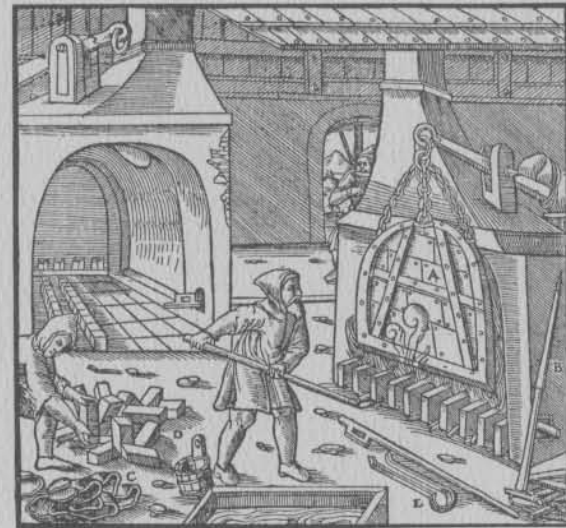


The
Robert E. Gross Collection
of Rare Books in
Business & Economics



UCLA Graduate School of Business Administration Library
1965

THE ROBERT E. GROSS COLLECTION

The Robert E. Gross Collection of Rare Books in Business and Economics, made possible by generous grants from the Lockheed Leadership Fund and Mrs. Robert E. Gross, is named for the Founder of the Lockheed Aircraft Corporation, who was, at his death, the Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer. This recently established collection already numbers several treasures among its acquisitions.

The first purchase for the collection, made two years ago, is perhaps the rarest and most valuable of all books in the field, Joseph de la Vega's *Confusión de Confusiones* (Amsterdam, 1688). Only six copies are known to exist, three of which are in this country: one in the Kress Collection of the Baker Library of the Harvard Graduate School of Business Administration, one at the New York Public Library which was on exhibit as one of the Library's "Sixty-Four Treasures" during the recent World's Fair, and the copy at UCLA.

The *Confusión de Confusiones* is an account of the first stock exchange in the modern sense. As a businessman himself, de la Vega was able to make vivid and authoritative comments on early stock and share dealing.

Another rare book in the collection is a fine copy of *De Re Metallica* (1556), a treatise on the mining industry by Georgius Agricola, a doctor whose life-long passion was metallurgy. For some two hundred years, this was the only authoritative book on the subject, and thus it has great interest for geologists, engineers, and chemists, as well as for bibliophiles and businessmen. The work is illustrated with more than two hundred and fifty superb woodcuts. An admirable translation from the Latin text was made by President and Mrs. Herbert Hoover in 1912.

A recent purchase was Robert Hooke's copy of John Napier's *Rabdologiae, seu Numerationis per Virgulas libri duo*, a fine copy of the first edition of 1617 (it was translated into English in 1667). Napier, a distinguished Scottish mathematician best known as the inventor of logarithms, described in this book an ingenious primitive calculating machine using "ten mutually adjustable calculating rods," or "Napier's bones," for mechanical multiplication and division.

The Gross Collection now numbers some two hundred volumes, among which are several interesting manuscripts of eighteenth-century account books and traders' journals.