TEMPLE
RARE BOOKS OF OXFORD

Bindings in Cambridge Libraries

G. D. Hobson

Sold

Temple Rare Books
Paternoster Farm, 107 Cassington Road, Yarnton, Oxford, Oxfordshire, OX5 1QB
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REF: 1521

Description

[6], vii-xvi, [1], 2-179pp, [1], plates. Rebound in modern yellow ochre goatskin by Christopher Clarkson, smooth back, with author, title, and date to spine, overall design of the colleges of Cambridge, each identified by a platinum tooled shield with a finely painted coat of arms to each, gilt and blind decorated river effect tying in the covers and spine, a.e.g., endpapers decorated with rubbings taken from a German blind-stamped bindingExternally fine, internally one or two spots of foxing to reverse of a couple of plates, but generally quite bright and clean. With seventy-two plates, twenty-seven of which are colour chromolithographs. One of two hundred and thirty copiesBreslauer, 'The Uses of Bookbinding Literature', page 28; Nixon, 'The Literature of English Bookbinding', pages 35-36; Appleton, page 81; Brenni, 767; Mejer-Herbst 1009; Middleton, The Binder's Art, 38, "a major work, especially in the field of gold-tooled binding by one of the most distinguished bookbinding historians"; Schmidt-Kunsemuller 982The book is now housed in a drop back box, made by Temple Bookbinders, with title label to spine, also housing twenty-six brass finishing tool heads designed and made by Clarkson to undertake the decoration on the binding, as well as thirty-four brass type heads contained in a small hardwood stand. There is also another matching drop back box with a small collection of original designs, tool trials, and patterns for the bindingChristopher Clarkson (1938-2017) was one of the world's leading authorities in the conservation of medieval manuscripts and early printed books. He studied art, and later attended the Royal College of Art where he also studied bookbinding, later working under Tony Cairns at Douglas Cockerell & Son, then run by Sydney Cockerell. He was one of the British government team that helped to conserve the flood damaged books and manuscripts after the Florence flooding in 1966, later being appointed Head of Rare Book Preservation at the Library of Congress. He returned to the UK to work at the Bodleian, and later taught at West Dean College

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