

0. DANTE COLLECTION at NOTRE DAME - Story Preface

1. ANCIENT ORIGINS

2. A PLACE CALLED PURGATORY

3. DANTE ALIGHIERI

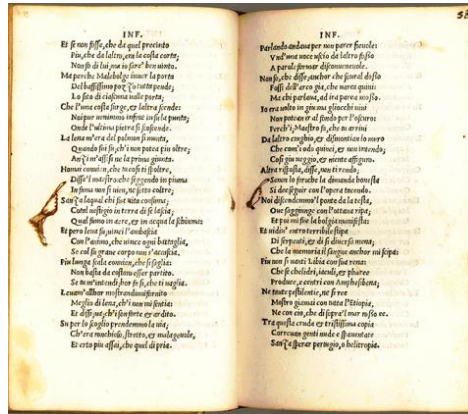
4. PURGATORY ILLUSTRATED

5. ILLUSTRATIONS OF GUSTAVE DORE

6. DANTE COLLECTION at NOTRE DAME

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8. PURGATORY in the MODERN WORLD



In this image we see a page from Gregorio de' Gregoriis da Forlì'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 [finest rare-book collections](#) 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 [exhibition](#) are available on-line. We feature some of the most interesting in this chapter.

- Woodcuts [illustrating the Purgatorio](#) appear in the 1487 edition produced by Bonino Bonini.
- A beautifully illustrated [title page](#) appears in the 1502 Aldine edition.
- Another illumination introduces Dante's *Inferno* in the same [Aldine](#) 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 [highlighted words](#) (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 Rovillé in 1551, contains a [portrait of Dante](#).
- A [commentary](#), published in 1578, includes a study (reflected in separate columns) by two different writers (Landino and Vellutello) of [Dante's text](#) (segmented between the columns). It was the first time the work of both commentators appeared in the same book. A reader of this copy [profusely underlined](#) Landino's analysis.

Dante fell [out of favor](#) 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:](#)

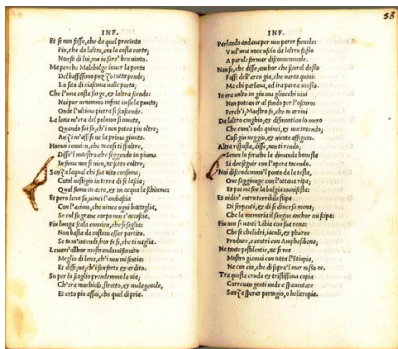
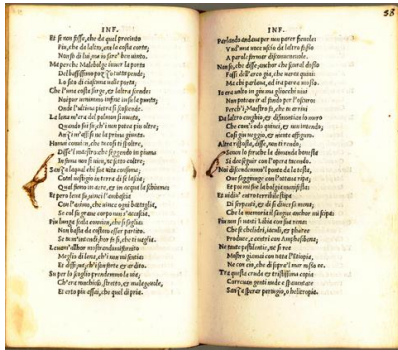
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Dante-s-Divine-Comedy

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Media Stream



Renaissance-Era Method of Highlighting

Image online, via Notre Dame University's website on [Dante's Divine Comedy](#).

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