

Explore the Record of European Life and Culture

About Collection 4

Like its immediate predecessor, Collection 4 contains almost 3 million pages and includes works from the Biblioteca Nazionale Centrale di Firenze (BNCF), the Koninklijke Bibliotheek (KBNL), the Wellcome Library and the Kongelige Bibliotek (KBDK); in addition, Collection 4 sees the first inclusion of volumes (c.1700) from the Bibliothèque nationale de France (BnF).

Works from the BnF in Collection 4 include the first Protestant Bible in French (published in Lyon in 1544) as well as editions and translations of the *Fathers of the Church*, bearing testimony to the importance of the Christian Humanist movement in France, in the wake of Erasmus. A number of works also illuminate the rites and ceremonies of religious life: the celebration of festivals such as Christmas, marriage and funeral rites, practices relating to prayer, fasting, giving alms and processions. Texts of laws and regulations, as well as editions of the customs of

the French provinces, jurisprudential treatises on specific matters (such as contract law or feudal law, etc.) and compendia of jurisprudence along with their commentaries also feature. Philosophy is represented by, amongst others, Plato's *Republic* and contemporary works such as the *Six books of the Republic* by Jean Bodin as well as French translations of Italian authors such as Machiavelli and Giovanni Botero (a leading theorist of the "raison d'Etat" at the end of the 16th century).

The contents of Collection 4 as a whole are as wide ranging as previous collections, including important works of science, art, medicine, travel and popular miscellanies from the Wellcome Library (including many items from William Morris's personal collection), scholarly works of history and theology from the BNCF, literary translations and legal texts from the Netherlands' *Koninklijke Bibliotheek* (including a substantial number of volumes from the Elzevir press), and texts relating to the Reformation from the Kongelige Bibliotek in Copenhagen.

