ביווי בתורים היווי בתורים היווים המוני שלו ובלי יצר הרע ושחרים בעים המשור שביי השול הברי יוווי שלו בעדים היווי שתרה מבלי יצר הרע ושחור שבעים המצוף שומים שישור בליווי שלו המוני מעום המשבר המוני שלו במון המנה שבים מישור שלו בכני מעום המשבר המון שלו בכני שנול שלו שלו מבלי שלו מונוי שלו בלו יצר הרע ושחור שבעים המצוף שומים שנים מעוף המונים מישור שבנים מעוף החון שכו מתחות שלום מוצרים מענין המנון המנה מעום מעום מעום מונון המנו המנון המנה מבור מעום במיי שתור שבו מונו של בצבי מעום במים ביווים מונים ביווים במים מונו שלו מונים מישור במנים מונים המנים במנים המובר של המונים שלה מונים מישור מונים במנים המנים המובר מונים במים מונים במים מונים מונים במים מונים במים מונים מובר מיווים במונים במונים במונים במור מונ הקרושים שישמר הארם בענין המנה משנת קעחינה סהוא הזיון סבו מתחיל הארם לשכוב ולשחון אחרי עניני מעולם הוה יבי מחן ברוך שימור י והוקירו גם כן על שיעור העישה שימוזר החרם עיהתו והנחגתו בשימושי בוכו וחומורו במדה במסקל וכמשורה : וכותה הפורה סיאכל עם המכה מרור סמא רמו לכביטת היטר והכנעת הבחות הגסמיות כי כזק ירבים החדם מרירות ובער בשמי כי אותו המרירות אסר ירגים גופו ככבישת יכרו ימתק לנפם" וחמנם שנין הפסח ירמון להפסד הגוף והפרד הנפס מותנו ולכן יאכל על יינות וורורי סכאפר תכא המות על החנהבה העוכם

PREVIOUS SPREAD

ZEVACH PESACH

Constantinople, 1505

First edition of Abrabanel's commentary

Earliest obtainable edition

http://cas.uchicago.edu/ workshops/jst hb/files/2012/03/

> the-mysterious-passovermanuscript.pdf. Accessed 3 June 2014.

steve-durchslag-jst_hb-

8

http://exhibitions.nypl.org/ threefaiths/node/35?nref=37&key=12. Accessed 3 June 2014.

9

http://www.joh.cam.ac.uk/ library/special_collections/ early_books/pix/psalter.htm.

Accessed 3 June 2014.

1

http://exhibitions.nypl.org/ threefaiths/node/35?nref=37&key=12. Accessed 3 June 2014.

11

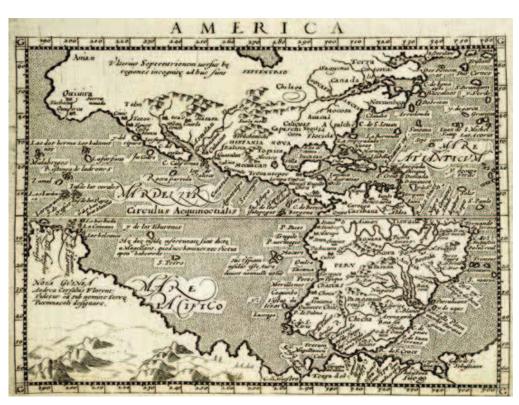
http://www.usccb.org/ bible/psalms/19. Accessed 4 June 2014. The Zevach Pesach features the Haggadah, the account of God's deliverance of the Jewish people from slavery in Egypt, read at the seder meal to fulfill the Torah commandment to "tell your son" of God's great deeds. In addition to the Haggadah, the Abrabanel edition offers a learned commentary on the Exodus event. This text is described as the second text printed in Constantinople using movable Hebrew type. That fact is enough of a reason to treasure its existence. Yet, the text's greater significance lies in its witness to Abrabanel's commitment to assist his people even in the midst of great personal trial to honor the Torah's commandment to tell the story of God's redeeming power.⁷

The Polyglot Psalter (compiled ca. 1516) provides yet one more connection to early modern Spain, though less directly. The six parallel columns of ancient scripts make evident the Renaissance-Reformation interest in critical editions of biblical translations. The Genoese Dominican Agostino Giustiniani (1470-1536), a friend of both Thomas More and the priest and theologian Erasmus of Rotterdam, funded the project and contributed his notable linguistic skills to the text's final form.8 It facilitates comparing the psalms in "Hebrew, a Latin translation of the Hebrew, the Latin Vulgate, the Greek Septuagint, Arabic, Aramaic, and a Latin translation of the Aramaic." Evidently, as Giustiniani read Psalm 19:5—"A report goes forth through all the earth,/their messages, to the ends of the world"—another Genoese came to his mind, and he added a gloss celebrating Christopher Columbus's adventures across the Atlantic. 10 An irony emerges if one returns from the gloss back to the psalm. The tenth and eleventh verses declare:

The statutes of the LORD are true, all of them just;
More desirable than gold,
than a hoard of purest gold,
Sweeter also than honey
or drippings from the comb. (19:10b-11)¹¹

Honey once again intermingles with the sacred words. Unfortunately, most European adventurers found the allure of gold far more powerful than the honey-like sweetness of the Lord's just statutes.

Other texts included in this exhibition testify to whole other worlds discovered through human explorations. Charles Darwin's five-year sojourn on HMS Beagle came to fruition



DETAIL

CLAUDIUS PTOLEMAEUS (PTOLEMY)

GEOGRAPHIAE UNIVERSAE (GEOGRAPHY)

1597

From the library of Robert Burton "The implication for the social sciences is that reality is relative, not objective."

DONALD J. POLZELLA · PAGE 98

12

Charles A. Beard,
"Written History as an Act
of Faith." Annual address
of the president of the
American Historical
Association, delivered at
Urbana, 28 December 1933,
in the American Historical
Review 39, no. 2: 219–231.
Accessed 2 June 2014.

http://www.historians.org/ about-aha-and-membership/ahahistory-and-archives/presidentialaddresses/charles-a-beard. in On the Origin of Species (1859). Karl Marx's decades-long interactions with workers gave texture and depth to his social, political, and economic analysis of capitalism in Das Kapital: Kritik der politischen Oekonomie (1867). Sigmund Freud's exploration of the inner recesses of the human psyche found expression in The Interpretation of Dreams (1899). Each of these works, based upon empirical observations, presents something more than the sum of the author's discrete observations. Each writer reflects something akin to what Charles Beard described in his 1939 American Historical Association presidential address, "Written History as an Act of Faith." In it, Beard acknowledges the historian's obligation to gather as much data as possible but then observes that something more occurs in the writing:

KARL MARX

DAS KAPITAL: KRITIK DER POLITISCHEN OEKONOMIE (CAPITAL: A CRITIQUE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY)

Hamburg, 1867 Volume 1 First edition

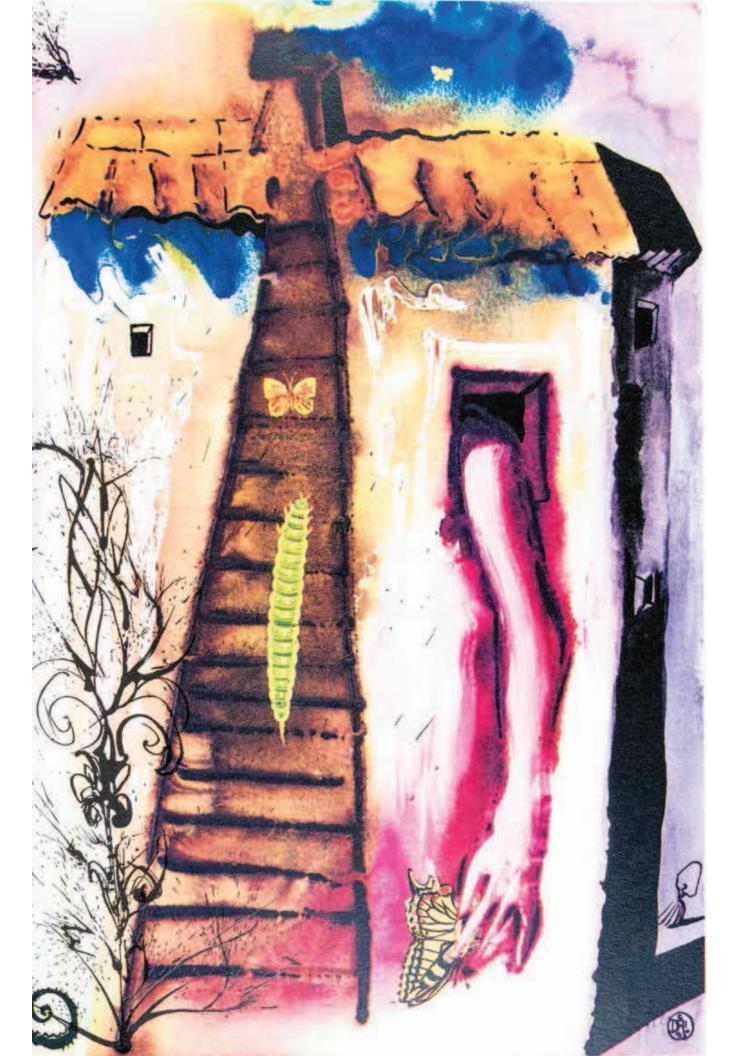
The historian who writes history, therefore, consciously or unconsciously performs an act of faith, as to order and movement, for certainty as to order and movement is denied to him by knowledge of the actuality with which he is concerned.

Beard's observations highlight the role of the writer who in the act of writing does far more than list observations. Darwin, Marx, and Freud engaged in Beard's "act of faith." In the act of writing, all three gave an "order" to disparate sets of data and created a narrative of "movement" in describing the complex relationships among their discrete observations. Using Beard's standard of excellence, these writers' acts of faith have withstood "the verdict of history yet to come." ¹² These writings'

explanatory power have enriched and rightly complicated our understanding of life on this planet.

The human impulse to articulate understanding in text and image takes yet another form in the map. Maps stride the boundaries between image and text. Claudius Ptolemaeus's *Geographiae Universae* displays the artistic flair of the mapmaker even as he strives to present an accurate and detailed rendering of the world he inhabits. Learning how to read a map sparks the imagination about the places we inhabit and places far from our own in distance and culture. Human imagination allows more than mapping of worlds; it allows for the creation of worlds. *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, attributed to the Greek poet Homer, testify to the power of story to convey the complexities of human love and conflict and the significance of home and family. The world Homer created is no





LEFT 41

LEWIS CARROLL

ALICE'S ADVENTURES
IN WONDERLAND

New York, 1969 Includes a portfolio of illustrations by Salvador Dalí Signed by the artist

less wonderful or strange than that of Dante's pilgrimage from hell, through purgatory, to paradise in the *Divine Comedy*; or Jane Austen as wordsmith extraordinaire in re-creating the eighteenth- and nineteenth-century English countryside under the rule of manners in *Pride and Prejudice*; or Lewis Carroll taking us down the rabbit hole to the wonder-world of Alice; or J.R.R. Tolkien's exploration of a strangely familiar yet alternate reality of Middle Earth in *The Lord of the Rings*.

Phillis Wheatley draws upon her own poetic muse to sing in praise of "Imagination":

Thy various works, imperial queen, we see,
How bright their forms! how deck'd with pomp by thee!
Thy wond'rous acts in beauteous order stand,
And all attest how potent is thine hand.¹³

Wheatley, the first African American woman poet, came to America at the age of seven as a slave. The 1773 English publication of her poetry preceded her emancipation by four years. Poetry was the conduit for Wheatley's voice to enter into the public arena. No one invited slaves—let alone female ones—to speak in public. In fact, Wheatley underwent a public challenge to her authorship from leading Bostonians. Knowing about that challenge makes the frontispiece even more striking. Its border announces the author, "Phillis Wheatley, Negro Servant to Mr. John Wheatley, of Boston," and more importantly depicts her in the very act of writing. Women writing are also the subject matter of Virginia Woolf's A Room of One's Own (1929). Woolf presumed women's ability to write;

http://www.vcu.edu/ engweb/webtexts/wheatley/ imagination.html. Accessed 3 June 2014. 42

what she sought were greater opportunities—time, space, and financial support. More than a century earlier, another English author, Mary Wollstonecraft, wrote A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792). With the clarity that comes from well-reasoned, passionate commitment, Wollstonecraft makes the case for women to have access to the same education as men. Maria Montessori (1870–1950) first turned her attention to yet another marginalized group, children with mental disabilities, and developed a pedagogy that proved effective with children of all kinds of abilities. Montessori's text offers yet

another instance of words' limits with its amazing photos. The sense of a child's potential becomes palpable when gazing at the photo that captures the intensity of the fierce-eyed girl

seated at her desk in the Montessori classroom.

Education in the spoken and written word remains the coin of the realm of human knowledge. Malcolm X recalls in his autobiography the eighth-grade teacher who dismissed his dream of becoming a lawyer, but such discouragement did not squelch his desire to learn. Attallah Shabazz, his daughter, writes, "The Autobiography of Malcolm X is evidence of one man's will and belief in prayer and purpose." She wants the readers to know Malcolm X "foremost as a man. A man who lived to serve—initially a specific people, then a nation, and eventually all people of the world." Such knowledge only comes in telling or reading her father's story again and again and reciting her father's own words: "One day, may we all meet together in the light of understanding."14 Fyodor Dostoevsky wrestles with the cost of such service in the Brothers Karamazov (1880): "... love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared to love in dreams.... But active love is labor and fortitude and for some people too, perhaps a complete science." When all such efforts seem for naught, and "you are getting farther from your goal ... you will reach and behold clearly that miraculous power of the Lord who has been all the time loving and mys- teriously guiding you."15 These two writers enter into relationship through a third party, the reader. Only the reader, with a little help from translators, can cross the boundaries of time and space to bring an African American civil rights leader and a Russian novelist into conversation with each other.

Writing a word is an act of faith—a measure of trust in its ability to communicate what the author wishes to communicate. Returning to E.B.White for a moment, "Style takes

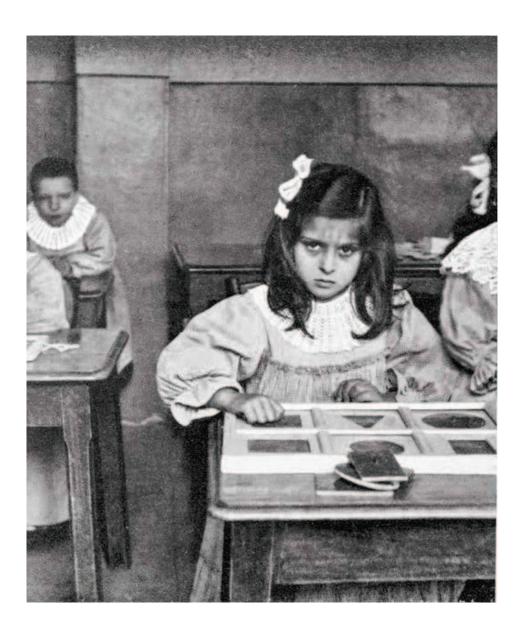
From the foreword.

Accessed 3 June 2014.

http://al-rasid.com/shared_uploads/
the.autobiography.of.malcolmx.pdf.

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*, trans. Constance Garnett
(New York: The Modern Library, 1950) 65.

Quote taken from an introduction to the Catholic Worker Movement, in American Catholic Religious Thought: The Shaping of a Theological and Social Tradition, Patrick W. Carey, ed. (Milwaukee: Marquette University Press, 2010, 2nd printing with corrections) 97.



DETAIL

MARIA MONTESSORI
IL METODO DELLA PEDAGOGIA
SCIENTIFICA APPLICATO ALL'EDUCAZIONE
INFANTILE NELE CASE DEI BAMBINI
(THE MONTESSORI METHOD:
SCIENTIFIC PEDAGOGY AS APPLIED
TO CHILD EDUCATION IN
"THE CHILDREN'S HOUSES")

1909

First edition

БРАТЬЯ КАРАМАЗОВЫ.

РОМАНЪ

въ четырехъ частяхъ съ эпилогомъ.

0. М. Достоевскаго.

Томъ 1.

Части I и II.

-4<0=080=0+4-

С.-ПЕТЕРВУРІ°Ь. Типографія брат. Пантелеевыхъ. Казанокая ул., д. № 33. 1881. its final shape more from attitudes of mind than from the principles of composition, for, as an elderly practitioner once remarked, 'Writing is an act of faith, not a trick of grammar." He defends his inclusion of this "moral observation ... in a rule book" because "what you are, rather than what you know, will at last determine your style. If you write, you must believe—in the truth and worth of the scrawl, in the ability of the reader to receive and decode the message. No one can write decently who is distrustful of the reader's intelligence, or whose attitude is patronizing." Perhaps the person who displays this style most dramatically in this exhibition is Anne Frank. One finds in her diary, written between the ages of thirteen and fifteen, an astonishing trust tested by the horrors of her own time. Her entry on July 15, 1944, is only one of many examples:

It's a wonder I haven't abandoned all my ideals, they seem so absurd and impractical. Yet I cling to them because I still believe, in spite of everything, that people are truly good at heart. It's utterly impossible for me to build my life on a foundation of chaos, suffering and death. I see the world being slowly transformed into a wilderness, I hear the approaching thunder that, one day, will destroy us too, I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquility will return once more. ¹⁷

Strunk, Elements, 84.

http://annefrank.com/ about-anne-frank/diary-excerpts/. Accessed 4 June 2014.

All of these texts are vessels of humans' desires to communicate—words written, thoughts preserved, for the sake of a reader. Thank goodness Otto

Frank recognized his daughter's diary as such a precious vessel and trusted others enough to allow them to read the words she wrote. Some among us recognize how precious these vessels are and gather them together in the safety of libraries, personal and public, and for that we owe yet another debt of gratitude.

LEF1

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

BRATYA KARAMAZOVY
(BROTHERS KARAMAZOV)

St. Petersburg, 1881

First edition

Gaspiss pfalteril, Augustini Iustiniani Genuensis, predicatorii ordinis, Episcopi Nebe dentem hebree de verbo ad verbum, tertia latinam communem, quarta grecam, quarta gre

lebres. Latina respondens hebree.

Larina communis

Greeze

פַבר מהיי

Liber hymnorum J.

Dauid prophetse carmen, & regis Dea. Incipit Pfalterium. A. fine liber hymnorif fine pfalsro rum fine foliloquiorum. Pfalmus Dauid. J. Mahin Haspira in Be without meter. Yanjule in Author and Langue wagelinders de





Eatus vir, B. qui non abile, in confilium

impiorum, מו א ובדר & in via peccatorum non fletit, אות במישב לציו & in fede derfforum, non פי אם fedit.Sed in lege DEI voluntas eius. in inning! &in lege eius meditabitur ימס ולילה die ac noche. Eterit tang arbor plantata super riuulos aquarum,que fructufuudablein tee fuo, א יבלה לא יב &folium eius non defluet, וכל אשר יעני scomne quod faciet יצרים: לא prosperabitur.Non sic והישלי ביאם impii,fed ranquam feftuca אשרהופנו quam proiicit ventus. Proptereanon furgent impii in iudicio, ישעים בּפִשׁים העים השאים העיד neg peccatores i ogregatoe inflorum.Quoniam nouit צריקים : כי־יוֹ יהית ברד צר DEVS vigm inflorum, א ודרדרשעים הא via impiorum peribit.



Eatus vir qui non abiit n consilio

impiorum & in via peccatorum non stetit, &incathedra pestilentie non fedit.Sed in lege domini voluntas eius, & in lege eius meditabitur die ac nocte. Ererit tág lignű qd plátatű eft fecus decurfus aquarum, quod fructu suu dabit in tepore suo. Et folium eius non defluer. & omnia quecuo faciet prosperabuntur. Non fic impil non fic, fed tang puluis que prolicit vetus a facie terre. Ideonon refurgunt impli in iudicio. nem peccatores in confilio iustorum. Quoniam nouit dominus viam iustorum, & iter impiorum peribir.



Anapies arms

apples. m eyons. CHAPTWALLY OUR ISL my erai Kate Poa hornely our ENGSIDEY. ANN BY TO YOUR אנים של שנות בעודטל, אן נע דש עסוום מעדל שואנדוסוו nutpas my vuktos. Kai "sau ως το ξύλον - ο πεφυτάμε γον που אמס אים ביד לושים בין אמשף ביודו Kai To quigou aut soux à Tropount אן אמעדם נסם מע אמוא KOTS GO WONDE TOL OUX OUTOS of acredit oux out wis, and it world פון באף אלפו ל מינוסו משט אף פולים בום דסנדס את מעמרונים (דוור acelbers ey Koices, oush apaptuholiy Bound SINGION. OTI YIVOTKE Kupier odlog dixaicy, אן ביולה משולשון משפאנו דמום

lterifi & Cithara hocinterelle, que cirhara deorfum percurieur pfalterius furfum hoc pluribus collare chordis, i dece illă tin fuperius habere concautatem illă deroinferfus Augustinus ucro pfalteriu sic deripsit. Pfalteriu est organu que que manibus ur praticris, & chordas distinctas b3 sed illu locu unue sonu accipiut corac, illa cocaque lignu que pendet & tactu resonat, que eulus prima columnella habet hebream edicionem, fecunda latinam interpretationem, refpon arabicam, fexta paraphrafim, fermone quidem chaldeo, fed literis hebraicis conferi einet fcholia idelt annotationes fparfas & intercifas.

Arabica.

Paraphrafis chaldea.

Latina respondens chaldee.

Sch

Interpretatio.

quas prolicit ventus.

ante DEVM, via luftorum, מריקן של נפ בל נפ א via impiorum perderur. אוארהתרון דרטיעיתרובן פשר נפ



Eatitudo viro, qui non ambulauit in confilium

impiorum, 31 & in via peccatorum non fletft, א כמיעת מפיעת לפיעת לפיעת לפיעת לפיעת לפיעת איסתחר:א circumiuit.Sed in institutione DEl voluntascius, אריתיה כי &in lege eius, meditatur ימס וליר die ac noce. Et erit tang arbor vite, que plantata eft fup fonticulos aquarum, cuius fructus maturescitintempore suo, אטרפוי לב & folia eius non defluunt, א omne germen quod germinat, ובל ליבלובוי דימלבוב granefeit & proficit. Non fic impii, fed ficut quifquilie נשיעי אילהן במינים Proprerca non furgent פטול היבנא לא קייפין impil,indie iudicii magni, רָטִיעִי בְּיִם דִינָא רַבָּא וֹשׁׁוֹ בֹפִנְטׁ בִּי וֹשׁבֹּוֹ חטאי בּסיער יוויטאי בּסיער חי neg peccatores in focierates ינדיקי פטול דינדין iustorum.Quoniammanifestact

Rosconder rios in pfa nec in relic scripture h fus fiquide exillimarip nostersipol Origene E grecos, aut Hilarium, Hieronym fium Callie etiam post Abraha Da multosalio magnamqa turbas, pfal nare aggre Atqui pauc adducemus terici hebre poffint, not delectari & te christian ri.quaquan tyrufaguin non potific ritare robo confirmatio genc. Itaq3 ut a libri no mur, grecur eft, quod lan torium orga porest . Est Hieronymi danum ferip modum qna peicumdec fecadumque elt in pialter chordarum li . In come pfalmorum ron/mus qu terium mag mir, dicens genus orga melius fonar thara, imilit habere citha elle Cithara

pit aere pfalterifin fupiore pte ha. Cithara uero hoc genus ligni caufi & refonas, in inferiore pte ha. Itaga in pfalterio chor iona accipiat. In cithara chorde ex inferiore pte sonu accipiat Hieronymo ex authorbus hebreok cosenciar plures, & in meon que refert comerator Salomon pfalterium a cithara diffinguit, quod pfalterium plures q cithara conneat chordas.



PREVIOUS SPREAD

POLYGLOT BIBLE: PSALTER

1516 First edition In Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek, Latin, and Arabic

RENÉ DESCARTES

DISCOURS DE LA MÉTHODE
POUR BIEN CONDUIRE SA
RAISON, ET CHERCHER LA VERITÉ
DANS LES SCIENCES
(DISCOURSE ON THE METHOD)

Leiden, 1637 First edition