The first edition of the *Naembouck*
by Joos Lambrecht (1546)

Philologists and lexicographers in the Netherlands are familiar with the *Naembouck* by the Ghent printer Joos Lambrecht; an edition of the text, with commentary by René Verdegycn,1 was published in 1946. This was based on the only known copy (in the Museum Plantin-Moretus at Antwerp) of the second edition of the *Naembouck*, printed by Hendrik van den Keere at Ghent in 1562. It was a source of great regret to Professor Verdegycn that he did not have the first edition at his disposal—though, as it happens, even in the 16th century the book seems to have been a rarity: ‘...already unobtainable for many years, not to be found and much sought after...’2—It will therefore be a matter of great rejoicing to philologists and bibliographers alike, that a copy of the first edition has recently come to light.3

A year or two ago, and purely by chance, Professor W. Hellinga came across a copy of this supposedly lost edition in the library of the Groot-Seminaric at Warmond in the Netherlands, which library is now incorporated in that of the Roman Catholic Theological College in Amsterdam. In anticipation of an edition of the text with introduction and commentary,4 we would like here to draw attention to this important discovery, to give a description of the edition, and to supply one or two particulars about the copy.

The title runs as follows:


2 In the foreword by Van den Keere to the reissue of 1562; see Verdegycn, p. 5.

3 Both first and second editions were unknown to Vanderhaeghen.

4 Professor Hellinga, who was given a free hand by the owner of the copy, judged that the task of editing it could best be carried out by a colleague from the Southern Netherlands, namely Professor W. Pée, who will be responsible for editing the text proper, in association with the writer of the present article, who will carry out the bibliographical research. For this loyal and generous gesture by Professor Hellinga we are immensely grateful.
The printer’s preface, from which we learn that he was also the author of this dictionary, is addressed from ‘onzer walscher schole’ (our Walloon school) at Ghent. In addition to being a printer, schoolmaster and linguist, Lambrecht (+ 1556) was also well-known as a typecutter, engraver and poet.1 Naturally he printed his own dictionary and – though not a bookseller by trade – sold copies of it. Distribution of the book was for the most part entrusted to established publisher-booksellers; full details are found in the colophon: Men vindt deze Vocabul(a)ers te coope, te Ghend by Joos Lambrecht Letterstenker: T’handwerk(a)erpen, naest onzer vrouwen pand, by Henric Goirl, ende onder onzer / vrouwen torre, by Jan Roelands, ende Cornelis vande(n) Kerckhove: T’hamsterdale(m) = // me by Berthelmeeus Jacobsen: Te Brugghe by Symon vander Meulen: En(de) T’y = // pre by Jaspar vanden Steene, ende Jan Waghemens. // (This dictionary may be bought, at Ghent from Joos Lambrecht Typecutter; at Antwerp, next to ‘Our Lady’s Church’, from Hendrik van Goorle, and under ‘Our Lady’s Tower’, from Jan Roelants, and Cornelis vanden Kerckhove; at Amsterdam from Bartholomeus Jacobsz; at Bruges from Simon vander Meulen; and at Ypres from Jaspar vanden Steen and Jan Waghemens.) Some of these men were printers as well, others combined bookselling and bookbinding. Such a widespread distribution network is not very usual in the Low Countries in the 16th century. Lambrecht himself employed it on at least one other occasion,2 and we find a few other printers doing the same.

Lambrecht’s edition of the Naembouck is of quarto format with 76 unnumbered leaves, signed A–T⁴. The type area measures 164 x 120 mm., the page itself 207 x 148 mm. Except for the preliminary pages the text is set in two columns of 35 lines. The running titles, one per column, consist of the first two letters of the first words. Two gothic typefaces have been used: a textura on various sizes of body, and a bastarda for the French words. In addition, the first line of French (large-bodied) in the title is set in roman.

The copy is interleaved with blank leaves, four per gathering, as a rule after every printed leaf.3 Both the printed and the blank leaves contain annotations, all in the same precise, contemporary hand. The paper used for interleaving bears a different watermark from the kinds of paper used by the printer. The limp parchment binding – presumably contemporary – with folding flap on the

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2 For a book illustrating the current coinage published in 1544; see Bibliographie gantoise, I, p. 76, No. 72b.

3 A blank leaf is missing between R and Rij and between Tij and Tij.