

**TITLES OF THE FIRST BOOKS FROM THE
EARLIEST PRESSES ESTABLISHED IN
DIFFERENT CITIES, TOWNS, AND
MONASTERIES IN EUROPE, BEFORE THE
END OF THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY, WITH
BRIEF NOTES UPON THEIR PRINTERS**

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Titles of the First Books from the Earliest Presses Established in Different Cities, Towns, and Monasteries in Europe, before the End of the Fifteenth Century, with Brief Notes upon Their Printers by Rush Christopher Hawkins

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RUSH CHRISTOPHER HAWKINS

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FIRST BOOKS AND PRINTERS OF
THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY.



The Press of 1509.

BADIUS (JODOCUS, or JOSSE), surnamed Ascensius, a scholar, Latin poet, and printer, was born at Asche, near Brussels.

He is first mentioned in connection with printing as a corrector of presses for Trechsel and De Vingie, in the city of Lyons, in 1495 or 1497. He remained there until about 1500, when he removed to Paris, where, according to Panzer, in 1502 he established a printing-house, which he called "Frelum Ascensianum." In 1507 he used for the first time, for his device, this engraving of the printing-press as then constructed, which is believed to be the earliest ever made of that subject.

The impression from which this reproduction has been taken is in a work of Laurentius Valla, "De Lingua Latina," issued by Badius, at Paris, in 1510.



The Press of 1520.

The second engraving of the printing-press here reproduced was used by Badius for his device as early as 1520. It will be seen that it differs from the first in several important particulars. In the second, the composing-stick used by the figure in the act of setting types is changed from the right to the left hand; the press shows improved mechanical construction, indicating greater solidity and strength; while the little tools, which were needed by the pressmen for constant use, are inserted in loops attached to the strong cross-beam (the "head") which constitutes the top of the press.

It has been asserted that the figure sitting at the case on the right side of the engraving was intended to represent a woman, instead of a man, as in the first illustration. The head-gear, the change in the style of cutting and form of the costume in the second, may furnish some foundation for such a conjecture.

This second reproduction is from an engraving in an edition of "De Cōtemptu rerum fortuitarum Libri Tres," by Gulielmi Budæi, printed by Badius, at Paris, in 1520.



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By Rush C. Hawkins.



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