


Music Printing.

 THE space available for the display of printed music in the Exhibition was necessarily limited; therefore, although a complete collection of the kind should, at a glance, present an exhaustive history of modern music, it was found necessary to limit the books to a selection of the rarest musical publications. Several owners of music libraries most generously placed their treasures at the disposal of the Committee, one of the results being that it was possible to form a special section which made a fair representation of the history of music-printing.

The art of printing from movable types was invented in or about the year 1450, and the earliest examples of printed music appeared from twenty to thirty years later.

The earliest specimen exhibited, and the first example known, is contained in Gerson's 'Collectorium super Magnificat.' This volume is a long theological work and contains only five notes of music. It was printed at Esslingen, in Germany, in 1473, and thus formed the foundation of music printing.

The next specimen of printed music is found in Franciscus Niger's 'Grammatica Brevis,' dated 1480; it is the first