Emmett & White
ANTIQUES & INTERIORS

1483 Legenda Aurea Leaf, Georg Husner

£375

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REF: 2875

Description

A remarkable framed 15th-century printed extract from Legenda Aurea - the Golden Legend - by the Dominican writer and Archbishop of Genoa, Jacobus de Voragine. Printed in Strasbourg by Georg Husner in 1483, this rare incunable leaf is an evocative survival from the earliest decades of European printing.

Compiled in the 13th century, Legenda Aurea was one of the most widely read and influential books of the late medieval world. It brings together the lives, miracles, and martyrdoms of saints, arranged according to the church calendar, as well as accounts of major Christian feast days. Its stories provided a rich source for sermons, devotional reading, religious art, and popular imagination throughout Europe.

Printed in clear Gothic type, the text preserves the distinctive visual character of the early printed book. The disciplined rhythm of the letterforms, generous margins, and hand-pressed impression give the page a presence that is at once scholarly, decorative, and deeply historical. Each leaf was produced by hand on a press, making it a tangible link to the transformative moment when manuscript culture and the new technology of print existed side by side.

Georg Husner was an important early printer active in Strasbourg, then one of Europe's leading centres for the production and circulation of incunabula-books printed before 1501. A leaf from his 1483 edition of Legenda Aurea represents not only an important piece of religious and literary history, but also a beautiful example of 15th-century typographic art.

Presented in a frame for display and preservation, this rare extract would make a distinguished addition to a library, study, gallery wall, or collection of early printed books. It is an exceptional object for collectors of incunabula, medieval devotion, the history of printing, and the written word.

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