Renaissance and Reformation
Renaissance et Réforme

Adams, Alison, project dir. Glasgow University Emblem Website. Other

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emblems.arts.gla.ac.uk.

The Glasgow University Emblem Website is hosted by the Stirling Maxwell Centre for the Study of Text/Image Cultures (previously known as the Centre for Emblem Studies) at the University of Glasgow. Having originated from a partnership between the University of Glasgow Digitisation Centre and the Humanities Advanced Technology and Information Institute, it collects the digitization and transcription of a number of important emblem books and provides the possibility to explore texts and images through an effective search engine and a functional system of links.

It is primarily a scholarly site, which aims to offer a useful tool for emblem studies specialists; at the same time, it is also a web space open to the non-specialist public: in fact, each individual page of the site includes a brief presentation text that explains the features and origins of the digitized objects, starting from the first page, where an explanation of "what is an emblem" is given.

The Glasgow University Emblem Website is actually a container, which houses three emblem-based websites, independent in theme but similar in structure and mode of use: French Emblems at Glasgow, Alciato at Glasgow, and the Study and Digitisation of Italian Emblems. These three collections originated as independent initiatives, launched at different times and funded by different institutions, but they are connected to each other by the work of their research teams and by the common reference to the book collections of the University of Glasgow Library. They have been brought together in a common container, but they have not been integrated: therefore, research work can be carried out only individually on each site.

The common element of the three sites is the collection of emblem books of the Stirling Maxwell Collection, the library of Sir William Stirling Maxwell (1818–78) acquired by the University of Glasgow in 1956: it is the world's largest collection of emblem books and emblem-related literature (allegory, mythography, etc.); the library is also the hub of the numerous activities of the Stirling Maxwell Centre. The collection consists of some 2,000 volumes, and its chronological range extends from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Within this collection, some important nuclei are the editions of Andrea Alciato,

a small collection of Italian works, and French emblematic literature. The three different digital collections have been developed around these research clusters, which are now gathered together on the common website.[1]

The three sites were developed in relation to the foundational discussions concerning the practices of digitizing emblems held at international conferences and seminars, especially since 2001, and in parallel with other similar experiences.[2] The international collaboration of specialists who were also active in other projects has been a characteristic structural element of this project, especially with regard to questions of metadata and best practices. This collaboration has aimed at unifying the cataloging methods and, consequently, at making the use of the sites themselves more effective, both for the inexperienced public and for users with strictly scholarly objectives. All the scholars and institutions that have collaborated in various ways with the Glasgow University Emblem Website are explicitly mentioned.

All the books hosted on the three sites have been entirely transcribed in XML, validated through a specially customized version of TEI Lite, and encoded in UTF8. The resulting files were then optimized for free text search through the functions available in XSLT2. The sites' contents are provided using PHP5 XML extensions based on the libxml2 library. Searches are processed and content made available using XSLT. The images are scanned in TIFF format.

French Emblems at Glasgow (emblems.arts.gla.ac.uk/french) originated from the Glasgow study group's keen interest in the French production of emblems. While an older, more basic website on the French corpus remained online for about a decade, the current site was published online in 2006. It was developed by a team led by Alison Adams and thanks to funding from the Arts and Humanities Research Council under the Resource Enhancement Scheme. It includes the digitization of 28 emblem books published in the sixteenth century whose texts were entirely or partially written in French, including the important 1615 edition of Alciato by Jean de Tournes. Twenty-six books belong to the Stirling Maxwell Library, and two come from the Bodleian Library at Oxford and the Bibliothèque Mazarine in Paris. The series includes four editions of Alciato (Paris, 1536; Lyon, 1549; Paris, 1584; Geneva-Cologny, 1615) and all of the most important books of the French emblematic production:

1. The emblem books from the Glasgow Emblem initiatives are also available through Emblematica Online. See Mesa in this issue.

2. See Wade, "Introduction," 1; Black, "We've Come a Long Way," 4.

Aneau, Boissard, Bèze, Corrozet, Costeau, Gueroult, Junius, La Perrière, Montenay, Paradin, Sambucus, and Scève.

From the home page, a menu provides access to the list of emblem books, a help page, a preferences page, and a search bar. From the list of emblem books, it is possible to access the individual digital facsimiles: each book is accompanied by an introduction, which gives basic information on the work itself, its author, its different editions, and its illustrations, including a concise secondary bibliography. All volumes are fully digitized and transcribed; in addition, the Latin texts are translated into English. The preferences page allows the user to determine what type of content to display in the search results: translations of Latin texts, underlined authority names, or emblem thumbnails. The search engine allows users to choose between several options (Fig. 1). First, users can select for the language of the volume (Latin, French, or English) and the section of the text in which to perform the search (the *motto*, the primary text, the secondary text—both authorial and scholarly comment—or all these elements together). Second, users can search through a text for a keyword or a proper name. A further search can be made by poetic typology, choosing meter and type of versification. A search through the Iconclass categories is also available.

Alciato at Glasgow (emblems.arts.gla.ac.uk/alciato) is a direct extension of the French project and was funded by the British Academy. Entirely based on the volumes of the Stirling Maxwell Collection, it offers 22 different editions of Alciato's *Emblematum liber* from 1531 to 1631 (four of these books also feature on the French emblems site), digitized and transcribed page by page. The texts in Latin are followed by an English translation, while those in other modern languages are only transcribed. A search engine, with the same characteristics as that of the French emblem site, allows users to navigate within the texts and to search by keyword, authorities, Iconclass category, and poetic type. The digitization of each volume is opened by a brief presentation of the work and of the edition under consideration and also includes an essential secondary bibliography. The site is also integrated with a page that offers some research tools specifically related to Alciato's work. The comparative index of emblems and titles in the editions published between 1529 and 1550, edited by Denis Drysdall, is available. In addition, the project provides Claude Mignault's theoretical writings on the emblems as a digital facsimile and a transcribed critical edition. The table of concordances by Mason Tung and a basic catalogue of the emblems are also available. More recently, Mason Tung's *The Variorum*

Edition of Alciato's Emblemata (2014) has been hosted on the website to facilitate comparative textual and visual analyses between the different editions of the book. The use of these two sites is intuitive and allows for both very simple searches and more in-depth and refined investigations. Each book can be easily browsed, both in its digitized and transcribed versions. The search by keywords leads to a more or less extensive list of records, highlighted by the thumbnails of the emblems (Fig. 2). Clicking on the thumbnails leads to the page with the transcription of the emblem (Fig. 3). The latter features the following elements: the text (with English translation, if in Latin; notes in English; and indication of handwritten notes on the page, if any), the image of the emblem, a link to the scan of the entire page (from which it is then possible to continue to browse the digitized version of the book), a list of related emblems, and the list of the Iconclass categories that have been applied to the emblem itself. This last element is clickable and refers users to a list of all the other emblems on the site tagged with the same Iconclass categories. The image of the emblem is clickable and opens in larger resolution on a new page. There is no specific command that allows the download of the images and digitized pages, but the site does not prohibit saving them in low resolution and in JPG format.

Fig. 1. French Emblems at Glasgow, search page. https://www.emblems.arts. gla.ac.uk/french/search.php. © Glasgow University.
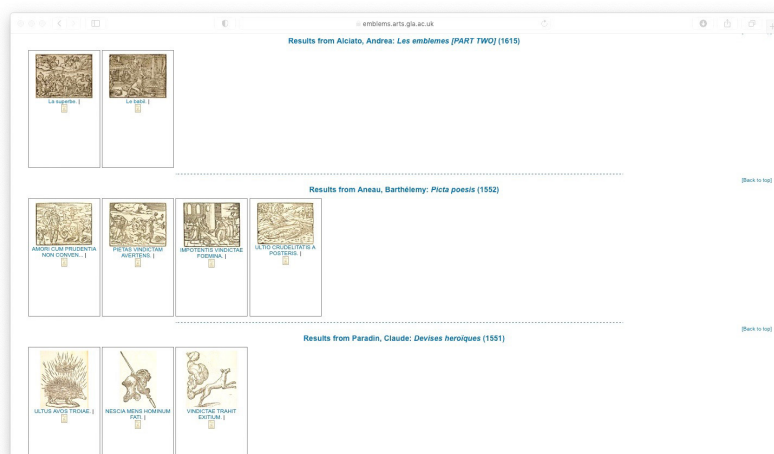
Fig. 2. French Emblems at Glasgow, list of results of simple search by keyword
"revenge" (detail). https://www.emblems.arts.gla.ac.uk/french/search.php
?sub=99&new=y&lang=0&text=revenge&icon=&names=&v_lang=0&v_
el=0&metre=0&lines=&stanza=. © Glasgow University.

In a very short time, a user, even a non-expert one, can be led to a wide
range of results by the very effective network of links among the various em-
blems, while the specialist scholar can use both the search engine and the criti-
cal tools attached to the site to conduct in-depth investigations. The two sites
allow textual, thematic, and iconographic research, providing a quick compari-
son between different editions of a book or between different books containing
similar or related themes. The multilingual dictionary applied to the search en-
gine also makes it possible to investigate more deeply the presence of a specific
concept or idea within the texts, even in consideration of the different nuances
possible in each language. The Iconclass categories and the scanned images add
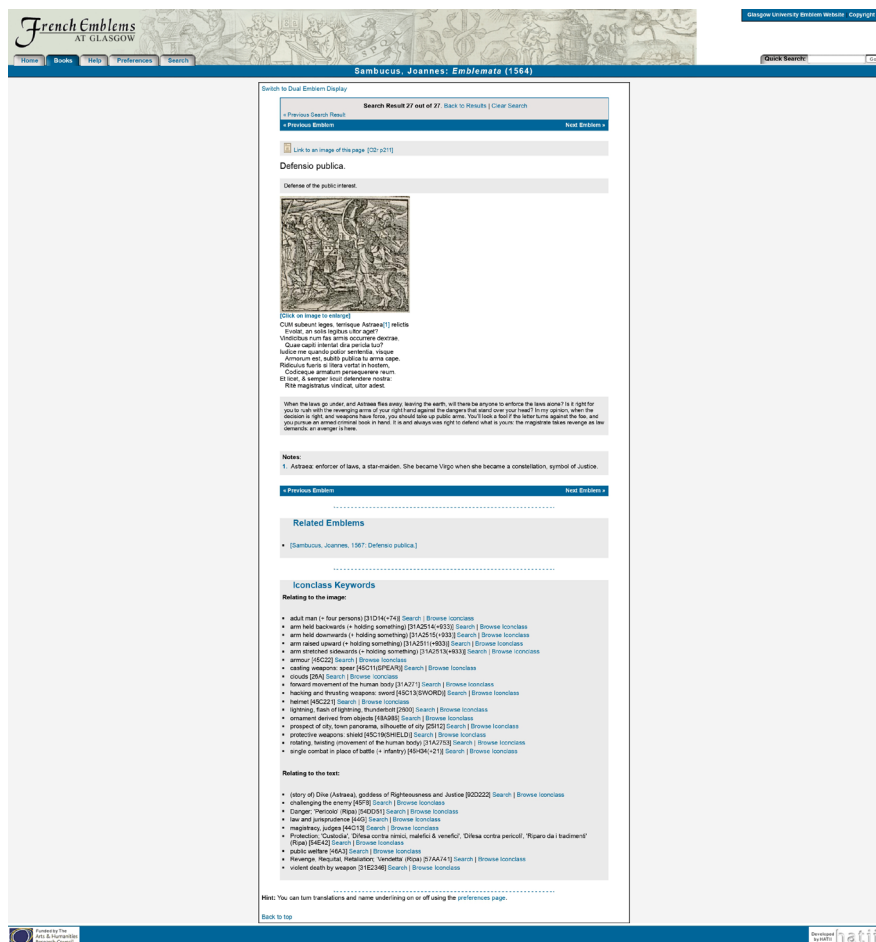further elements for the comparative investigation of the illustrations.

Fig. 3. French Emblems at Glasgow, example of a transcribed page from Joannes Sambucus, *Emblemata* (Antwerp: Christophe Plantin, 1594): *Defensio publica*. https://www.emblems.arts.gla.ac.uk/french/emblem. php?id=FSAb155. © Glasgow University.

The Study and Digitisation of Italian Emblems (italianemblems.arts.gla. ac.uk) stems from the Study and Digitisation of Italian Emblem Books project of the Stirling Maxwell Collection of the Glasgow University Library project, directed by Donato Mansueto and financed under the EU's Sixth Framework

Programme for activities in the field of research, technological development, and demonstration through a Marie Curie Intra-European Fellowship (2002–6). The site offers the digitalization and transcription of seven books published during the sixteenth century and characterized by the use of the Italian language including Marquale's *Diverse imprese*, the first Italian translation of Alciato's *Emblematum liber*; the *Symbolicarum quaestionum* by Bocchi; Giovio's *Dialogo*; Pittoni and Dolce's *Le imprese*; and Contile's *Ragionamento*.

The site has a structure similar to the previous two, although there are some notable differences. The initial menu has slightly different sections, though offering similar materials and information. The search engine has a less structured functionality: it allows the search by keywords, even on single parts of the volumes (motto, text, etc.), and a search in the Iconclass categories, which is, however, slightly less extensive than that of the other two sites. But the same search engine also offers a list of the proper names that appear in the various Italian emblem books, including the owners of the individual *imprese* mentioned, allowing a quick and immediate search for this type of data. On this website the digitizations and transcriptions are not accompanied at the bottom of the page by tools such as the Iconclass notations or brief notes to the text. The Iconclass categories appear in the list of results but are not in a clickable format and therefore cannot be used automatically as a starting point for further search extensions. The Study and Digitisation of Italian Emblems site is therefore less immediate than the other two sites but nonetheless offers an easy-to-access tool for research and navigation through literature that would otherwise be difficult to find and study.

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