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Sebastian Brant, *De praestantia artis impressoriae elogium*

f. 1r Ad dominum Iohannem Bergman de Olpe de praestantia artis impressoriae a Germanis nuper invente elogium Sebastiani Brant. Quid sibi docta cohors, sibi quid studiosa caterva / Gracius, utilius, commodiusve petet / Quam sanctum et nuper compertum opus atque litturas [*sic*] / Quo premere edocuit grammata multa simul, / Quodque prius scriptis vix ullus mille diebus / Nunc uno solus hac aget arte, die? ... Relligiosa cohors grates aget usque pudicis / Plus elegis nostris carminibusque piis / Luxuriosa procum dederit quam turba Catullo, / Vel tibi, quem pepulit Musa petulca Gethos (Ovidius, qui relegatus ab Augusto ad Getas). f. 1v blank

Sebastian Brant (1457-1521), *De praestantia artis impressoriae elogium*, addressed to the German priest, humanist, printer and publisher Johann Bergmann von Olpe (c. 1460-1532), who printed in Basel 1494-1499. This 52-verse poem in praise of the art of printing appeared first in Brant's *Varia carmina*, issued by Bergmann in 1498 (GKW 5068), f. 1 VIII r-v. On the printer, see F. Geldner, *Die deutschen Inkunabeldrucker*, v. 1 (Stuttgart, 1968), pp. 128-131. In recent times the text was edited by A. Perosa and J. Sparrow, *Renaissance Latin Verse. An Anthology* (London, 1979), pp. 409-410. An English translation by J.H. Kaimowitz was privately printed in 1989 for the Columbiad Press in 100 copies. The last sentence in our manuscript (in parentheses above), explaining that Ovid is the poet alluded to in the final verse, is no part of Brant's poem.

Paper, f. 1, 210 x 150 mm.

Written in a small vertical Humanistica Cursiva.

Undecorated.

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R.24.03.11

Albert Derolez