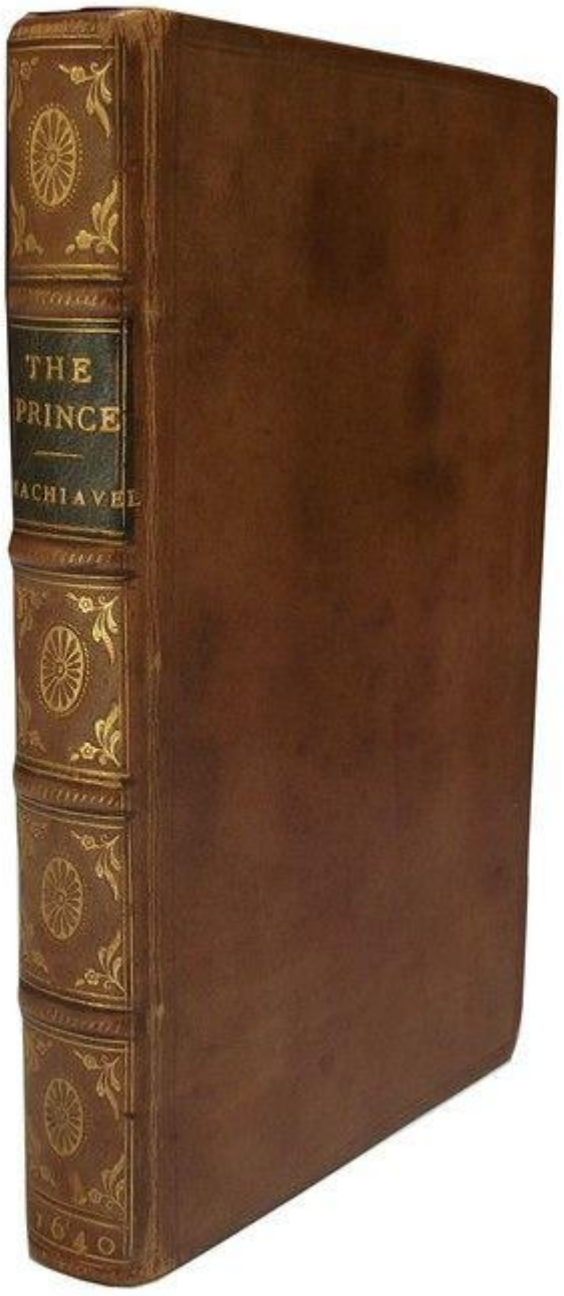
TEMPLE
RARE BOOKS OF OXFORD

Nicholas Machiavel's Prince, Also the Life of Castruccio Castracani of Lucca and the Means Duke Valentine Us'd to Put to Death Vitellozzo Vitelli, Oliverotto of Fermo, Paul and the Duke of Gravina

Sold

R. Bishop For Wil. Hils And Are To Be Sold By Daniel Pakeman



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Description

[12], 305pp, [7], twentieth century full calf, raised bands, spine in five panels, title/author label to second panel, remaining panels with gilt central oval device and floral corner pieces, comb and curl marbled endpapers, a.e.g. Slightly rubbed to extremities externally. Title remargined, slightly soiled with a couple of small spots, A2 repaired to top corner, B6 with printing flaw to lower third of text resulting in faint, though still legible text, C3 and C5 with marginal soiling, C6 with small amount of loss to upper corner catching printed border, G7 with small piece excised from lower margin, small hole to outer margin of O6, small worm traces to head of H-N inclusive, touching printed border, minor loss to upper corners of I6-I11, slightly more pronounced to L6-N3 with minor loss to upper margin catching printed border, marginal ink scribble to H2v. Notwithstanding the above, quite a good copy of the first English edition of Machiavelli's political classic, effectively the first 'modern' work of political philosophy. "The Prince is far more than a book of directions to any one of the many Italian princelings ... he now wrote for the guidance of the ruler by whom alone Italy, desperately divided, could be restored to political health ... Machiavelli founded the science of modern politics on the study of mankind ... Politics was a science to be divorced entirely from ethics ... More balanced modern judgement acknowledges his patriotism and studies his political thought, but the term 'machiavellian' retains its sinister meaning" (PMM). PMM 63 (for the first Italian edition)

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