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Alberti, no. 29

Travel & Americana (#1-12)
Science & Medicine (#13-25)
Art, Architecture & Humanities (#26-44)
The Transmission, Survival and Legacy
Of New World Discovery for Over a Century
The 1552 Woodcut Terrestrial and Celestial Globe Gores
Of François Demongenet
Among the Earliest Dated Globe Gores to Depict America

1. [Americana] / [Map] / DEMONGENET, François. [Set of Terrestrial and Celestial Globe Gores]. France (?), Demongenet, 1552. Two woodcut leaves [29.6 x 18.8 cm the terrestrial gores, 29.0 x 15.1 cm the celestial gores]. Contemporary annotation in margin of terrestrial gores, woodcuts in fine, dark strikes. $45,000

Extremely rare first and only edition of the French physician and mathematician François Demongenet’s important 1552 set of woodcut celestial and terrestrial globe gores, the starting point for what Dekker termed, “the Demongenet tradition in globe making” (p. 69) which would prevail for more than a century. These woodcut gores (for globes measuring 8.75 cm in diameter) quickly inspired several engraved versions which in turn spread Demongenet’s influence across Europe. Separately issued gores of this sort were ephemeral by their physical nature and because of the rapid advances in geographical knowledge made during the Age of Exploration, making their survival today remarkable. Only a handful of globe gores were printed between the famous Waldseemüller gores of c. 1507 – the first to depict America – and Demongenet’s woodcut of 1552, which is unusual for being precisely dated in the block.

SEE FULL DESCRIPTION
Official Handbook on Silver, Gold and Precious Stones
Metallurgical Assaying, American Bullion
And Spanish Monetary Policy

Quillatador, de la plata, oro, y piedras, conforme a las leyes reales, y para declaracion de ellas. Madrid, G. Drouy, 1598. 8vo. With woodcut arms, author portrait, monogram, and device, and with manuscript diagrams of diamonds in margins of the text. Bound in 17th-century mottled calf.
$18,000

This rare handbook by the renowned sculptor-goldsmith-theorist Juan de Arfe y Villafañe (1535-1600) presents the most influential information on the assaying of silver, gold, gemstones and a variety of other commodities published on the Iberian Peninsula during the 16th and 17th centuries. The work is important for our understanding of monetary practices during the ‘Spanish Price Revolution,’ an era of high inflation caused by the large influx of gold and silver transported to Europe by the Spanish treasure fleet from the New World, principally Mexico and Peru.
The Earliest Acquirable English Map of North America

3. [Americana] / [Map] / BRIGGS, H. The North part of America...
London, 1625. 11.4 x 14 inches. $18,000

A very nice example of this rare and fundamentally important map, the earliest English map specifically of North America that is realistically acquirable. The Briggs was also among the very earliest maps to include the key place names associated with early English colonization: Plymouth, New England, Cape Cod, Martha’s Vineyard, Jamestown, Henricus, and “Hudson’s River.” In the west, the Briggs is the first map aside from the Goos to include Sante Fe, Monterey, and San Diego.
The Map That Launched American Cartography
“The First Map Engraved in America
To Show the Ohio Country” (Streeter)
“The Prototype … for the Next Half Century” (Stevens)

4. [Americana] / [Map] / EVANS, Lewis / FRANKLIN, Benjamin (printer) / TURNER, James (engraver). A General Map of the Middle British Colonies, in America... Philadelphia, 1755. Folding map in full original color, 21 x 27.1 inches, in original marbled-paper wrapper with “Evans Analysis of Map of The Middle British Colonies” in manuscript on front cover. $225,000

The very rare, first state of the first edition of a map called by Schwartz and Ehrenberg, “the most ambitious performance of its kind undertaken in America up to that time.” Printed by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia, the Evans map was a landmark in cartographic printing in North America, far exceeding in quality anything that had previously appeared. According to Sabin, most known copies of the map are uncolored. The present copy, however, is one of the finest known examples in full original color issued with the pamphlet.
A gorgeous example, in vibrant original color, of the first full folio-size map specifically of North America and the first overall produced in the Netherlands. Published in a single edition, De Jode’s North America map is scarce on the market and very rare in full, unoxidized original color as here.
An Impeccable Example of Ortelius’ America
In Vibrant Original Color


$8500

An impeccable example with vibrant original color of Ortelius’ second map (though third plate) of the Americas. It improved upon its predecessor in many important ways, most apparently in the removal of the large bulge on the west coast of South America. Perhaps the most intriguing change, however, qualifies this work as the first acquirable printed map to delineate the Chesapeake Bay, predating the 1590 White/De Bry of Virginia, which is usually accorded this distinction.
Borba de Moraes: “Only two copies are known of this printed document … The rarity of the document is explained by the fact that it is a petition addressed to the King of Spain through the Council of the Indies; very few copies of such petitions were printed, for distribution only to the members of the Council and not to be put on sale. In this petition Simao Estacio da Silveira offers his services, under certain conditions, to open up a new route for transporting silver from Peru to Spain down one of the rivers of the Maranhão.”
First Detailed Account of a European Traveler to East Africa


Rare first edition in Spanish (and the earliest edition with American references) of one of the earliest comprehensive reports on Ethiopia available to Europeans: “incomparably more detailed than any earlier account of Ethiopia that has survived, it is also a very important source for Ethiopian history, for it was written just before the country was devastated by the Moslem Somali and pagan Galla invasions of the second quarter of the 16th century” (Hakluyt Society I.12).
Athens: A Notably Early Eyewitness Account, Illustrated


Extremely rare first edition of this eyewitness account of Athens by the Italian adventurer Cornelio Magni, one of very few accounts of that city to appear in the early modern era and one of even fewer to give accurate, up to date eyewitness illustrations of its monuments.
‘Great American Mastodon!!’
Now on Display at New York’s American Museum of Natural History
‘No Living Animal Approaches this in Size’

10. [Paleontology]. Great American Mastodon!! Now Exhibiting at the Hall. The Skeleton of this Gigantic Animal was Discovered in the Month of August last on the Farm of Mr. Nathaniel Brewster, in the Town of Newburgh, Orange Co. N.Y. [United States], s.n., [c. 1846]. Large broadside.

$7850

Rare, boldly printed broadside announcing the early exhibition of one of the most famous discoveries in the history of American paleontology, that of the ‘Warren Mastodon,’ excavated in 1845 from a peat bog near Newburgh, New York, and since 1906 on display at the American Museum of Natural History. The animal, which perished some 11,000 years ago, was an immediate sensation owing to its skeleton’s near complete state of preservation and its status as the largest extinct species yet discovered in America (the first American dinosaur, a Hadrosaurus, would not be identified until 1858).
First Printed Manual of Venetian Trade


Rare first edition of the first printed Venetian ‘tariffa’, published at the height of Venice’s hegemony as a trading partner in the eastern Mediterranean, a comprehensive mercantile manual compiled to bring order to the bewildering diversity of prices, weights, measures and quality grades for the hundreds of commodities and currencies traded among Venice and her many business partners from London to the Levant.
“The First European Account of Cochin-China” (Lach)


Rare first edition of the first book on Vietnam in English, an eyewitness account of the commerce, government and cultural life of Cochin-China (central Vietnam) written by the Jesuit missionary Cristoforo Borri and first published in Italian in 1631.
The First Copernican Almanac
The Earliest Vernacular Announcement
Of Copernican Heliocentrism
Sole Known Copy


The sole known copy of a prediction pamphlet (mein Almanach, Gasser calls it, f12 recto) for the year 1546 with the first extended reference to Copernicus printed in a vernacular language (German) – an “enthusiastic hymn of praise” for the great astronomer (Burmeister) addressed not specifically to an international community of scholars but to lay readers of a humble German language almanac whose daily activities “revolve” around the sun.

First edition of this classic in the history of science: a nice, large, genuine example of the last of Kepler’s works to appear in his lifetime, and in the judgment of Owen Gingerich, “the chief vehicle for the recognition of his astronomical accomplishments” (*DSB*). It contains the first astronomical tables to be based on Kepler’s three laws of planetary motion and is the first of Kepler’s books to employ logarithms.

Very rare first edition, second issue, of this understudied work, “the earliest Italian imprint to depict and discuss the Copernican system” (Gingerich). The work includes a printed diagram of the geo-heliocentric system of Martianus Capella, as well as a diagram and exposition of the Copernican system. It is interesting to speculate that the young Galileo (b. 1564), whether as a student at Pisa or a lecturer at Padua, may have encountered the Copernican hypothesis in the present work.
Rare Pardies Large Folio Celestial Atlas of 1674
In Contemporary Hand-Color Heightened with Gold (the Stars)
With a Chart of the Stars of the Southern Hemisphere


Very rare first edition of the Jesuit scientist Ignace-Gaston Pardies’ (1636-73) beautifully engraved folio celestial atlas, here in a deluxe copy with its 6 double-page charts in fine contemporary hand-color and its some 1500 stars, nebulae and comets individually illuminated in gold. Examples of the atlas typically consist of only the star charts, but the present copy is an especially rare issue including a letterpress title page, a separate dedication leaf, and a full-page portrait of the dedicatee engraved by Robert Nanteuil (1630-78).
The World & the Heavens in Your Hands: Celebrating the 1686 Grads in Physics & Math From Charles-Ferdinand University Prague An Extraordinary Copy Extra-Illustrated With a Set of 4 Unrecorded Engravings Of Celestial and Terrestrial Globe Gores and Horizon Rings

17. [Astronomy] / [Education] / SCHEFFER, Vitus. Coelum poëticum, seu sphaera astronomica. Prague, Typis C. Czernochianae Viduae, 1686. 4to. With engraved frontispiece, folding engraved leaf of celestial globe gores printed from two copperplates, and with an extra set of 4 leaves of engravings (two of which are folding) comprising celestial and terrestrial globe gores and horizon rings for each globe. Bound in contemporary vellum. $9850

Extra-illustrated, rare first and only edition of an unusual 17th-century treatise on the allegorical-mythological meaning of the constellations as conveyed by ancient authors, a work especially notable for its fine folding engraving of celestial globe gores derived from the design of Johannes Oterschaden (fl. c. 1600). The present copy of the book, however, is extraordinary in that bound into it is a set of 4 additional engraved plates for constructing both a celestial globe and a terrestrial globe, each of which is apparently unrecorded elsewhere. This set was produced to commemorate the awarding of bachelor’s degrees in mathematics/physics in 1686 at the Charles-Ferdinand University in Prague and lists the names of all 50 graduates.
The Silvery Phases of the Moon

18. CELLARIUS, Andreas. Typus Selenographicus Lunae Phases Et Aspectus Varios Adumbrans. Amsterdam, Janssonius, 1660. Folio engraving. With rich original color, heightened with silver gold. $4850

A fine example – in sharp, radiant, original hand-color with silver and gold highlights – of the first edition of Andreas Cellarius’ (c. 1596-1665) iconic diagram of the phases of the moon, one of the most striking of all of Cellarius’ designs.
The First Printed Work on Cryptography
With Woodcut Title Pages in Contemporary Hand-Color
Preserved in an Elaborately Stamped German Binding Dated 1587


Rare first edition of this landmark of cryptography, “the first printed book on the subject” (Kahn). The only work of Johannes Trithemius (1462-1516) on cryptography to enjoy contemporary publication, the Polygraphia significantly advanced cryptographic techniques, and it remains a cornerstone of the discipline today, not only in mathematics, but also in the humanities (e.g., in attempts to decipher the mysterious Voynich manuscript) and in economics (cryptocurrency). Annotated in several early hands.
Rare first edition of this profusely illustrated technological classic on the use of a quadrant and related instruments by Petrus Apianus (1492-1552), “a pioneer in astronomical and geographical instrumentation, and one of the most successful popularizers of these subjects during the 16th century” (DSB). The Instrument Buch is among the earliest technical works in a vernacular language and one of the most influential.
The Anatomy of Fabricius
Fundamental for Harvey’s Discovery of the Circulation of Blood


First editions of four tracts by Fabricius (c. 1533-1619), including his two most important works, the De venarum ostiolis, and the De formato foetu. The De venarum ostiolis is one of the great rarities of anatomical literature: Fabricius’ discovery of the venous valves directly inspired Fabricius’ pupil and lifelong friend William Harvey. Fabricius’ “best-known and most important medical work is his classic monograph on the venous valves ... described as one of the rarest and most beautiful works in the history of anatomical illustration” (K. J. Franklin).
The First Systematic Mineralogy in a Vernacular Language


Rare first Italian edition and first edition in any vernacular language of “the first handbook of modern systematic mineralogy” (Horblit).
First edition, first issue of this landmark in science, here in a remarkably well preserved, unrestored example, rare in this fine condition. “The work summarized Newton’s discoveries and theories concerning light and color: the spectrum of the sunlight, the degrees of refraction associated with different colors, the color circle (the first in the history of color theory), the invention of the reflecting telescope, the first workable theory of the rainbow, and experiments on what would later be called ‘interference effects’ in conjunction with Newton’s rings [and] two mathematical treatises in Latin, written to establish his priority over Leibnitz in the invention of the calculus” (Norman).
With an Important Model of a Camera Obscura  
And an Illustrated Section on Cryptography

With engraved frontispiece, 40 engraved/etched plates (1 of which is large and folding) and hundreds of woodcut diagrams and illustrations in text.  
Bound in 18th-century Spanish calf over boards, spine renewed à l’antique.  
$9500

First edition of the Jesuit polymath Athanasius Kircher’s (1602-80) extraordinary, extensively illustrated work on ‘optics’ in the most capacious sense, which discusses in detail shadow, color, refraction, projection, distortion and luminescence, vision, the eye, illusion, lens, instrumentation, automata, natural wonders, the very nature of images, etc., and also provides early descriptions and depictions of the camera obscura and magic lantern, precursors of the film camera and the motion-picture projector. The work also contains an important section on cryptography. The imaginative range of Kircher’s program of illustrations is rarely rivaled among early modern books.

Rare first edition of a lavishly illustrated compendium on optics, here in a contemporary binding carrying the arms of the work’s dedicatee, the Archbishop of Esztergom. With information on the physiology of the eye, properties of light, and reflecting the work of such contemporaries as Kepler, Kircher, Descartes, and Scheiner. “Published in the same year that Isaac Newton was making his advances in the study of light, this encyclopaedic illustrated book is a classic of optics” (Hoolihan).
Early Art-Historical Monograph on a Work of Russian Art
With a Large Folding Engraving


Rare first and only edition of one of the first, if not the first Western monograph devoted to a Russian work of art, namely the icon of the 4th-century warrior saint Theodore Straelates housed in the Rieterkirche St. Marien und Christophorus in Kalbensteinberg, Bavaria, an important pilgrimage church located on the route to Santiago de Compostela. Illustrated with a large folding engraving of the icon.
The Earliest Illustrated Sales Catalogue
Marketing Classical Sculpture for Public or Private Collections
With 56 Full-Page Engravings, No Copies in America


Set of 3 very rare 18th-century sales catalogues – unrecorded in American libraries – from the emporium of the Leipzig art dealer C. C. H. Rost (d. 1798), including his richly illustrated inventory of plaster casts made after the “best original” statues from Greco-Roman antiquity, among which are actual size reproductions of such famed pieces as the Apollo Belvedere, the Laocoön, and the Venus de’ Medici. An indispensable document for understanding the wider influence of such casts on burgeoning German Neoclassicism and on the development of early art museums.
Deluxe Prospectus for the Architecture of Rome’s EUR District


Rare first edition of this deluxe, illustrated atlas folio published in 1939 as an advance prospectus showcasing the architecture of the Esposizione Universale di Roma, the world’s fair planned for 1942 to celebrate twenty years of rule under Benito Mussolini. Because of the outbreak of World War II, the fair was never held, but much of its built environment was later completed and today forms the core of the EUR district of Rome, an important example of mid-century urban planning famed for its mid-century architecture.
First Illustrated Edition of the First Modern Architectural Treatise
Vernacular Translation for the Use of Architects and Builders

L’Architettura di Leon Battista Alberti tradotta in lingua Fiorentina da Cosimo Bartoli ... Con la aggiunta de Disegni. Florence, L. Torrentino, 1550. Folio. With architectural woodcut title, medallion portrait of Alberti on verso of title, and 83 architectural woodcuts, of which 37 are full page, complete with extensions. Bound in 18th-century Roman calf. $45,000

Rare first illustrated edition – and fine copy – of Leon Battista Alberti’s (1404-72) L’Architettura (De re aedificatoria), the first modern architectural treatise, here in the influential translation of Cosimo Bartoli (1503-72), who was one of the most important proponents of the use of the vernacular in 16th-century technical publications. “It was Cosimo Bartoli’s translation of Alberti’s treatise, published with illustrations, that made the text available to a larger group of readers among professional architects. Bartoli’s edition quickly displaced the earlier Italian translation by Pietro Lauro, which was not illustrated” (Millard).
First edition, very rare in commerce, of the first appearance of any of Palladio’s work published in France and the first translation into the French language of any of his work. *Traicté des cinq ordres d’Architecture* can be seen as the result of a ‘collaboration’ among three leading architects: Palladio, the translator/editor Pierre Le Muet (1591-1669) and Jean Marot, the architect and famous engraver of architectural subjects who provided the engravings for this book.
The Extension of the Rue de Rivoli: The Beginnings of the ‘Haussmannization’ of Paris

Official Folding Plan Measuring 3.6 Meters in Length


Very rare folding plan – measuring 3.6 meters in length – produced for official use by the Paris Préfecture du Département de la Seine in preparation for extending the Rue de Rivoli from the Louvre to the Hôtel de Ville. This major initiative in urban planning, which required the erasure of several medieval streets and the demolition of numerous old buildings, would forever alter the character of the city when it was completed under Baron Haussmann (1809-91) in 1855.
First English Edition
Of the Most Influential Jesuit Architectural Treatise Ever Published
With 106 Full-Page Engravings
And 103 Extraordinary Engraved Initials
Finely Bound Subscriber’s Copy Belonging to Thomas Coningsby

32. [Architecture] / POZZO, Andrea. Rules and Examples of Perspective Proper for Painters and Architects, etc. In English and Latin... London, B. Motte, 1707. Folio. With 106 full-page engravings and 103 distinct engraved or etched initials with mythological or architectural vignettes (used in 210 positions). Bound in contemporary sprinkled paneled calf, gold-tooled arms of the subscriber Thomas Coningsby on upper and lower covers. $8850

First edition of the renowned English engraver John Sturt’s (1658-1730) tour-de-force interpretation of Fra Andrea Pozzo’s (1642-1709) influential classic on architecture and perspective, including 106 remarkable full-page engravings and 103 extraordinary engraved initials (used in 210 positions) of mythological and architectural subjects. The present copy is preserved in the binding of Thomas Coningsby, 1st Earl Coningsby (1656-1729), one of the subscribers to this ambitious publication. The work carries the approbation of the three greatest living British architects – Christopher Wren, Nicholas Hawksmoor and John Vanbrugh – who recognized the absence of any such comprehensive treatise on the subject in the English language.
Putting the Viewer in the Crosshairs
Virtuoso Perspective & the Fortifications of Portigiani


Rare first edition of this important and graphically striking work on sixteenth-century fortification by Girolamo Portigiani (c. 1540-91). Consisting entirely of finely engraved images of star forts and details of their defensive systems, the volume is in fact as much a book about virtuoso perspective as it is an exploration of this new form of military architecture: Portigiani’s impressive insight here is that, in theorizing an architecture ruled by artillery, in which life and death rely on precise modulations to lines of sight, only renderings taking full advantage of the most up-to-date techniques of perspective (the science of sight lines) can properly convey the strengths and weaknesses of a proposed plan.

SEE FULL DESCRIPTION
A Landmark in Architectural Literature
The First Attempt at a Critical Text of the Only Surviving Ancient Architectural Treatise


$9850

Augmented edition of the first illustrated edition of Vitruvius (1511), the first attempt to establish a critical text of the only surviving ancient architectural treatise, one notoriously difficult for its technical matter and sometimes impenetrable language. It is notable that this was undertaken by a practicing architect, Fra Giovanni Giocondo, equally at home in the practice of building and in the finer points of humanist philology: he worked on St. Peter’s with Raphael and Bramante and supervised construction after the latter’s death in 1514.
Election Year 1859
Suite of 13 Large Lithograph Caricatures
Unrecorded Worldwide (OCLC, KVK, COPAC)


Unrecorded suite of 13 large lithograph caricatures – preserved here in their original printed wrappers – which lampoon the 1859 parliamentary elections for the constituencies of the Borough of Derby and South Derbyshire. The local nature and no doubt quite limited print run of ephemeral political cartoons of this sort make them very rare today.
The First Printed Encyclopedia, Extensively Illustrated
With the Oldest Printed Illustration of the Human Eye
And with a Fine World Map
With Tantalizing Information on Newly Discovered Lands

36. [Encyclopedia] / REISCH, Gregor. *Margarita philosophica*. Basel, M. Furter & J. Schott, 1508. Large 4to. With woodcut title, 19 full-page woodcuts, some 40 half- to quarter-page woodcuts in text, as well as numerous geometrical diagrams, alphabets and staves of music, and with 2 folding woodcut plates and the folding world map. Quarter bound in contemporary blind-stamped pigskin over wooden boards, upper board replaced at a later time. $38,500

Very attractive copy of a scarce 1508 third edition (first 1503, second 1504) of “the first modern encyclopedia to appear in print” (Smith, *Rara Arithmetica*, p. 83). Written in the popular didactic form of a Latin dialogue between master and pupil and enriched with an extensive program of (very lively) woodcuts, the work sought to summarize the whole of extant knowledge, forming a compendium of the quadrivium, trivium and natural sciences. The range of subject matter is so wide that there is hardly any subject on which it does not touch in a way that, owing to the earliness of the date, is historically significant.
The Yo-Yo in Germany


Extremely rare first and only edition of two German vaudeville songs satirizing the society-wide obsession with the yo-yo, a toy which was popularized during the French Revolution, and subsequently became as ubiquitous across Europe, becoming especially popular with the aristocracy. In Beaumarchais’ Noces de Figaro (1789), Figaro expresses his nervousness in one scene by playing with his yo-yo (émigrette), saying “It is a noble toy, which dispels the fatigue of thinking.”
A Monument of Mannerist Book Illustration in France
“Its Status in the History of Literature is that of a Colossus,
Its Influence Practically Boundless” (Stechow)


Extremely rare first and only edition of the mannerist printmaker Pierre Vallet’s (c. 1575-1657) celebrated illustrated adaptation of Heliodorus of Emesa’s Greek novel Aethiopica (or Theagenes and Chariclea) (c. 250 A.D.). The volume contains, in addition to its engraved title page, 120 exquisite narrative etchings/engravings, one for each page of the text.
The Dance of Death in Basel, in Vibrant Contemporary Hand-Color
Extensive Suite of Engravings from Merian’s Original Copperplates


$33,500

A very fine (and quite unusual) example – here in vibrant contemporary hand-color – of the printmaker Matthäus Merian the Elder’s (1593-1650) renowned series of engravings recording the famous ‘Dance of Death’ mural formerly located in the courtyard of Basel’s Predigerkloster. Versos of the engravings in the present example were richly decorated with marbled paper by the volume’s original owner, a certain Richard Moore.

SEE FULL DESCRIPTION
A Visitor’s Handbook
To the Collezione Vimercati-Sozzi in Bergamo
Illustrated with Folding Lithograph
Of this Unusual Museum of Artifacts
A Presentation Copy
Given to the Archeologist-Epigrapher Giovanni Labus


Rare first and only edition of the antiquary Conte Paolo Vimercati-Sozzi’s (1801-83) guide for visitors to his recently opened museum in Bergamo, an intriguing instance of the Kunst- and Wunderkammer tradition of collecting persisting well into the 19th century and in parallel with the rise of modern museology.
41. [Perfume] / [ROSSETTI, Giovanni Ventura]. Notandissimi secreti
de l’arte profumatoria, per far oglì, acque, paste, balle, moscardini,
uccelletti, paternosti e tutta l’arte intiera, come si ricerca così nella città
di Napoli del reame, come in Roma, e quin in la città di Venegia. Venezia,
Rampazzetto, 1560. 8vo. With 3 woodcuts in the text. Bound in 17th-
century calf. $14,500

Rare second edition (first 1555) of the first treatise on the art of perfume
making, a volume published in Venice and highlighting that city’s central
role in the history of the olfactory arts as an importer of exotics traded
from the Middle East. With the inscription of “Hatton,” perhaps Sir
Christopher Hatton (1605-70), Member of Parliament and Comptroller of
the Household to the King.
Faces in the News
The Invention of Popular Portraiture
In Late Renaissance Italy
Suite of 58 Engraved Portraits
Of Contemporary Figures, Some Bizarre


Very rare suite of 58 16th- and early 17th-century engraved portraits of contemporary Western European, Eastern European and Ottoman sovereigns, princes, military figures, and other (sometimes quite bizarre) personages, both male and female, produced in Rome by the publishers Giovanni Orlandi and Andrea Vaccari. The engravings are an important witness to the expansion of the genre of portraiture to appeal to and capitalize on a burgeoning public interest in famous individuals in the news at the time, effectively putting faces to names of figures who were being widely discussed in popular journalistic reports.
Boccaccio’s Famous Women
Signed & Dated by the Scribe
Copiously Annotated with Early Poems on Women

43. [Women] / [Manuscript] / BOCCACCIO, Giovanni / ALBANZANI, Donato degli (trans.) / PICCARDI, Francesco di Pagolo (scribe) / TUCCI, Angolo (cartolario). Delle famose donne [De mulieribus claris]. [Florence], F. di Pagolo Piccardi, 1 September 1456. 4to manuscript on paper. Bound in 17th-century vellum. $185,000

Fine, 15th-century Florentine vernacular manuscript of Giovanni Boccaccio’s (1313-75) renowned treatise De mulieribus claris (Famous Women), “the first collection of biographies in Western literature devoted exclusively to women” and a work considered to be “the fountainhead of the European tradition of female biography” (V. Brown).

Very rare second edition (first in 1697) of an enigmatic and ingenious literary satire devoted to the medical practice of Dr. Christophe Ozanne (1633-1713), an unlicensed rural physician from the French hamlet of Chaudray. The present volume contains a very rare, separately issued engraving depicting Ozanne consulting with patients in his modest rooms, offering a fascinating glimpse into the practice of empiric medicine in 17th-century France. This literary oddity by Laurent de Bordelon (1653-1730), which varies wildly in genre and subject matter, had few parallels in its time.
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