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Image on the front cover is item 9 Bonatti, Guido.
ONLY TWO FRAGMENTS RECORDED

1. **ALMANAC. Almanach für Breslau auf das Jahr 1497. [Speyer], [Peter Drach], [1497].**

Ł4,750

Single sheet. 20.5 x 27.5 cm, 40 lines. Large Gothic letter, double column. Typographic initials. Light age browning, tiny interlinear and marginal worming, outer edge repaired affecting a few letters, traces of glue (probably used as pastedown), edges backed. Very well-preserved copy, C16 ex-libris of Georg Adam and Ludvig Cunstler, old pencil mark to reverse.

Exceptionally well-preserved fragment comprising the upper section of a very rare, single-sheet almanac printed by Peter Drach of Speyer for the city of Breslau in 1497. This is the second impression, with minor typographic variations, of an edition printed by Drach c. 1496 (ISTC ia00520550). All four extant copies of the two impressions survive in fragmentary form, which is due to the extreme popularity and intense though short-term use of these texts. Conceived for local communities, almanacs condensed into one sheet ‘the table of the days’ of a specific year. They included the phases of the moon in relation to a given city, the liturgical calendar, and days devoted to saints. The second part of this copy contains separate sections for each month, where saint’s days are associated with specific treatments for ailments, including suitable days for ‘good baths’ or blood lettings to body parts, like feet or lungs, where they were not customarily performed. A remarkably uncommon and important ephemeral text.

Evidence of its early provenance is traceable to Lower Silesia. In 1571, this broadsheet was owned by Friar Georg Adam, priest at Lubin but originally from Głogów, two cities situated near Breslau. In 1593, it was still in Germany, according to Ludwig Cunstler’s ex-libris.

Only British Library recorded fragments (2).

GW 01524; C 2282; Einbl 320; VE15 A-441; Pr 3269; BMC III, 711; ISTC ia00520600.

L2316
2. **ALVAROTUS, Jacobus.** *Super feudis (With additions by Matthaeus de Corbinellis and Montorius Mascarelus).* Venice, [Printer of the 1477 Alvarotus (Roman Type)], 1477, 10 July.

£37,000

FIRST EDITION. Folio. 372 unnumbered leaves. a–c10, d8, e10, f8, g–h10, [m–o8, p4, q10, r–t8, v10.] A8, B–D10, E8, F10, G8, H10, I8, K–N10, O8, P8, Q6, QQ8, R–T10, V12. Roman letter in double column. Capital spaces with guide letters, small red initials in the index leaves, capital spaces left blank but the first several filled by a just later hand, including three with charming grotesque heads, contemporary manuscript foliation and subject headline, purchase inscription recording its price of 5 rhenish gulden and dated at Nuremberg, 1478, at head of pastedown, two further early inscriptions below, dated 1494, 1509 in a slightly different hand, one inscription erased, Jodocus Oethaeus of Nordhausen, 1568 manuscript inscription, with his manuscript title above, on recto of first leaf, another, Matthaeus Gerstenbrand, 1692 at centre, two early shelf marks on pastedown, another later one in lower outer corner of first leaf, early annotations in several hands throughout, with pointing hands, occasional underlinings. Small scattered single wormholes in the first few and final few quires touching some letters, occasional very light age toning, inks splash on one leaf, very minor margin waterstaining to upper margin in places, with the odd thumb mark. A fine copy, crisp and clean on thick paper with very large margins, in beautiful contemporary south German (possibly Nuremberg) albam tawed pigskin over thick wooden boards, covers triple blind ruled to a panel design, outer panel on upper cover with repeated blind stamped rose tools (EDBB s016008) in upper and lower section, blind stamped rose bush tool to both side sections, on lower cover the rose tools are to the corners with another floriated tool at sides, rose bush tool stamped above and below, central panels triple blind ruled in crossed diagonals, with Philipp Baumann’s armorial blind stamp (EDBB s016004), a fine Madonna and Child stamp (EDBB s016009), a small bird stamp (EDBB s016005) all stamped in centres, spine with large raised bands triple blind ruled at centre of compartments, early manuscript title at head, traces of clasps and ties, scattered worm holes in both covers.
A splendid and most interesting copy of this finely printed incunable, exceptionally rare, with an equally rare early binding with armorial ownership stamps. This incunable is the only book assigned to this press at Venice. The distinctive armorial stamp on the covers are those of Philipp Bauman. Some have identified this stamp, and the other stamps associated with it (Designated to the same workshop [EDBD w002384] by the Deutsche Einbanddatenbank), as identifying a binder. While the stamp naming Philipp Baumann could perhaps identify the binder, Kyriss (GBJB 1957) considered it an owner’s stamp, a view which seems to be born out by the relative rarity of the stamps, and the fact that they generally do not appear in other combinations. Most interestingly all the known copies of books bearing aumann’s stamps are also on law books, which probably identifies him as a lawyer or as a scholar of the law. It seems improbable that the only works surviving from one bindery were law books. Very few 15th-century ownership stamps are known at all, and such an early one with what is also probably the owners original purchase note make this copy particularly interesting. The Deutsche Einbanddatenbank states that the bindings with these stamps are South German though the purchase inscription recording its price of 5 rhenish gulden and dated Nuremberg, 1478 could probably help identify the precise location of the binding. There is no direct evidence that the purchase note is in Bauman’s hand but as the book was printed at Venice less than a year before it was bound it seems unlikely it could be another’s.

The Super feudis is, an important commentary by the celebrated lawyer and judge, Jacobus Alvarotus, noted for his learning in both civil and canon law. Alvarotus was an eminent feudal lawyer, a native of Padua, who studied at the university there. Having obtained his degree he lectured on feudal law for 16 years, probably at Padua. He subsequently filled the office of Judge in the cities of Florence and Siena. He died at the age of 68 in 1453. This was his major work, though some of his consilia were published in the C16th. GW had assigned one other edition to the Printer of the 1477 Alvarotus, but CIBN has subsequently assigned it to Beretin Convento.

His works are particularly rare; no copy of any 15th-century edition is recorded as having been on the market in over 60 years. A beautiful and important copy, with interesting contemporary and early annotation.

ESOTERICA, SEX & DEMONS

3. ALVERNUS, Guillelmus. *De fide De legibus*. [Augsburg], [ Günther Zainer], [1475-6].

FIRST EDITION fol. 139 ex 140 ll. lacking initial blank, unpaginated and unsigned [a9-b-o10], 43 lines plus headline to page, text in an elegant and unusual Gothicised Roman (type 95 repro). BMC C15th vol II fasc. p.1), guide spaces, undecorated. Single, apparently dismissive, contemporary marginalium to prologue and marginal markings to table. Early ink smudge to one leaf. A fine, well-margined copy on thick paper, in good C19 polished calf by Mackenzie, spine and covers gilt ruled, a.e.r.

First and only early edition of one of the most important works of William of Auergue, part of his monumental *Magisterium divinale*, an explanation of the whole natural world, composed about 1231-36. Divided into ten parts, and subdivided into chapters, this attractively produced volume covers i.a. reason, faith and love, the nature of error, belief and its meaning, the power of faith and miracles, the dangers of credulity, heresy, and demonology, the power of the intellect and natural virtue, the errors of the Jews, the dangers of transvestism, superstition, and magic, cults and demons, the errors of Islam (especially in relation to astrology and sex) the cause of ‘dolatories’ such as witchcraft, conjuring, divination, necromancy, elementalism, and other idols and rites and sacrifices.

Thorndike (cit. inf.) devotes an entire chapter to William "whose works present an unexpectedly detailed picture of the magic and superstition of the time. He is well acquainted with the occult literature and the natural philosophy of the day and has much to say of magic, demons, occult virtue, divination and astrology. Finally he also gives considerable information concerning what we may call the school of natural magic and experiment". Although not free from all the superstitions of his time William here makes clear the distinction between natural and black magic and refutes the power of demons over nature or of the stars over human will. William was in fact very well read in Arabic science and Pseudo-Solomonic esoterica, and acquainted with Hermetic philosophy. He has been called "the first great scholastic, setting the stage for Alexander of Hales, Albertus Magnus, and their disciples. Albertus and Alexander were at Paris with him, as was Roger Bacon", DSB cit inf.


£13,500
RARE THIRD EDITION


£8,500

Folio. ff. 118 [last blank] leaves 5-117 numbered I-cxii, cvi. [∗]4, a-6, 44 lines and head-line. Roman letter a little Greek. Capital spaces with some guide letters, red printed title on a1 recto, early marginalia. Expert paper restoration to upper inner corner and gutter of the leaves of the first quire, a few letters on verso of title probably perfected, small oil stain on three leaves, marginal marks and occasional light browning in places. A good clean well margined copy in early sheep, covers blind ruled to a panel design, outer panel with blind roll, sympathetically rebacked to match, later pastedowns, lower edges restored, a little worn.

Rare third edition edition of the works of Apuleius derived from the first, published in Rome by Suyvenheym and Pamartz, edited by Joannes Andreae, Bishop of Aleria. Apuleius is one of the rarest of the relatively major classical authors to find in incunable editions. Despite his continuing popularity down the ages, only four editions of the opera were printed before 1500 and none could be described as common. A philosopher, teacher, and rhetorician, his literary reputation rests principally on the Metamorphoses or Golden Ass, an elaborate romance interspersed with magic, miracles and plentiful Egyptian and oriental hermeticism; it is a work of great entertainment, invaluable as an illustration of the manners of the ancient world and is the only Latin novel which survives whole. The most famous and poetically beautiful portion is the episode of Cupid and Psyche which has inspired, not just writers and poets, but painters and sculptors ever since. Cervantes' Don Quixote is demonstrably indebted to Apuleius, parts of Gil Bas are directly borrowed from him and several of the humorous episodes reappear in slightly different guise in Boccacio. The works also include The Asclepius, a Latin paraphrase of a lost Greek dialogue (The perfect discourse) featuring Asclepius and Hermes Trismegistus, though there is much debate as to its origins. The Asclepius is one of two philosophical books ascribed to the legendary sage of Ancient Egypt, Hermes Trismegistus, though the Greek original, lost since classical times, is thought to date from the second or third century AD. Amongst Apuleius' other philosophical works are a speech on demonology, 'Dedeo Socratii'; a summary of the life and the doctrines of Plato, 'De Platonem et eius dogmate'; and a translation of a Pseudo-Aristotelic cosmological treatise 'De Mundo'. Little of Apuleius' work was truly original but he portrayed his characters with a new vigour and versatility which ensured its future appeal. He is the only example in Latin literature of an accomplished Sophist - in the proper sense of that term - which has come down to us and the loss of most other ancient romances has secured for him an especial influence in the development of modern fiction. He also stands as one of the last exponents of Platonic and one of the first of neo-Platonic philosophy.

5. **AQUINAS, Thomas. Quaestiones de duodecim quodlibet. Nuremberg, Johann Sensenschmidt and Andreas Frisner, 1474, 15 April.**

£19,500

Folio. 136 unnumbered leaves, the first blank (Tabula bound at the beginning as in the BSB copy). Gothic letter, in double columns, 48 lines. Incipit and colophon printed in red, incipit initial with pen work and scrolled tendrils, entirely rubricated with fine capitals occasionally with tendrils, contemporary inscription at head of first blank, another dated 1604 beneath, 'Prof Weber 1783' above. First blank and last leaf a little frayed at outer edge, minor lightwater stain at places in outer margin, occasional very minor marginal dust soiling. A fine, very clean, fresh copy on thick paper with wide margins, in a fine contemporary binding by Ambrosius Keller of pigskin over thick wooden boards, covers with an all over design of single interlacing curved rules in a diapered pattern, blindstamped teardrop shaped tool with winged dragon at centres, circled with a seme of blind stamped floral tools and birdlike stamps, spine with three raised double bands, compartments filled with a seme of blindstamped floral tools, brass catches with remains of clasps, a little rubbed and worn at extremities.

A stunning copy of this most beautifully printed incunable by the first printer at Nuremberg, the third printing of this major work by St. Thomas Aquinas, in its original binding from the Augsburg workshop of Ambrosius Keller, finely rubricated throughout. The binding exhibits many of the characteristics of Augsburg bindings of the period, and is almost certainly from the workshop of Ambrosius Keller (Goldschmidt, Gothic and Renaissance Bookbindings, No. 8). The teardrop shaped tool with a dragon or a basilisk is identified as from his workshop, see einbanddatenbank w000325 and plate VII from Goldschmidt. “Ambrosius Keller is well known as a bookbinder at Augsburg who worked from about 1470 to 1480 or perhaps even longer. He appears also as a printer (or as a publisher only?) in 1479 when two books came out, printed in G Zainer's type 2..” Goldschmidt. The binding is finely conceived and worked in an unusual, almost modern, all over design. The first edition of this work by Thomas Aquinas was printed at Rome four years earlier, both editions are now rare. Aquinas (1225-74) wrote his "Quaestiones de Duodecim Quodlibet" or "Twelve Questions on Various Subjects" whilst teaching at the university in Paris; it was written over a period of several years probably between 1256 and 1272. Aquinas taught both in Rome and at Paris and this work records his discussions with students, collected over over many years on various theological and philosophical problems. The subjects he deals with include theological discussions on the nature of angels and devils, salvation and sin. The book also discusses more practical issues such as confession and marriage. Saint Thomas Aquinas was a Catholic Priest in the Dominican Order and probably the
most important Medieval philosopher and theologian. He was immensely influenced by scholasticism and Aristotle and known for his synthesis of the two aforementioned traditions.

He is considered, with Augustine, the most influential theologian in the history of the Western Church, and his deep interest in Aristotle makes his works no less important to the history of philosophy than to theology. A very beautiful copy.


£59,500

EDITIO PRINCEPS. Folio. 346 unnumbered leaves, lacking two blanks. Text in Aldus' large Greek type 146, 41 lines of scholia surrounding in smaller (type114), Aldus' preface in Roman. Woodcut strap-work initials in two sizes and headpieces. Early Greek marginalia in brown ink mostly to first quarter of volume. Title page very slightly soiled and strengthened at gutter, two leaves slightly browned (probably damp at printing), couple of minor marginal tears, last leaf with small old marginal repairs, strengthened at gutter, slightly soiled on verso. A very good copy, crisp, clean and well margined in C17 vellum over boards C18 mottling, gilt red morocco labels and gilt thistle motif on spine, C19 ms. bibl. notes on front pastedown, Walter Hirst's charming bookplate and Sir Thomas Philip's pencilled shelf mark beneath, earlier ink lettering (press mark?) on rear pastedown. Quaritch pencil note beneath.

A very handsome copy of the beautiful first printed edition of Aristophanes comprising the first nine plays (10 & 11 were not published till 1525) and one of the chef d’oeuvres of Aldus’ early Greek press. The editor was Marcus Mursius, the celebrated Greek humanist, who also contributed an excellent preface on the reasons for studying Greek and the stylistic beauty of Aristophanes. Aldus founded his career on the publication of Greek texts - the first printer to do so - with this type designed and cast on new principles which he perfected over a period of five years. To his scholarly care we owe more of the editiones princeps of the major Greek classics than to any other printer and the Aristophanes, textually and artistically, was one of his finest achievements.

Aristophanes was the greatest of the Athenian comic dramatists and one of her greatest poets. For richness and fertility of imagination probably only Shakespeare is comparable and Aristophanes' direct influence on English literature was considerable; the comedies of Jonson, Middleton and Fielding derive from him. Apart from constituting one of the surviving glories of hellenic culture Aristophanes' comedies are an invaluable source for its social history. His surviving plays - out of a probable forty or fifty - provide us with an accurate if satirical commentary on the political, religious, sexual, economical and domestic life of Athens over a period of thirty-six years. His changes in style and content match the concurrent constitutional and social changes in the State itself. The plays' themes are invariably contemporary, a mocking mirror to the condition of the city. This edition has the benefit of the scholia of Thomas Magister, John Tzetzes and Demetrius Triclinus themselves incorporating much of the more ancient commentaries of Appolonius, Callimachus, Didymus and others, which were superseded in later editions by much neater but also much inferior work.


7. ARISTOTLE. De physico auditu...ab Averri condubesi commentate. Venice, Andrea de Asula, 1483, 2nd October.

£19,500

FIRST EDITION thus. Folio, 159 ex 160 unnumbered ll. AA–TT8 UU7 (lacking final blank). Double column, gothic letter in two sizes, printed paragraph numbers, initial spaces blank. Systematic scholarly marginalia in contemporary and C16th hands, neat and legible, intermittently throughout. A few little wormholes, mostly marginal, to final gatherings, lamp oil splash to blank fore edge of a dozen ll., an exceptional, thick paper copy, clean, well-margined and unrestored, in 16th century Viennese calf over wooden boards, outer and inner compartments with multi blind ruled borders, 4 original brass bosses to corners of latter on each cover, matching central boss within, Spine with blind ornament to seven compartments, joints repaired, covers a bit wormed and scratched, remains of clasps, a tall and handsome volume beautifully proportioned and printed.

Excellent early edition of Aristotle's Physics in this Latin translation with the commentary of Ibn Rushd, otherwise known as Averroes of Cordoba, and edited by Nicoletus Vernia. It comprises one of a series of Aristotelian texts that were produced by Andreas Tornesamus and Bartholomeus de Blavis between 1 February and 25 October 1483. The translation is anonymous but William Moerke and Michael Scotus were responsible for the other medico-scientific Latin versions in the series. Aristotle's Physics is a fundamental text of Western natural philosophy. In it, or rather them, what has come down to us is probably a fairly random collection of lecture notes, rather than a text polished for publication, Aristotle established the general principles that govern all natural
bodies, animate and inanimate, celestial and terrestrial, including all motion, causation, qualitative and quantitative change, creation and extinction. Physics in the Aristotelian sense covers almost all there is to know about the material world – including those forces which shape it that are not themselves material. Heidegger wrote of it "This book determines the warp and woof of the whole of Western thinking... Without Aristotle's Physics there would have been no Galileo."

Ibn Rushd or Averroes came from an illustrious Cordoban family and was the greatest Muslim philosopher of the West and one of the greatest of medieval times, as well as a physician and astronomer. For his three remarkable commentaries on Aristotle (that on zoology is now absolutely lost) he became known simply as 'The Commentator' or 'Gran Comento' as Dante calls him in Inferno IV 144. English versions were still being published in the 20th century.

The editor Vernia (1420 - 1499) was one of the leading Aristotelians of the C16th and himself a significant philosopher – his contemporaries called him Nicoletus philosophus celeberrimus; he was also a physician and astrologer. He taught philosophy at the University of Padua from 1465 almost to his death and was succeeded by Pomponazzi, like Nifo, one of his pupils. Titles from this series of publications appear either individually or together and in any combination, they were available for purchase that way. The bibliographical references following therefore may refer to the whole publication, or any part.

8. ARISTOTLE. *De animalibus [et alia].* Venice, Aldus, 1497 [or 1498].

£39,500

EDITIO PRINCEPS. Fol., ff. 457 [i.e. 458], [9], αααα–&<iostream>, ΛΛ–ΠΠΠΠ, ΡΡ–ΙΙ, ΣΣΦΦ10, ΧΧ8, lacking blank XX8. Greek, little Roman in preliminaries; large decorated initials; recto of first leaf lightly soiled, old oil stain to gutters at head; tear from blank lower corner at 152, small tear at foot of 364; marginal damp stains, small central oil splash over final gathering. A good, well-margined copy in early plain goatskin, vellum spine superimposed; chipped corner and front joint lightly cracked; a bit worn. Extensive scholarly Greek and Latin annotations by Ottaviano Ferrari (1518-1586), his autograph at head of title, and occasionally a slightly earlier Italian hand; with the supplemental gathering added, printed later and often missing, densely annotated by a knowledgeable late sixteenth-century Italian philologist; Ferrari’s autograph on title, early shelfmark and late sixteenth-century owner’s annotation confirming the notes were by Ferrari and the volume was purchased from Cesare Rovida’s heirs; later table of contents on front fly verso; bibliographical inscriptions (inaccurate) on front pastedown.
The third volume from a series of five comprising the celebrated collected edition of Aristotle published by Aldus Manutius between 1495 and 1498. The first two sets of Aldine Greek Type 1 cut by Francesco Griffi appeared in this edition. This tome comprises nineteen treatises of Aristotle, mainly focused on animals, plus five commentaries by his pupil Theophrastus on fish, dizziness, tiredness, smell and sweat. Arguably, no other thinker in history has been more influential than Aristotle. His detailed and comprehensive studies in zoology, forming about a quarter of his surviving works, provided the most complete account on the animal world until the sixteenth century and, in many respects, up to the Enlightenment.

This copy extraordinarily retains the original strip pasted by Aldus at foot of f. 100v (bkxv) to supply a missing line, like the copy of George III in BL and very few others. The colophon also bears the corrected variant oicèia in place of oiskeia, as in BL Cracherode copy. Gathering *8, originally missing in many copies of the edition, was integrated here by a scrupulous later owner. It consists of a fragment from the tenth book of the History of Animals, which was added by Aldus at the very last moment, so it was not included in earlier press run. The present copy is entirely annotated, mostly by the Milanese scholar Ottaviano Ferrari (1518-1586). Ferrari read humanities at the Canobian schools in Milan and, for a short time, taught logic at the University of Pavia. He was a close friend of Giulio Poggiani, Jacopo Bonfadio and Aldus’s son, Paolo Manuzio. De disciplina Encyclo was his most appreciated work, published in 1560 by the Aldine press under Paolo’s management. It was a valuable introduction to Aristotelian philosophy. His important Greek manuscripts which he carefully collected are mostly in the Ambrosiana library of Milan. As a proof of his respect for Aristotle’s teachings, his medallion portrait (about 1560) shows the Greek philosopher on its verso. Ferrari declared himself as a passionate student of medicine too, an interest which was certainly the reason for him to dwell so much on this mainly naturalistic book within the Aristotelian corpus. His annotations are dense and incredibly learned. He went over and over the volume, using three different inks and writing sometimes quick and large, sometimes minute and precise. Yet, the habit of recording in the margins and over the lines the internal page numbers treating of similar subjects remains consistent over the years of his intensive study. Along with etymological notes on animals’ names, Ferrari made continuous reference to major and minor works by Aristotle, their Greek and Arabic commentaries, as well as an impressive list of authorities, such as Plato, Herodotus, Plutarch, Aratus, Hippocrates and Galen, Pliny, Varro, Lucretius, Cicero, Vitruvius and even Thomas Aquinas and Albert Magnus. Nor are absent mentions of early modern scholars, like Joseph Scaliger, Denis Lambin, Lodovico de Varthema, Robert Estienne, Ippolito Salviani, Pierre Belon, Piero Vettori, Bessarion and Nicolò Leonceno. Here and there, one can find quotations from Theodorus Gaza’s Latin translation of these zoological treatises; finally, there are occasional textual emendations (for instance, f. 164r), referring to a manuscript owned by Ferrari and another by Giovanni Battista Rasario (1517-1578), a renowned Aristotelian commentator and professor of Greek in Padua and Venice.

Upon Ferrari’s death, this copy was acquired by Cesare Rovida (c.1559-1591/4), remarkably as one of his many Greek manuscripts. A pupil of Ferrari, Rovida was a bibliophile and professor of medicine in Pavia. He also commented on Aristotle and Ptolemy, though he failed to publish his works. Because of their extraordinary value, the Ferrari-Rovida codices were purchased by Cardinal Federico Borromeo in 1606 and became one of the founding nuclei of the Ambrosiana Library (see, for instance, MS H 50 sup., with De anima and ancient commentaries, as described in Martini-Bassi, n. 435). Yet, this interesting Aldine copy of Aristotle’s naturalistic treatises has followed a different path. As we learn from the lower inscription on the title, it was sold by Rovida’s heirs to another Italian collector, who checked and certified that the annotations were truly by Ferrari.

The annotations over the tenth book of History of animals in the last gathering are also very interesting. They record numerous textual variations and commented on early authorities mentioning the text (now thought to be a spurious later addition). They were written in a very neat hand by a late sixteenth-century Italian scholar in Latin, Greek and Italian. It is a pity they were not signed. On the verso of the last leaf, the annotator reported the abbreviations of the many codices he used in his philological work. One of them is said to be formerly owned by Christophe de Longueil (died in 1522) and then Lazzaro Bonamico (died in 1552). Only few Aristotelian students, for example of the calibre of Piero Vettori (1499-1585), were able to display such knowledge and elegant handwriting in their marginia.

BMC V 555-556; BSB-Ink, A 698; GW 2334; Goff, A 959; IGI 791; Hain *1657; Renouard, 11.2.
9. **ATTAVANTI, Paolus, Florentinus.** *Breviarium totius iuris canonici.* Memmingen, Albrecht Kunne, 1486.

£9,000

Folio. ff. (v) 2-129 (*4 a10 b-n8 o10 p8 q6), last blank. Gothic letter, double column, ms. initials in red and blue, attractive contemporary coloured woodcut portrait of Paolo Attavanti in his library to recto of first fol. Light age browning to a few ll., slight marginal foxing, a few wormholes to margins of first and last gathering, early marginal repair to first fol., occasional minor thumb or grease marks, blank lower outer corner of fol. 27 torn away. An excellent, well-margined copy, on high-quality thick paper, in contemporary south German calf over wooden boards, lacking clasps, a few small holes. Blind-toolled to a triple-ruled panel design, second border with interlacing fleurs-de-lis and leafy branch, centre panel with stamped floral diapers. New spine superimposed c1600, four original compartments, gilt double-ruled dentelle border to each, raised bands, gilt author and title, a few wormholes at foot. Occasional early annotation in brown-black and red ink, early ex-libris ‘Sum Georgij Lorbret (?) Carinthius natione’ to fly, ex-libris ‘Munus d[ij] Joannis Pächler Beneficiati S Agnetis Brixina Anno dni M D XXXV XV Novembris’, ‘Ad Bibliotheca Neocell. B.V. 1486’ and ‘Sera in fundo parsimonia Jacob[u]s Cendr[u]s (?)’ to first fol., ‘Memmingen per Albert Kune 1486’ on second, early Latin inscription ‘Modo finis omnium rerum (?)’ to recto of last, ms legal notes concerning the beginning or renewal of proceedings, especially in relation to ‘infidelibus’ which would normally refer to Muslims or pagans to fly and last.


Excellent, well-margined copy of this masterful manual of canon law. Paolo Attavanti (1445-99) was a Florentine preacher, theologian and ‘doctor in utroque iuris’ (canon and civil law). He was a valued member of the humanist circle of Lorenzo de’ Medici, which included the philosopher Marsilio Ficino. A prolific writer, he authored hagiographic and historical works, and a commentary to Dante’s ‘Divine Comedy’. This legal work was a manual for practitioners designed to make the consultation of canon law ‘easier, speedier and pleasanter’. Canon law was the legal system of the Roman Catholic Church, regulating the rights and duties of individuals, property, crime, trials, etc. The thorough index of the ‘Breviarium’ refers the reader to hundreds of subjects, from purgatory, penance and the images of saints to practical questions like procedures for the election of bishops and the duration of a father’s punishment across generations. Fundamental in canon law was the code of behaviour for religious, including whether they were allowed to bear weapons and their duty to avoid all kinds of theatrical spectacles. Judicial regulations covered all phases of trials and explained, for instance, that no criminal accusations could be accepted from excommunicates, actors, heretics, heathens and Jews. Strict regulations on marriage were cruel as aristocrats and princes often infringed them by marrying a close relative or having illegitimate children. The ‘arbor consanguinitatis’, which occupies an entire page, illustrated the degrees of kinship whereby individuals were too closely related to be granted leave to marry. The annotator of this copy was interested in these issues as he highlighted sections on the illegitimate offspring of priests, bishops and popes.

The ownership of this copy can be traced to Bavaria. In 1535, the book was left by the heirs of Johann Pächler (d. 1535), vicar of Eggm and ‘beneficiatus’ (or donor) to the altar of St Agnes in the Duomo of Bressanone, to the Abbey of Novacella in South Tyrol. A catalogue of the Bibliotheca Neocellensis,
published in 1777, includes what is probably this copy, listed as a 4to, its actual size.

Only Harvard Law School copy recorded in the US. BMC II, 604; GW M30141; Goff P180; H 7161*. C. Pertinger, Raritas librorum in Bibliotheca Novacellensi (Brixinae, 1777).

L2860
NO COMPLETE COPIES IN THE US


£59,500

Folio. 3 parts in 2 volumes. 468 + 452 unnumbered ff. [collation on request]. Gothic letter, double column. Capital letters and intermittent initials largely supplied in red on with extensive decoration, vol. 1 with sketch for capital letter illumination on t-p. Light age yellowing, margins untrimmed, the odd insignificant ink or thumb mark, first and last leaf with scattered wormholes. Vol. 1 with faded inscriptions to ff. viii and 2avii. Vol. 2 with tiny wormholes to first few gatherings not affecting reading. Exceptional wide-margined copies on very good thick paper, crisp and clean, in highest quality C15 Bavarian blindstamped quarter pigskin over wooden boards, lacking clasps, two panels of diagonal double fillets with fleurons and basilisks, classification stamp or label ‘JU’ to spines, covers slightly wormed and rubbed, late C16 woodcut letter ‘A’ on upper cover of both vols, original ms title labels beneath. C16/C17 monogram ‘ES’, casemarks ‘12’ and ‘13’, and later ‘N. 736’, C18 ms. ex-libris ‘Monachij ad PP. Franciscanos’ and C19 inscription ‘Duplum’ to both vols, C15 ms. roundel in red ‘OSWS 1487’ at beginning of vol. I part II. Circular stamp of St Anthony’s convent (Munich) on vol. 2 upper edges.

A remarkably large, crisp copy on thick paper in two volumes of the second edition of this fundamental C15 work on jurisprudence. Of Bavarian provenance, its splendid C15 binding over wooden boards was made in the same workshop in Munich (Schwenke-Schunke II, S. 4 u. S. 275 f.) as Albertus Magnus’s ‘De abundantia exemplorum’ (Ulm, 1478) from the collection of the convent of St Anthony, now at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek. Giovanni Bertachini (?1448-c. 1500) graduated in Law at the University of Padua, and, an experienced jurist and esteemed author, he was appointed lawyer of the Consistory by Pope Sixtus VI. Composed after 1471 and first printed in Rome in 1481, his ‘Repertorium’ is a monumental dictionary designed for scholars and practitioners of canon and civil (cmm criminal) law. It is organised alphabetically by subject, for easy consultation, with hundreds of sections on juridical institutions (e.g., marriage), the legal status of individuals (e.g., fathers, archbishops, notaries), crimes (e.g., murder), and situations in which contracts are signed (e.g., sales, inheritance). Every section lists dozens of legal situations pertaining to specific juridical areas. For instance, a father, who can be natural, adoptive, and so on, can repudiate his son for numerous reasons, which
are all listed as separate entries. For each entry, Bertachini provides references to the most important legal compendia which elaborate on the given subject, from Justinian’s ‘Institutiones’ to Guillaume Durand’s ‘Speculum indiciale’ (c. 1271-1291) and Baldus’s C14 commentary to the ‘Codex Iustinianus’. Bertachini discusses unusual questions like the problematic legal status of hermaphrodites, as the coexistence of different sexes involved the concurrence of conflicting legal rights. The ‘Repertorium’ explained, among other things, that the Christian names of hermaphrodites had to reflect their prevalent masculine or feminine blood ‘serum’ (believed to determine a person’s biological sex). This understanding of hermaphroditism was still current in C18 studies on biological heredity. Bertachini’s legal encyclopaedia was extremely successful and influential, with ten editions appearing in the fifteenth century.

The complex provenance of these volumes is traceable to Bavaria, where they were printed, bound, and preserved at least until the mid-C19. The red ink letters OSWS are probably an unidentified rubricator’s monogram unusually styled in the form of a circle with initials rather than a signature. If so, the rubrication of at least the first part can be dated to 1487. A er the second half of the C16, these volumes were possessed by ‘ES’, probably a lawyer and likely responsible for the woodcuts ‘A’ taken from a German book of initials modelled on letters published by Gabriele Giolito in Venice in 1557. Some of ES’s books were later acquired by the Franciscan convent of St Anthony in Munich. Two more books from the convent’s collection—Sulpitius’s ‘Corpus iuris civilis. Digestum vetus’ (Pergia, 1476) and Ubaldi’s ‘Lectura super Codice, Liber 6’ (Pergia, 1472), now at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek—bear the ‘ES’ monogram and a ‘B’ on the cover a er Giolito’s woodcut of 1564. The volumes likely remained in the convent until its abolition on the secularisation of Bavaria in 1802. The ex-libris ‘Monachij ad PP. Franciscanos’, which appears on many volumes from the convent, probably derives from an inventory made in the late C18 or early C19. A er 1802, the volumes were acquired by the Royal Library in Munich and catalogued as duplicates, like thousands of other books from Bavarian monasteries. Librarians noted ‘Duplum’ in ink and ‘Duplum an[n]i 1483’ in pencil on the volumes. The same inscriptions appear on another 1483 copy of the ‘Repertorium’ (now at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek) once belonging to the convent. This copy was sold by the Library after the mid-C19.

Only Library of Congress (parts I, II only) and Syracuse (part I only) recorded copies in the US. H *2982; GW 4153; BSB-Ink B-386; Goff B-498.
FINE CONTEMPORARY COLOURING


£47,500

FIRST EDITION (first issue without added register). 4to, 408 leaves, a-z8, A-Z8, AA-EE8. Gothic letter. Whiteon- black decorated initials, unusually large printer’s device printed in red and black on final recto, several woodcut tables and diagrams, over a hundred beautiful mythological and zodiacal illustrations hand-coloured with remarkable variety, almost certainly in the print-shop, red hand-marking of all capitals throughout; couple of tiny wormholes on title and first gathering, mostly interlinear, marginal light dampstains on a few leaves at end, paper flaw to Ziiv affecting a couple of letters, old repair to outer margin of EEvi. A very, very good, unwashed and well-marged copy in sixteenth-century Germanic light-brown calf over boards, blind-tooled double-fillet panel, dentelles pattern to spine; a.e. later mottled in red; slightly scratched, minor old repairs to head and tail of spine; contemporary Latin exlibris on title ‘Liber sancti Nicolai episcopi in Bruwylre propre Colonia’.

Edition princeps of this vastly influential astronomical guidebook. One of the most handsome astronomy of the incunable period. Guido Bonatti of Forli (died about 1296) was the most acclaimed mathematician and astronomer of the thirteenth century. His advice was sought by the Emperor Fredrick II and many of the Italian rulers or municipalities supporting the imperial cause against the pope, such as Florence, Siena and Forli. In his Commedia (XX, 118), Dante placed Bonatti in Hell, amongst other astrologers forced to walk and look backwards for eternity as punishment for their sinful attempts to look into the future in life. Bonatti’s most famous work was this Book on Astronomy, written about 1277. This first edition was edited by the astronomer Johann Engel (1463-1512), including some additions by the German scholar Jacobus Canter Frisius (c. 1471-1529).

The marvelous illustrations of the zodiac and the charioted Roman gods and goddesses are here coloured very skillfully by a contemporary hand using an uncommonly vast range of tones in the same image. Such a work must have been accomplished directly in Radolf’s print-shop, together with the painstaking simple rubrication. This striking copy was once in the Benedictine abbey of St. Nicholas in Brauweiler, in North-Western Cologne. Its valuable library was dispersed following the Napoleonic secularisation of 1802. A register was added to later copies of the print run but the majority had been distributed before it was available.


ISTC ib00845000; BM STC, II, 384; GW, 4643; Goff, B-845; Hain, 3461; Klebs, 195.1; Brunet, I, 1089; Graesse, I, 438; Cantamessa, I, 579; Thorndyke, II, 826; Houzeau-Lancaster, 4160; Ricciardi, I, 448-449.

K39
Mercurius

Vxit alchabicus mercurius est planeta comitatus masculinus diurnus
inclinatur per naturam suam illi cui complectitur ex planetis signis
ita et si tungatur doro planete q efficitur bonus; si tungatur malo efficitur
malus. Et si tungatur planete masculino dicitur masculinus; si nocturno
noturnus: si diurno durnus. Et habet significare fratres minores: vide
proprie in naturitate aliumus nati: vide qualiter se habeat mercurius cum
duo primis secum significat: natura tali: nam si cum mercurius aspectet
a tino vel a se patri asepti bene erit nato ex fratibus suis minimibus ma-
xime cum receptione. Et si aspectet cum quarto asepti vel ab opposito-
mae et ex eius maxime si receptione intermetia similiter die de conumede
co potius: vide intelligas aseptibus eius cum luna. Et est mercurialis
magis diligens amalis et vpoes: liberitus adhcrdit eis. Et significat.
12. DIONYSIUS PERIEGETES. *De situ orbis. lat. von Antonius Beccaria*. Venice, Bernhard Maler, Erhard Ratdolt and Peter Lösslein, 1477.

£12,500

FIRST EDITION thus. 4to. 42 unnumbered ll. a-d8e10. Roman letter, some Greek. Title within fine white on black, white vine border with shield in roundel below, white on black woodcut initials cut to the same design, with occasional later marginal annotations. Light age yellowing, some minor mostly marginal spotting in places, foremargins cut short, occasionally fractionally trimming sides notes. A good copy, crisp and clean in modern vellum, all edges blue.

Important and rare first edition of Dionysius' didactic compendium of geographical descriptions of the known world in its first prose translation by the Veronese humanist Antonio Beccaria, and the first separately printed edition of the work. It had appeared in print in a free verse translation in Priscian’s Opera in 1470. Dionysius, a scholar-poet who flourished in Alexandria during the reign of Hadrian, describes the world as it was then known. In antiquity, it was widely read and extremely influential, both in the schoolroom and among later poets. Translated into Latin, the subject of commentaries, and popular in Byzantium, it offers insights into multiple traditions of ancient geography, both literary and more scientific, and displays interesting affiliations to the earlier school of Alexandrian poets. Dionysius of Alexandria, called Periegetes (the guide), was a contemporary of the great Hellenistic geographers Marinus of Tyre and Claudius Ptolemy. His description in verse of the inhabited world was long used as a school textbook and presented the known world as an island, sagg-shaped, entirely north of the equator, extending from Thule (Iceland) to Libya. He limited the inhabited world eastward by the river Ganges, taking into account the Seres (Chinese and Tibetans) but locating them much less far east than Marinus. Beccaria’s translation into prose Latin also updated the work by adding details that could not have been known to Dionysius. For instance he expands the description of Ireland to discuss the merits of Irish horses and describes the use of peat for burning. Dionysius identifies numerous sources for various gems and precious minerals in Europe, Asia Minor, and South Asia. This first edition is beautifully printed in a fine Roman type and eleganty decorated with fine white on black initials in the same style. The title border is sometimes found in red.


£35,000

**EDITIO PRINCEPS.** 4to. Two vols in one, part two bound before part one. 1) 138 unnumbered leaves. α–ε8, ζ–η6, θ–q8, σ6. lacking blank σ6 2) 266 unnumbered leaves. *6, α–c12, ζ–η8, θ10, ι–r8, ττ6, υ–ω, A–f8, Δ4. lacking blank 88. Greek letter, some Roman. Capital spaces with guide-letters, bookplate of the Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica, on front pastedown. Title of vol II fractionally dusty, very occasional very minor thumb mark. Fine copies of both vols, crisp and clean, on thick high quality paper with good clean margins, in sumptuous early C19 ‘Romantic’ straight grained purple morocco by Brooks (his label on fly), bound for George Granville Leveson-Gower, 1st Duke of Sutherland, covers blind and gilt ruled to a panel design, outer panel with blind dentelle border, middle panel with blind fleurons to corners and sides, large blind-tooled finely worked lozenge at centre, the arms of the 1st Duke of Sutherland gilt on upper cover, spine with blind and gilt ruled double raised bands, blind tooled in compartments, gilt tooled at head and tail, inner dentelles and turn ins gilt, brown paper fly and pastedown with gilt borders, all edges gilt and richly gauffered.

*A lovely copy of this rare Aldine incunable, the editio princeps of the majority of the letters it contains, including the editio princeps of the letters of Plato and the first printing of any of his writings in the original Greek, edited by Marcus Musurus, perhaps the most influential figure in the progress of the Aldine Greek Press, and beautifully printed by the incomparable Aldus Manutius. Musurus brought together 35 authors in his extensive collection, ranging from Plato, Isocrates and Aeschines from antiquity to 4th-century authors such as Gregory of Nazianzus and later to Procopius of Gaza. Also included are Synesius, Aristotle, Alexander the Great, St. Basil, Phalaris Tyrannus, Brutus Romanus, Apollonius of Tyana, and Julian Apostate (Emperor Flavius Claudius Julianus); other letters are spurious or of doubtful authorship, such as those by Hippocrates and Euripides. The book is printed in Aldus’s second and better Greek type (2:114), designed by Francesco Griffo da Bologna. In his dedication to Antonio Úrceo Codro (1446-1500) professor of Greek and Latin at Bologna, Aldus states that he has set up in type whatever letters he could procure of some thirty-five Greek writers. A total of twenty-six authors were published in these vols. Those that do not appear in this
edition he reserved for a later publication, which was never realised. Letter-writing was an art and study allied to rhetoric, which formed part of a humanistic education, and compendia of letters circulated as model precedents. The letters published in this volume however are of interest far beyond mere examples of letter-writing. An example is Plato's seventh letter, the longest and most important. It is addressed to the associates and companions of Dion, most likely after his assassination in 353 BCE, in the form of an open letter, and contains a defence of Plato's political activities in Syracuse as well as a long digression concerning the nature of philosophy, the theory of the forms, and the problems inherent to teaching. Toward the end of the letter he gives an explanation of the perfect circle as an existing, unchanging, and eternal form, and explains how any reproduction of a circle is impossible. He suggests that the form of a perfect circle cannot even be discussed, because language and definition are inadequate. This collection was of great influence; Copernicus taught himself Greek using this work with the help of a Greek-Latin dictionary; the manuscript of his De Revolutionibus contains a suppressed passage from Lysis's letter to Hipparchus found in this collection. Introducing the text of the letter Copernicus mentions "Philolaus believed in the earth's motion... (and) Aristarchus of Samos too held the same view".

From 1493, Musurus was associated with Aldus Manutius and belonged to the Neacademia (Aldine Academy of Hellenists), a society founded by Manutius and other learned men for the promotion of Greek studies. Many of the Aldine classics were published under Musurus' supervision, and he is credited with the first editions of the scholia of Aristophanes (1498), Athenaeus (1514), Hesychius of Alexandria (1514) and Pausanias (1516). Musurus' handwriting reportedly formed the model of Aldus' Greek type. Works printed by Aldus Manutius have become synonymous with all that is best with late fifteenth century and early sixteenth-century book production, particularly with typographical elegance and editorial quality and this rare and beautifully produced incunabula is no exception. The Aldine Epistolae Graecae was not replaced by an equally useful collection until 1873, the date of R. Hercher's Epistolographi graeci (Wilson, Byzantium to Italy, p.150).

A fine copy with tremendous provenance; Bound for the 1st Duke of Sutherland (1758-1833), described by Charles Greville as a "leviathan of wealth" and "...the richest individual who ever died". Then in the collection of the great bibliophile Martin Bodmer.

14. EUSEBIUS. *Eusebii Pamphilii de evangelica praeparatione*. Treviso, Michael Manzolus, 12 January 1480.

£6,500

Folio. 106 unnumbered leaves, a10 b-n8/6 o6 p8, initial and final blanks missing. Roman letter. Small hole not affecting reading to f8, occasional ultra-neat corrections to the text in black ink, almost imperceptible (possibly editorial), occasional typo ‘LIEBR’ for ‘LIBER’ on headers. Faded contemporary annotations to first few leaves. ‘s. 45’ and ‘10 #’ on rear pastedown. A very good, well-margined copy in C18 quarter light brown sheepskin and marbled paper over boards. Spine with gold tooled single fillet and fleurons. Corners a bit worn, joints cracked.

A remarkably large copy on thick paper of George of Trebizond’s (1396-1486) Latin translation from the Greek of Eusebius’s important work of Christian apologetics, written at the beginning of the fourth century. A disciple of the scholar Pamphilus—hence the name ‘Eusebius Pamphilii’—Eusebius, Bishop of Caesarea, was an early Christian historian, exegete, and polemicist. His ‘De evangelica praeparatione’ (in Greek, ‘Eusebiou tou Pamphilou Evangelikēs preparaskenēs’) elicited the interest of George of Trebizond and other Humanists as it argued for the pre-eminence of Judaic-Christian over Greco-Roman theology, while engaging with the work of historians and philosophers from both sides. As he confutes the religious beliefs of the gentiles, particularly the Greeks, in relation to the Hebrew Scriptures, Eusebius also interprets their pagan ‘errors’ and ‘superstitions’ as an ‘evangelical preparation’—a wisdom deriving from divine revelation before the coming of the Judaic Law. This second edition, printed by Michael Manzolus, reprises the one published by Nicolaus Jenson in Venice in 1470, the first book using a Roman typeface inspired by Humanist calligraphy. Like Jenson, Manzolus maintained wide margins and blank squares at the beginning of each section to allow ample room for additional illumination. Unlike the previous edition, Manzolus’s was edited by the Humanist scholar Girolamo Bonomi, who praised in verse Eusebius’s work and prepared the table of contents. The volume opens with George of Trebizond’s dedicatory letter to Pope Nicholas V, for whom he had worked as a secretary. There he celebrated his own mastery of Greek, Latin, Christian theology, and classical antiquity, stating that, through his accomplished translation, readers would be able to appreciate Eusebius’s text ‘as in a mirror’.

This fine copy of George of Trebizond’s translation from the Greek of Eusebius’s ‘De evangelica praeparatione’—an extraordinary book where theology, ethnography, and textual interpretation combine effortlessly—is an important testimony to the theoretical and practical achievements of Humanist scholarship.

ISTC ie00121000; Goff E121; Hain 6702; BMC XV VI, 888; GW 9443.

L2372
MAGIC AND SUPERSTITION IN THE MIDDLE AGES


£12,500

4to (2 parts in 1) 52 unnumbered leaves, A–E8, F12. + 240 unnumbered leaves, in double column, a–r8, f8, s–u8, v, w, x–z8, 78, c8, d8, g8. Gothic letter. Capitals supplied in red and blue, some with flourishes, superb full page woodcut attributed to Albrecht Dürer, of the author as pilgrim on verso of both titles, large painted initial I in blue with white penwork on liquid gold ground, with green and red borders and blue and red flourishers with yellow penwork, (recto of A2) leather tab on second title. Light age yellowing, rare marginal thumb marks or stains, small worm trail in blank inner margin of two quires, small water stain at blank inner and upper margin of first few I., a little more extensive at end. A very good copy, crisp and clean on thick high quality paper, with good margins, and strong impressions of the woodcuts, in a lovely contemporary South German binding of deerskin over thick wooden boards, covers triple blind ruled to a panel design, upper cover with outer panel of repeated floral blind tools with author and title stamped at head, central panel filled with curved branches and floral tools, lower cover with floral tools to outer panel, central panel with four diagonal compartments each with a blind-stamped ‘pierced heart’ tool, spine with three blind ruled raised bands, floral tools blind-stamped in compartments, brass catches stamped with initials IGU and hound, lacking clasps and central bosses, head and tail of spine defective exposing stitching, extremities worn, rubbed.

A lovely copy of the first book of the fourth edition of Jean Gerson’s works, edited by Peter Schott and Johann Geiler von Kaysersberg, bound with the most useful, and often missing, index to the complete works. The beautiful woodcut, repeated on both titles, has been attributed to A. Durer, when he was still an apprentice, by W.L. Strauss, ‘Albrecht Durer Woodcuts and Woodstocks’, New York 1980. Durer certainly produced, at a later date, another more elaborate version of this image, with exactly the same composition. Gerson is often portrayed as a pilgrim as he was forced to flee France after the Council of Constance to Rattenberg in Tyrol. Jean Gerson, chancellor of the University of Paris, was one of the most influential theologians of the fifteenth century. He worked to resolve the Great Schism and played an important role at the Council of Constance, where he influenced the decisions concerning the fate of the Hussites.

His extensive writings on ecclesiology, reform, pastoral care and mysticism were popular during the later Middle Ages and were frequently printed during the second half of the fifteenth century, both as individual treatises and in collected editions. This first vol. contains some of his most important work, especially his ‘De unitate Ecclesiae,’ and the work in which Gerson set down his most mature reflections on the conciliar question, the ‘Tractatus de potestate ecclesiastica et origine juris et legum’, a treatise on ecclesiastical power and on the origin of right and laws. “the common opinion on Gerson, established by Tierney, argues that he established a modern theory of natural rights in connection with conciliarism,” Gladden J. Pappin. The vol also includes most of his works concerning magic, astrology, and visions such as the important and hugely influential treatises ‘Trilogium Astrologie theologstate,’ ‘De libris astrologiae non tolerandis’, ‘De Probatione Spirituum’, ‘De distinctione verarum visionum a falsis’, and
‘De erroribus circa artem magicam’ and also includes his essay against the sect of the Flagellants. Gerson explicitly lamented at the beginning of De erroribus circa artem magicam that superstitious observances in Europe were growing ever more prevalent, and in 1398 the theological faculty of the university at Paris issued a decree condemning twenty-eight articles of magical arts and sorcery. Gerson then produced these several brief works criticizing various forms of superstition and magic. To the first of these, ‘De erroribus circa artem magicam’ 1402, half of which is devoted to questions of demonic existence and power, he appended the list of the 1398 condemnations, which he had helped orchestrate, and he also includes the complete text of the confession of ‘Jean de Bar’, who was accused of necromancy, and condemned to death. His treatise, ‘De Distinctione Verarum Visionum a Falsis’, dealt with ‘discretionem spirituum’ (“the discernment of spirits”) and sought to lay out methods for determining whether a mystical vision was true or false, orthodox or heretical, inspired by God or by the Devil. At the Council of Constance, in 1415, he was called on to help decide whether or not Bridget of Sweden’s visions were authentic. He felt they were not and wrote another treatise, ‘De Probatione Spirituum’, which set out principles and procedures for distinguishing good spirits from evil ones in visions. He was also consulted by Charles VII on Jeanne d’Arc visions. The charming South German binding is very similar in design and in its tools to one in Henry Davis Gift, Vol. II 325, though produced on a larger scale. A lovely copy of this important and beautifully produced incunable.

Not in BMC. ISTC ig00188000. GW10716. Goff G188. HC 7623. Polain(B) 1592. Bod-inc G-087;

L1252

£7,500

4to, ff. (4), 271, (1). Gothic letter, text in double column. Charming title page with large publisher’s woodcut device representing a fountain, floriated initials. Light age yellowing, occasional spotting, minor water stains in throughout, larger in a few places at end, a few leaves oil stained; small paper flaws at extremities and tiny worm holes on t-p and last gathering, small tears to outer lower corners of ff. 17, 234, rear free endpapers slightly torn with no loss, some leaves untrimmed. A good, crisp and well margined copy in later vellum over original carta rustica, a bit wormed and soiled, early faded ms. and later printed title to flat spine, recased. Four lines inscription to t-p including date and owner's name in Italian — “Anno Domini 1643, il giorno di San Pelegrino”, “questo libro è di Io. Benedetti” — sparse Latin marginalia by contemporary and later hands throughout and to pastedowns; remains of ms. stubs (C14th), two and a half lines in Hebrew on early vellum (C13th) on front pastedown.

Rare fourth edition of one of the most important medieval medical texts which had wide circulation in manuscript - in translation from Latin into different languages – and then appeared in several printed editions, from the 1480’s in Naples by Francesco del Toppo for Bernardinus Gerardinus, onwards (W. Oser, Incunabula medica. A study of the earliest printed medical books, 1467-1480, Oxford, 1923, p. 119, n. 198). From a noble family with roots in Gandon, a town in the former French province of Quercy (L. Demaire, “Bernard de Gordon: Professor and Practitioner”, Toronto, 1980, pp. 3, 11), Bernard de Gordon (1260 ca.-1318 ca.) taught at the University of Montpellier in its golden age from the 1250s to at least 1308. Between 1303 and 1305 he wrote his best known work, “Lilium Medicinae”. Fragmentary details of his life and medical influence are known from his seven books and from Chaucer’s prologue to the “Canterbury’s Tales”, where Bernard is listed among the most eminent physicians. He was one of the pioneering pre-Renaissance medical experimentalists who challenged the method of Hippocrates, Galen and Holy Ibn Abbas, focusing on the connection between practice and theory. The “Lilium Medicine” is an encyclopaedia of diseases with their symptoms, causes, effects and treatments. It summarised all the theoretical and practical medical knowledge then available, showing familiarity with Judeo-Arabic medical treatises and containing original material. It constitutes a valuable source for investigating the changing traditions in Montpellier during its transition from a Salernitan inheritance, with its dependence on Arabic authorities, to Anglo-Norman empiricism and dogmatic scholasticism. The subject matter of the work is arranged in 7 books, each preceded by a table of contents and structured in 163 chapters, divided into 6 sections, covering diseases from the head to toe in order. Each chapter begins with the definition of the disease and its elaboration, also describing the anatomical changes it produces in affected organs. In the second and third sections a list of causes and symptoms accompanying the disease is provided. The fifth and sixth sections discuss the natural history of the disease and the best medical and surgical treatment. The final section of each chapter, called “clarification”, deals with contemporary controversies relating to the questioning of Galenic dogma. Nevertheless, Galen is considered a model, quoted more than 600 times as “God’s servant”. A wide range of diseases is considered, from the acute fever (malaria and bubonic plague), to exanthemata, phthisis, epilepsy, scabies, “ignis sacer”, anthrax, trachoma and leprosy, all described as contagious. The text is especially notable for including one of the first descriptions of hemia truss, of the syndrome of obsessive infatuation and of the use of spectacles. A section contains information on bloodletting, uroscopy and pulse taking; even diseases of the ears and observations in dentistry are embraced. Particularly interesting also is the advice on ethical practice which refers to the essential qualities needed in a doctor: good vision, manual dexterity, a good memory and clear judgment.
Only BL, Glasgow (Royal College of Physicians and Hunterian) and Wellcome Library copies recorded in the UK. BM STC It. and Brunet list other editions, as well as Düring and Osler. Not in Heirs of Hippocrates. Goff, B450; GW, 4083; Hain, 7799; Klebs, 177.4; Poynter, 129-131; Wellcome, I, 798.
17. GREEK THESAURUS. *Thesaurus Comucopiae et Horti Adonis.* Venice, Aldus Manutius, 1496.

£37,500

FIRST EDITION. Large folio, ff. (10), 270, A10, α-ω8, &ω4, AA-DA8, EE6, FZ-GH8, HΘ6, I8, KK6, LA8. Greek letter (types 1:146Gk, 2:114Gk), a little Roman; two tiny wormholes to first gathering and small marginal worm trail at foot of ε-γη, occasional light foxing in extreme margins; three paper flaws to blank spaces of last leaf. A very good, wide-margined and unwashed copy in early nineteenth-century green morocco, gilt on spine with floral decoration, title gilt on tan morocco label; title lettered on lower-edge in contemporary hand; armorial bookplate of Marco Antonio Borghese, Prince of Sulmona (1814-1886), and modern label on front pastedown; a few contemporary scholarly annotations, underlinings and one correction in first gatherings; several pen corrections made directly in the Aldine press, mostly previously unrecorded.

An excellent copy of the first edition of Aldus’ collection of grammatical works for students of ancient Greek, including many previously unpublished essays such as those of the Homeric commentator Eustathius of Thessalonica. This ‘Treasure of abundance’ was one of the founding pieces of the Aldine printing programme, devised in the first place to spread the knowledge of Greek in Italy and the rest of Europe. It consists of a well-considered selection of writings and lexicons by Byzantine Greek grammarians, referring especially to the Homeric poems. In compiling this book, Aldus was helped by exceptionally skilled teachers of the subject, like Urbano Bolzani (1442-1524), Arsenios Apostolios (1465-1535), Angelo Poliziano (1454-1494) and Poliziano’s pupils Guarino Favorino (1450-1537) and Scipione Careromaco (1466-1513). Aldus’ Latin preface to ‘every scholar’ is of great interest. Not only does it provide key evidence for dating the beginning of his own activity—he states that he has worked for 7 years with barely an hour of solid rest—but it also announces what was to be his most famous achievement, the complete Greek edition of Aristotle’s works.

This copy bears six corrections made in the Aldine workshop straight after printing. Only two of them have been already recorded and concern the very last words of ff. 197r and 207r, which were crossed out with a pen stroke. A third and more extensive emendation involves the deletion of the term ‘shame’, as illustrated in the second essay of the collection (f. 6v). The passage was expunged and the manuscript internal reference to leaves 268 (‘Στῆλε φύλλον 268’) added instead. A couple of lines above, a vowel was amended twice in the same word and an accent and a subscribed iota were added. The faulty numeration of leaves 187, 188 and 213 was also consistently rectified, alongside the incorrect ‘K’ in the title of f. 227r, replaced with ‘A’. These corrections were made in many copies of this edition, but often have been washed out or even deliberately erased as insignificant marginalia, even the most important one—that in f. 6v with the internal reference in Greek.

ISTC, it00158000; BMC, V, 555; GW, 7571; Hain, 15493; Goff, T-158; Hoffmann, II, 116; Brunet, VI, 806; Graesse, VII, 130; Renouard, 9:1 (‘belle edition, devenue très rare’).

FIRST ILLUSTRATED HERBARIUM PRINTED SOUTH OF THE ALPS
18. HERBAL. Tractatus de virtutibus herbarum. Venice, Simon Bevilaqua, 1499.

£59,500

4to. ff. 172. A4, a-x8. including final blank. Roman letter in two sizes, 28 lines part 1, 37 lines parts 2, title in Gothic. Large white on black floriated initial, capital spaces with guide letters, 150 numbered half-page woodcuts of plants (a few misnumbered), bookplates of Carleton P. Richmond and Arthur and Charlotte Vershbow on pastedown. Single wormhole in lower blank margin, very occasional minor marginal thumb mark. A fine copy, crisp and clean, on thick paper, with very good margins, in cream paper over boards c. 1800, orange paper labels gilt, head and tail fractionally rubbed.

A lovely copy of the second Italian edition of the Herbarium, the first illustrated herbarium printed south of the Alps. Many of the woodcuts, first used in the Vicenza 1491 edition, differ substantially from those of the earlier German editions. The blocks, cut for that Vicenza edition, were imported to Venice by Simon Bevilaqua for this one. Following an error in the text, the work was wrongly attributed to Arnaldus de Villanova. The text is divided into two sections. The former features 150 woodcuts of plants which grew in Germany, arranged in alphabetical order with a Latin name and a description of their properties and medical uses. Among the best known are garlic, basil, camomile, ivy, gentian, genista, lily, lemon verbena, mallow, mint, marjoram, mandrake, oregano, leek, poppy, rose, rosemary, currant, spinach, willow, sage, violet, valerian. Among the rarest is ‘artemisia’ or mugwort, a plant used in the past to cure female illnesses and problems. A bath in the water of a decoction made essentially with mugwort and laurel’s leaves would induce abortion of a foetus and menstruation. Mugwort was also used to treat frigidity and sterility, and to keep demons away from home. The latter section, in 96 chapters, deals with the medicines and herbs available from German apothecaries and spice merchants such as laxatives; aromatics, fruits, seeds and garden plants; gums and resins; salts; minerals and stones; and animals and their products (goose-greese, cheese, honey and ivory). The purpose of the work was entirely practical. The illustrations are stylised and simple and full of charm, and the names are printed clearly in capital letters, so that the plants could be easily identified by, and accessible to a barely literate public. A very valuable and popular pharmacopeia which went through a number of editions, of which the Italian ones display “a different and better set of figures” (Arber p. 17). “These drawings are more ambitious that those in the original German editions, and, on the whole, they are more naturalistic. A delightful example, almost Japanese in style, shows an iris at the edge of a stream, from which a graceful bird is drinking. In another picture the fern called ‘capillus veneris’, which is perhaps intended for the maidenhair, is represented hanging from rocks over water” (Arber, pp. 192-93). A fine, very fresh copy of this important and beautifully illustrated edition.


L1585
Item 19
EARLY BRITISH ANNOTATION


£8,500

Folio. 290 unnumbered ll., a-y8/6 z8 A-N6/8 O-P8 Q6 aa-hh2, last blank. Gothic letter, double column. Capital letters and intermittent initials largely supplied in red, occasional additional decoration. Faint water stain to upper margin of first and last gathering, outer margins thumbed in places, occasional ink marks and slight foxing, tiny marginal tear to cii. A fine copy in contemporary south German calf over wooden boards, claps lacking, very minor marginal loss in places. Blind-tooled to a

double-ruled panel design, outer border with alternating roses and tendrils, centre panel with large stamped floral diapers. Spine recased with vellum, painted white at an early date, in four compartments, double raised bands, early shelfmark, a few cracks, minor loss at head and foot, book block a bit loose. Early Latin inscription, illegible name, and ‘L[c]ector exul[tus] p[raedical]tor hui[us] extitit Comparator’ (‘A teacher, exile and preacher was the purchaser of this [book]’) and C19 ‘Duplum’ (duplicate from the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek) to front pastedown, early ex-libris ‘Conventus Seemannahauseni ord: Eremit: s August’ to first fol., extensive early marginalia in probably British hand, marginal corrections and notes by rubricator (?) in red, a few charming little hands.

The handsome C15 binding, with floral diaper tools in blind, reprises a pattern found in Southern Germany from c.1500 (e.g., Goldschmidt II, 42).

Fine copy of the first edition on this extremely influential medieval commentary on the ‘Book of Wisdom’. The English Dominican Robert Holkot (or Holcot, c.1290-1349) was a renowned philosopher and biblical exegete, professor of theology at Oxford and a follower of William of Ockham’s scholasticism. Intended as a manual for preachers, his ‘Supra sapientiam Salomonis’ features over 100 ‘lectiones’ which interpreted, illustrated, questioned, doubted and responded to specific theological ‘loci’, according to the Scholastic method. These included the meaning of ‘wisdom’, its acquisition, how it never ‘rots away’ and is linked to justice, and—in keeping with Holkot’s interest in moral wisdom—why princes and magistrates should study to achieve it through piety and philosophy. Holkot made original use of his biblical, patristic and classical sources including Seneca and Lucan. He used anecdotes and fables on Greek gods and mythological figures drawn, for instance, from Ovid’s ‘Metamorphoses’, like the story of Echo, as well as vivid comparisons which preachers could use in their sermons: e.g., wisdom and falsity do not mix well in a person, like gold and tin in an alloy or syllables in a stammering mouth. Holkot’s commentary was possibly a source of Geoffrey Chaucer’s ‘Nun’s Priest’s Tale’; first printed in 1476, it went through five editions in less than twenty years.

The annotators were monks of the Order of Hermits of St Augustine in the Monastery of Seemannahusen in South Bavaria, where this copy was probably kept until the Secularisation of the early C19. The first wrote marginalia in black ink summarising key passages; in his ex-libris on the front pastedown he calls himself ‘lector’ and ‘praedicator’—hence he was probably a teacher of philosophy in a religious school—but also ‘exul’, his handwriting suggesting British origins. Another annotator, who may also be the rubricator, highlighted Holkot’s sources in red, particularly Ovid (whom he marked in red as ‘poetar’). He was much offended by a passage, which he crossed out, concerning the foundation of the Augustinian monastic rule and the orders that followed it, including the Hermits of St Augustine. Holkot stated that, as a Manichaean youth, Augustine had been neither a monk nor a hermit, and he mocked the traditional origin of these orders who traced their foundation to the saint’s early adhesion to monasticism.


L2863
CONTEMPORARY ITALIAN BINDING


£7,500

Folio. ff. (xiv) 260 (iii). Roman letter. Decorated initials. Light age yellowing, occasional slight marginal foxing and very minor water stains, two little worm holes to last few gatherings, one affecting a few letters, the odd thumb mark. Excellent, crisp, well-margined copy, fresh and clean, in contemporary probably Venetian morocco, a bit scratched, minor surface loss in places. Blind-tooled to quadruple-rule panel design, second border with intricate interlacing pointillé, fourth with blind-stamped foliage, central panel with cloverleaf blind roll, contemporary title stamp to upper cover. Spine in four compartments, cross-hatched in blind, thick raised bands, slightly holed at foot, small crack to head. The odd early annotation, contemporary ex-libris ‘Hier[oni]mi di colonio Bgorn[?]is R[oni] car[lus] de as[al?]e F[?][ris]’ to fep, ms Italian title in blank of t-p.

The elegant binding can probably be traced to Venice. The pointillé lace stamp shares a remarkable similarity to that used on BL, c128g12.

Excellent, well-margined, crisp copy of the third edition of these two crucial works in the history of the Jews, of historiography and religion, based on the texts published in Venice in 1486 with the valuable addition of a table of contents by Francesco Macerata. Flavius Josephus (37-100 AD) was born in Jerusalem, then under Roman rule, from a Jewish priest. While fighting in the First Jewish-Roman War (66-70AD) as military governor of Galilee, he was captured by the Romans; in prison, he claimed he had had a divine revelation and predicted that Vespasian would become emperor. When the prophecy was fulfilled, Josephus was liberated and invited to Rome, where he became a citizen and client of the Flavian family. ‘De Antiquitatis’ (93 AD) is a history of the Jewish people from the creation of the world to the beginning of the First Jewish-Roman War. Originally written in Greek, it includes material from the Hebrew Bible and precious information based on the author’s personal knowledge of ancient Palestine and its religious cults, as well as references to Christ (a ‘wise man’, a ‘teacher’, who made wondrous deeds), Herod and the martyrdom of St John the Baptist. First written in Aramaic or Hebrew, ‘De bello Judaico’ (75 AD) is a gory account of the First Jewish-Roman War to Vespasian’s building of the Temple of Peace made of the spoils of the Temple of Jerusalem. The enormous success of these works in late antiquity and the medieval period was partly because they allowed their Christian readers to interpret the fall of Jerusalem as the prophesied punishment for killing Christ, to see Christian history in a providential manner, and to understand it in relation not only to Jewish but to world history, beginning with the Creation, Flood, repopulating of the earth by Noah’s sons, and the birth of the Jewish and gentile nations. Josephus used as temporal references key events in both Roman and Jewish history; the resulting chronological parallelisms and correspondences provided a ‘synchronization’ of events from different cultures at a time in which there was yet no coherent systematisation of world history. This material was incorporated into early Christian texts, like Eusebius’s ground-breaking ‘Chronicon’, which influenced Western European historiography to the C18.

21. JUSTINIAN. Institutiones. Rome, Ulrich Han and Simon Chandella de Lucca, 1473, 10th April. £59,500

Large folio. 174 ii. unnumbered and unsigned [a-h10 i66 k-r10 s8], final blank precedes the register. Double column, Gothic letter, surrounded by commentary in Roman (typically 58 lines per page), text to first leaf in red and black, initial letters in red ink throughout most of text. Very minor wormholes to some lower margins, little water stain to a few edges, a very good, clean, virtually uncut copy on thick paper, 16th century ms ex dono of Francisco Contareni of Santa Marina, Venice, at foot of first leaf, 19th century bookplates of Sir Edward Sullivan and William O’Brien on pastedown, Sunderland shelf mark on fep. In a very handsome and typical ‘Sunderland’ binding c.1700 of red morocco, ornate outer border gilt of alternating fleur de lys and flowers, edges and inner border gilt to floral design, spine gilt in eight compartments decorated with leaves and tendrils, morocco labels, small case mark on paper at foot. Upper joint cracked, one corner worn, very grand in the English aristocratic taste.

A very early edition (probably the 5th) of the single most important law book of the western world. The first edition was published by Schöffer in Mainz in 1468 and is conspicuously rare. This and the present edition share the Glossa Ordinaria of Accursius. “No single authority has had greater influence in shaping the existing legal codes of all nations than the Roman Law; obvious in those which, like the Code Napoleon, sought to impose a theoretic standpoint, it may be felt even in fundamentally empiric bodies of law like the English Common Law. The credit for the survival of this authority can be ascribed in a very large degree to work undertaken by Justinian I, Roman Emperor of the East from 527 to 565.” PMM p.3 Soon after his accession, Justinian ordered the codification of the entire chaotic body of existing law, which was completed in 533. “...the Emperor directed Tridonian to prepare an introduction to the main work, and the elementary treatise thus produced, the ‘Institutes of Justinian’, has been for students ever since the introduction to the Roman law. ... When people speak of the Roman law today, what they mean is Justinian.” PMM p.3 A very distinguished provenance. The ms ex dono (second quarter of C16th) records the gift of the volume by Francisco Contareni to the Church of St Peter Martyr in Venice. Contareni is a variant of ‘Contareni’, one of the greatest families of Venice, producer of senators, admirals, Patriarchs, and even Doges. Francisco describes himself as ‘of Santa Marina’, where the family had a palace, and an inscription is recorded of him in the Church of Santa Marina, now destroyed, (Delle Inscrizioni Venezione I. p.339) which also received half his estate under his will; Francisco died in 1545. “The great library of Charles Spencer, Third Earl of Sunderland (1674-1722) contained only a few manuscripts and some 20,000 printed books; it was particularly strong in incunabula (many being printed on vellum)”. Seymour de Ricci p.38. Sunderland purchased extensively through an agent, James Gibson, who travelled all over Italy, buying speculatively, especially from monastic collections, but always giving Sunderland first choice. The Sunderland Library, described in 1703 as the finest in Europe, was sold by the Duke of Marlborough in 1882 for over £56,500, a princely sum. This volume, lot 6619 “A Rare and Finely Printed Edition’ fetched £6-10s.

ISTC i00509300, IGI 5490; BMC IV 23 (imperfect); HCR 9493x; GKW 7584; Not in Goff. Only five other copies recorded; 1 in England, 3 in Italy, and 1 in Switzerland. Printing and the Mind of Man 4 (1st end). See Katherine Swi, Bibliotheca Sunderlandiana. Bibliophily, 1986, 2, pages 63-90.
In nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi. Ecce, hoc nomen quod Christus nomen est in omnibus locis sanctis. 

In nomine domini nostri Ihesu Christi. Ecce, hoc nomen quod Christus nomen est in omnibus locis sanctis. 

Item 21

£14,500

2 works in one. Folio. [110] unnumbered leaves, i: a-c8, d6, e-218, m6, n10. ii: ff. [v] 131 [i] (blank). Roman letter. Capital spaces and guide letters. Very occasional marginal thumbmark, single round wormhole to final gatherings of second work, these also a bit age browned. A well-margined, clean, very good copy on thick paper in contemporary Venetian maroon morocco over thick wooden boards, covers with elegant and intricate knotwork tools within a double frame of knotwork rolltools, and triple fillets, spine in 4 compartments hatched in blind. A very elegant binding, lacking central bosses and 4 ties (original 8 star head studs present on upper cover, missing on lower), a few small wormholes to covers, spine neatly repaired in places at head, foot and joints, generally very good. Occasional early marginalia in a neat and attractive humanist hand.

A very clean and wide-margined copy of two Venetian incunables in a strictly contemporary and very attractive Renaissance binding. Justinus was a second century Roman historian. This, his most notable work, he describes as a collection of the most interesting and important passages from Pompeius Trogus' *Historiae philippicae et totius mundi origina et terrae situs*, written in the time of Augustus and now lost. This was a general history of those parts of the world that had come under the auspices of Alexander the Great, and takes as its main theme the Macedonian Empire founded by his father Philip. The last event it records (in Justinus' version) is in 20 B.C.

Through his frequent digressions, Justinus here produces not an epitome but rather a useful and sometimes elegant anthology based on the work. It was very popular in the Middle Ages, when the author was frequently confused with Justin Martyr.

The *Noticia Atticarum* consists of a miscellaneous anthology on various topics, including philosophy, law, literature, grammar, and history. Gellius (c. 125 - c. 180) wrote the book for the education of his children during his winter nights in Attica, and the work proved very popular into and throughout the Middle Ages. It grew out of a commonplace book that Gellius kept, in which he recorded items of unusual interest that he heard in conversation or read about. The book deliberately has no specific structure, and of the twenty books only 19 have come down to us - the 8th is known only through its index. In it, Gellius quotes extensively from Greek and Latin authors, many of whose works have not survived - the book is therefore a valuable resource in preserving fragments of writings otherwise entirely lost. The binding, although elements of its decoration are common to several printing centres in Italy at this time, bears a strong resemblance to a number of bindings known to have been produced at Venice (and in particular to de Marinis' no. 1532 in vol II of his 'Legatura Artistica in Italia'). In its decoration it shows elements of the assimilation of Eastern design in Italian bookbinding, especially by the Byzantine/Ottoman nature of the central knotwork tools. It must previously have been very grand, and shows evidence of elegant and arabesque furniture at the corners and at the centre of the covers. The furniture would most likely have been bronze or silver; the remaining studs holding the stubs of the ties are in bronze. The binding is still an elegant example of Renaissance bookbinding craftsmanship and examples in this condition and are invariably rare.

i: BMC V, 221; HC 9651; Goff J-618. ii: BMC V, 464; HC 7522; Klebs 442.6; Goff G-123.
SYPHILIS FIRST IN PRINT


£25,000

FIRST EDITION. 4to., 29 leaves, a-c8, d(4+1). Predominantly Roman letter, little Greek; lower outer corner of title slightly soiled, very light marginal water stains. A very good copy in old vellum, recased, gilt title and author's name on front cover; five marginalia, including a scholarly cutting remark (slightly cropped), in same contemporary probably French hand at head of title 'Est Meij Jo. Baptis. Loms[?]'.

First edition of the earliest scholarly account of syphilis, by Niccolò Leoniceno (1428-1524), a very influential physician, botanist and scholar of the Italian Renaissance. A skilled student of Greek, Leoniceno taught in Padua before settling in the university and court of Ferrara. Here, he accomplished pioneering translations of the Greek classics, such as Arrian, Diadorus, Appian, Polybius, Cassius Dio and, first and foremost, a large part of Galen's corpus. Over the course of his extraordinarily long life, Leoniceno was well acquainted with the most prominent scholars of his time, including Pico della Mirandola, Ernolao Barbaro and Angelo Poliziano. Lending Aldus Manutius some of his prized manuscripts, he took an active part in the Aldine Greek editions of Aristotle and Galen.

In 1497, he published De morbo Gallico, following the epidemic in the Italian peninsula a er the arrival of the French troops of Charles VIII. The book, dedicated to Gian Francesco Pico della Mirandola, corrects several mistakes of the Arabic medical tradition in identifying and naming diseases and proved that syphilis had been known already to the Greeks and Romans. This and other works by Leoniceno led Erasmus to rate him as one of the few humanists to revive medical studies alongside Guillaume Cop and Linacre. This copy retains the final additional leaf with errata.

ISTC, i00165000; BM STC, V, 557; GW, M17947; Hain, 10019; IGI 6814; Goff, L-165; Klebs, 599.1; Renouard, 14:12 (‘Extrêmement rare, et le premier qui ait été publié sur cette maladie’); Wellcome, 3736; Morton, 2363; Bibliotheca Osleriana, 7452. Not in Durling or Heirs of Hippocrates.

£15,000

FIRST EDITION. 4to. 110 unnumbered leaves. a–n8, o6. [lacking blank o6]. Roman letter. Entirely rubricated including white on black floriated woodcut initials, many woodcuts, including full page ‘sphaera mundi’, two printed in red and black, illustrating signs of the zodiac, classical deities, celestial spheres, astrological charts, heading on N1 verso corrected in contemporary hand, list of titles, crossed out on first leaf, in later hand. Title page backed, small worm trail restored in blank margins of first three leaves, minor waterstain in lower blank margin, the odd spot or mark. A very good copy crisp and clean in later calf, covers bordered with a double blind rule, rebacked, spine partially remounted, corners restored.

First and only incunable edition of this important and influential astronomy, by the 13th-century astronomer, Leopold of Austria, beautifully illustrated with a fine set of woodcuts. Ratdolt, who was even more widely renowned as a polymath and astronomer than as a printer, also printed the astronomical works of Albumasar and Hyginus. His woodcuts for those projects are among the earliest known printed figures of constellations, and the same blocks were employed for this Leopoldus in Ratdolt’s Augsburg workshop. Two of the astronomical diagrams are printed in red and black, a technique pioneered by Ratdolt. Primarily a work of astrology based on the writings of Albumasar, the sixth book concerns meteorology both from a theoretical and a practical point of view, and includes folkloric methods of weather prediction and general descriptions of winds, thunder etc. Although virtually nothing is known of the author, the work was influential in the late Middle Ages, being cited by the great astronomer, Pierre d’Ailly, and admired by Regiomontanus, who proposed to edit it. Ratdolt dedicated this edition to Udalricus de Frundsberg, bishop of Trient. In the introduction Leopold states that he cannot take credit for the work as there was more than one author and he was just a ‘fidelis illorum observat et diligens compilator’. He states his goal is to describe the motion of the stars, and to focus particularly on describing their effect. He describes Astronomy as the necessary starting point and foundation for the study of astrology. The *Compilatio* is divided in ten treatises: the first and second on the spheres and their motion. There is a dissertation on the comets at the end of the fifth book, beginning with a short discussion of Aristotle’s theories, which recounts the opinion of John of Damascus (676–749 ca.), who asserts, in his ‘De Fide Orthodoxa’, that these celestial bodies announce the death of the King, and that they do not belong to the stars created in the beginning, but are formed and dissolved by God’s will. He then gives a list of the nine comets and their Latin names, ending with the meanings derived from their presence in each Zodiacal sign. These are a transcription of Albumasar’s ‘De magnis Conjunctionibus.’ A very good copy of this beautifully illustrated and rare first edition, one of the earliest books effectively illustrated with scientific diagrams.


L1745
THE FOUNDATION IMAGERY OF WITCHCRAFT

25. MOLITOR, Ulricus. *De lanis et phitonics malieribus*. Constance [Basel], [Michael Furter], 1489 [i.e. ca. 1495].

4to. 30 unnumbered leaves. a–c8, d6. Gothic letter. Capital spaces, seven fine full page woodcut illustrations within double ruled border, manuscript medical recipe in early C16th hand on blank verso of last, another note in the same hand on recto of c8, ‘Millot de Somberon’ in near contemporary hand at head of blank verso of last, ‘vendu 21 r mac-carthy’ at head of front fly, C19th printed shelf label on pastedown, Guy Bechtel’s bookplate below with his motto ‘in canere meo liber.’ Very light age yellowing, the very rare minor spot or mark. A fine well margined copy, crisp and clean in lovely C18th French green morocco, in the style of Derome, covers bordered with a triple gilt rule, fleurons gilt to corners, flat spine with repeated gilt fleurons within double gilt border, red morocco label gilt, edges and inner dentelles gilt, all edges gilt, joints very expertly (invisibly) restored.

*A beautiful copy of this exceptionally rare and important text, the first and most important illustrated work on witches and a work that has defined the image of witches to this day. The ‘De Lanis,’ was first published in 1489 with the same series of iconic woodcuts. It is one of the earliest printed works on witchcraft, and contains the first ever illustrations of witches. This, probably the first Basel edition, is beautifully printed in a fine gothic letter in thirty-two lines and very finely illustrated with seven stunning woodcuts depicting witches and their activities. The first depicts two witches around a large pot, one throwing in a cockerel the other preparing to throw in a snake, the resulting brew creating a storm. The other blocks represent a lycanthropic scene of a wizard mounted on a wolf, the devil disguised as a bourgeois man corruption a woman, the ensorcelment of a man by a witch firing a spell, witches transformed into animals flying on brooms, and a group of three witches around a table.*

The book is written in the form of a dialogue between the author and the dedicatee, the Archduke Sigismund of Austria, who doubts the existence of witches. At a time when complete theories about witchcraft were yet to be established, the author defended belief in the powers of the Devil and his ability to trick the human mind. The woodcut depicting three witches together, eating and drinking beneath a tree, is typical of the format of the work. The title on the previous page to this woodcut reads “*An super lupum vel baculum unctum ad conviviam veniant et mutuo comedant et bibant et sibi mutuo loquuntur ac se invicem agnoscant.*” “Can [witches] come to feasts on a wolf or an anointed stick, eat drink, speak together and recognize one another?” The women are not doing anything other than eating but the image has become deeply anchored in the popular imagination, as it was used and referred to again and again in imagery and literature throughout the centuries, not least in Shakespeare’s ‘Macbeth.’ “The first tract on witches to be illustrated, 1489—94, was written by the lawyer Ulrich Molitor from Constance in 1484. He actually argues against the persecution of witches because he was skeptical of the value of confessions under torture. He did, however, believe that they were heretics and should be punished with death. In the illustrations, the witches are not characterised by any special dress or undress, implying that all women were capable of being witches. They look like ordinary housewives except in the ‘Flight to the witches’ Sabbath, when they are changed into animal shapes. Although the text speaks of the witches’ evil activities being a figment of their imagination, delusions inspired
by the devil, the illustrations portray the effects of their malignant and harmful magical spells as real enough, e.g. a witch shooting at a man who tries to jump away, or witches making a brew, using a rooster and a serpent as ingredients, whilst hailstones come crashing down from the sky. Moltor certainly believed in the reality of their sexual intercourse with the devil." ‘Picturing women in late Medieval and Renaissance art’ by Christa Gressinger. “With the appearance of Ulrich Moltor’s ‘On Witches’ in 1488—89, the arguments of the Maltese were repeated in the literary format of a conversation among Moltor, Duke Sigismund of the Tyrol, and Sigismund’s minister Conrad Schatz, with a suite of seven remarkable woodcuts that for the first time offered related pictorial images of witches’ activities without any identifying physical or costume features attributed to witches—that is, some of the illustrations seem to depict ordinary women doing ordinary things.” Witchcraft in Europe, 400—1700. Alin Charles Kors, Edward Peters. Several of the incunable editions of this book, including the first, have the date 10 January 1489 on the colophon.

ISTC and GW date this edition to around 1495, though it is clearly earlier than Fairfax Murray (German, volume II, no. 289) also ascribed to Basel, Amerbach or Furter, which contains identical but broken versions of the same woodcuts, which Fairfax Murray dates to 1490. Brunet cites this copy from the library of Reagh Mac-Carthy, the great Irish bibliophile (who found refuge in France, near Toulouse) in his sale of 1815 (I no. 1678). Justin ‘Reagh’ Mac-Carthy himself bought some of the major collections of the C18th, such as the library of Giradot de Prendof, and founded one of the richest personal libraries ever assembled, which included over eight hundred volumes of works printed on vellum. He also seems to have profited from the naivety of the Librarian of Albi, Jean-Francois Massol, who was proud to have ‘swapped’ several precious medieval manuscripts with him for more ‘useful’ works such as Buffons’ 8vo. ‘Histoire Naturelle.’ The sale of his books at Paris in 1815 was one of the greatest of that century. This copy then passed to the library of the Marquis of Germigny (sold 1939, no 13). In Mac-Carthy’s sale the work is recorded as being bound with the ‘Tractatus Utilissimus artis memorativa’ by Matheoli Perusini (1498). This work was probably removed at some stage when the binding was restored. (As this work was only seven leaves, its removal did not affect the spine.) Its last owner was the great Scholar, author and bibliographer Guy Becdel, author of the ‘Catalogue des Gothiques Francais 1476—1560.’ We have found no record of the early sixteenth century owner, ‘Milot de Sombemon.’

A lovely copy of a hugely important text with a very beautiful and most influential set of woodcuts, and most distinguished provenance.

Goff M798. (two copies only) Pell Ms 8166 (8095). GW M25157. ISTC im00798000. Brunet III, 1815 (citing this copy). Caillot, III, n 7630 (other editions). Fairfax Murray Ger., vol II no. 289 (another later edition with the same cuts).
LATIN GRAMMAR IN CONTEMPORARY BINDING


£29,500

FIRST ALDINE EDITION, folio, pp.(lx) 642. Roman letter, a little Greek. Large initial letter of text in red and blue, rubricated initials thereafter, some text underlining in red and black. Contemp. and early marginalia in several North European hands, occasionally in red, systematic to first 60pp, one index passage extensive, intermittent throughout. Autograph of Father Labe S.J. 1698 and ms. inscription of an anonymous Jesuit college 1728 both on recto of first, 3 words in tiny hand (directions to binder?) on blank of verso last. Stubbs from c15th rubricated ms. on vellum, vellum pastedowns from c14th (?) hymnal, decorated initials in red and blue, 3 line musical notation. Recto of first couple of ll. a bit soiled, marginal finger marks and corner repairs to first gathering and last, and water or oil splashes to edges in some places and two pages of text. A good, well-margined, thick paper copy, used but unsophisticated in elaborate blind stamped pigskin over wooden boards, double panelled within two four line borders, elaborately patterned tooling of various flowers in overall design, strap leather replaced, original brass clasps and hasps, one corner restored.

First Aldine edition of Perottus’ monumental work on the language and literature of classical Rome, in the form of a commentary on Martial’s epigrams. It was the greatest storehouse of linguistic material of its day, and the source book for generations of Latin writers, including Calepine for his great dictionary. In his long preface, Aldus tells the reader that he sees it as his duty to protect the treasures of literature from the ravages of time. The text is numbered by both page and line so that it can correspond exactly with the comprehensive alphabetical index, the first time this had been done and in fact the invention of a modern scholarly system of reference.
(See F. Geldner Inklunabelkunde p. 69) The errors found in revision have also all been listed to help the student. This edition also contains the first use (possibly with the Discorides) of Aldus' third and most influential Greek type inspired by Marcus Mursurus and engraved by Francesco Griffo.

"A massive encyclopaedia of the classical world. Every verse, indeed every word, of Martial's text was a hook on which Perotti hung a densely woven tissue of linguistic, historical and cultural knowledge." B. Ogilvie 'The Science of Describing: Natural History in Renaissance Europe'

The best early edition of one of the most significant works on antiquity in an impressive contemporary binding.

BMC V 561. Goff P.296. IGI 7428. Renouard 19:2 'Première édition d'une grande rareté'. Brunet IV 505 'Livre fort rare'.

L1739
4to. 12 unnumbered ll, a-b6, 32 lines per page. Gothic letter. Small repair to t-p margin, reinforced in gutter, a few ms underlinings, one marginal pointer. A fine copy, first 2 ll. probably washed, in crimson crushed morocco by Rivière, gilt title to spine.

Second edition of this rare tract 'A quiver for the Catholic Faith' (first published in 1494 in Leipzig in several variants), setting out more than 60 articles of Jewish doctrine, followed by their corresponding Christian understanding, in an attempt to show the Jews the errors of their ways for their proselytization. Comparing the Christian-Jewish relationship to that between the hunter's bow and the fox, the text begins with advice to Christians in dealing with their Jewish neighbours, first learn where Jewish doctrine is erroneous, second understand that violence against Jews is not permitted except as self-defence, and when to seek a peaceful solution must be sought with all haste, third remember when many Jews are gathered together, a Christian among them should be silent except to answer questions, and should not seek confrontation, nor listen to many voices at once lest he be the one confused by false doctrine. The differing attitudes of Jews and Christians to each other's beliefs are touched upon, with Christians readily accepting the common ground. The Pharetta also deals with many specific points of theological difference. I.e., it questions the Jewish interpretation of the Trinity as being polytheistic and therefore directly contradictory to the teachings of the Old Testament; the face-to-face meeting of the prophet Jacob and God; that angels are not incarnate, not are they sent for the redemption of the world; that Jesus is not God; that Mary was not holy as she was not baptised; and the nature of the Messiah. This very interesting work is attributed to Theobaldus de Saxonia or to Theobaldus, a Dominican subprior in Paris. It evidences an honest medieval attempt at a modus Vivendi, neither papering over differences nor failing in enthusiasm for Jewish conversion.

28. PLATINA, Bartholomaeus de. *In vitas pontificum ad Sixtum IV*. Nuremberg, Anton Koberger, 1481, 12 August.

£6,500

Folio, 128 ll. unnumbered and unsigned [†2 a8-2 b8 c-e6 s8 t6 v8] plus additional leaf inserted before a1. Gothic letter, double column, spaces blank. Most of blank paper of first leaf cut away (as in BL copy) and replaced, probably at time of binding, 16 line text on verso rubricated, monogrammed ‘S-C’ in red and mounted, detailed C16 ms index on verso of next and following inserted blank, extensive contemporary and C16 scholarly marginalia throughout in at least two Germanic hands, slightly trimmed in places, extensive bibliographical notes of J. Niefert, 1807 on blank prelims. Slight age yellowing, a good, clean, wide margined copy in Northern European polished calf, spine in eight compartments richly gilt, c1700.

Third edition and first printed north of the Alps of Platina’s classic ‘Lives of the Popes’ from St. Peter up to the accession of Sixtus IV, in the form of individual biographies arranged chronologically. It became one of the great bestsellers of the 16th century. Elegantly written and full of remarkable information not easily found elsewhere, Platina’s was the first systematic handbook of Papal history, undertaken at the behest of Sixtus who had suggested the work and who subsequently appointed Platina Prefect of the Vatican Library (the subject of a great fresco by Melozzo da Forlì). Somewhat surprisingly therefore the ‘Lives’ is far from constituting a general Papal hagiography. It is venomous about Paul II, who had made Platina redundant from his position in the College of Abbreviators (“cruel and an enemy of science”) and had him imprisoned for the authoring of a defamatory pamphlet, responsible for the ridiculous story of Calixtus XIII excommunicating Halley’s comet, and often disparaging about the conditions in the Church, all of which contributed to its demand in Catholic and Protestant Europe alike. Nevertheless the ‘Lives’ remains of value as the first and for some time only work of its kind and if Platina was inconsistent in his verification of historical detail, he was not ignorant of the value of critical research. The particular value of the present copy lies in the consistent ms glosses through which we can still discern the reaction of a contemporary reader, at first hand.

BMC II 420. Goff P769. HC13047. ISTC

L1386
THE FIRST PRINTED WORK ON NATURAL SCIENCE


£9,750

Folio. ff. 356 unnumbered, aa8 bb10 a–s s–z10 &8 a8 R 8 A–H8 I10. Roman letter. Light age browning, slight soiling to margins of a few gatherings, the odd damp stain or mark, tiny marginal ink burn to one l., traces of marginal annotations, little paper flaw in K4 affecting a few letters. A good, well-margined copy in C17 sprinkled calf over boards, gilt dentelles to fore-edge, edges speckled red. Spine in six gilt compartments, morocco labels, joints a bit cracked. Two bookplates to front pastedown, faded heraldic drawing to initial blank.

A handsome incunable copy of Pliny’s monumental ‘Naturalis historia’, edited by Philippus Beroldus. It was the first printed scientific book and one of the earliest classical works published in Venice, by Johannes de Spira in 1469. The publisher of this edition, Reynaldus de Novimagio (Reynaldus of Nijmegen), acquired de Spira’s successful press and became a serious competitor to the other major Venetian printer, Nicolas Jenson. Pliny the Elder (23–79AD) was an administrator for Emperor Vespasian and a prolific author. The ‘Historia’ is a masterful encyclopaedia of theoretical and applied natural sciences detailing all that was known in these fields in the first century AD. Based on hundreds of Greek and Latin sources clearly marked in this edition, its ten books introduce the reader to astronomical questions like the nature of the moon and its distance from the earth; pharmacopoeia, ointments and herbal remedies; natural phenomena including rains of stones; world geography and the ethnographic study of remote ‘gentes mirabiles’; descriptions of all animal and tree species, wild and domesticated; horticulture from cultivation to the treatment of plant mutations and illnesses; metals and gold mining; mineralogy and pigments for painting. Thanks to a wide and intense manuscript circulation, ‘the “Historia” soon became a standard book of reference: abstracts and abridgements appeared by the third century. Bede owned a copy, Alcuin sent the early books to Charlemagne […]’. It was the basis of Isidore’s “Etymologiae” and such medieval encyclopaedias as the “Speculum Majus” of Vincent of Beauvais’ (PMM 5). Renaissance humanists considered the ‘Historia’ a mine of ancient knowledge; Beroldus himself, who planned to write a commentary to the work, called Pliny ‘his instructor at every hour of the day’ and ‘his daily bread’.


£11,500

Folio. ff. [lvi]–b10, c10–1, d8, e10. Quire C II. misplaced [c9, c1–4, c8, c5–7] without first and last blanks. Roman letter, double column. Capital space on a2 supplied in blue, paragraphs rubricated in red and blue on first leaf and then in red throughout, contemporary manuscript annotations (untrimmed). A2 very slightly dusty at margins, minor, very pale, water stain to very upper and outer blank margin of last few leaves, very minor light spotting on last few leaves. An internally fine copy, very fresh and clean, with original large margins, (contemporary annotations uncropped) in grey-blue card wraps circa 1800.

Beautifully printed early edition of this tremendously popular and influential legal *Singulāria* by the celebrated jurist Ludovico Pontano, the first edition of which was printed at Venice, by de Spira, 1471. The “Singulāria” are a collection of brief expositions of specific legal issues, immensely useful to the practitioner; they give opinions on various points of law which occur in daily practice in the courts, both ecclesiastical and civil, with the questions or cases, and sometimes the decisions of the courts on those cases. Pontano was not the first collector of Singulāria, but continued a tradition that was particularly lively in Perugia, where he taught. Pontano’s *Singulāria iuris* was the most popular of his works. It had appeared in seventeen editions by 1500 and was included in fourteen compilations in the 16th century, the last in 1578. Pontano’s short career led from the universities of Bologna, Florence, Rome and Siena, the Roman curia and the court of Alfonso V of Aragon to the Council of Basel where he became rapidly one of the major conciliarist leaders and died at the age of only 30 years of the plague.

“Ludovico Pontano … was born in Spoleto or its vicinity in 1409. He was taken to and brought up in Rome, which later gave him one of his names, Ludovico Romanus. As for his education, it is known that he first entered the University of Perugia and that he studied at the University of Bologna. In his legal studies at Bologna, Ludovico was very much influenced by John de Imola (d. 1436) … By 1433 he was professor of Law as the University of Sienna. It is regrettable that not much is known about his activities as law professor. But his output as a legal scholar was very impressive. It included the often-reissued Deliberations and pleadings (Consilia.) Notable remarks on Criminal cases (Singulāria) … After serving briefly as advocate in Florence, Ludovico was then made apostolic protonotary by Pope Eugenius IV. After the council of Basel was convened in 1431, King Alfonso V of Aragon decided to Press his claims to the Council. Two of the most renowned lawyers of the time, Panormitanus (Nicholas de Tudeschis) and Ludovico Pontano, were among his legal delegation to the council. Ludovico seems to have arrived himself in 1438. Very quickly he became one of the most important voices at the council”. Morimichi Watanabe.

‘Nicholas of Cusa — A Companion to his Life and his Times.’

*A beautiful copy of a finely printed book, the quality of the typography, paper and printing of this edition is wonderful; it is a very well preserved copy with very good large margins, and interesting contemporary annotation.*


£15,750

4to, 48 leaves, a–f8. Roman letter; black-on–white decorated initials, large red printer’s device on final recto, numerous astronomical illustrations, including one full-page, six colour printed yellow, one red and yellow and the famous armillary sphere at aiij; first and final leaves slightly browned, light damp stain to lower outer corner, marginal repair on title, bviii and final leaf. A good copy in nineteenth-century vellum, gilt panel with floral decorations at corners, title gilt on front cover and along spine, a. e. r.; contemporary German scholarly annotations extensively throughout (slightly cropped), mainly in Latin, dated 1505 at ciir, by the hand inscribing on the upper outer corner of title ‘Johannes Desba[rlau?]’ est possessor huius libri; on front pastedown, early bookplate of Johannes Karl von Westermach, canon of the chapters of Augsburg and Friesing, dated 1734, along with ex libris labels of Hanns–Theo Schmitz-Otto (1908-1992) and the Olschki[?] family.

Early and accurate Venetian edition of an astronomical masterpiece, with neat illustrative apparatus and additional essays of the two most prominent Renaissance scholars in the field. Sacrobosco’s Sphaera was the most popular introduction to spherical astronomy in early modern times. Written around 1220 and printed in 1472, it had been re-published hundreds of times by the end of the following century. This edition includes two important Renaissance works, building on Sacrobosco’s theory. The first is a short essay by the distinguished astronomer Johannes Regiomontanus (1436-1476) against the ‘delirious’ hypothesis (delitamenta) put forward in the twelfth century by Gherardo of Cremona, whose textbook was on attached to the earliest edition of the Sphaera. The second work, edited by Regiomontanus’s himself, is a lecture script by his teacher Georg von Peuerbach (1423-1461), entitled Theoricae novae planetarum. Since the Theoricae drew extensively from Greek and Arabic tradition and provided the most up-to-date account of contemporary astronomical knowledge, they quickly became a fundamental manual for students, replacing even Sacrobosco. Scientists such as Kepler and Copernicus grounded their theories on this booklet.

This edition retains the elegantly instructive woodcuts designed and cut by Johannes Santritter and Hieronymus de Sanctis in their edition in 1488; amongst them, the most famous is the full-page illustration on the verso of title, depicting the enthroned personification of Astronomy holding an astrolabe and armillary sphere, flanked by the Muse Urania gazing at the celestial vault and Ptolemy reading through his Almagest. The planetary illustrations in the last two gatherings of the book provide one of the earliest examples of polychrome printing.

This copy was used for study by an unidentified contemporary German astronomer, who filled it over and over throughout the years with his annotations and diagrams, changing sizes of writing and pens. He especially went through Sacrobosco’s and Peuerbach’s essays and occasionally reported first-hand stellar observations following the guidelines in the texts, including one dated 14 May 1503. At the end, below the final register, he drew a curious list of the advantages of studying astronomy.

ISTC, ij00409000; BM STC, V, 438; GW, M14646; Goff, J-409; Hain, 14113; Houzeau-Lancaster, 1641 (‘rare’); Klebs, 874:14; Cantamessa, 3959; Essling, 261 (no 260 for 1488 edition); Sander, 6664 (‘Il y a des exemplaires avec le diagr. Imprimés en couleurs’); Graesse, VI, 209.

L2038
COLOURED AND ANNOTATED BY A HUMANIST

32. SCHEDEL, Hartmann. *Liber Chronicarum*. Nuremberg, Anton Koberger, 1493, 12 July. POA

FIRST EDITION, large folio, ff (xx) 266 (y) 266-299 (i) lacking final blank. Gothic letter, up to 64 lines to page, initials painted in red and blue and rubricated throughout. One thousand eight hundred and nine woodcuts of various sizes, the largest double page, from small medallion portraits to large maps. All most elegantly hand-coloured by Johann Kruyscher c1521, his and other early marginal notes (some shaved) intermittently throughout, extensive towards end, many place names added to city views in Kruyscher’s hand, his catalogue of the Abbots of his monastery on fols 269v–271 (else blank save for running titles and page numbers) Kruyscher’s autograph on head of t-p and acquisition note of this ‘famous volume’ (1521) beneath, early ms page refs below and on verso, his shield and monogram at foot. Very nasty looking spiders added to portraits of heretics and other grave malefactors. Another purchase record of Kruyscher on verso of last recording that he paid 3 gold pieces for the book uncoloured and that he himself rubricated the text and other things and illustrated the “pictures themselves with charming colours”, which indeed he did. In late 18th-century German 1/4 diced Russia, green watered paper boards and morocco label. Minor repair to joints and head and tail bands.

First edition of the earliest and ultimate coffee table book, one of the greatest and grandest of incunabula and when published the biggest and most elaborately illustrated book ever produced. A traditional world history, is it largely drawn from Italian sources such as Blond, Forreti and Piccolomini. There are also passages of more modern interest such as Schedel’s account of the invention of printing at Mainz, of the proto-Reformation movements of Wychiff and Huss and the famous voyage of Cam and Behaim (lacking from the German translation) actually to Africa, but long believed to be evidence of their first discovery of the New World. But the glory of the work lies in its sumptuous woodcut illustrations, one the greatest example of that art of any time. They are identified in the colophon as the work of Michael Wohlgemuth and William Pleydenwurff making this one of the very few incunables illustrated by known, named artists. More recently a number of the splendid cuts have been attributed to Pleydenwurff’s young disciple, Albrecht Dürer - and they bear a remarkable resemblance to his later illustration of the Apocalypse, making this Dürer’s first published illustration. He had probably been given the great opportunity by the publisher, Koberger, who was his godfather.
Of particular topographical importance are the double page maps; that of Europe is the earliest to appear in print, and the world map is one of only three before 1500 to show Portuguese knowledge of the coasts of Africa, as well as the city views which in many instances constitute the earliest pictorial representation of those places, invaluable today. About 400 copies are believed to have survived, a very small proportion of which have contemporary, or nearcontemporary, hand colouring. Johann Kruyshaer of Lippstadt (1484-1555), better known as Joannes Cincinnius, was a Westphalian humanist, author and scholar of some significance. Educated at the Paulinum Gymnashium in Münster and then the University of Cologne where he followed the “Bursenhumanism” of the Domuschulektor Timon Kerner, the refined Thomism he learned there is reflected in his book acquisitions as well as his mathematical and scientific studies, especially astronomy and geometry. His connection there with the Münster humanists, and particularly Rudolf von Lingen also gave him an historical approach to writing and literature. He always maintained that he did not deserve his inclusion among the obscurorum virorum (Epistolae 1515).

Cincinnius had joined Werden abbey by 1505 where he served i.a. as librarian and archivist; he continued his studies (especially Greek) over nearly 40 years and produced several published works, historical or religious, which evidence the influence of the Christian humanism of Erasmus. His book acquisitions from 1520 indicate an interest in Luther but as with many of the humanists of the devotio moderna, never an attraction. Cincinnius had an abiding passion for learning and books. He raised the level of the monastic school to that of the great Latin School at Emmerich and provided it and the monastery with a first class library, making many notable acquisitions including the collection of Gisbert Longolius. At the same time, Cincinnius was enthusiastically building up his own splendid library which is thought to have numbered nearly 200 volumes; 157 are known of which 153 survive (mostly at Dusseldorf University Library). Many are annotated and it is through both their quantity and his attentive noting that we can get a very rare contemporary insight into the mind of a humanist scholar at the time of one of the major changes in the intellectual world.


£12,500

Large folio, 356 leaves, a–z8, 7–c–48, A–R8, S–T6. Gothic letter, double column; a few leaves slightly age yellowed; light marginal water stain to f. kviii, two small (wine?) splashes to f. vyii, clean nick to lower margin of vyii. A good, unwashed copy with wide outer and lower margins in seventeenth-century red morocco, richly gilt with decorative border and large central crowned coat of arms a. e. mottled; on front pastedown, modern bookplate of the Portuguese collector, Count Hercules de Silva; occasional contemporary marking, notabilia and one manicula; seventeenth-century foliation throughout and collation on verso of last.

Early uncommon edition of a very successful and extremely detailed legal commentary on the Decretals, updated for ‘modern’ use and first printed in Rome in 1473. It is divided by subject matter into sections, which are identified both by sub-headings and running titles. Enrico Segusio (c. 1200-1271) was named after his hometown close to Turin, Susa. Also known as Hostiensis, he was the most prominent jurist of his time. He taught in Bologna and Paris, served Henry VIII of England as ambassador to the pope and was appointed archbishop of Embrun. At the end of his brilliant career, he was made Cardinal of Ostia and Velletri. He is mentioned by Dante in his Commedia (Paradise, XII, 82-85). This work on Roman and canon law was so successful that it was often referred to as Summa aurea, remaining for centuries an invaluable legal tool.

The splendid armorial binding of this copy suggests the property of a wealthy seventeenth-century marquis (from the crown) almost certainly a member of the Spanish nobility, which included at the time also Southern Italian families. The work would have been particularly important to a public figure with administrative and judicial responsibilities, such as a viceroy. The armorial bindings, neither halved nor quartered, suggest such an appointment. A fine copy of a handsome and very substantial book.

Uncommon. Only three copies recorded in the US (Columbia, Huntington and Baltimore). ISTC ih00047000; BMC STC, V, 319; GW, 12236; Goff, H-47; Hain, 8965.
34. STATUTES OF SALZBURG. Statuta Provincialia. Augsburg: Erhardt Ratdolt, 1491, 5 April.

£4,750

FIRST EDITION thus. Folio. 17 unnumbered leaves. a-b6, c5, as usual lacking final blank. Gothic letter. Numerous white on black fine, large foliated initials. A very little spotting and browning, not really affecting text. A few small round wormholes, some repaired, touching a few letters, two restored on final leaf. A very good, clean (possibly expertly washed) copy in modern vellum.

First bilingual Latin-German edition of the Statutes for the Province of Salzburg, with new, expanded German text, the first having appeared in 1490. The Statuta were drawn up under Friedrich V von Schaunberg (or von Schallenburg), Archbishop of Salzburg from 1489-1494, a position which traditionally enjoyed a great deal of autonomy from Rome, and considerable secular legislative powers. Friedrich was educated at the University of Vienna from 1459, becoming Donherr (‘canon’) in Salzburg in 1469, and proceeding steadily up the hierarchy until he was appointed Archbishop in 1489. He was renowned for being outspoken, but diplomatic.

The Statuta provide rulings on various aspects of ecclesiastical administration and law, and the duties and behaviour of clergy and laypeople. They also lay down the wider legal framework of the region’s relationship to papal authority. Among their provisions are sections specifying appropriate clerical behaviour (‘De vita et honestate clericorum’; ‘De continentia clericorum’): it is stressed in several places that clerics should be literate and guard against letting their congregations fall into ignorant ways, and that they should reside in and receive their incomes from one parish alone. Further sections provide rulings on penitence and absolution, admission to communion and the observation of the sabbath. A large number of other, wide-ranging issues are dealt with in the simple, concise style which characterises the Statuta as a whole: they include usury, the quarantines of lepers and baptism, inter alia. Sources cited include Eusebius, St. Benedict and Pope Innocent III. The work concludes with Pope Martin V’s ‘confirmatio’ with the Holy Roman Empire, in Latin and in German, a document which laid the basis for subsequent papal relations with the German lands, and, on a more regional level, for Salzburg’s own ecclesiastical autonomy and freedom to create its own local legislation.

BMC Ger. II, 385; Goff S-753; Hain IV, 15043. Rare: no copies sold at auction since 1985.

L529

£49,500

EDITIO PRINCEPS, Folio, 140 unnumbered ll, AA8 BB8 GC8 DD8 EE6 ZF6 CG6 ZZ1 AAC8 BB8 GG8 DD8 EE6 α8 β8 ψ10 δ8 ε8. Greek and Roman letter, woodcut initials and headpieces. Contemporary ms marginal Latin translation in a very neat hand of the Golden Song of Pythagoras and the Moral Precepts of Phocylides on DD8 EE6. T-p and verso of last a little dusty, a very good, clean, copy with very wide margins, in beautiful contemporary calf over wooden boards, covers ruled, five borders surrounding a central panel. The borders alternate between repeated intricate designs formed by a single tool repeated - first, a cross, second, a curved and studded X shape, and third an acanthus-leaf - and widely spaced double-cross single tool designs. Central panel of three blind-ruled lozenges, double-cross design inside and outside the lozenges. The volume originally had four large metal clasps, two at the side and at top and bottom; gaps filled with a much smaller cross design, probably contemporary with the girt dentelle outer border (c1600), edges and corners with small old repairs in 19th-century calf, rebacked to match, four raised bands, blind ruled. Some small wormholes to front and back covers. A very handsome and unusual Italian binding, similar to that of a Cicero ms ascribed to Naples, now in the Vatican.

FIRST EDITION, FIRST ISSUE of this hugely important collection of Greek works, including the EDITIO PRINCEPS of Theocritus' Idylls 19-30, Hesiod's Theogony, [Hesiod's] Shield of Heracles, Theognis' Elegiacs, [Pythagoras'] Carmina Aurea, and [Phocylides'] Poema Admonitorium; the first Greek edition of Cato's Distichs; the second edition of Theocritus' Idylls 1-18 and Hesiod's Works and Days (editio princeps Milan, 1480). The second issue of the present edition has reset text in the two outermost sheets of quire Z F, and near the end of printing missing lines of Megara (attributed to Theocritus) were rediscovered in a manuscript and added. Thus, the verso of the last leaf of Θ G is blank in this present copy, as per Renouard. Aldus Manutius dedicated the work to his former teacher, Battista Guarino, professor at Ferrara, whom Manutius addresses in his epistolary dedication as 'quidem acetate nostra Socrates'. The combination of Greek texts printed in this compendium is interesting and, to modern eyes at least, surprising. It opens with the thirty hexameter Idylls of Theocritus, a Hellenistic poet writing in Alexandria at the Ptolemaic court (cf. Idylls 16 and 17). Theocritus is most famous as the 'inventor' of pastoral poetry (Virgil imitated the 'bucolic' Idylls 1-11 in his Eclogues), but, taken as a collection, the Idylls present pastoral, epic, romantic and realistic tropes, all with a characteristically Hellenistic lightness of touch (though a third or so of the Idylls are probably spurious). Not only does this volume embody for the first time all thirty Idylls together in print, it includes the editio princeps of Hesiod's Theogony, the didactic poem, in epic hexameters, telling of the birth of the gods, and the epinastic Shield of Heracles, attributed to Hesiod in antiquity. With these narrative hexameters are a number of didactic Greek works, providing moral instruction as well as educational value. These encompass the Sententiae Elegiacae of Theognis - again, the editio princeps - an archaic poet whose lyric couplets provided gnomic maxims, and the first printed Greek translation of Cato's Distichs: one of the most popular Medieval Latin school texts, the Distichs give practical and moral advice for leading a good life (e.g. ‘Be oft awake: from too much sleep abstain’. For vice from sloth doth ever nurture gain’). Most interesting in this copy in particular are the Aurea Carmina, attributed to Pythagoras, and Phocylides’ Poema admonitorum. The former consists of 71 hexameter lines of moral exhortations which, though adhering to Pythagorean philosophy, are believed to be fourth or fifth-century A.D.; the latter, a Hellenistic collection of Jewish moral teachings, also in hexameters, falsely attributed to the archaic poet Phocylides (cf. Walters, The Sentences of Pseudo-Phocylides, pp 8-11): ‘Love of money is the mother of all evil. Gold and silver are always a lure for men’, 43-44. Fascinatingly, in the wide margins of the pages containing these two poems, their Latin translations have been painstakingly transcribed in a neat, clear humanist hand. Since the final ms letters of some lines on these pages have been cropped, and re-added beneath in the same hand, they were written before the book was bound - perhaps while it was still in its original wrappers. Why the annotator - doubtless the original owner - chose these two poems in particular remains a mystery; perhaps he felt the moral teachings especially applicable. Remarkably, the translations follow the 1494 Lascaris, the very first book issued by Aldus, and presumably were transcribed in the present copy for ease of reference. A very fine copy with beautiful binding of an incunable compendium of important Greek texts, offering a fascinating insight into contemporary tensions between Humanist and Medieval approaches to learning, combining the editions principles of important Greek authors with works that were central to moral and educational learning in the Middle Ages.

BMC V 554 (IB. 24402-8); BMC STC It. C15 667; Renouard 5:3 “cette édition est très rare”; HC 15477; CIBN T -101; Hoffmann III, 373; Essling 888; Sander 7235; Goff T-144. For binding, cf. De Marinis 1 pl 9, 114.

L1834
FINE CONTEMPORARY BINDING


£7,500

8vo., ff. (14), 479 (i.e. 476), (+)2, a12, a2-zz12, a2-zz16, &816, 7716, 4416, AA-CC16, DD12. Gothic letter, double column, 49 lines; edges a bit dust-soiled, occasional small light damp stain to gutter, clean tiny tear to outer lower corner of 17 and 479 (i.e. 476), loosening title. An extremely good copy, unwashed and well-margined, in contemporary Rhineland German brown calf over wooden boards, blind-tooled with diaper panel with stamps of rose, lily and monogram ‘Ihs’ as well as smaller decorative floral medallions, resembling the style of a workshop based in Münster (Einbanddatenbank, w001463); spine in four compartments, original bronze clasps; slightly scuffed, loss to joints and spine; contemporary red and blue rubrication with touch of yellow, red underlining and manicula throughout; contemporary small vellum labels attached on fore-edge margins marking alphabetical progression; contemporary German purchase note on title and two early sixteenth-century [French?] ex libris of three priests, pastedowns and endpapers from folded manuscript on vellum with Litany of Saints from mid-thirteenth-century Breviary, possibly Flemish, elegantly and neatly rubricated in red and blue, additional later vellum leaf attached after front pastedown with contemporary manuscript annotation in Germanic hand, including initials ‘NKFS’; front pastedown detached from board with minor loss; ex libris 1712 of the library of the Premonstratensian Abbey of Saint-Josse de Dommartin (Pas-de-Calais) on verso of additional vellum leaf, front endpaper verso and final verso.

Early and second octavo edition of this famous manual for confessors, first published in Novi Ligure in 1484 and expanded by the author four years later. Battista Travamala, died 1496, was a Franciscan friar from Salo, in Liguria, from which he took the alternative name de Salis. His most influential work was this *Summa casuum*, also known as *Summa Baptistiana*, *Rosella casuum* or *Summa Rosella*, completed in 1483 in the convent of Levanto. It encountered immediate success. Following the deliberations of the Fourth Lateran Council in 1215, a large number of manuals on penance appeared, to enhance priests’ intellectual preparation and instruct them on how to be prudent confessors. These handbooks discuss in detail the foundation of moral theology, presenting as questions (casus) numerous examples of correct application of canon law. This *Summa* adopted the alphabetical order of topics, in line with Bartholomeus de San Concordio, author of an earlier *Summa*. Relying on this and previous literature, Travamala independently developed some important legal principles, such as those regarding invalidity of marriage in the case of false premises by one of the spouses. This edition also provides a rare early example of pocket-size octavo pertaining neither to devotion or (as developed by Aldus two years later) classic literature. As the three owners’ inscriptions on title point out, this genre of books was meant to be used by clerics at any time in their daily work and thus needed to be easily transportable. One of the priests using this desirable copy even marked the beginning of alphabetical sections to recover information more quickly.

ISTC, is00050000; BMC, V, 460; GW, 3326 (+ Accurti, II, 70); Goff, S-50; Hain, 14186; Graesse, VI, 233.

L2113
37. VARRO, M Terentius. *De Lingua Latina*. Parma, [printer of the Jerome, Epistolae], 1480, 11th December.

£5,950

Folio, ff. (iv) 46. Roman letter, a little Greek, guide letters, spaces blank. Extensive early marginalia in at least two early hands (one contemp) throughout, final blank page filled with annotations in Italian (c.1600); uniform light age browning, waterstains to edges of some ll., mostly marginal but slightly affecting the text in places, ancient marginal ink splashes to a couple of ll. A very interesting, not unattractive and well margined copy, if well used at an early date. In modern vellum over boards.

A rare edition from an almost equally rare press; the identity of the printer is unknown, the style of his Greek type may indicate he came from Venice; the total known output of the press is only six titles, however the layout and typeface are handsome and accomplished.

An early edition of Varro’s pioneering work on Latin grammar (including inflexion and syntax) or more accurately of books V to X (of 23) which are all that have come down to us. It was regarded as a work of considerable importance by no lesser authorities than Cicero (the dedicatee), Quintilian and St Augustine, who wonders at the author’s learning in the De Civ. Dei, book VI; the text was edited for the press by Pomponius Laetus and Franciscus Rolandellus and first printed in that form by an unknown press in Venice in 1478. It has a comprehensive index. “Varro’s treatise is the earliest extant Roman work on grammar. This great work, which was finished before Cicero’s death in 43 BC, owes much to the stoic teaching of Aelius Stilo, and also to that of a later grammarians who combined the Stoic and Alexandrian traditions. The first three of the surviving books are on Etymology, book V being on names of places, VI on terms denoting time and VII on poetic expressions. To ourselves the value of these books lies in their citations from the Latin poets, and not in their marvellous etymologies. The next three books are concerned with the controversy on Analogy and Anomaly: VIII on the arguments against Analogy, IX on those against Analomy and X on Varro’s own view of Analogy”, Sandy’s I p.179. Of Varro’s vast literary output his three books ‘De Rustica’ is the only other survivor.

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Image on the back cover is item 18 Leopold of Austria

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5. Caput canis validi quinque habet stellas