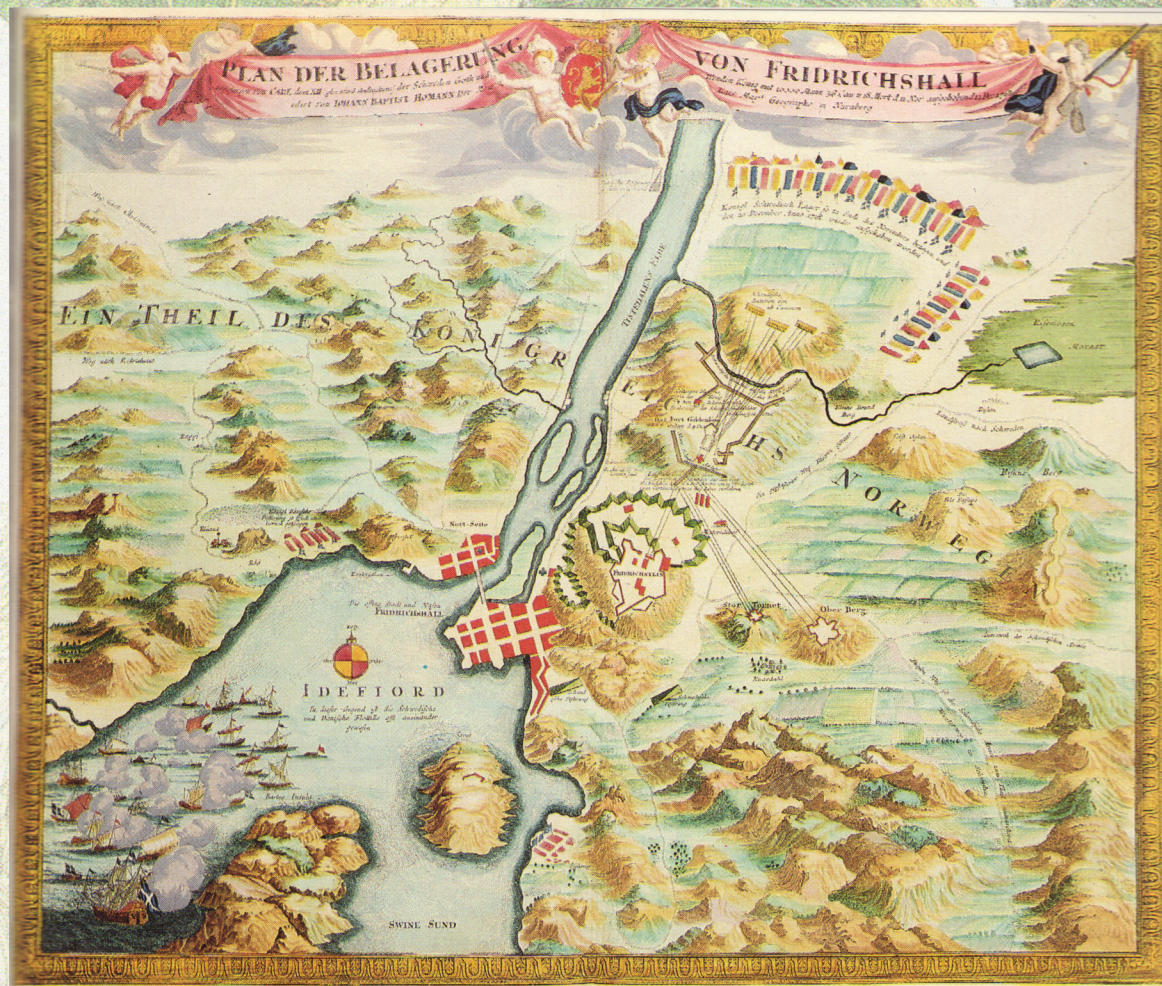


Department of Germanic Studies
School of Languages, Literatures and
Cultural Studies
Strand II: 'The Construction of Europe'
Memory and History

The Fagel Project

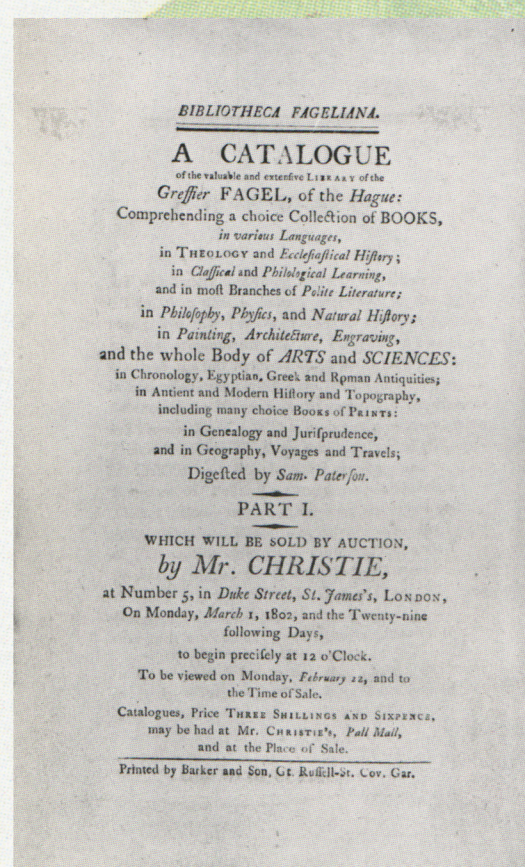
Lot 7593

A Collection of Historical and Political Tracts, in Number upwards of 10,000, interesting, in some Measure, to every Kingdom and State in Europe, but more especially to the United Provinces of the Netherlands, comprehending the Rise, Progress and Political Efforts of that Distinguished Republic in the 16th and 17th Centuries, during which Periods, scarcely a printed scrap of Political Acumen has escaped the vigilance of the Collector; written in various Languages, Lat. Fr. Flem. &c. but chiefly in Dutch; bound in 243 vol. small 4to, with an accurate Catalogue of the Contents. A Collection, when we consider the Remoteness of the Times, and the immense scarcity of many of them, such as no Diligence nor scarcely any Expence could obtain, is certainly deserving a Place in the first Public Library



The East Pavilion of the Old Library houses the Fagel Collection – the books, pamphlets and maps amassed by a powerful Dutch family by the end of the 18th century. The Fagels having fallen on hard times as a result of the Napoleonic Wars, the entire library was to be auctioned by Christie's of London in March 1802. Through "Acumen" and "Timely Intervention" Trinity College bought the entire collection before it went to auction.

The description of one single lot from the original auction catalogue, quoted above, gives an indication of the immense wealth of this resource. And lot 9061 begins: 'A fine Collection of Maps and Plans, in Number about 2000...'; these range from the states of Europe through Turkey and Palestine to the Dutch East Indies and on to North and South America. And yet – little appreciated within College and virtually unknown elsewhere – it is a resource which has ever only been examined sporadically and unsystematically. Indeed large sections of the collection have never even been properly catalogued.



The Department of Germanic Studies is preparing applications to Dutch, Belgian and Irish sources for funding for two postgraduate students or post-doctoral fellows to study the Fagel collection. The persons appointed would be expected either to study the collection itself, say, from the point of view of the history of the book or social history, or to carry out research projects based on its holdings, in areas such as literature, history of science, political history, cartography, or history of ideas. The next stage in raising the profile of the collection is the symposium which is being held in the College in September 2008.

