

## TRIED TO RIDDLE OUT

**Bussche, Alexandre van den.** *Poemes Et anagrames.* Paris, G. Julien 1576. 4to. [68] leaves. Roman type for initial majuscules & acrostics, a Julien title device.

Crushed green morocco (Chambolle-Duru, slightly rubbed), gilt triple rule outer border, spine & title gilt, edges gilt over marbling. \$4200.00

Only Edition. MORE THAN HALF OF THIS EXCEPTIONALLY EARLY AND LARGE COLLECTION OF FRENCH ANAGRAMS AND ACROSTICS IS ADDRESSED TO WOMEN, including Catherine de’Medici and Marguerite de Valois. A political prisoner, the author here (vainly) employs the names of the French royal family, their noble cousins and influential courtiers to gain his freedom. A fine copy with the bookplate of Hector de Backer (*Vente* I(1): 409). Santi, *Bib. della enigmistica* 86; Cioranescu 21593; *Bib. belg.* I: 412; Brunet I: 1420 & *Suppl.* I: 188.

## DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES — IN THE DUTCH GOLDEN AGE

**Passe, Crispijn van de.** *Les abus du mariage...pour corriger tel abus. Misbruick Des Houwelycx...Misbrauch des Ehlichen Standes.* [Amsterdam, J. Broersz] 1641. Oblong 4to (138 x 188 mm.). Etched & engr. title, [iv], [40] leaves. Partly double column, printed music, ETCHED & ENGRAVED TITLE, ONE FULL-PAGE PLATE & TWENTY-FIVE FULL-PAGE ETCHED PORTRAIT PAIRS BY THE AUTHOR.

Crushed Jansenist tan morocco (Thibaron-Joly, rubbed), gilt lettered spine, gilt turn-ins, all edges gilt. \$12000.00

Only Edition. THIS ILLUSTRATED ADMONITORY CATALOG WARNS GIRLS AND BOYS AGAINST FAILED MARRIAGES through the lives and speeches of wayward laundresses, astronomers, pimps, thieves, Madames, midwives, lock picks, chambermaids, ingenues and sea captains. Each plate shows a pair of oval bust portraits with four lines of Dutch verse beneath each image. On the facing page each subject offers doggerel about their mate in French, Dutch and German. To spur sales, Passe drew his examples from France, Germany, the Low Countries, Venice (then the Sin City of Europe), Spain and England. IN THIS COPY VERSES IN ENGLISH APPEAR ON LEAF (27)<sup>v</sup>. Among the striking etchings is that of A WIFE AND HER HUSBAND’S BLACK SERVING MAN. The music and lyrics are for the bacchic sybarites shown in the full-page etching. A good copy (complete with 44ff. and plate), ?Behague ex. (pencil note). Franken, *L’œuvre gravé des van de Passe* 1372 (38ff. total); Brunet I: 22 (38ff.); Gay I: 7 (38ff.); Hollstein, *Dutch* 16: 145,188.

## HEROINE IN A LADY’S LIBRARY

**Rodogvne.** Paris, E. Loyson 1668. 8vo. [xvi], 790, [1]p. FOUR ETCHED PLATES BY FRANÇOIS CHAUVEAU.

GREEN MOROCCO, gilt triple rule outer borders, GILT ARMS OF BÉATRIX DE CHOISEUL-STAINVILLE DUCHESSE DE GRAMONT (Olivier 2160, 2 smaller variant), spine & red morocco label gilt, all edges gilt. \$4200.00

First Edition, second issue, of this illustrated romance with a female protagonist and real action: “Tovt l’Orient fumoit du feu de la Guerre...”.

Quentin Bauchart ranks Béatrix de Choiseul-Stainville’s luxury bindings among the

“plus gracieuses productions de l’art de la reliure au XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle”. At her sale in 1797, many of the finest examples passed to the comte de Gramont d’Aster; his armorial bookplate is on the front pastedown. In excellent condition (the etching for Bk. III was not printed in this copy).

Lever, *La fiction narrative* 373; Cioranescu 6696-7; Quentin Bauchart, *Les femmes bibliophiles* II: 116, 50; BN, *Inventaire du fonds français...du XVII<sup>e</sup> siècle* II: 490,929-31 & 933.

## A HAND JOB BY THE LADY

**Sabbathier, Esprit.** *Idealis Umbra Sapientiae Generalis.* Paris, Mlle. Jablier 1679. Small 4to. [25] engr. leaves. TITLE OF SEVEN ENGRAVED STRIPS, TWENTY-FOUR ETCHED & ENGRAVED PLATES (divided from two whole sheets & mounted on blank double leaves).

Contemporary mottled calf, spine & title & board edges gilt, edges daubed red & brown.

With:

**Sabbathier, Esprit.** *L’Ombre Ideale De La Sagesse Universelle.* Paris, Mlle. Jablier 1679. Small 4to. [25] engr. leaves. TITLE & TWENTY-FOUR ETCHED & ENGRAVED PLATES (as above I). \$18000.00

Ad I-II: A woman on Old Temple Road meticulously pricked the upper left corners of blank double leaves, then centered and pasted in these occult texts, which were commissioned by Louis XIV and the Queen Mum.

Complying with their wishes, Sabbathier laid out his theosophy graphically — a complex scheme of colors, numbers, prose, geometric figures, heraldry, Hebrew characters and astrological signs. After his untimely death, his friend and fellow Capuchin François Marie edited the material and oversaw the production of two pairs of engraved sheets — one pair in Latin, the other in French. Eschewing commerce, he transferred the rights to the engravings to his sister, Mlle. Jablier. Operating on the margins of the print and book trades, SHE DIVIDED THE ENGRAVED SHEETS INTO THEIR COMPONENTS AND MOUNTED THEM IN ALBUMS, WHICH SHE SOLD AT HER PREMISES. “Cette disposition insolite explique l’extrême rareté des exemplaires qui on subsisté, et leur apparence singulière” (Caillet). A string of eleven ecclesiastical and secular privileges document this *ménage à trois*. Fine copies, in their original binding.

Caillet 9731 “Excessivement rare”; *Bib. esoterica* 4275 “Rarissime, surtout complet des deux parties”; Jouin & Descreux, *Bib. occultiste* 736 (French) & 763 (Latin).

## OBSTETRICAL CLASSIC IN CONTEMPORARY RED MOROCCO

**Portal, Paul.** *La Pratique Des Accouchemens.* Paris, The Author & G. Martin 1685. 8vo. Frontis., [xx], 368p. & EIGHT ENGRAVED PLATES BY LEFEBURE AFTER REVEL & GUIGNARD, engraved frontispiece portrait of Portal holding this book.

CONTEMPORARY RED MOROCCO PROBABLY BY LUC-ANTOINE BOYET, gilt triple rule outer border & inner rectangle, gilt corner fleurons of pointillé floral sprays (see Esmerian, *Vente* II: 62), spine compartments with gilt geometric corner pieces & central floral ornaments, gilt spine title, edges gilt over marbling, ruled in red throughout. \$7500.00

First Edition of a key French midwifery text. After overseeing the delivery of about one hundred women per month for over thirty years at the Hôtel Dieu, he published his clinical observations here. “Portal’s most important contribution to obstetrics was his recognition of the anatomy and clinical importance of placenta previa” (Norman). “Portal’s important treatise included his demonstration that version could be done with one foot. He also taught that face presentation usually ran a normal course” (Garrison-Morton). The *Pratique* was rapidly translated into Dutch, English and Swedish. A superb copy (tiny nick in rear cover, pin worm hole in crown).

Garrison-Morton 6148; *Norman Library of Science & Medicine* 1727; Cutter & Viets, *A Short History of Midwifery* 81-3; Royal College of Obstetricians, *STC of Bks. before 1851* 61.

## PRINCESS, PATRON, COMPOSER — SINGER WITH A CD

**Maria Antonia Walpurgis, Electress of Saxony.** *Il Trionfo Della Fedeltà. Dramma Pastorale Per Musica.* Leipzig, [J.G.I.] Breitkopf 1754. 4to. ETCHED DOUBLE-PAGE FRONTISPIECE OF THE PROSCENIUM, port., [iv], 66 [r. 58], [2 blank]p. & SEVEN DOUBLE-PAGE ETCHED STAGE DESIGNS (Zucchi after Müller & Roos); the portrait depicts Maria Antonia à *l’antique* (Zucchi after Torelli).

CONTEMPORARY BLUE SILK over paper boards (worn, lacks spine), all edges gilt. *See illustration.* \$8500.00

A MARVELOUS THEATER BOOK, celebrating the musical and artistic achievements of Maria Antonia at Dresden, “musically...the most brilliant court in Europe” (Yorke-Long). SHE WROTE THE SCORE AND LIBRETTO AND SANG THE LEAD IN THIS THREE ACT OPERA. Burney, Rousseau and Frederick the Great praised her skill. Zucchi’s etchings capture Müller and Roos’ lush romantic stage sets. Some of her music is on CD (*Lieder by Women Composers* I, 1989). Not in *NUC*. A good copy, apparently for presentation (lightly browned, small ink holiday on one plate), BOOKTICKETS OF C. FAIRFAX MURRAY AND T.M. CLELAND. Stieger, *Opernlex.* III: 1229; *New Grove Handbook of Women Composers* 313-4; Yorke-Long, *Music At Court Four Eighteenth Century Studies* 72-93 “Maria Antonia of Saxony” a bold plagiarism of Fürstenau’s “Maria Antonia Walpurgis...Eine biographische Skizze” in *Monatshfte f. Musik-Gesch.* XI (1879) 167-81; Drewes, *Maria Antonia Walpurgis als Komponistin* 27-36 (plot summary); Hase, *Breitkopf und Härtel* I: 88-9.

## “VRAIEMENT EXTRAORDINAIRE” — GUMUCHIAN

**Genlis, Stéphanie Felicité Ducrest de St. Aubin, comtesse de.** *Arabesques Mythologiques.* Paris, C. Barrois 1810-1811. Two vols. in one. 12mo. [iv], xxx, 166p. & [iv], iv, 228, [1]p. & SEVENTY-EIGHT ENGRAVED PLATES BY GAITTE AFTER DESIGNS BY THE AUTHOR.

Contemporary tree sheep (rubbed), gilt rule border & grape vine roll, flat spine & red morocco labels gilt, marbled edges. \$1600.00

First Edition. This juvenile encyclopedia of classical mythology describes seventy-eight gods and heroes: the illustrations intertwine their names and their emblems of power and of love. The preface answers charges of gratuitous violence and sex. Two counterfeit printings appeared within a year. A good set, a few margins uncut (some plate numbers trimmed or shaved), printed pink paper ticket of the Parisian bookseller Delaunay. Cioranescu 30662; Gumuchian 2699-70 “un des plus curieux ouvrages illustrés”; *Lexikon d. Kinder- u. Jugendlit.* I: 437.

# WOMEN II

1530-1811



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“AN AGGRESSIVELY FEMINIST NOVEL” — MATULKA  
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**Flores, Juan de.** *Le Ivgement DAmour Avqvel est racomptee Lhystoire de Ysabel fille du roy descoce, translatee de Espagnol en Francoys.* [Lyon, Laurent Hyllaire] 1530. Small 8vo. [ii], [80]p. Roman type, floriated white-line metalcut initial A on a dotted ground, title in four-block frame of grotesques & ornaments (three white-line metalcuts & on top a woodcut strip).

FULL VIOLET MOROCCO BY THOMPSON, panels alike with gilt triple rule outer border, gilt tulips at corners, GILT CIPHER OF ADOLPHE AUDENET at center, spine with tulips in compartments & gilt lettered title & date, gilt board edges & turn-ins, all edges gilt. \$9800.00

EASY SEX, DOUBLE SUICIDE AND CELEBRATORY RITUALISTIC CANNIBALISM MADE THIS “UN DES ROMAN LES PLUS LUS EN EUROPE AU XVI<sup>e</sup> SIÈCLE” — SECOND COPY KNOWN (Kemp, “Denis”). Composed in the 1480s by Ferdinand and Isabella’s royal historiographer, this “épisode assez important de la querelle littéraire des deux sexes” had more than fifty printings in six languages to 1630 (Reynier). Over the next century it influenced writers like Ariosto, Lope de Vega, Greene, Fletcher and G. de Scudéry, who grappled with the role, status and power of women in society. Scholarly controversy continues to rage over the arguments advanced here for and against women.

The action centers on the beautiful princess of Scotland, so besieged by lovers that the king sequesters her completely. One ingenious SUITOR GAINS ACCESS TO HER CHAMBER AND MAIDENHEAD, is discovered and the pair is imprisoned, each pleading their own guilt to save the other. She is condemned to death at the stake, an opportunity he seizes in her stead, spurring her to throw herself to the lions. A formal debate on this injustice ensues between a man and a woman, each appointed by the king to represent their sex. The man’s misogynist views prevail. In revenge the queen and her ladies lure him to a tryst. They bind him, strip him, gag him and torture him before TEARING HIS LIVING FLESH WITH THEIR TEETH AND DEVOURING HIS MEAT. Cast on the fire, his bones turn to cinders, which the ladies proudly wear around their necks in gold urns.

This pirated Lyonese printing, AMONG THE FIRST DOZEN BOOKS PRODUCED IN FRENCH WITH ROMAN TYPES, was previously known in a single copy (Musée Condé). Though long considered the first edition in French, it is in fact the second (first [1529], one ex. recorded, printed with Geofroy Tory’s fonts). The translation has recently been attributed to Jehan Beaufilz (fl. 1519-42). From the libraries of Adolphe Audenet (1800-72, sale IV.1839 lot 411) and Louis Aimé Martin (1786-1847, sale 1847 lot 831). In fine condition. Kemp, “L’édition illicite du *Jugement d’amour* de Juan de Florès (1530) de Laurent Hyllaire” in *Rev. française d’hist. du livre* 118-121 N.S. (2004) 277-95; Kemp, “La première édition du *Jugement d’amour* de Flores” in *Bib. d’humanisme et renaissance* 53 (1991) 710-25; Moreau, *Inv. chron. des éditions parisiennes du XVI<sup>e</sup> siècle* III: 2095 (Musée Condé; Edinburgh UL in error); Palau 92521; Brunet II: 1302 “Édition la plus ancienne que nous connoissions de cette traduction”; Reynier, *Le roman sentimentale avant l’Astrée* 76-85 & 360; Matulka, *The Novels of Juan de Flores and their European Diffusion* 196-211, 243 & 466; Gay II: 742 (this ex.); not in Gültlingen’s *Bib. des livres imprimés à Lyon au 16<sup>e</sup> siècle* III (1995).

LIVES OF LADIES

**Boccaccio, Giovanni.** *Le plaisant liure...des faictz & gestes des illustres & cleres dames.* Paris, [J. Réal for] P. Hermier 1538. 8vo. [iix], 196 leaves. Bâtarde type, several series of initials, HALF-PAGE WOODCUT OF THE AUTHOR PRESENTING HIS BOOK, pointing hands throughout, title in red & black with several majuscules stroked in gold ink, unrecorded variant of Alexandre’s device on final verso (see Renouard 1 & 934).

Green morocco (c. 1830), panels alike with outer & inner gilt ruled borders, azured corner fleurons, board edge corners gilt, spine & title gilt, wide turn-ins gilt. \$9500.00

Second Edition in French of *The Deeds of Famous Women* (first Vêrard 1493). Issued 4 March 1538, it is the first book printed by Jean Réal and the first published by Jean Hermier: it is not in *NUC*, Rothschild, Fairfax Murray, Adams, Gay or Brun. A fine copy (title backed, one leaf foliated in ms.).

*I.A.* 120.271; *BM STC* 71; Brunet I: 990-1; Bouchéreaux, “Recherches bib. sur G. Corrozet” in *Bull. du bibliophile* (1954) 262,9.

THE DEDICATION COPY

**Lauro, Pietro.** *De Le Lettere Il Primo Libro.* Venice, [M. Tramezzino] 1553. 8vo. [xvi], 240p. Historiated woodcut initials, a Tramezzino title device.

CONTEMPORARY FLORENTINE BROWN CALF WITH AN ORIENTAL DECOR FROM SMALL GILT TOOLS, panels alike with outer & inner blind frames & gilt corner fleurons, central rectangle with gilt floral roll enclosing curvilinear rules, daisies & fleurons, THE FRONT PANEL BLASON IS GILT LETTERED .FRANCESCO). CHI(MENTI). (rear blason blank, front cover detached), eight blind tooled spine compartments separated by narrow gilt roll, edges gilt & gaufered, evidence of eight ties, in a morocco backed folding box. \$7200.00

Only Edition. The humanist and translator considers, i.a., PAINTING, COURTESANS, GOOD BOOKS, scholars’ luck, married life, agriculture, VIRGINITY, commerce, ARCHITECTURE & the insane. A translator by trade, Lauro urges expanding accepted Latin vocabulary and wonders IF WHORES OUGHT TO WEAR DISTINCTIVE CLOTHING and WHETHER KINDNESS OR MODESTY IS MORE DESIRABLE IN A WIFE. In addition to some dozen women and a surprising number of Germans, the recipients include Dante commentator Velutello, educator Fausto da Longiano, ARCHITECT RUSCONI, PRINTER TRAMEZZINO AND MERCHANT FR. DUODO (father of book collector Petey D.). A complementary volume appeared seven years later. In good condition.

Kelso, *Doctrine for the Lady of the Renaissance* 481; *BM STC* 372; de Marinis, *La legatura artistica in Italia* 1234 (this copy).