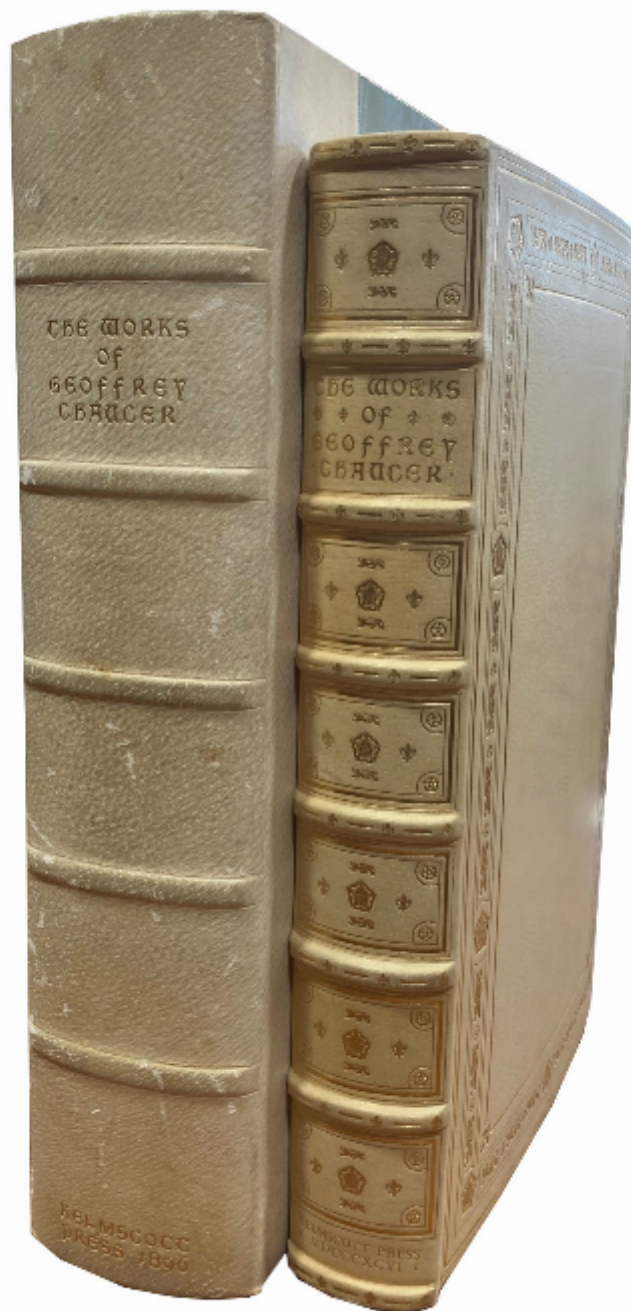




The Works of Geoffrey Chaucer WITH Original Design for an
Initial Word 'Now' from the Kelmscott Chaucer

F.S. Ellis

£125,000



REF: 1515

Description

[4], [i]-ii, [3], 2-554pp. Later full pigskin by Sangorski and Sutcliffe, raised bands, spine in seven panels, title in gilt to second panel, publisher and date to foot, remaining panels with thick and thin line borders, a central tudor rose with lions above and below and fleur-de-lis to either side, and small flower head corner pieces. Covers with thick and thin line borders, tudor rose corner and side pieces, with repeated lion and flower head tools in broken panels surrounding inner single line frame with fleur-de-lis corner pieces. Spine lightly browned, minor rubbing to extremities, internally bright and clean. Housed in a pigskin backed drop back box. The crowning achievement of Morris's press, famous before it even came off the press, one of four hundred and twenty-five copies printed on 'Perch' paper, in 'Chaucer' and 'Troy' type, in double column, and in red and black. With wood engraved title, borders, and initials by C. E. Keates, W. H. Hooper, and W. Spielmeier after designs by Morris, and eighty-seven text illustrations by Edward Burne-Jones, redrawn in ink by R. Catterson-Smith and engraved by W. H. Hooper. WITH a single sheet, n.d. but between 1892 and 1895, approximately 180mm x 140mm in size, with the design being approximately 95mm x 85mm in size. Minor smudging and inkspots, design generally quite bright and clean, letter designs to reverse in pencil, with old auction lot number in pencil also to reverse. Original drawing, ink over pencil, and heightened with white. This design appears twice in the Kelmscott Chaucer, FF1v (page 434), and GG3r (page 453). It was previously sold in the Doheny sale (Christies New York, 1989, lot 2335). Similar designs were exhibited in the Pierpont Morgan Library Morris exhibition, 'William Morris and the Art of the Book', 93D. For the book see Franklin, page 201; Peterson A40; Tomkinson, page 117.