

By Appointment Only
43 Sabine Avenue
Narberth, PA 19072-1741



Bruce McKittrick
Rare Books, Inc.

Tel. (610) 660-0132
Fax (610) 660-0133
mckrare@voicenet.com

BAWDS & PIMPS

Plautus. fl. c. 200

Plautus Poeta Comicus. Strassburg, J. Grüninger 1508. 8vo. [xvi], [543]p. TWENTY NEARLY FULL-PAGE WOODCUTS OF THEATRICAL SCENES, EACH SPECIFIC TO ITS PLAY'S ACTION, a Grüninger title device.

19th century gilt dark green morocco with the arms of Mexican bibliophile José Gómez de la Cortina, *marqués de Morante* in the center and his cipher in the corners, gilt spine title. \$24000.00

The First Illustrated Edition of the Comedies. *The* classical models for Renaissance comedy were Plautus and Terence. "The bawds and pimps that thronged the English comic stage during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries certainly owe more to Plautus than to Terence" (Herrick). We have located five other copies (New York, London, Munich, Gotha, Zurich) and none at auction since 1950. In nice condition (a few neat repairs, two blank margins slightly defective), some early marginalia and some lines cancelled in ms. Bookplates of Gómez de la Cortina and Ambroise-Firmin Didot, stamp of a German noble on the title.

Didot, *Vente* (1884) 356 "extrêmement rare"; Schmidt, *Hist. litt. de l'Alsace* II: 141-2 and no. 237 "jolies gravures"; Benzing, *Bib. strasbourgeoise* 1492 (BL, Zurich); Hardin, "Encountering Plautus in the Renaissance" in *Ren. Quarterly* 60 (2007) 789-818; Schweiger II: 760; Schmidt, *Grüninger* 88 (Zurich); Ritter, *Cat. des livres du XVI^e siècle ne figurant pas à la Bib. Nat. et Univ. de Strasbourg* 2940 (Zurich); BM STC 703; VD 16 P 3379 (BSB; VD 16 online adds Gotha); Brunet IV: 707 (Heber ex.); Herrick, *Comic Theory in the Sixteenth Century* 173.