

Bibliographical Exercise: “*Biblia Sacra Latina*”

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HPEN5005/6005: The Book, the Body, and the World: Renaissance Humanism, Medicine,
and Exploration.

Professor Peter Mitchell

01/02/2024

Title Page

The book chosen for this exercise did not possess a proper Title Page, it's Title and Printer were found on the book spine.

BIBLIA | SACRA | LATINA | VEN JENSON | 1476

Colophon

Biblia | imprefa | Elenetijs | ope | 2a | atqz | impenfa | Micolai | Jen | fon | Sallici. | M.cccc.lxpri

The Format

This book was mostly done in the format of 10 pages of texts forming 5 leaves. However, towards the end of the book the format changed twice to 12 pages of texts forming 6 leaves.

The Collation

a - z5, ζ5, ς5, γ5, A - L5, M6, N - P5, Q6

Pagination

The book does not contain any sign of pagination.

Nicolas Jenson

The “*Biblia Sacra Latina*” was printed in 1476 by Nicolas Jenson, a French printer that had a printing house in Venice, Italy¹. Even though the book acknowledged the printer as “Ven Jenson” it was fairly easy to identify his actual name since his Bible was a well known one of the time. Nicola Jenson was born in Sommevoire, France around 1430 and in 1470 he became well known after establishing a printer house in Venice. With that printing house he was able to publish over 100 books, being the “*Biblia Sacra Latina*” one of the them². The books were printed in Jenson's own design which resembled the “Roman type”³, in his work the “*Biblia Sacra Latina*” it was also possible to see the use of the color red and blue for the first letters of a paragraph, a characteristic very common in the early printed books. Jenson learned his skills as typesetter when the French King sent him, in 1459, to learn more about the invention of printing in Mainz⁴. Because of that he was able to develop new printing traditions such as the introduction of “punches” and “matrices”⁵

¹Hellinga, L., ‘Nicolas Jenson et les débuts de l’imprimerie à Mayence’, RFHL 118–21 (2003), 25–53

²Hellinga, L., ‘Nicolas Jenson et les débuts de l’imprimerie à Mayence’, RFHL 118–21 (2003), 25– 53.

³ Hellinga, L., ‘Nicolas Jenson et les débuts de l’imprimerie à Mayence’, RFHL 118–21 (2003), 25–53

⁴ Hellinga, L., ‘Nicolas Jenson et les débuts de l’imprimerie à Mayence’, RFHL 118–21 (2003), 25–53

⁵ Hellinga, L., ‘Nicolas Jenson et les débuts de l’imprimerie à Mayence’, RFHL 118–21 (2003), 25–53

Bibliography

L. Hellinga, 'Nicolas Jenson et les débuts de l'imprimerie à Mayence', RFHL 118–21 (2003),
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