



## LIBRARY GLOSSARY

**Black Letter** The densely packed type face found in some early printed books (eg English Bibles and Prayer Books) sometimes called Gothic.

**Blind-stamped or blind-tooled** (of bindings) having impressed designs without gold leaf

**Catchword** Wording below the last line of the main text block on the pages of some early printed books, indicating what the first word on the following page is to be.

**Colophon** A statement at the end of a book (or following a section near the end) giving information about such matters as place of publication/printing, name of publisher/printer, date. It may supplement or substitute for the title page imprint.

**Compartment** Decorative panels forming a rectangular surround on some title pages

**Cropped** Over-trimmed by the binder to the extent that text is lost

***Delineavit*** Latin for (he/she) drew, sometimes found on illustrations, may be abbreviated to 'del.'

**Endpapers** Leaves without text at either end of the book, may be coloured, see Marbling

***Fecit*** Latin for '(he/she) made'. Sometimes found on illustrations, may be abbreviated to 'f', or 'fec' .

**Flyleaf** A blank leaf at either end of the book.

**Fore-edge** The leading edge of a leaf , opposite the spine

**Fore-edge painting** An illustration on the fore-edges of the leaves of a book, contrived in such a way that it becomes visible only when the leaves are compressed together to form a wedge.

**Foxed** (of paper) with patches of brown discolouration

**Gold-blocked** (of words or design on a binding) Picked out on gold leaf (also gold-tooled)

**Half-bound** Bound in two different materials, the one (often leather or vellum) covering the spine and a strip adjacent to the spine on either cover + a triangular area at the four fore edge corners, the other (often cloth) covering the remaining area of the covers. ( see also quarter-bound)

**Half Title** A brief title appearing on a leaf preceding the title page.



## LIBRARY GLOSSARY

**Headband** A strip of sometimes brightly covered material inside the top (head) of the spine of a book. Originally functional but often decorative.

**Imprint** The area at the foot of a title page, containing details of place of publication, publisher/printer and date of publication.

**Incunabula** Printed books of the 15thc (singular incunable).

**Leaf signatures** A letter (or other typographical symbol), often followed by a number, which appears below the last line of the main text block on some pages of a book. Leaves were signed in this way by printers to help them in the correct order of printing.

**Marbling** The distinctive swirling patterns often found on the end papers of 19thc books.

**Pastedowns** Endpapers pasted to the inside covers of a book, helping to join the text block to the boards, ie not free like fly leaves.

**Pinxit** Latin for '(he/she)' painted, sometimes found on illustrations, may be abbreviated to 'pinx'.

**Plate** A leaf containing illustrative matter, with or without text, bound in separately from the main printed leaves.

**Preliminaries** Material (introduction, dedication etc) found before the main body of the text, often numbered with Roman numerals as opposed to the Arabic numerals of the text.

**Quarter-bound** Similar to half-bound, but without the triangular features, ie with the wrap around spine in one material and the rest of the binding in another.

**Raised bands** The ridges across the spine of some books, originally functional but sometimes decorative.

**Reback** Verb: to replace the spine. Noun: such a repair

**Recto** the right- hand page of the book, which will usually bear an odd page number.

**Rubrication** The use of colour as a decorative feature

**Sculpsit** Latin for '(he/she)' engraved. Sometimes found on illustrations, may be abbreviated to 'sculp'

**Tailband** The equivalent of a headband inside the bottom (tail) of the book

**Uncut** With untrimmed pages

**Verso** The left-hand page of a book, which will usually bear an even page number.