



BOSTON ATHENÆUM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BOSTON ATHENÆUM SHOWCASES RARE HOLDINGS FROM AND ABOUT VENICE

Winter Gallery Offerings Present Historic Early Printing Selected from Rare Book Collection, Including a First Edition of Marco Polo's Wonders Of The World (1496), Works of the Venetian Scholar-Printer Aldus Manutius, an Illustrated Edition of Dante's Divine Comedy (1493), and Magnificent Examples of Early Modern Graphic Design

Boston, MA — October 30, 2018 — The Boston Athenæum announces a pair of exhibitions open to the public on its first floor: *Stampato a Venezia/Printed in Venice* and *Ecco Venezia/Behold Venice*. Both are on view through February 16, 2019.

Stampato a Venezia/Printed in Venice celebrates Venetian printers' artistry and craftsmanship as the powerful republic rapidly built its dominance in an emerging book trade. The items on display, printed in the prosperous maritime center between 1471-1551, are drawn from the library's special collections and offer visitors a rare opportunity to see historic and beautiful printed objects. On display are editions of works by Aristotle, Dante Alighieri, Marco Polo, Saint Catherine of Siena, and Baldassare Castiglione, among others, as well as 16th-century depictions of the city and exemplars of typographic and design innovations.

Ecco Venezia/Behold Venice! showcases finely printed items that express visitors' fascination with the legendary city. Highlights include writings by Joseph Brodsky and Jan Morris (along with a corrected typescript revealing Morris' working methods) as well as depictions of Venice from a first-edition John Ruskin (1851) alongside evocative modern-day illustrations. The Athenæum takes pride in offering curatorial experiences to young professionals; this show was curated by Rare Books and Manuscripts Research Assistant Adriene Galindo with the advice of John Buchtel, Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections.

"For our first Athenæum exhibitions, Adriene and I chose rare holdings from and about Venice," said Buchtel. "They tell compelling stories about technology and art, manifest their makers' love of beauty and learning, and open a portal to an extraordinary time and place. They also evoke the grand passions and adventures of avid Boston book collectors from the 1840s to the present."

ABOUT THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM

The Boston Athenæum first opened its doors in 1807. Encompassing an expansive circulating library, rich collections of paintings and rare materials for research and enjoyment, quiet spaces



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for reading and reflection, and serving as a forum for lively discourse, the Athenæum is a distinct cultural treasure in the heart of Boston.

Public Hours

Tuesdays 12noon-8pm

Wednesdays through Saturdays 10am-4pm