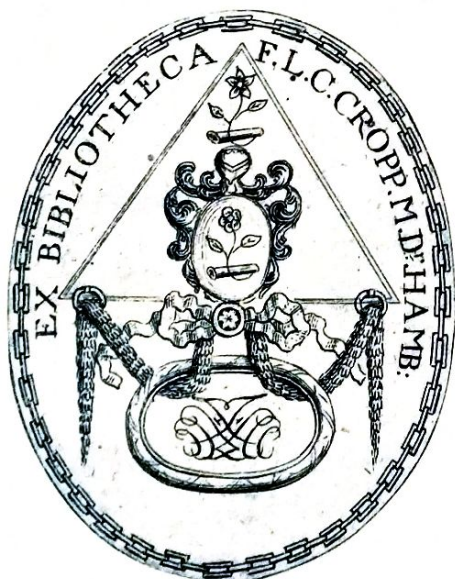
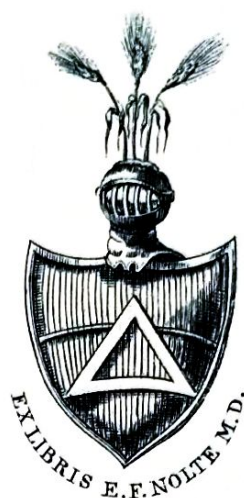
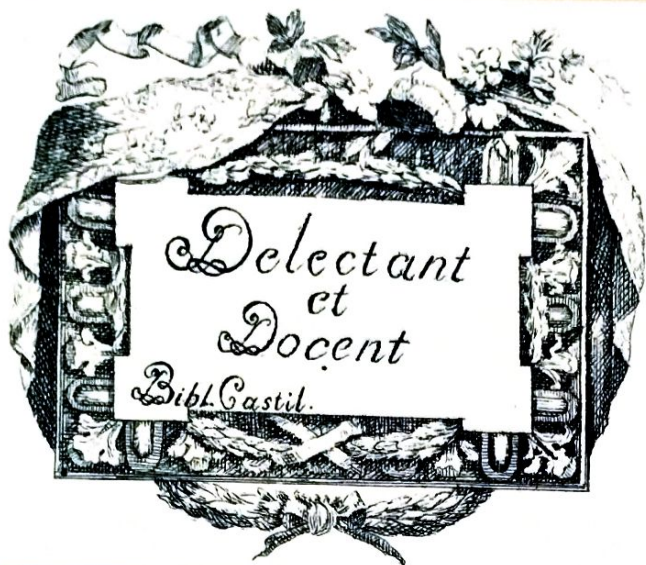
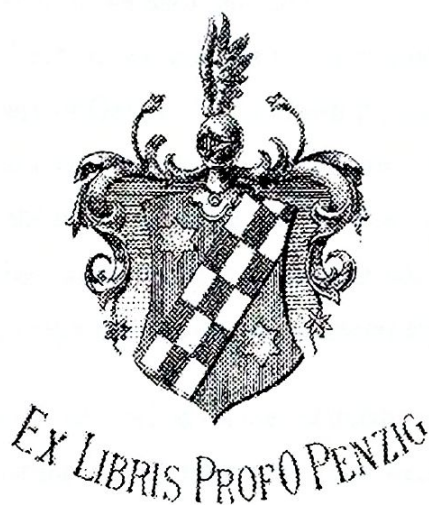


國立臺灣大學圖書館

田中文庫藏書目錄



Four Fifteenth-Century Books in the Tanaka Collection, from the Former Collection of Otto Penzig



Arnaldi de VILLANOVA (1240-1311), *Regimen sanitatis cum expositione magistri Arnaldi de Villanova Cathellano noviter impressus*, Venetiis 1480 (TANG 27)

Pietro de' CRESCENZI (1230-1310), *Il Libro della agricoltura*, Vicenza 1490 (TANG 22)

AVICENNA, S. (980-1037), *De virtutibus herbarum*, Venetiis 1499 (TANG 20)

ISIDORUS HISPALENSIS (560-636), *Etymologiarum & De summo bono* (TANG 26)

by José Eugenio Borao

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National Taiwan University is proud to keep one of the world's most complete collections of classical books on Botany: the one gathered by Prof. Tyôzaburô Tanaka (1885-1976). But we should also say, however, that his library was enlarged in 1929 when he bought an important collection from Prof. Otto Penzig, who had patiently collected books in the field for many decades.

We know very little about Prof. Penzig. He was born in the old state of Prussia in 1856, and died in Genoa in 1929. If we take into consideration the books written by him that are kept in the Tanaka collection, we can see that when he was 30 years old he was teaching Botany at the University of Genoa. The following year, he published in Rome an important study on botany of almost 600 pages: *Studi botanici sugli agrumi e sulle piante affine*, 1887. Probably one of the most important moments in his career was around 1890-94, when in Genoa he published his research on the teratology of plants (and a second edition published in Germany, under the title of *Pflanzenteralogie*, in 1921-22).

During the years 1890-94, he worked on the establishment of the Istituto Botanico Hanbury, in the Botanical Garden of his university, and became its director. At the inauguration of the Institute, when he was 36 years old, he organized an International Botanical Conference. According to the proceedings of that Conference (*Atti del Congresso Botanico Internazionale*, 1892), the Botanical Garden employed illustrious nineteenth-century naturalists like Domenico Viviani, De Notaris, etc. But it was only under the guidance of Prof. Penzig, and the patronage of the magistrate Sir Thomas Hanbury, that a magnificent three-story building was made for the *Istituto Botanico*. This shows us a little the character of Prof. Penzig. And maybe, here lies the reason why he gathered such a wonderful collection of books during his trips around Italy and Europe.

When he was nearly 40 years old, he undertook the editing of four volumes on the plants of the Pyrenees, a book that had been written by Prof. Pietro Bubani, who died ten years before. He was able to complete the publication, *Flora Pyrenaea per ordines naturales gradatim digesta*, between 1897 and 1901. We can guess that at the turn of the century he developed an interest in collecting all kind of books on botany ; that's why, before he turned 50, a new book was published, *Contribuzioni alla storia della botanica*, 1905, in which he introduces two of his discoveries of 16th-century descriptions of plants.

Probably one of his last works was the two-volume *Flora popolare italiana* (Genoa, 1924), when he was 68 years old.

Prof. Penzig died in 1929, at the age of 73. We don't know why these books were sold. Probably they didn't belong to the Institute, but were his private collection. That's why the same year that he died -- according to Prof. Kang You-the of the National Taiwan University Horticulture Department -- the collection was bought by Tanaka at an auction sale in Europe.

Professor Tanaka was a Professor of the Taihoku Imperial University (the forerunner of National Taiwan University) from 1928 until 1945, and was serving in the Horticulture Department of the College of Science, at that time one of the most prestigious Japanese centers for the exploration and study of the natural resources of Southeast Asia. Prof. Tanaka was a prestigious and prolific scholar who wrote more than a thousand works, including articles, reports, and books, such as *Census of Hainan Plants* (1938), and *Supplement to the Census of Hainan Plants* (1940).

In precisely the same year that Prof. Penzig died and his books were sold, Prof. Tanaka was appointed as a Director of the Library of Taihoku Imperial University, remaining in the post for five years. Regarding the purchase of the books, Prof. Tanaka didn't go to the auction personally, but acquired them through an agent. Professor Tanaka came from a very wealthy family in Japan because his father was the founder of Kobe Bank. The bank paid a sum of US\$100,000 for the books. This is the reason why the books were part of his personal collection, not of the university. With the restoration of Taiwan in 1945, Prof. Tanaka was forced to return to Japan, and his books were left behind him in Taipei, and later enriched the collections of the Library.

Among these books, four of them deserve special attention because they were printed in the 15th century, only a few decades after the Gutenberg Bible (1456): *the Regimen sanitatis salernitana* (Venetiis 1480) by Arnaldi de Villanova; *Il Libro della agricoltura* (Venezia 1490) by Pietro de Crescenzi; *De virtutibus herbarum* (Venetiis 1499) by Avicenna; and the *Etymologiarum & De summo bono* by Saint Isidorus. They were printed in the spirit of the Renaissance, in its most literal meaning: the revival of

classical and medieval culture. These books were probably the first or second mechanically printed editions of originals that had been handwritten a few centuries ago.

We can say the same thing about three other books kept at National Taiwan University but coming from other collections: the *Naturalis Historiae* (Venice, 1479) by Caius Plinius Secundus; the *Dialogorum* (Venice, 1492) by Gregorius Magnus; and the *Consolationae Philosophiae* (Nuremberg, 1495) by Severinus Boecio. It is amazing that in Taiwan we can experience the spirit of the Renaissance through these seven books, because they were written by Pliny, a Roman historian born in the first century; by Boethius, a Roman consul born in the fifth century; by Isidorus, a Spanish-Goth bishop born in the sixth century; by Gregorius, an Italian pope also born in the sixth century; by Avicenna, a Persian doctor born in the tenth century; by Crescenzi, an Italian agronomist and by Arnaldus, a Spanish doctor. The last two were born in the 13th century. The only non-Latin book (Avicenna's) was translated into Latin in the Middle Ages; and later, during the Renaissance, all of them were finally printed either in Latin or Italian.

On the other hand, we can also experience the Renaissance atmosphere attached to these seven books because the authors, translators or publishers were living in the central and western Mediterranean, the place where the Renaissance emerged, and where the expansion of Europe began. Furthermore, these books were published within a 20-year period: between 1479 -- just after the conquest of Constantinople by the Turks in 1475, which forced many scholars to emigrate to the West -- and 1499. In fact, just a few years before the end of this period the Discovery of America occurred, by a Genoese, under the flagship of the kingdom of Castille.

José Eugenio Borao

15 November 1998

VILLANOVA, Arnaldi de (Arnaldi de Villanova, 1240-1311)

Regimen sanitatis cum expositione magistri Arnaldi de Villanova Cathellano.
noviter impressus. (Edition of 1480)

AUTHOR:

According to the introduction, the author is Arnaldi de Villanova, a philosopher and doctor who was probably born around 1240 in Lerida (Northern Spain); but others claim that he was from Aragon (Northern Spain) or Valencia (Eastern Spain). In any case, all these places were located in the area known at that time as the Crown of Aragon. He spent some time studying in Paris, and was teaching in Barcelona and at the prestigious medical school of Montpellier (France). King Peter II appointed him as his personal doctor. The theologians of the Sorbonne and the Archbishop of Tarragona excommunicated him, because he was considered a heretic. But popes Boniface VIII and Clement V, and some nobles from Sicily and Naples protected him. Boniface VIII called him to go to Avignon, but he died on his way to that city when his vessel was near Genoa, in 1311. Some books which he probably wrote are: *Speculum medicinae* ("The mirror of the medicine"), *Schole Salerni opusculum* ("Writings from the school of Salerno") and *De conservanda juventute et de retardanda senectute* ("How to keep young and avoid getting old").

TITLE:

The book *Commentum super regimen sanitatis salernitanum* ("Commentary on the health system of the city of Salerno, a city near Naples"), his most famous one, was once attributed to him, but is now regarded as apocryphal. The same thing occurred with two other books, such as like the *Breviarum practicae*, which are not clearly his even though they were published under his name. One of the reasons for the confusion is that there were other scholars with the same name.

CONTENT:

The book deals with the remedies of the most common sicknesses and humors of the body: like colds, fevers, the stomach, nutrition, urine, semen, etc. Also talks about the properties of some plants or parts of plants, roots, etc.

PUBLISHER, DATE AND PLACE OF PUBLICATION:

We only know that this book was printed in Venice, in 1480.

CRESCENZI, Pietro de' (Piero Crescentio, 1230-1310)

Il Libro della agricoltura (Edition of 1490)

AUTHOR:

Pietro di Crescendi was an Italian agronomist. He was born in Bologna in 1230 and died in the same city in 1310. He was a lawyer and a consultant of the "Podesta" of Bologna (the highest authority of that city). For thirty years he traveled around Italy, and later he went back to Bologna, where he was chosen as a senator.

TITLE:

This Italian book, *Il Libro della agricoltura* ("The book of agriculture"), was originally written by Crescendi in Latin in the later years of his life (from 1304 to 1309), and the original title of the manuscript was *Opus ruralium commodorum. Libri XII* ("Book on rural matters; written in ten chapters").

CONTENT:

The book has a general description of agricultural techniques and presents a general knowledge of farming. The organization of the book follows one of the books of the ancient Roman writer, Columela, but Crescenzi's statements are based on his own experience, and they are very advanced if we compare them with the agricultural knowledge of his time. A simplified index of the book is as follows:

Book 1: About the place.

Book 2: About the nature of plants.

Book 3: About fruits.

Book 4: About tools.

Book 5: About trees.

Book 6: About natural herbs.

Book 7: About meadows and water.

Book 8: About orchards.

Book 9: About farm animals.

Book 10: About wild animals.

Book 11: About the farm.

Book 12: About the things that must be done on the farm, month by month.

DEDICATION:

The book is dedicated to Charles II, King of Sicily and Jerusalem. On the first page there is a drawing of the author offering his book to his king. After the dedication there is a "proemio" introducing the book and saying that the Dominican brother Amerigho had examined and approved it.



Engraving representing the author dedicating his book to the King

PUBLISHER, DATE AND PLACE OF PUBLICATION:

The *Opus ruralium commodorum. Libri XII* was printed in 1458, so it was one of the first books printed in Italy. The most beautiful edition was made by Lorrain in 1474. Later, the book was translated into Italian, and it was printed in Italian in Florence in 1478.

The edition kept at National Taiwan University was published on 17 February 1490 by Mr. Agstein, commonly known as LEONARDUS ACHATES (and also known as LEONARDUS BASILENSIS, because he was born in the city of Basel). He printed books mainly in Venice, Padua, and Vienna from 1472 until 1491. Nevertheless, the library's copy was printed in the city of Vicenza. This book is particularly important because the books published by Achates are very rare. Some peculiarities of the book: one volume, 31 cm., the covers seems to be the original ones, and have a Pompeiian style. The library's collection includes also other book of Crescenzi, *De omnibus agriculturae partibus, & de plantarum animaliumq* (TANN 80), published in 1548.

Other editions of the same book: In German: Strasbourg, 1494 (another printing in 1602); Florence, 1605, by Sansovino; the best edition is the one of Gessner (Leipzig, 1735, 2 vols.) included in the collection "Scriptores rei rusticae"; Bologna, 1784.

AVICENNA, S. (Abu Ali Al Hosain Ibn Abd-Alah Ibsina, 980-1037)
De virtutibus herbarum (Edition of 1499)
 (Translated from Arabic into Latin by **Arnaldi de Villanova**, ca 1305)

AUTHOR:

Avicenna was an Arabic scholar and philosopher, born in Persia. He was very clever and precocious. When he was twenty-one years old, he wrote his famous *Canon of the Medical Science*, which for many years was a textbook for the "medical colleges" of Asia and Europe. He also wrote many other books, on literature, philosophy (commenting on Aristotle's works) and two big encyclopedias, *Al-s-chefa* (the way to be cured), and *Al-Nadja* (liberation). The *Canon* and the encyclopedias were translated to Latin in the 12th century by Gerardo de Cremona, Domingo de Gundinalino and Juan Avendeth. Later, they were printed in Venice, 1493-95.

TITLE:

De virtutibus herbarum. Avicenna's book was translated by the end of the 13th century (or in the beginning of the 14th century) by Arnaldo de Villanova.

PUBLISHER, DATE AND PLACE OF PUBLICATION:

This book (TANG 20), like the others of Avicenna, the *Canon* and the *Encyclopedias*, was also printed in Venice, on 14 December 1499. The publisher was *Simon Papiensis*, also called Bivilaqua.

OTHER COPIES:

In fact, our library has two more copies of this book, one published on 15 March 1506 (TANG27) by the brothers Joannem & Bernardinum

Rubeum. This edition is almost identical to the previous one, with only very few variations in the

publisher's name and the initial chapter letters.

A third copy (TAN78) was discovered inside another book while we were preparing the present catalogue, which was published in Venice in July, but the year of publication is not completely legible (i.e., 15?4).

Nevertheless, the book was devoted to the Doge of

Impressum Venetiis per Simonem Papiensem dictum Bivilaquam Anno Domini Iesu Christi. 1499. die. xiiii. Decēbris.

Impressum Venetiis per Joannem Rubeum & Bernardinū fratres Vercellenfes. Anno domini. M.D. Vlll. die. xv. marcii.

Stampato ne la inclyta cita di Venetia cō accuratissima diligenza per Gio: Andrea Vezzaforte detto Guadagnino. Nel anno 1504. il 27. L'ulo. Regnate l'or. l'or. principe Andrea Graci.

The publisher's names of the three editions — ↑

Venice, Andrea Gritti, who was elected in 1523 and died in 1538. Thus the date of publication could be either 1524 or 1534. To be precise, we think there is a fourth translation of Avicenna's work (TAN1365), the one translated into German by W. L. Schreiber in 1485, but the copy we have in our library is a facsimile edition printed in 1924. W. L. Schreiber appears to be the author of the book, but is really only another variation of Avicenna's.

ISIDORUS HISPALENSIS (560-636)

Etymologiarum, and *De summo bono*

AUTHOR:

Isidorus Hispalensis (Saint Isidore of Seville) was born in the city of Seville (or maybe Cartagena), when the Visigoths were consolidating as new rulers of the Iberian peninsula. It was a time of transition in which the Roman institutions were disintegrating, and a new order was emerging. His father was the governor of the Cartaginensis region, who had another son, Leandro, the bishop of Seville, and another one, Fulgencio, who was the bishop of Ecija. Isidore, the youngest, was educated in the school of the Cathedral of Seville studying the *trivium* and the *quadrivium*, and was fluent in Latin, Greek and Hebrew. In 599, he succeeded his brother Leandro as Archbishop of Seville. He put big efforts in uniting the different Goth clans in the peninsula, to fight the Arians, and to organize several local councils to reorganize the church.

He also promoted science, making the city of Seville the center of an intellectual movement around the whole peninsula. There, Liberal Arts, Greek and Hebrew were taught, and also Aristotelian philosophy, even before the arrival of the Arabs. He was the first Christian who tried to gather a *Summa* (a kind of Encyclopedia) of all the knowledge of his times. This book is the *Etymologiarum* (a name coming from chapter ten), and is also known as *Origenes*. He finished it, upon the request of his friend San Braulio, before he died. Systematization was done by Braulio because he received a copy that had to be corrected. That's why two different copies exist.

TITLE:

The book *Etymologiarum. Libri XX* ("Etymologies. Written in twenty chapters") was the most common book used during the Middle Ages in studying classical literature, because 160 authors are quoted, with clear and concise style. Among them Boethius, Celio, Aurelianus, Plinius, Suetonius (whose *Prata* may have given Isidorus the general idea of his *Etymologiarum*), Lactancio, Varron and Solino. The book starts with three letters (one from Braulio to Isidore, the answer of Isidore, and the reply of Braulio).

CONTENT:

In the book, all the knowledge of his time is gathered and systematized. The division of the book is as follows:

- Book 1: On grammar and metrics.*
- Book 2: On rhetoric.*
- Book 3: On dialectics.*
- Book 4: On medicine and libraries.*
- Book 5: On chronology and laws.*
- Book 6: On ecclesiastical books and assignments.*
- Book 7: On God and the heavenly and earthly hierarchies.*
- Book 8: On the Church and the heresies.*
- Book 9: On languages, peoples, kingdoms and official titles.*
- Book 10: On etymologies of words.*
- Book 11: On man.*
- Book 12: On animals and birds.*
- Book 13: On the world and its parts.*
- Book 14: On geography.*
- Book 15: About roads and public construction.*
- Book 16: About stones and metals.*
- Book 17: About agriculture.*
- Book 18: About the terminology of war.*
- Book 19: About navigation, construction and clothing.*
- Book 20: About tools for the house, the farm and other jobs.*

After the *Etymologiarum* there is a second book of Isidore, *De Summo Bono*, dealing with theological matters.

CONTENT:

Book 1: God, man and spirits

Book 2: Virtues and vices

Book 3: Sins

PUBLISHER, DATE AND PLACE OF PUBLICATION:

In our edition the name of the publisher can not be found, nor the date or place of publication. On the other hand, we know that during the Middle Ages the *Etymologiarum* was very well appreciated, and was the most commonly copied book in the monasteries after the Bible. During the Renaissance it was still very important and from 1470 until 1529, ten reprints were made. The National Taiwan University Library copy is one of those of the early years of the Renaissance (by the end of the 15th Century).