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FOR & ABOUT WOMEN



37 WEEKS 6 DAYS WITH THE QUEEN PRIVATELY PRINTED

Bassani, Antonio. fl. 1699.

Viaggio à Roma Della S.ra R.le M.tà Di Maria Casimira Regina di Polonia Vedoua dell' Inuittissimo Giovanni III. [Rome, D.A. ERCOLE AT THE BARBERINI'S PRIVATE PRESS 1700]. 4to. Etched allegorical title (Hubert Vincent), [iix], etched port. of Maria Casimira Sobieski (Vincent), 226, [2]p. Some woodcut initials & ornaments include the Barberini bees.

Marbled paper over soft paper boards (edges sprinkled red), gilt lettered red morocco spine labels. \$6200.00

Only Edition of this day-by-day account of the Polish Queen's nine months in Rome and environs (2.X.1698-22.VI.1699). An eye witness, the author records her social engagements with literati, nobles and prelates, and her reactions to paintings, sculptures, architecture, banquets, music and entertainment. He devotes as many as 15 pages to a single day.

Born in Berry, Marie La Grange d'Arquien (1641-1716) married Prince Zamoyski. Widowed, she married Jan Sobieski. In 1674 he was elected King of Poland. On his death, she emigrated to Rome. In 1714 at the invitation of Louis XIV, she returned to France.

Her protector in Rome, Carlo Barberini (1630-1704), commissioned this narrative and had it printed at his private press in his palazzo in the Parione district of Rome. NUC and OCLC show one location in the U.S. A fresh, if short, copy on thick paper (both plates and a couple of headlines shaved, outer and lower edges of the etched title and errata folded in).

Rossetti & Belleudi, *Rome A Bib.* II: 875; Fumagelli, *Lex. typog. italiae* 279-80; Estreicher, *Bib. Polska* 12: 404; Ciampi, *Bib. critica...dell'Italia...colla Polonia* I: 20,18; Klimaszewski, *Jan III Sobieski w. Lit. Polskiej i Zachodnioeuropejskiej XVII i XVIII Wieku* 158 ("1699").

SISTER ACT

Humbert, de Romans. c. 1194-1277.

Zede-Puncten...Op Den Reghel...En De Constitutien Der Nonnekens Van Den H. Dominicus. Ghent, P. Goesin [1717]. 8vo. [xvi], 318, [2]p. Title in red & black.

Contemporary sheep (scuffed & bumped), spine & red morocco label gilt, edges sprinkled red. \$450.00

?Second Vernacular Edition (first c. 1488, in German; first Latin 1505): it was read aloud at mealtime to the sisters and shaped daily routines in Dominican convents across Europe for over half a millennium. Drafted in the 1250s, this incorporates elements from pagan classics, saints' legends and contemporary life. It was translated by the bibliographer Louis Robyn. I have located one other example (Netherlands). In good condition (some outer corners lightly stained), bookplate of the Roermond Dominicans.

Haeghen, *Bib. gantoise* 2588; for the mss. see Kaeppli's *Script. ord. praed. medii aevi* 2016 & Hauber's "Deutsche Handschriften in Frauenklöstern" in *Zentralblatt für Bibliothekswesen* 31 (1914) 341-73 esp. 347.

"THE WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL DEVOTIONAL MANUAL" — BECKER

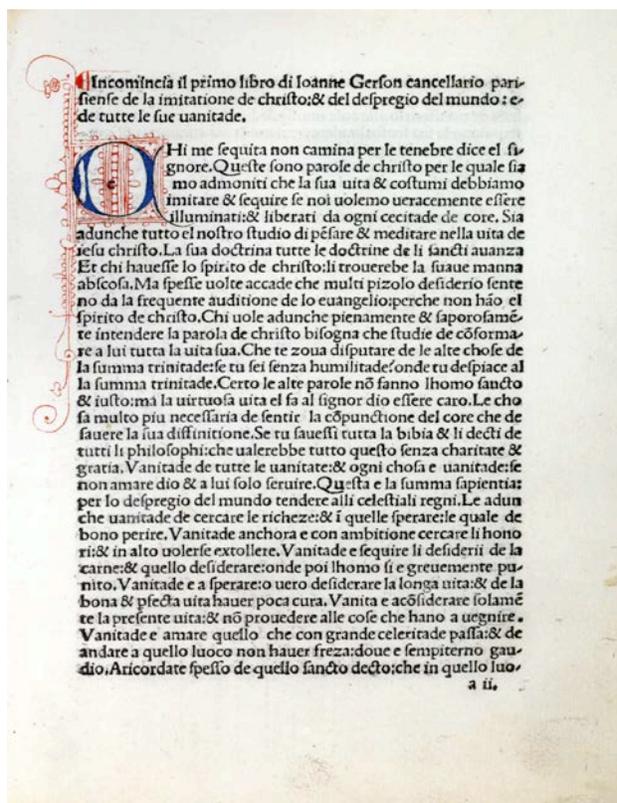
Imitatio Christi.

Imitatione Christi Et De Contemptu Mvndi In Vlgari Sermone. Venice, Joannes Rubeus *Vercellensis* 22 March 1488. 4to (203 x 150 mm.). [ii], [153]p. Roman type (82), 36 lines per page, scattered initial guide letters in the first three quires (none thereafter), three-line INITIALS ALTERNATELY SUPPLIED IN RED & BLUE, TEXT OPENING WITH FIVE-LINE INITIAL IN BLUE WITH TRACERY IN RED.

Late 18th-century vellum backed beige boards, gilt lettered spine label, edges mottled red & blue. \$45000.00

FIRST EDITION IN ITALIAN: "The first printed book that deserves the appellation of best-seller" (Steinberg). It had some eighty printings in nine languages by the end of the 15th century. The author is now generally accepted to be the Zwolle canon Thomas à Kempis (1380-1471).

WE KNOW THIS VERNACULAR VERSION WAS SPECIFICALLY INTENDED FOR WOMEN READERS, because the volume concludes with a letter from Giovanni da Napoli to one Sylvia on her religious vocation and particularly on her carnal desires. Seventy years later, Remigio Nannini recommended the *Imitatione* to the daughters of Venetian printer Gabriel Giolito (Bongi, *Giolito* II: 24). I have not traced a copy at auction in the past half century. In good condition (some lower corners slightly damp wrinkled, final quire lightly stained), 18th-century bookplate of Gianmaria Guizzetti, from the libraries of Giuseppe Martini and Sergio Colombi. ISTC ii00045000; Goff I-45; BMC V: 416 (192 x 142 mm., Duke of Sussex ex.); IGI 5128; Steinberg, *Five Hundred Years of Printing* 141; Becker, *From the Treasure-House of Scripture*.



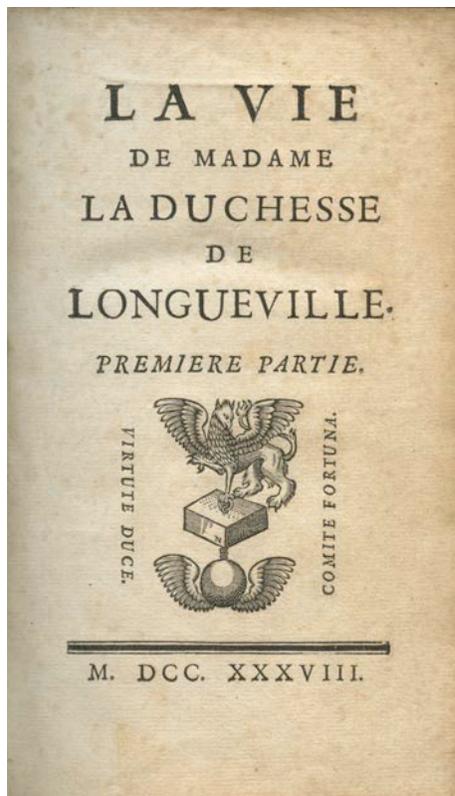
CLOTHED IN FEMALE VIRTUES

Singender Mund...Gesang-Buch der Alten und Neuen Lieder. Nürnberg, J.A. Endter's Son & Heirs 1722. Agenda 12mo (139 x 64 mm.). Double-page engr. frontis., [5-6] 7-462, [22]p. Engraved frontispiece of men, women & children singing & playing instruments (i.a., a pipe organ), title in red & black.

Contemporary gilt and painted vellum with a pink outer border and narrow gilt geometric frame. On the front, Faith, draped in a gold headscarf and flowing red dress, holds a chalice. On the rear, Charity, in a green blouse and red dress, cradles a child while another clings to her leg. The flat spine has gilt foliage sprays and daisies, pastedowns of gold, green, orange, red and violet flowered *Buntpapier*, all edges gilt. Original pastepaper slipcase (worn). *See title -page.* \$5400.00

This *figured* binding has a less engaging cousin at the Victoria and Albert Museum, with the burial of Christ and the Resurrection on the panels (Special Collections, *Drawer 71*). ?Second Edition. In excellent condition (minor defects), large early printed bookticket with initials SMVC.

SEDUCTRESS, REBEL, NUN, HOSTAGE — VIRAGO



[Villefore, François Joseph Bourgoïn de]. 1652-1737.

La Vie De Madame La Duchesse De Longueville. s.l., s.n. 1738. Two parts in one vol. 12mo. [ii], xii, 240, [2], 188p. Recutting of Séb. Gryphe's device on both titles.

Contemporary sheep (worn, repaired, damaged), GILT ABBATIAL BOURBON ARMS, spine & red morocco label gilt, edges sprinkled red.

First Edition of this clandestinely issued biography of ANNE GENEVIÈVE DE BOURBON-CONDÉ, duchesse de Longueville (1619-79), HEROINE OF THE FRONDE. Her life *was* a novel. Cloistered at her own demand then thrown into court life at nineteen, she married a man twice her age who never renounced his mistress. Her sexual liaisons (La Rochefoucauld, Marsillac...) aligned her with the rebels and against her sovereign and her husband. Despite her repeated treasons, she won key concessions from Louis XIV and a general amnesty for herself and her allies. Later she engaged in charity on a massive scale, supporting some 4000 poor. Still a standard reference, this is the first biography of her.

Bourgeois & André, *Sources de l'hist. de France* 1773; Ungherini, *Manuel...des femmes célèbres* I: 442; Cioranescu 63435.

PRINTED BY WOMEN

THE DANCING MASTER'S SAINT

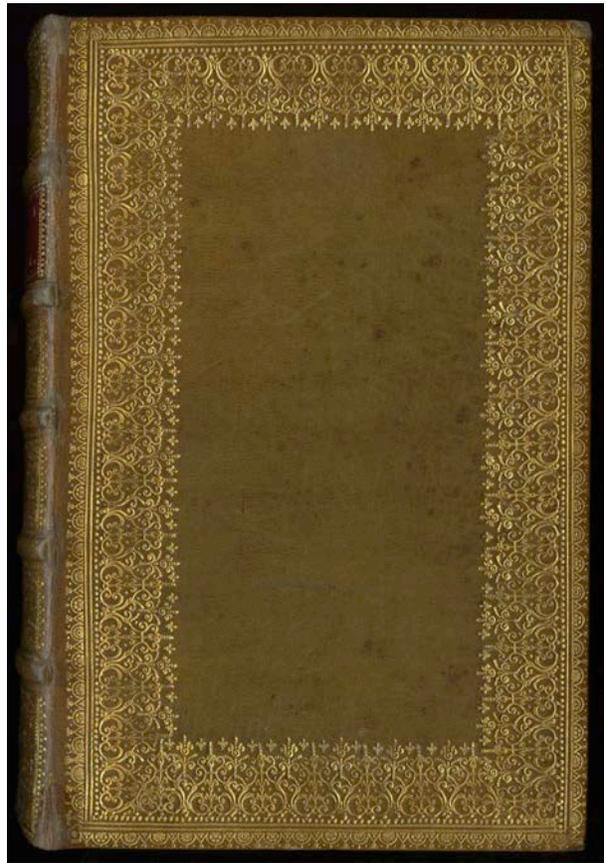
Augustinus, Aurelius, *Saint*. 354-430.

Les Deux Livres, De La Veritable Religion, Et Des Moeurs De L'Eglise Catholique.
Paris, Anne-Geneviève Hénault widow of J.B. I Coignard & her son 1690. Two parts in one vol. 8vo. lxxiv, [v], 336, [18], x, 188, [11]p. Historiated etched headpieces (Jean Mariette), architectural & historiated etched initials, an etched Coignard title device.

CONTEMPORARY RICHLY GILT GREEN MOROCCO (hinges slightly rubbed), panels alike with an outer frame of a geometric roll, double rules, partly pointillé foliage volute roll & A TINY LILY (2.5 mm. long, 74 repetitions). The spine compartment are filled with A STILL SMALLER LILY (2 mm.) & SUN FACES (see below), dots, palm fronds, double olive branches & a partly pointillé tulip central ornament; gilt ruled board edges, gilt turn-ins with a foliage & bloom roll, endleaves with gold printed blooms & tendrils, all edges gilt over marbling, pink silk marker, title & text ruled in red.\$3800.00

Only Edition of the translation of violinist, dancing master and tutor Philippe Goibaud Du Bois (c. 1626-94). The title verso bears the contemporary inscription: *Ce livre est du Monastere de/ la visitation Ste. marie de chaillot Donné par M. Le Duc D'orleans — de la Bibliotecque de Son A.R..* The Wilmerding catalog explains: "The back has the small tool of the Roi Soleil, the sides the border of small fleurs de lis which were the only signs of possession the Mlle. de La Vallière used in her books". THE SHAMED MISTRESS OF LOUIS XIV, she abandoned court for the convent of Sainte-Marie de Chaillot, to which the duc presented this volume. A nice copy, Wilmerding bookplate (Sale III: 54).

Cioranescu 33498.



A PUZZLE

Cleynaerts, Nicolaes. 1495-1542.

Abregé De La Grammaire Gréque. Paris, Madeleine Thévenon widow of C. Thiboust & P. Esclassan 1704. Half sheet 8vo. 58, [2], 9, [2]p. PRINTED IN RED & BLACK THROUGHOUT, partly columnar, twenty-eight pages tabular, TWO FOLDING LEAVES, title in red & black.

Contemporary green doeskin (spine rubbed). \$650.00

A most curious luxury edition of the most influential 16th-century Greek grammar, here stripped to the essentials and beautifully printed in two colors. But who was the market for this rudimentary textbook all dressed up? A clutch of wealthy boys with a demanding professor? Girls privately tutored at home? I have not found a copy of any printing of this version in any U.S. library. In excellent original condition, contemporary signature *Leanolere* on the front flyleaf.

See Bakelants & Hoven, *Bib....de Nicolas Clénard 1529-1700* 533 (1697 first printing, without the last 12p. of this edition).

THE MIDDLE AGES DRESSED FOR THE RENAISSANCE

Libelli Sev Decreta A Clodoveo, Et Childeberto, & Clothario...Sententiæ de septem septenis. Lex Salica.... [Paris, Charlotte Guillard] ?1550. Six parts in one vol. 16mo (117 mm.). 127, 70, [2 blank], 95, 56, 119, 15p. Five divisional titles in Roman majuscules, woodcut initials.

18th-century mottled sheep (19th-century rebacking preserving original spine), flat spine & label gilt, red edges. \$2200.00

First Editions of the Lex Burgundionum, Lex Salica and Lex Saxonum, and the first complete printing of the Lex Alamannorum and of the Lex Baiuariorum, as Sichard had published only about half of each. A nice copy, 18th-century ms. title inscription of the Parisian Jesuits.

Rep. font. med. aevii I: 744; Potthast 723-7; see Beech, "C. Guillard...Business Woman" in *Ren. Quart.* 36(3) (1983) 345-67.

"SA MEILLEURE ILLUSTRATION EST CELLE DU NARCISSE DANS L'ISLE DE VÉNUS DE MALFILÂTRE" — FURSTENBERG

Malfilâtre, Jacques Charles Louis. 1733-1767.

Narcisse Dans L'Isle De Venus. Paris, [Marie-Anne-Geneviève Paulus-Dumesnil widow of C.-J.-F. I Ballard for] E.J. Le Jay 1769. 8vo. Etched title, x, 112 [r. 110]p. & FOUR ETCHED PLATES by Jean-Baptiste Massard AFTER GABRIEL DE ST. AUBIN — ONE BEFORE LETTERS, etched title by Em. de Ghendt after Eisen.

Contemporary gilt ruled glazed mottled calf (rubbed), flat spine with gilt flowers & red morocco label, red edges, green silk marker. SOLD

First Edition, posthumously issued for the benefit of Malfilâtre's widow. "Gabriel de Saint-Aubin a été un grand parmi les grands...." (Furstenberg). Internally fresh, etched armorial bookplate of Charles Comte de la Vaulx dated 1752.

Furstenberg, *La gravure originale* 41; Fürstenberg, *Das französische Buch* 49, 92-3, 125 & 191; BN *IFF...XVIII* X: 137,68 (& V: 199,139 for the bookplate); Cioranescu 42000; Lewine, *Bib. of...Art... Books* 333 "rare".

A HAND JOB BY THE LADY

Sabbathier, Esprit. fl. 1677-1679.

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. fl. 1677-1679.

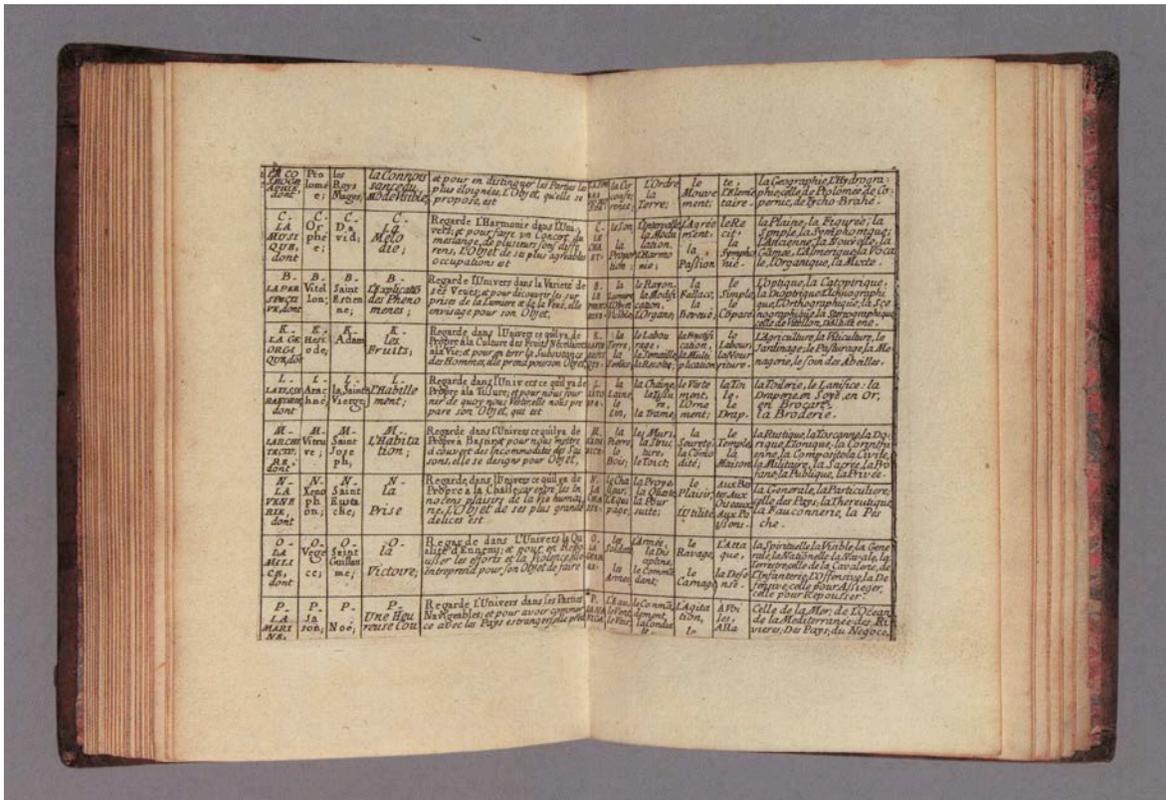
L'Ombre Ideale De La Sagesse Universelle. Paris, Mlle. Jablier 1679. Small 4to. [25] engr. leaves. TITLE & TWENTY-FOUR ETCHED & ENGRAVED PLATES (as above I).

\$18000.00

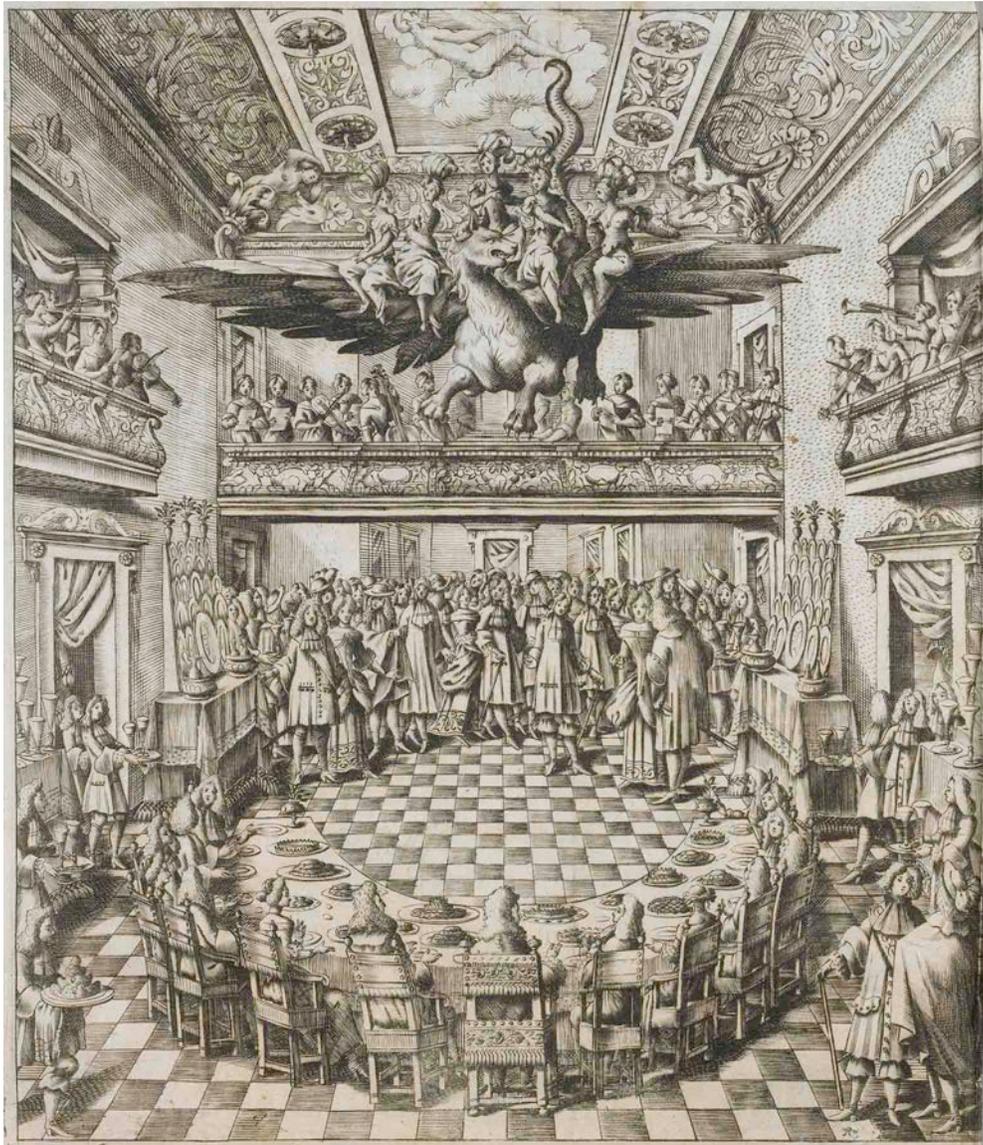
Ad I-II: A woman on Old Temple Road meticulously pricked the upper left corners of blank double leaves, then centered and pasted in these occult texts, which were commissioned by Louis XIV and the Queen Mum.

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 ONE OR BOTH PAIRS OF 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).



SUNG, DANCED, ACTED, ILLUSTRATED & PRINTED
BY THE GIRLS



Piccioli, Francesco Maria. fl. 1658-1710.

L'Orologio Del Piacere Che Mostra L'Ore Del Dilettevole Soggiorno Hanto Dall'...Ernesto Augusto...Duca Di Bransuich, Luneburgo &c. Piazzola, [Camillo Bortoli overseeing] THE VIRGINS 1685. Six parts in one vol. 4to. Frontis. with etched arms on recto & verso, [iv], [7]p. & [*Il vaticinio della fortuna*] [ii], [6]p. & [*La schiavitù fortunato di Nettuno*] [ii], [11]p. & [*Il merito acclamato*] [ii], [6]p. & [*Il ritratto della gloria*] [ii], [8]p. & [*Il preludio felice*] [i], [13]p. & EIGHT FOLDING ETCHINGS (320/580 x 275/1225 mm.).

18th-century decorated brocade paper wrappers (one hinge neatly repaired).

\$65000.00

ORIGINAL EDITION OF THIS BAROQUE FESTIVAL BOOK ILLUSTRATED AND PRINTED BY ORPHAN GIRLS AT THE VENETIAN PATRICIAN MARCO CONTARINI'S PRIVATE PRESS. IT INCLUDES THE ACCOUNT OF THE ENTERTAINMENTS AND THE FIVE ILLUSTRATED OPERA LIBRETTI PERFORMED BY GIRLS ON Contarini's sprawling estate at Piazzola along the Brenta.

For three days and nights in August 1685, Contarini organized musical and theatrical performance, banquets, hunting and other diversions for Ernst August Duke of Braunschweig. The *Orologio* outlines the Duke's stay. The libretti frame the action of the five operas, specify the number of singers, instrumentalists and extras (over one hundred fifty for *Il merito*) and detail the sets and FANTASTIC STAGE MACHINERY — the aerial dragon filled with girls, a six-horse carriage covered in gold and mirrors.... The opera presented on the villa's canals employed, i.a., the richly gilt Venetian state galley, the *Bucintoro*, while those staged in the vast palace courtyard and in his (larger) private theater were accompanied by dinner. Contarini commissioned Domenico Freschi to compose the music and Piccioli to supply the lyrics. His important library of over 1000 manuscript scores "is a major surviving musical source of 17th-century Venetian opera" (*New Grove* 2 6: 338).

At Piazzola Contarini supported the education of thirty-eight poor and orphan girls in the arts, drama, music and the printing trades. They drew these illustrations, cut the plates, set the type, and (under the direction of the Venetian printer Camillo Bortoli) worked two platen presses and a rolling press to print and illustrate these six books.

I have located one complete copy in the U.S. (Getty): not in Vinet, Ruggieri or Piantanida. In excellent condition (minor repairs to blank versos of some plates with very slight loss to one).

Camerini, *Piazzola nella sua storia e nell'arte musicale* 274-90 & 327-51; Saggiori, "Il 'Luoco delle Vergini' di Piazzola" in *Libri e stampatori in Padova Miscellanea...in onore di G. Bellini* (1959) 3-10 "stamperia delle 'putte'" (includes a bibliography of the press); Watanabe-O'Kelly, *Festivals & Ceremonies. A Bib.* 1453-8; Fumagalli, *Dict. géographique d'Italie* 303.

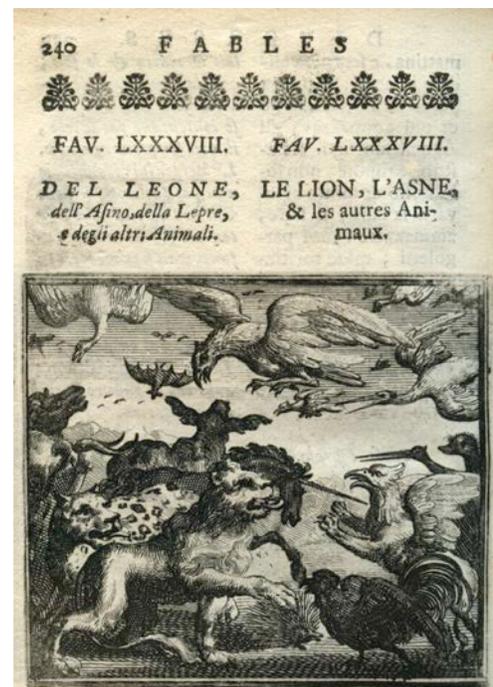
MORAL — "LES IGNORANS NE
TROUVENT RIEN DE BIEN, QUE CE
Q'ILS FONT EUX-MÊMES"

Veneroni, Jean Vignerone, called sieur de. *Scielta Di Favole, Italiane, è Francesi.* Paris, Françoise Lohr widow of S. Marbre-Cramoisy 1695. 12mo. [ii blank], frontis., 260, [4]p. Double-column parallel text, NINETY-FIVE HALF-PAGE ETCHINGS BY JAN VAN VIANEN (66/8 x 77/9 mm.), etched title by Vianen.

Contemporary speckled calf (worn, chipped), spine & title gilt, edges sprinkled red & brown. \$1600.00

First Edition of these bilingual fables by the lexicographer and Italian teacher. Three title-page variants are known: of this only one copy appears in NUC or OCLC in the U.S. (def.). In good condition, ?18th-century signature on title *John Shenart*.

Cioranescu 65893; *Fabula docet* 19 (French title); Riemens, *Esquisse hist. de l'enseignement du français en Hollande* 186 (French title).



PAGAN, CHRISTIAN, MAGICIAN, SORCERER
"VIRGILE L'ENCHANTEUR EST LE FAUST DU MOYEN ÂGE"
— YEMENIZ

Virgilius Maro, Publius. *Legend*.

La vie: les ditz/ et merueilles de Vergille. Quil fist luy estant en Romme. Lyon, [Jeanne de La Saulcée Widow of] the late Barnabé Chaussard c. 1535. Small 8vo. [ii], [37]p. TITLE WOODCUT OF VIRGIL IN HIS LIBRARY WITH A STUDENT (see below; 37 x 72 mm.).

Gilt Havana morocco (Bauzonnet), triple rule outer border, foliage & acorns in corners, oval central medallion from small foliage tools enclosing a rose, spine & title & turn-ins gilt, all edges gilt, red silk marker. \$22500.00

ILLUSTRATED OCCULT CHAPBOOK SET IN SOUTHERN ITALY AND THE ORIENT. "THE STORY OF THE MAGICIAN VIRGILIUS IS ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE PRODUCTS OF INTERNATIONAL FOLKLORE" (Debaene, tr.).

With roots in the late 12th century, the earliest printed version is in French, from which derive the English, Dutch and German. LITTLE IF ANY POPULAR LITERATURE HAS INSPIRED SO RICH A HERITAGE OF PAINTINGS, TAPESTRIES, ARCHITECTURAL ORNAMENT, METALWORK, PRINTS AND DECORATIVE ARTS. Renaissance and Baroque travelers visited the sites of his "miracles" in Rome and Naples.

His sorcery captivated authors from Cino da Pistoia to Mabillon. Transformed from pagan poet to Christian prophet, to white magic practitioner to diabolical conjurer, Virgil casts spells in medieval Spanish poetry (Ruiz de Hita), Renaissance Italian *novelle* (Speroni) and French Baroque philosophy (Naudé). The *Merveilles* made the Index.

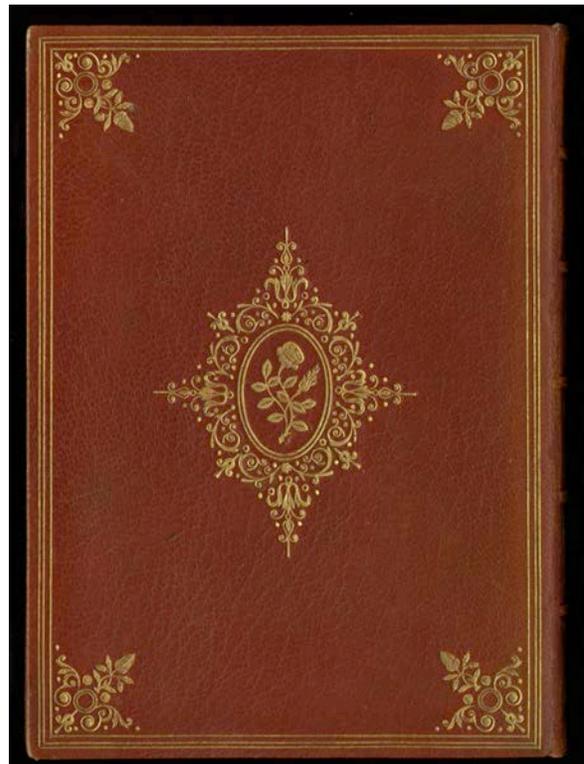
The present owner notes that *Virgil regularly consulted the old books in his library to prepare his magic*. Don't we all?

I have traced five French language printings from about 1510 to 1540, none dated, and each known in one or two examples. This is the Potier-Solar-Libri-Tite-Huth copy. In fine condition.

Editions: BM STC 444 (?the Yemeniz ex., *Cat.* (1867) 2363); Gültlingen, *Bib. des livres impr. à Lyon au 16^e siècle* I: 45,61 (BL); Baudrier XI: 57 (this & Yemeniz exx.); Bechtel, *Cat. des gothiques* F-20 (the same); Brunet II: 1168 (this & the Heber exx.).

Text: Comparetti, *Vergil in the Middle Ages* passim & 358-68; Spargo, *Virgil the Necromancer* passim, & 67 & 236-53; Petzholdt, "Virgilius Magus. Der Zauberer Virgil in der literarischen Tradition des Mittelalters" in *Hören Sagen Lesen Lernen. Festschrift für R. Schenda* ed. Brunold-Bigler (1995) 549-68 (best list of the *mirabilia*); Céard, "Virgile, un grand homme soupçonné de magie" in *Présence de Virgile Actes du colloque...* 1976 ed. Chévallier (1978) 265-78; Debaene, *De Nederlandse Volksboeken 1475-1540* 191-7; Bronzini, "Leggende virgiliane" in *Enc. virgiliana* 3: 166-170; see Suerbaum, *Handbuch der illustrierten Vergil-Ausgaben 1502-1840* VP 1518A (a tangle but useful).

Provenance: Potier, *Cat.* (1859) 327 (250 fr.); Solar, *Cat.* (1860) 1339 "Livre fort rare, que l'on range parmi les romans de chevalerie" (300 fr.); Libri, *Cat.* (1862) 552 "fort beau" (£13 13s.); Tite, *Cat.* (1874) 3313 "extremely rare Romance of Magic"; Huth, *The Huth Library* (1880) V: 1540 = Huth, *Cat.* (1920) 7802 "Very Rare".



WRITTEN BY WOMEN

“VRAIEMENT EXTRAORDINAIRE” — GUMUCHIAN

Genlis, Stéphanie Felicité Ducrest de St. Aubin, *comtesse de*. 1746-1830.

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. \$600.00

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.

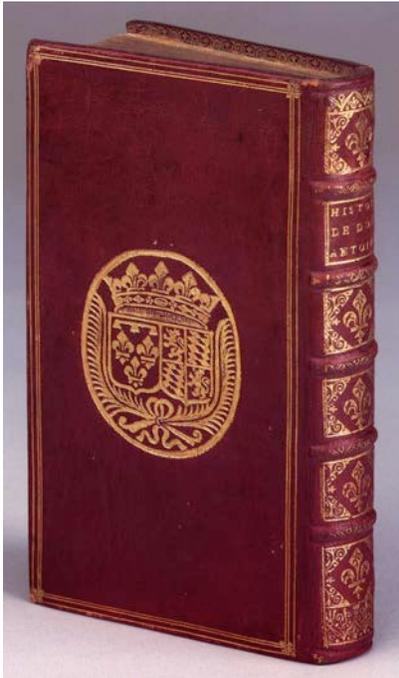
Cioranescu 30662; Gumuchian 2699-70 “un des plus curieux ouvrages illustrés”; *Lexikon d. Kinder- u. Jugendlit.* I: 437.

WOMAN AUTHOR — WOMAN PATRON THE DEDICATION COPY

Saintonge, Louise-Geneviève (Gillot) de. 1650-1718.

Histoire Secrete De Dom Antoine Roy De Portugal. Paris, J. Guignard 1696. 12mo. [iix], 255, [1]p.

CONTEMPORARY RED MOROCCO, gilt triple rule outer border, GILT ARMS OF THE DEDICATEE ÉLISABETH-CHARLOTTE DE BAVIÈRE DUCHESSE D'ORLÉANS sister-in-law to Louis XIV (Olivier 2564, 1 variant), gilt spine with her large lily in five compartments & lettered spine title in sixth, board edges gilt, edges gilt over marbling.



FIRST EDITION: AMONG THE FIRST HISTORICAL WORKS WRITTEN BY A WOMAN BASED ON PRIMARY SOURCE MATERIAL. Using papers of contemporary military and political figures inherited in maternal archives, the author constructs the biography of Antonio, styled Prior of Crato and King of Portugal (1531-95), the bastard son of the Jewess Violante Gomez and Luis duke of Beja (younger son of King Emanuel).

In 1578 on the death of King Sebastian at the battle of Alcazar-Kebir, Antonio too was taken prisoner. But he escaped Morocco, occupied Lisbon, claimed the Portuguese throne and stood as the only legitimate opposition to Philip V of Spain. In August 1580 Spanish forces drove Antonio to France, the Portuguese crown jewels in hand. HE PROMISED CATHERINE DE' MEDICI BRAZIL IN EXCHANGE FOR HER SUPPORT. Instead she purchased some royal gems. This cash financed a ragtag fleet that suffered defeat in 1582. He next turned to England and in 1589 sailed thence to rally his people in revolt. Again he failed, dying in poverty at Paris six years later.

This copy belonged to the dedicatee Élisabeth of Bavaria, called *Madame*, the second wife of Philippe d'Orléans (brother of Louis XIV): their issue ascended to the throne in 1830 (Louis Philippe). Her library passed, with few exceptions, into the Bibliothèque Nationale. In fine condition.

Cioranescu 61297; see Pearson's *Les femmes bibliophiles...Royal and Distinguished Ladies* 20 & Guigard I: 109; not in Alden.