

*Shakespeare's Sonnets*

Cambridge, Mass.: George D. Sproul, 1901.

Illuminated by Nestore Leoni

Bound by Trautz-Bauzonnet Bindery

Gift of Mary Tisdell in memory of Kenneth Tisdell

Also highly influenced by manuscripts and early printed books, this set of two volumes was printed on vellum and illuminated by Nestore Leoni. The lavish use of gold, the rich colors, and the minute detail in the foliate decoration recall the luxury books produced for wealthy patrons during the Renaissance. Only eighteen copies of this book were printed. Because the initials were hand-painted, no two are alike.

Both the outer and inner covers of these books are covered with green morocco leather and heavily ornamented with gold tooling. The inlaid decorations of white, brown, and lavender leather display an exceptional degree of craftsmanship and skill on the part of the binders. The books were issued with specially made ivory moiré silk boxes that protect their finely crafted covers.