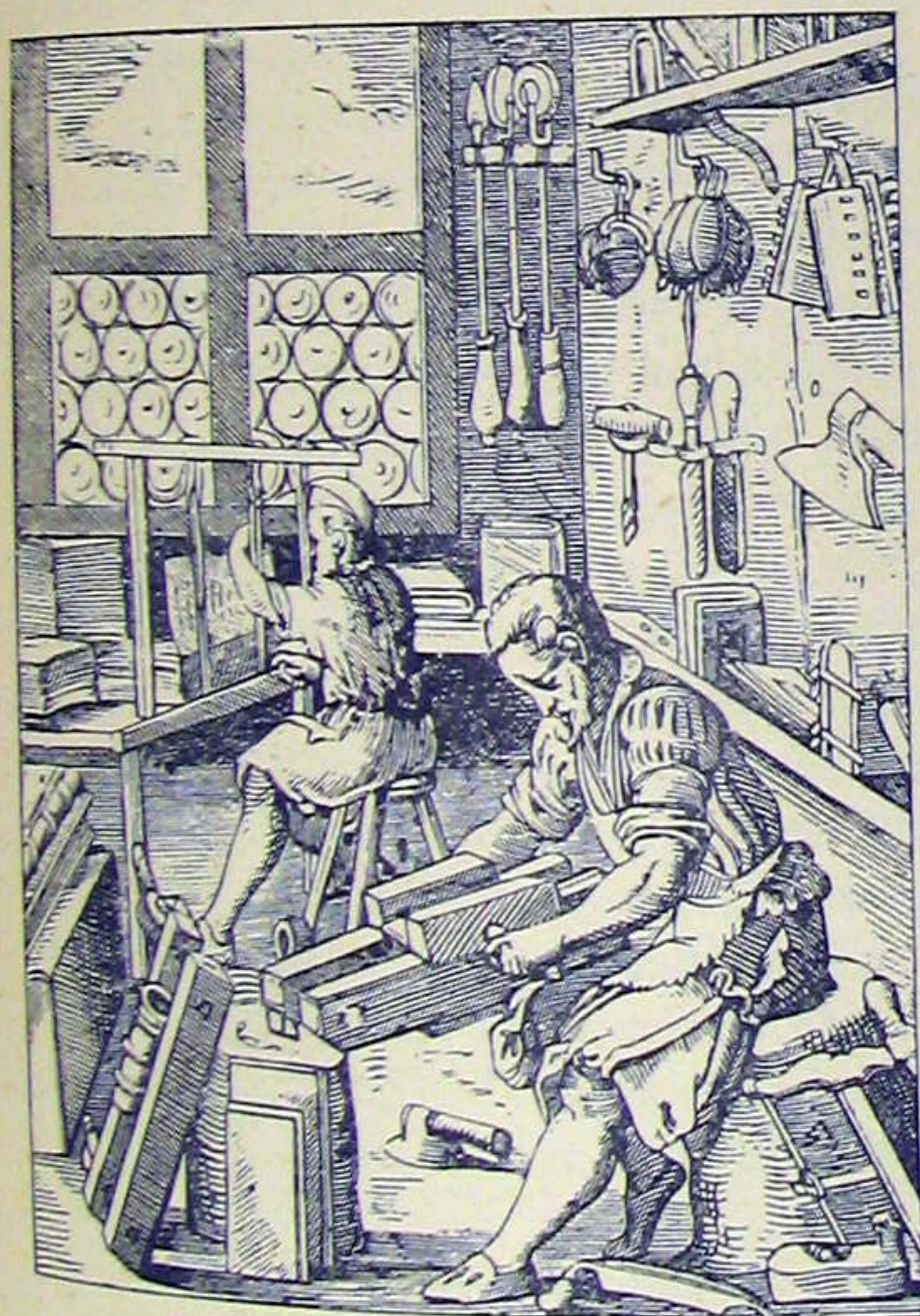




Teobaldo Manuzio, known as Aldus :

THE FIRST PRINTER AND BINDER OF VENICE.



THE BOOKBINDER. BY JOST AMMON.

ITALIANS of the fifteenth century could not take up a handicraft without making it into an art, and German printing became refined the moment it touched Italian ground. For this refinement we are indebted to Teobaldo, or Aldo Manuzio (born 1447 at Sermoneta, near Velletri), whose printed works are so beautiful that to this day Aldine editions are prized as precious works of art by collectors.

Aldo was a man of education ; Gasparino da Verona was his Latin master, and Guarino taught him Greek. Lorenzo de' Medicis' friend, Pico da Mirandola, in 1482, made Aldo tutor to his nephews, Alberto and Leonardo Pio, Lords of Capri. Alberto Pio, under his training, became a great lover of literature, and when Aldo conceived the idea of starting a printing press, Alberto Pio advanced the necessary funds and gave him a house in Venice, near the church of Sant' Agostino. Here Aldo found his mission, and became the benefactor of a world greedy for classics, by supplying large numbers of beau-

tifully printed books at prices within the reach of even students. His pocket series of classic authors, of which *Virgil* was published in 1501, sold for about two shillings each of our money. These, we suppose, were issued in parchment covers.

