

## Heptateuchus

HEPTATEUCHUS, LIBER JOB, ET EVANGELIUM NICODEMI; Anglo-Saxonice. Historiæ JUDITH Fragmentum; Dano-Saxonice. Edidit nunc primum ex MSS codicibus Edwardus Thwaites, è Collegio Reginæ. OXONIÆ, E THEATRO SHELDONIANO, An. Dom. MDCXCVIII. Typis JUNIANIS. 1698.

Heptateuchus is a landmark work of Anglo-Saxon scholarship, edited by one of the most prominent early Oxfordians in the field of Old English literature. The Heptateuch (the Pentateuch, Joshua and Judges) and the Book of Job, believed to have been translated into the vernacular by Aelfric, Abbot of Eynsham, is followed by the Gospel of Nicodemus and a fragment of the poem Judith. Thwaites's inclusion of Judith marked the first printing of Anglo-Saxon poetry from an English press. Additionally, Heptateuchus is only the 5<sup>th</sup> work to print a portion of the Bible in Anglo-Saxon.

While Wing claims that there was a previous Sheldonian edition in 1696 from identical except from the absence of the typis Junianis on the title page, all other sources consulted give the publication date as 1698 and no institutionally held copies of a 1696 edition could be found (ESTC gives a place-holder record based on the Wing number). Further, The History of Oxford University Press, which agrees with 1698 as the first appearance of the work, notes that due to alarm over Thwaites having dedicated it to the nonjuring George Hickes, publication date was almost suppressed and had to be issued with a new title page removing the Vice Chancellor's imprimatur.

Heptateuchus is modestly and beautifully embellished with engravings done by Michael Burghers being a dramatic engraved frontispiece and a pairing of large headpiece and decorative capital opening both the preface and the text, all of which preserve Burghers's attribution in contemporary mottled calf covers framed and panelled in blind with blind-tooled corner fleurons rebacked.

Heptateuchus is pronounced HEP TA TOOK US!

HEPTA means Seven (7) just as a Heptagon has 7 sides and just as a Pentagon has Five (5) sides; musically, the Pentatonic scale is ancient. TEUCH means Book and so a Heptateuch is a collection of 7 books together just as the Pentateuch is the first 5 Books of The Bible. So. Heptateuchus is the Jewish Pentateuch with Joshua and Judges and addition of Job and Christian Gospel and fragment Nicodemus and Judith of which Job is commonly referred to from the 1700s 18<sup>th</sup> Century as a paraphrase. Heptateuchus is Latinised variation of the word Heptateuch with Latin us suffix added.

Size: 9.25 x 6 x 1, 8vo (22.6 cm, 8.9"), 208 pp.

Font: Roman Anglo Saxon.

Appraised Value: \$5,000.00 USD.

Sold Price: \$1,995.00 USD.