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PAINTED GERMAN CAMEO BINDING

Reusner, Nicolaus. 1545-1602.

Sommorum Regum...Libri Septem. Augsburg, M. Manger 1578. 12mo. [xxiix], [320], [2]p. Nearly full-page woodcut portrait of the author, title in four-block white-line metalcut borders of rabbits, cornucopias & foliage.

Contemporary Wittenberg gilt tooled calf by Severin Rötter with sunken panels and painted vellum insets (insets 90 x 54/51 mm.; minor restoration, endleaves renewed). On both panels the vellum inset is framed by a foliage roll. The front vellum sheet bears a blind stamped hand painted half-figure portrait of August of Saxony with Rötter's initials, the date 1579 and three lines of text all painted in gold ink (Haebler I: 387,VII). The initials H*A*P*S are above the inset and the date 1579 below it. The rear vellum sheet bears the blind stamped hand painted arms of Duke August (Haebler I: 388,XVIII), stars and cherubs above and below. The spine compartments have a bloom and foliage roll slightly run over onto panels; edges gilt and gauffered with lilies enclosed in half circles and frames painted in red, green, brown and black. \$22000.00

To decorate a binding in this way, the central portion of each pressed paper board is partly removed, the whole covered with thoroughly dampened leather, which is stamped into each panel's recess. The die-sunk relief printed vellum leaf is then fixed in the hollow, colored and the gold applied.

First Complete Edition of these 281 verse biographies, dedicated to Emperor Rudolph and enlarged by a third over its predecessor. The fresh poems address his prominent courtiers and humanists. Only a handful of copies survive. In excellent condition, fourteen-line ms. verse on Charles VI on the rear flyleaves.

VD 16 ZV 13136; Schmidt, *Bucheinbände a. d. 14.-19. Jahrh.* 22 and Taf. XLIII Abb. 64 and Taf. XLIV Abb. 66; Davenport, *Cameo Bookstamps* XIII-XIV.