

**A New Acquisition:
Christophorus Longolius's copy of the 1511 Parisian edition of the *Corpus Juris Civilis***

New College has recently acquired an important early printed book once owned by the Renaissance humanist Christophe de Longueil (1488-1522), known in Latin as Christophorus Longolius

arrived in the mid-sixteenth century through an intermediary bequest, that of Cardinal Reginald Pole, who died in 1558, and whose executor decided that New College was the appropriate resting-

books. This new volume, a copy of part of the foundational body of western law, the *Corpus Juris Civilis* of Justinian, now rejoins the books amongst which it was once ranged.¹

the study of the civil law in the medieval and early-modern periods.

Christophorus Longolius (1488-1522) was one of the more colourful of the humanists of the generation of Erasmus.² Born in Mechelen in the Duchy of Brabant, Longolius was sent into France at the age of nine, where he was educated at Paris, before serving in the military, and afterwards continuing his studies in law at Bologna and Poitiers. Appointed a professor of law in Poitiers at the age of nineteen, Longolius apparently had to fend off hostile auditors by clubbing them with three large folios he had to hand. But by 1514-15 he had moved to Paris, where he turned his attentions to literary study, and to Greek. He then went on to Rome with the intention of finding a Greek teacher, but there he fell under the spell of the prominent humanists Pietro Bembo and Jacopo Sadoletto, the foremost Ciceronians of their day. It was as their disciple that Longolius became embroiled in the running controversy over Latin style, adopting an extreme Ciceronianism that would bring him into conflict with the most famous of the northern humanists, Desiderius Erasmus himself. For in Rome Bembo had proposed that Longolius be honoured with the title of Roman citizen, to great antagonism.

opportunately unearthed an earlier speech by the Brabantine in praise of France at the expense of Italy, and in the resulting furore Longolius fled the city, leaving behind him two speeches in vindication, written in a pure Ciceronian style, and soon published by his friends. Such was the perceived importance of the matter that Longolius was tried in his absence before the Pope. He won: and the Pope created him a count palatine and apostolic protonotary.

Yet the argument about Ciceronianism, which had been rumbling on throughout the previous century, spread, and it eventually prompted the most celebrated intervention in that debate the *Ciceronianus* Erasmus. This is

much debated, but Nosoponus certainly refers to the real man, who had recently died:

lighted upon any one living north of the Alps the only exception being
Christophe de Longueil, who lately departed this life.

Hexameron

copy, *Opera agricolationum*, his Blemmidas, his Nigrus, his Livy, his Tacitus, his Diodorus, his Procopius, his scholia on the *Iliad*, his Philostratus, his Themistius, his Pliny, his Greek epigrams, and his Appian; and it is specifically

ention in the 1555 list is made of a Josephus too, as in the New College Benefactors Book, which suggests that such a Longolius book was indeed one although it has long been lost.

The number

Benefactors Book a

basic observations. Longolius signed all of his books known to us – this is presumably how they were recognised in the first place – with an elegant signature followed by a calligraphic sign manual. He signed in Latin, but repeated in or shifted to Greek when signing a Greek text. He usually recorded the price he paid for each book. He often annotated his texts, and on a few occasions he did so very heavily indeed. Given his

his library, as the date of publication coincides with t

7. **Flavius Philostratus**. *De vita Apolonii Tyanei* with **Eusebius** *contra Hieroclem atque Tyaneum*. Venice: Aldus Manutius, February 1502. Greek and Latin text. BT1.1.8(1). Late seventeenth/eighteenth-century binding; rebacked. Signature of Longolius on title-

Some notes by Longolius.

Bound with no. 4.

8. *Florilegium Diversorum Epigrammatum*. Venice: Aldus Manutius, November 1503. 8°.

BT1.127.7. C17/18 calf.

Signature of Longolius in Greek on the title-page, with the price, also in Greek, very faded.

9. **Euclid**. *Opera*. Venice: Joannes Tacuinus, 25 Oct. 1505. Fol.

BT1.34.5. Modern marbled binding, rebacked.

Signature of Longolius on title-page, and price of 11 or 40sch (i.e. xi or xl).

Contains one note by Longolius to Book I.

10. **Diodorus Siculus**. *Opera*, ed. Poggio Bracciolini. Paris: Jehan Petit, [1501-22].

4o. It is possible that the second item in this volume, although the binding is later, came from Longolius: it is **Macer Floridus**, *De viribus herbarum* (s.l.: s.n., n.d.); there is some underlining and an annotation to sg. [Cviii]r.

BT1.128.2(1). C17 calf, rebacked; English printed waste.

Signature of Longolius on title-page, price of 8sch.

Notes by Longolius, including an additional entry in the index

Bound with nos. 11 and 23. Attached to the last page of the previous work is an old title-

15. **Titus Livius**. *Decades*. Paris: Badius Ascensius for Jehan Petit, 15 March, 1510. Fol.

BT1.2.2. C17/18 calf.

Signature of Longolius, with price of 25sch.

CLIIr.

16. **Marcus Tullius Cicero**. *Opera rhetorica, amatoria et forensia*. Paris: Jehan Petit and Badius Ascensius, 22 November 1511. Fol.

BT1.24.8. Half leather with comb marbled paper, rebacked.

Signature of Longolius on sg. +iir, with cost of 42s 6d; very heavily annotated.

Bound with no. 17.

17. **Marcus Tullius Cicero**. *Orationes*. Paris: Jehan Petit, 22 November 1511. Fol.

[Really a continuation of previous with new signatures.]

Bound with no. 16.

18. **Curius Lancilottus Pasius**. *Emendatum Quadringentis in locis*. Parma:

Franciscus Ugoletus & Octavianus Saladus, 15 July 1514. Fol.

BT1.39.9. Reversed calf.

23. **Agathius.** *De Bello Gotthorum.* Rome: Jacobus Mazco7y[Cius, R uaory1 116(.)] TJETBT1 0 0 1 90.