Plato: ‘Opera omnia’ (Complete Works)
Reflections on the various works in the exhibit

**Imprints and Impressions: Milestones in Human Progress**

Highlights from the Rose Rare Book Collection, Sept. 29-Nov. 9, 2014
Roesch Library, University of Dayton

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Plato

*Opera omnia (Complete Works)*

- Venice: Aldus, 1513
- Second printing

Plato (428–347 BC) was the first of all the ancient philosophers to be translated and broadcast by the printing press. His central conception of a universe of ideas, of which material objects are imperfect forms, and his ethical code based on action according to human nature, developed by education … fit with the philosophical, religious, and political thought of Western Europe in the fifteenth century. Known as the most fertile

of philosophic writers, Plato, student of Socrates, infused his dialogues with two dominant impulses: a love of truth and a passion for human improvement. While nowhere is a definite system laid down, it has been truly said that the germs of all ideas can be found in Plato.

The *Opera* seen here is the first edition of Plato’s complete works in Greek.

—Excerpted from *Printing and the Mind of Man* (1983)