

Explore the Record of European Life and Culture

About Collection 3

Collection 3, digitized from the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze (National Central Library of Florence, Italy), Koninklijke Bibliotheek (National Library of the Netherlands), The Wellcome Library in London, and Det Kongelige Bibliotek (Royal Library in Copenhagen) is substantially larger than the previous collections and encompasses works in all major European languages, printed in the cities that led the explosion of the print industry. Highlights of Collection 3 include:

- **History of Science:** Scholarly editions and translations, books on alchemy, demonology, falconry and cookery, so-called books of secrets, and books of prodigies such as Pierre Boaistuau's illustrated catalogue of monsters, demons, deformities, natural disasters and miraculous events (*Histoires prodigieuses*, 1568).
- **Philosophy:** Works by Descartes (*Principia Philosophiae*, 1644, *Les Passions de l'ame*, 1650), Spinoza (editions of the *Tractatus theologico-politicus* in Latin, 1670 and French, 1678) and key humanist and Renaissance authors.
- **History:** Pamphlets from the Koninklijke Bibliotheek relating to the Dutch Revolt against Spanish rule, the persecution of the Huguenots and the assassination of William of Orange.
- **Fine Art and Illustrations:** Dürer's *Four Books on Human Proportion* (1622), and volumes with engravings by Jacob de Gheyn (*Waffenhandlvng*, or *The Exercise of Arms*, 1608), Johan Bara (*Emblemata amatoria*, c.1620) and Jöst Amman (*Panoplia*, 1568).
- **The Art of Printing:** Fine examples include Nicolas Jenson's Venetian imprints and examples of Dutch "prototypography," Christophe's Plantin's illustrated editions of Monardes' survey of plants of the New World (1574) and the House of Elzevir's editions of the Classics and the Greek New Testament (1624).

- **The Age of Exploration:** Editions of Theodor de Bry's *America* (1595 onwards) and Joannes de Laet's *History of the New World* (Leiden, 1625) are included with surveys, chronicles and illustrated natural histories of Brazil, Peru, Ethiopia, India, Persia and the Portuguese East Indies in numerous languages.
- **Literary Works** include Molière's *L'avare* (1693), Tasso's *Gierusalemme liberata* (1678), Brant's *Ship of Fools* (Latin edition, 1498), Juan de Mena's *Las trescientas* (1499), Joost van Vondel's *Maria Stuart* (1647) and Philipp von Zesen's *Adriatische Rosemund* (1645).

