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## THE MORGAN LIBRARY & MUSEUM ADDS SIGNIFICANT NEW WORKS TO ITS DRAWINGS AND PRINTED BOOKS COLLECTIONS

**New York, NY, December 24, 2015** — A beautifully preserved, large-scale drawing by the Florentine Renaissance artist Jacopo Zucchi (ca. 1540-1596) and a masterwork of English literature, Ariosto's *Orlando Furioso*, (1591) were recently acquired by the Morgan Library & Museum.

Zucchi's drawing, *The Foundation of Cosmopoli*, is the Morgan's most important purchase of an Italian Renaissance drawing in more than ten years. The copy of *Orlando Furioso*, an epic chivalric poem originally written in Italian, is one of a few printed on extra-large paper and is of



Jacopo Zucchi (ca. 1540-1596), *The Foundation of Cosmopoli*, 1565, Pen and brown ink and wash over black chalk, 254 x 332 mm; 10 x 13 1/16 in. Purchased in honor of S. Parker Gilbert with the Fairfax Murray Society Fund, with additional contributions from the Fellows Acquisition Fund, Seymour and Helen-Mae Askin, Diane A. Nixon, the Sunny Crawford von Bülow Fund 1978, Andrea Woodner, Herbert Kasper, Lawrence and Lucy Ricciardi, Janet Mavec, the Gilbert & Ildiko Butler Family Foundation, and Robert Loper. The Morgan Library & Museum.

uncommon quality with its forty-six, hand-colored, full-page illustrations in superb condition.

“The Morgan is delighted to have acquired these two masterpieces,” said Colin B. Bailey, director of the museum. “They not only represent important additions to our drawings and printed books collections, but also underscore the vitality of the Morgan’s acquisitions policy as we continue to look for opportunities to build and refine our holdings. We are deeply grateful to the donors and supporters of the Morgan who made these purchases possible.”

*The Foundation of Cosmopoli* is a preparatory study for a painting that decorated the Salone del Cinquecento in Florence’s famed Palazzo Vecchio. Depicting Cosimo de’ Medici on horseback, consulting with an architect about the plans for the new fortified city of Cosmopoli on the island of Elba, the composition signified Florence’s dominion over the Tyrrhenian Sea, which is shown as the allegorical figure at lower left. Made on the occasion of the 1565 wedding of Francesco de’ Medici to Johanna of Austria, the work represented the Medici ambition to figure in pan-European politics.

*The Foundation of Cosmopoli* was purchased by the Morgan in honor of longtime board president S. Parker Gilbert. It was acquired with funds from the Fairfax Murray Society Fund, with additional contributions from the Fellows Acquisition Fund, Seymour and Helen-Mae Askin, Diane A. Nixon, the Sunny Crawford von Bülow Fund 1978, Andrea Woodner, Herbert Kasper, Lawrence and Lucy Ricciardi, Janet Mavec, the Gilbert & Ildiko Butler Family Foundation, and Robert Loper.

The copy of Ariosto’s *Orlando Furioso* had been part of the Robert S Pirie library which was sold at auction at Sotheby’s on December 2. Closely associated with the Morgan in his lifetime, Robert Pirie (1934-2015) built an extraordinary collection of Francis Bacon, John Donne, and other English authors in the era before and after William Shakespeare. This acquisition has been made possible by a gift from Katharine J. Rayner in memory of S. Parker Gilbert.



Title page. Lodovico Ariosto (1474–1533), *Orlando Furioso in English Heroical Verse*, translated by John Harington (London: Richard Field, 1591). Gift of Katharine J. Rayner in memory of S. Parker Gilbert. The Morgan Library & Museum. Photograph © Sotheby’s.

It is said that Queen Elizabeth ordered John Harington, her “saucy godson,” to translate the nearly forty thousand lines of verse in *Orlando Furioso* as punishment for having shown one of the poem’s more ribald episodes to the ladies of the court. The copy now at the Morgan belonged to Arabella Stuart, a high-born lady-in-waiting who was imprisoned in the Tower of London for having married without royal permission. At the museum it joins the first edition of 1516 and two copies of the 1584 edition with engravings by Girolamo Porro, whose designs were the basis of Harington’s illustrations.

### **Organization and Sponsorship**



The programs of the Morgan Library & Museum are made possible with public funds from the New York City Department of Cultural Affairs in partnership with the City Council, and by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of Governor Andrew Cuomo and the New York State Legislature.

### **The Morgan Library & Museum**

The Morgan Library & Museum began as the private library of financier Pierpont Morgan, one of the preeminent collectors and cultural benefactors in the United States. Today, more than a century after its founding in 1906, the Morgan serves as a museum, independent research library, music venue, architectural landmark, and historic site. In October 2010, the Morgan completed the first-ever restoration of its original McKim building, Pierpont Morgan’s private library, and the core of the institution. In tandem with the 2006 expansion project by architect Renzo Piano, the Morgan now provides visitors unprecedented access to its world-renowned collections of drawings, literary and historical manuscripts, musical scores, medieval and Renaissance manuscripts, printed books, photography, and ancient Near Eastern seals and tablets.

### **General Information**

The Morgan Library & Museum  
225 Madison Avenue, at 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3405  
212.685.0008  
[www.themorgan.org](http://www.themorgan.org)  
**Just a short walk from Grand Central and Penn Station**

### **Hours**

Tuesday–Thursday, 10:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.; extended Friday hours, 10:30 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.; closed Mondays, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year’s Day. The Morgan closes at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve and New Year’s Eve.

### **Admission**

\$18 for adults; \$12 for students, seniors (65 and over), and children (under 16); free to members and children 12 and under accompanied by an adult. Admission is free on Fridays from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is not required to visit the Morgan Shop, Café, or Dining Room.