

Lucian, of Samosata

c. 125 – after 180

Le menteur, ou l'incrédule de Lucian [translated by Louis Meigret].

Paris, Christian Wechel, 1548

QUARTO (205 × 145 mm), (30)ff. signed A–F⁴ G⁶ and paginated 1–59 (1). Printer's device on title-page, smaller version on folio G6 verso.

PROVENANCE comte Henri Chandon de Briailles (1898–1937), his exlibris *au C.te Chandon de Briailles* on free endpaper, and armorial supralibros — Tajan, 'Bibliothèques des Comtes Henri et François Chandon de Briailles', Paris, 25 November 2003, lot 84

Binding slightly warped, otherwise a fine copy.

BINDING early twentieth-century vellum, arms of Chandon de Briailles stamped in black on covers.

ONLY EDITION of a translation of Lucian's dialogue *Ψευδοπύλη* (Philopseudes seu Incredulus), the first book to be printed according to a system of phonetic spelling devised by the translator, Louis Meigret (c. 1500–c. 1558), founder of linguistic studies in France.¹ In the preceding 'Ecritture q'adrant à la proloçion François: e les rézons' (pp.3–29), Meigret makes his argument for abandonment of traditional orthography. His publication stirred up a *querelle* that involved several of the country's leading literary men and whose dust has not quite settled yet.²

Six copies are known to the writer

- Grenoble, Bibliothèque Municipale, E.12584 • London, British Library, 720.f.13³ • Lyon, Bibliothèque Municipale, Rés. 492.657 (ex-libris Pierre Adamoli) • Paris,

¹ Nina Catach, *L'Orthographe française à l'époque de la Renaissance* (Geneva 1968), pp.92–95. Susan Baddeley, *L'Orthographe française au temps de la Réforme* (Geneva 1993), pp.114–121, 398–401.

² The 'Ecriture' is edited by Franz Josef Hausmann, *Le Traité de la Grammaire française*, *Lingua et traditio* 5 (Tübingen 1980), pp.143–159.

³ British Library, *STC of books printed in France* (London 1924), p.291.

Bibliothèque nationale de France, Z 3736 • Paris, Bibliothèque Mazarine, two copies⁴

One of these, or yet another copy, is described by Charles Nodier, *Description raisonnée d'une jolie collection de livres* (Paris 1844), no. 186.

⁴ Located by Franz Josef Hausmann, *Louis Meigret, humaniste et linguiste*, *Lingua et traditio*, 6 (Tübingen 1980), p.263: 'Bibliographie chronologique et critique des oeuvres de Meigret', no. 13 (shelfmarks '111 99' and '113 13'); cf. Christiane Lauvergnat-Gagnière, *Lucien de Samosate et le Lucianisme en France au 16e siècle: athéisme et polémique*, *Travaux d'humanisme et Renaissance*, 227 (Geneva 1988), p.417 no. 4006 (one copy, 'II, 199').