

DANTE COLLECTION at NOTRE DAME

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In this image we see a page from Gregorio de' Gregoriis da Forli's 1515 edition of Dante's *Divine Comedy*. He, unlike other printers, only produced one edition of Dante's famous work.

Do you see those pointing fingers in the margins? That's how people, during the Renaissance era, marked-up their books. What are the highlighted words? Virgil's words: "... sitting on down or under coverlet, no one comes to fame (47-48)"; and "... a fit request should be followed by the deed in silence" (77-78). Image online, courtesy Notre Dame University Library.

One of the <u>finest rare-book collections</u> in North America, Notre Dame University's Dante Collection includes nearly 3,000 volumes. Almost every edition of *The Divine Comedy*, published in the 16th century, is included. Highlights from a previous <u>exhibition</u> are available on-line. We feature some of the most interesting in this chapter.

- Woodcuts <u>illustrating the *Purgatorio*</u> appear in the 1487 edition produced by Bonino Bonini.
- A beautifully illustrated <u>title page</u> appears in the 1502 Aldine edition.
- Another illumination introduces Dante's *Inferno* in the same <u>Aldine</u> edition.

• In 1515, the Venetian printer Gregorio de' Gregoriis da Forlì included a drawing which depicts perceived moral layers of Hell.

• Long ago, a Renaissance reader of that same edition flagged the text with a "pointing finger" in the margin. Translated, the <u>highlighted words</u> (spoken by Virgil) are:

...sitting on down or under coverlet, no one comes to fame

...a fit request should be followed by the deed in silence

• A French edition of *The Divine Comedy*, published by Guillaume Rovilléé in 1551, contains a portrait of Dante.

• A <u>commentary</u>, published in 1578, includes a study (reflected in separate columns) by two different writers (Landino and Vellutello) of <u>Dante's text</u> (segmented between the columns). It was the first time the work of both commentators appeared in the same book. A reader of this copy <u>profusely underlined</u> Landino's analysis.

Dante fell <u>out of favor</u> in Italy during the second half of the 17th century. Mere disfavor, however, *paled* in comparison to the attacks on Purgatory which the Protestant Reformation brought about.

See Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at: <u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/DANTE-COLLECTION-at-NOTRE-DAME-Purgatory-and-</u>

Dante-s-Divine-Comedy

See Learning Tasks for this story online at:

<u>http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/DANTE-COLLECTION-at-NOTRE-DAME-Purgatory-and-D</u> <u>ante-s-Divine-Comedy</u>

Media Stream



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