OFFERED WITH THE USUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND RESERVATIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND ANSWERED

Please contact info@editioaltera.com for full-length descriptions and photos
PRINTED IN PARIS, CENSORED BY THE SPANISH INQUISITION

1. WILD, Johann. Exegesis in Epistolam Beati Pauli ad Romanos... Paris: Guillaume Desboys, 1559. 8vo. 83 ff [of 84], lacking final leaf of text. 17th century limp vellum. $1,450

Early edition (first, Mainz, 1558) of this exegesis of Paul’s Letter to the Romans. Although wildly popular in his native Germany, the Franciscan Wild (1497-1554) came under virulent attack from a Spanish Dominican, Domingo de Soto during the latter part of his lifetime. Thanks to de Soto’s agitation, most of Wild’s works were ultimately placed the Spanish and Roman Indexes; yet, as the Catholic Encyclopedia notes, Wild continued to have many orthodox supporters: “Sixtus Senensis, Serarius, Wadding, and many others state that the works of Wild were deliberately altered by the Lutherans to deceive the Catholics.” The present example was the first edition printed in Paris, and evidently made its way to Spain at an early date. The title-page is modestly marked ‘Expurgado’, and 23 pages have been censored to various degrees throughout the text, from f. 7v to f. 71v.

FIRST EDITION OF AN EARLY SPANISH GUIDEBOOK TO ROME


First edition, printed for Spanish pilgrims to the Eternal City as well as the sizeable Spanish expatriate community in Rome, which reached its apogee during the first decades of the 17th century. Muñoz’s translation is justified in calling itself a Tratado Nuevo, as the text differs entirely from the previously available Spanish guidebook to Rome (1589, which only contained 103 woodcuts). The Catalonian monk Miquel Llot de Ribera (1555-1607) licensed the book, and its dedication to the Spanish Ambassador to Rome invokes the hope that the Spanish nation will continue its financial support of Rome’s sacred edifices. The Spanish community is thought to have numbered as many as 30,000 in early 17th century Rome, with their titular national church, San Giacomo degli Spagnuoli in the Piazza Navona serving as its focal point. “The ambassador, high churchmen, the Confraternity of the Resurrection, and other members of the Spanish ‘nation’ – considered themselves the true heirs of the Roman empire and thought of Rome as part of their own empire…” (Dandelet). OCLC shows US copies at Berkeley, UCLA, LC, and Illinois.
HOW TO SALVAGE SHIPWRECKS, 
AND 60 TYPES OF GRENADE

3. DAMBACH, Christoph. Büchsenmeisterey… sampt trewlicher unterweisung mancherley künstlicher Feuwerk nemlich der Petard, Spreng- und andern Kugeln ... Frankfurt & Darmstadt: Balthasar Hofmann for Conrad Corthoys, 1615. 4to. (4), 206 pp, (2), plus folding woodcut plate. Title printed in red-and-black. With half-page woodcut of a cannon on title-page, as well as 108 woodcuts in text, many half-page or larger. Contemporary boards; a few annotations. ON HOLD $3,500

First complete edition; an astonishing, richly-illustrated tour-de-force of artillery technology on the eve of the Thirty Years’ War, during which incendiary devices such as those described here would be used with devastating effect. Book II, for example, treats mainly of grenades, bombs, and rockets, illustrating more than 60 such specimens; Dambach seems to have been one of the earliest to suggest that a grenade filled with lead balls would create much more shrapnel damage than a purely explosive device. This is the first appearance of Book IV, treating the defense of bridges, the protection of canon positions, the use of defensive mines, and so on. One of the final chapters in Book IV (pp. 190-195) discusses “How one can raise up a sunken ship with all of its treasure”, including an illustration of a man with an air hose leading to the surface. VD17 locates just one copy of this edition, at the HAB.

WOMEN’S WORK: A MYTHICALLY RARE PATTERN BOOK

4. MARTIN, Jost / SIEBMACHER, Johann?. Schön Neues Modelbuch von allerley lustigen Mädeln nach Zuwiürcken un[d] Zusticke[n]; gemacht im Jar Chz 1599. Strassburg: Jost Martin for Ludwig König of Basel, 1609 [corrected in MS to 1619]. Oblong 4to. (38) ff [of 40] including woodcut title and 37 woodcut plates, signed A-K4 (but lacking B1 as well as blank grid K4). Bound in late 19th century vellum. Woodcut title colored in an early hand, as in most copies; various closed tears to title and a few plates, the latter confined to margins. ON HOLD $6,500

Later edition (first, 1597) of one of the rarest of Early Modern weaving books: aside from a single fragment of just 27 leaves (with facsimile title-page) offered at Ketterer Kunst in 2004, no copy of any edition of this text has been seen at auction since 1932. The enchanting title-page shows six women at work in a contemporary weaving studio, employed at various types of loom. In the background, we see a lady at work on a seated vertical loom; and in the left foreground, a lady consults a pattern-book or Modellbuch while a hand-loom rests on her lap. At the right-hand side of the scene, a woman submits her finished product for inspection to a bespectacled figure, possibly a man, who has another sample draped across a pillow on his lap.

Please contact info@editioaltera.com for full-length descriptions and photos.
WITH A FINELY-EXECUTED ‘FAMILY PORTRAIT’

5. *Carta executoria de hidalguía* granted for Don Rodrigo Teijeiro Becerra de Miranda and his sons. Royal Chancery of Granada, July 24, 1641. Folio [31 x 21 cm]. 60 vellum leaves plus (4) pp of addenda on paper. With 3 full-page paintings separated by red silk dividers, among them the petitioner’s wife and children, as well as large painted initial ‘D’ featuring St James the Moor-Slayer trampling a Muslim underfoot; and with 16 large initials in text painted on gold, adorned with highly naturalistic birds, flowers, and insects. Full contemporary crushed red velvet. $6,500

Magnificent, richly decorated example of a Granada *carta de hidalguía*, executed for a member of the military-religious Order of Alcántara in Villanueva de la Serena (200 miles NW of Granada) between 1638-1641. Completed during the artistic apogee of the Spanish Baroque – coinciding with the most active years of Diego Velázquez, Bartolomé Esteban Murillo, and Jusepe de Ribera – the present example exhibits a notably high degree of artistic accomplishment. As always, the paintings are unsigned, but in this case feature naturalistic portraits of the petitioner, his wife Mariana, and his daughter and two sons, incorporating ‘speech bubbles’ or banderoles as the family supplicates the Virgin Mary at their private altar. Each member is named in a gilt caption, including the youngest daughter Bernarda. Facing this family scene is a full-page, marvelously colorful escutcheon, “Por la Gracia de Dios”, featuring the arms of Don Rodrigo flanked by seraphim, banderoles, and symbols of the battlefield (canons, drums, horns, barrels, etc.). A further painting is dedicated to King Felipe IV, Grand Master of the Order of Alcantara; and on the first page of text, framed in a rich blue background, St. James the Moor-Slayer stands in stark contrast to the usual depiction of James as a pilgrim with a staff. Finally, many of the 16 gold initials exhibit a lively painter’s eye with a fondness for birds and insects. **Provenance:** small modern private bookplate (‘K’) on lower front pastedown. Purchased from Maarten Haverkamp (Netherlands), October 2023.
AN UNRECORDED TREATISE BY AN OPPONENT OF GALILEO
 WITH WOODCUTS OF COPERNICUS AND BRAHE


Entirely unrecorded artefact by the Bohemian astronomer Martin Horky (ca. 1584-1640), celebrated in the history of science for his close relations to both Johannes Kepler and Galileo Galilei. Although well-recognized in the annals of the field, and the author of dozens of astrological pamphlets as well as a famous rebuttal of Galileo, Horky seems to have led an itinerant existence and much of his life remains obscure. The present work – which was published separately to his annual prognostications – in fact sheds some new light on Horky’s life as well as his favored cosmological models. “Horky’s professional difficulties began in 1610 when he attended a demonstration on the telescope, which Galilei had given in Bologna, and concluded that what he had seen through the telescope was an optical illusion. He subsequently authored A Most Brief Peregrination against the Starry Messenger...” (Smith, The Science of Astrology). Neither this title nor any variants are recorded in VD17, STCN, KvK, or OCLC.

“ON THIS DAY IN HISTORY…”


Sole edition of this monument of data tabulation: a voluminous catalogue of historical events, strictly delineated between “good, or celebratory” and “bad, or mournful”, and organized according to which day of the week they fell on. A provincial cleric with too much time on his hands, Castrucci’s approach is nonetheless worthy of further study: quite aside from his sources, and why he chose to tabulate his data in this fashion, he does present a certain even-handedness in his embrace of global centers of power. Tuesday’s happy events, for example, are recorded under equally substantial headings for each of the European royal houses; each of the Italian city-states and their families; the Swiss Republics; Russia; the Ottoman Empire; Turkey; Persia; and lastly, “the Moors of Africa, as well as Spain”. OCLC shows US copies at Columbia, the Newberry, and Chicago.
A PERUVIAN MEMBER OF THE FICTIONAL
‘ACCADÉMIA DEGLI AMFISTILI’
NO COPY IN US LIBRARIES

8. CAMPUZANO Y SOTOMAYOR, Baltasar. Parabien a la Yglesia Catholic Romana en la Conversion de Christina Alexandra Reyna de Suecia… Rome: Reverenda Camera Apostolica, 1656. 4to. (16) including engr. frontispiece, 169 pp, (7). 18th century Spanish tree-calf with gilt title on spine; all edges stained blue. Offered with an export license. $3,500

Sole edition, printed for the Spanish community in Rome, of this curious work by a Peruvian intellectual celebrating the recent (1655) public apostasy of the young Queen Christina of Sweden. The Lima-born Campuzano was deeply interested in the conversion of infidels more broadly; his earlier work, Planeta Catholicico, had supplicated Philip IV for assistance in the wholesale evangelization of the Moxos Indians of Peru. All of Campuzano’s works are impossibly rare in census; OCLC shows just a handful of copies of the present work in European libraries, and none in the US. The digitized copies at the Bibliotheca Casanatense and the National Library in Rome, for example, are both lacking the engraving.

SECULAR POETRY AT THE KLOSTER SANKT GALLEN
AN EARLY IMPRINT, USING NEWLY-CUT TYPE

9. GUGGER, Athanasius (ed.). Alexandris, sive Gesta Alexandri Magni Libris X comprehensa… ex veteribus MSS. Bibliothecarum S. Galli, & Montis Angelorum, in lucem edita…". St Gallen: [Monastery Press], 1659. 12mo. (12), 224 pp, (4). Late 18th century English black straight-grain gilt morocco; gilt dentelles; all edges gilt. ON HOLD $1,500

Extremely rare first edition of this early, and curiously secular product of the St Gallen press (est. ca. 1633): a redaction of the Alexandris, edited from two different manuscripts examined by the St. Gallen monk Athanasius Gugger (1608-1669). This charming work on the exploits of Alexander the Great claims to have been produced from entirely new type (“formis ejusdem”), and the editor believed that he was the first to usher this celebrated medieval poem into print, “eagerly regarded and desired by many, and not less venerable for antiquity than for erudition” (preface). No copy in US/UK libraries; nor is any copy recorded in auction records, per Rare Book Hub.

Please contact info@editioaltera.com for full-length descriptions and photos
THE EARLIEST WITNESS OF A PROVINCIAL ACCADEMIA UNRECORDED IN OCLC


Sole edition, unrecorded in ICCU and OCLC, of this curious collection of sonnets, odes, and madrigals (i.e. intended to be sung) composed by the founding members of a nascent provincial learned society just outside of Ancona. The subject of these poetic tributes was Maria Olimpia Boni, described here as “la nostra Amazone”, who was due to celebrate her monacazione at the Convent of the Poor Clares in Iesi. Maylender (Storia delle Accademie d’Italia) gives a helpful account of the founding of this society by the virtuosi of Iesi in 1656, the only source of which is a manuscript composed by one of its members, Giulio Cesare Tosi (a contributor to the present work). The 10 different named contributors to the present work are assumed to have been the original founders of the Accademia, whose striking emblem is depicted here.

HOW TO ASK FOR A HOTEL, AND COMPLIMENT THE WINE: THE FIRST STUDY OF CONVERSATIONAL TURKISH

NO COPY IN US LIBRARIES OR IN AUCTION RECORDS


Sole edition of this ground-breaking work of East-West relations, both refuting the misconception of the despotic Muslim empire and offering an entirely novel linguistic insight into Ottoman culture. “The significance of Harsanyi’s book can be found in the fairly unique perspective he offers on the chances of Christian-Muslim coexistence in south-eastern and east central Europe. With much praise showered on ‘born Muslims’ (in contrast to ‘renegades’), he refutes western European stereotypes concerning the tyrannical rule of the Ottomans over their Christian subjects and presents a more positive image of the former…” (Christian-Muslim Relations. A Bibliographical History). The work is couched as a series of dialogues intended for a European ambassador visiting Turkey, effectively offering both linguistic and cultural advice to Nagy’s readers. For Harvard’s Professor of Turkish Studies, Cemal Kafadar, it “can easily be characterized as one of the most knowledgeable and perceptive works ever written on the subject in early modern Europe”. “No one had ever written such a book for the study of Turkish before. Until the mid-seventeenth century the Turkish language had received relatively little attention from Western European scholars, at least in comparison with Arabic.” (Kármán, p. 160). Not in Blackmer.

Please contact info@editioaltera.com for full-length descriptions and photos
THE PAINTINGS AND ARTWORK
OF A MONUMENT OF THE LATE BAROQUE
THIS COPY A GIFT FROM THE SUN KING

12. FÉLIBIEN DES AVAUX, Jean-François. Description de l’Église Royale des Invalides. Paris: Jacque [sic] Quillau, 1706. Large folio [42.5 x 29 cm]. (2), 143 pp, (1), plus 2 full-page plates, 24 large vignettes, and 12 large initials, most illustrating paintings or architectural features of the church. Contemporary mottled calf with arms of Louis XIV stamped in gilt on both covers; engraved bookplate of Pierre de Monthiers (1677-1743) on pastedown; his signature on title-page, “ex dono Regis”. $7,500

A magnificent, broad-margined copy of this artistic and architectural tour-de-force illustrating and describing the new church and grounds of the Hôtel des Invalides whose construction had been completed by the architect Jules Hardouin-Mansart in August of 1706. Among the earliest ‘veteran’s hospitals’ anywhere in the Western world, the complex was executed under the particular patronage of Louis XIV, himself a veteran of numerous campaigns. In their rush to bring the present work to the press just a few weeks later, the editors depict Hardouin-Mansart’s original plans in the engraved frontispiece, including a vast esplanade with a monumental colonnade to highlight the Dome to the south, which was never ultimately realized.

As its binding suggests, this copy was bound for Louis XIV and presented to Pierre de Monthiers (1677-1743), who was appointed Commissionaire des Invalides beginning in 1707. Alongside Monthier’s bold signature and the note ‘ex dono Regis’ on the title-page, a lengthy note in a later hand on the flyleaf explains the circumstances of its presentation. The existence of advance-printed copies such as this one perhaps attests to the personal pride which Louis XIV – who had personally ridden into the battlefield on many occasions – evidently felt for having established one of the world’s first hospitals specifically intended for military veterans.

OCLC shows copies of this first state at Harvard and the Getty only; for reference, the second folio state is held in seven US libraries: Boston Athenaeum (miscataloged as the first state!), Harvard, Princeton, Washington University, Oberlin, U Penn, Rice, NYPL, Columbia, and the Winterthur. This copy was last seen at auction more than 20 years ago, when it sold at Christie’s in 2002.
WITH A CHAPTER ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF BURNING-LENSES


$2,000

First edition of this treatise offered up by the Royal Engineer of the Saxon Elector Augustus the Strong. Schessler’s work ranges from problems of perspective to mirrors, mechanics, fortification engineering, and so on. The plates at pp. 44/5 and 48/9 depict a variety of engineering machines, while in the section on methods of measuring the globe, a curious world map at pages 52/3 centers on Africa and depicts ‘Terra Australis Incognita’ as bigger than all the other continents combined. On pp. 58-67 we find an entire chapter devoted to ‘Burning-Glasses’ and their practical construction, replete with technical illustrations; for example, on p. 65 Schessler instructs the reader in “How to construct a Burning-Glass which can ignite at a distance of 500 or 1000 feet (Schuch)”. OCLC shows US copies at the Getty, Boston Public Library, Smithsonian, Illinois, and U Penn. Not in Roberts & Trent (Bibliotheca Mechanica).

FR. DOMINIC THE OTTOMAN


$1,500

Sole French edition – recorded in just a handful of copies worldwide – of the life of Osman or ‘Dominic the Ottoman’, a celebrated Muslim convert. As the infant son of Sultan Ibrahim I, Osman was captured by pirates (the Knights of Malta) while he and his mother were on their way to Mecca in 1644. He was baptized as a young man in 1656 and studied in Naples and Rome before spending several years in Paris. During the last decade of his life he resided on the islands of Crete and Malta, where he attempted to broker peace negotiations between Christian and Muslim forces. The Italian original (Vita del padre maestro f. Domenico di S. Tomaso) was printed in Naples in 1689 and is equally rare (1 US copy, at Chicago).
THE FIRST BLACK SAINT OF THE AMERICAS
(ALSO USEFUL AGAINST RATS)


First edition – unrecorded in OCLC – of this original Italian biography of Martin de Porres, considered the first Black saint of the Americas. Ponsi explains in his preface that in Italy Porres “has commonly come to be called “il Santo contro i sorci” [‘the Saint against rats’], and due to his efficacy in this regard, Ponsi has chosen to write this brief life, because an earlier life of Porres in Italian (Palermo, 1696) is impossible to find, and not everyone can understand the Spanish account of Melendez’ Tesoros de las Indias [1682, which includes a chapter on Porres]. Martin de Porres was born in Lima in 1579; in the present work his mother is described as a “Morena libera, nata in Panama, di bassa condizione, e di nome Anna Velasquez”. The text includes accounts of Porres’ occasional invisibility (pp. 101-107), his ability to speak to animals, and a number of miraculous cures due to his intervention. This first edition was printed in the ecclesiastical center of Rome, evidently in order to promote its subject’s beatification. It survives in just 3 copies worldwide, all in Italy.

A LATIN GRAMMAR FOR COLOMBIAN CHILDREN


First edition, impossibly rare, of this Spanish-Latin grammar composed by a Colombian priest, presumably for use in the Kingdom of New Granada. The printing licenses reveal that the book was examined by the faculty of the University of Bogotá on the 18th July 1733, and was given a final approbation in Sevilla (the main conduit to the Indies, and a common place of publication for books destined for the American trade) on the 8th March 1734. Medina, for example, cites only much later editions of 1777 and 1784, printed long after the author’s death. Unlike these later editions, the present is dedicated to Thomas Aquinas, patron of the University of Bogotá, and includes various epigrams and acrostics composed for Masustegui as well as his own ‘Prologo a los Niños’. OCLC shows a single physical copy worldwide, at UC San Diego (the Harvard copy is of a later edition); REBIUN also confirms no copy in Spanish libraries (just two digital copies).
THE 18TH CENTURY JAPANESE TOWNHOUSE

17. YASUNORI, Hirōka (広岡保教). 番匠町家雛形 Banjō Machiya Hinagata ['Models of Townhouses for the Master Craftsman']. Edo: Suharaya Mohei, 1770 (Meiwa 7). 2 volumes, large 8vos. (48) pp, including (2) pp publisher’s catalog; (52) pp. Blue sewn paper (fukurotoji) bindings.

Very rare first edition – replete with the publisher’s catalog – of this 18th century guide to wood-frame architecture, illustrated with dozens of woodcuts and diagrams, many full-page. Yasunori’s title literally translates as ‘Models of Townhouses for the Master Craftsman’, and his guide also gives a robust account of the specialized wooden joints which elegantly merge form and function, allowing the natural properties of the wood to hold the frame together. OCLC shows US copies at Harvard and Yale only; a further copy is recorded in the collection of the architect A. Lawrence Kocher, now housed in the Rockefeller Library at the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation (VA).

Mnemonic Poetry
By a Mexican Jesuit in Exile


First edition, printed in Spanish with great difficulty (according to Part II, pp. 186-7) by a Cesena printer entirely ignorant of that language. Lozano had arrived in Mexico as a young Jesuit in 1744, teaching at the Colleges of Oaxaca, Durango, Zacatecas, and Las Parras. With the expulsion of the Order in 1767, Lozano fled to norther Italy – seemingly a common destination for Mexican ex-Jesuits. The present work was intended as a versified aide memoire to key scriptural passages, and a second edition finally appeared in Mexico in 1794. At the end of Part II, we find a supplementary sonnet, “A la Mexicana Virgen de Guadalupe”, which begins “Yo vi una vez pintura soberana / que en México copió divino Apeles…” OCLC shows a single US copy, at Harvard.
THE TRAVELS OF BEELZEBUB

19. [SATIRE]. Beelzebubs Reisen und Thaten seit der Eroberung von Mexiko bis auf den Targowitscher Bund… Leipzig: Kleefeld, 1796. 8vo. 2 parts in 1. (8), 228 pp, (2); 192 pp, including engr. frontispiece. Contemporary publisher’s boards. ON HOLD $1,850

Sole edition of this dense satire chronicling the Devil’s hand in worldly affairs, from the conquest of the Americas all the way up to the French Revolution. “With satanic joy, the Despot of Hell listened to his messenger who announced to him that Christopher Columbus had begun his voyage of discovery to the western lands beyond the great Atlantic Ocean…” (p. 1). The Spanish are particularly dear to Beelzebub’s heart, and “the conquest of Santo Domingo granted him great pleasure. Hundred of thousands of natives were killed by greedy and angry priests… the survivors fled into the dense forests, seeking refuge in vain. The Spaniards, animated by devils, delighted in hunting humans. The fugitives were sought out in the woods, shot down like game, or hunted to death using large Spanish dogs; or they were caught alive, tied up, locked in huts surrounded by flammable materials, and set on fire…” (p. 14). OCLC shows one US copy, at Minnesota.

TEA AND THE TASTE FOR ‘CHINOISERIE’


First edition (the smaller of two formats printed in the same year) of this charming manual of tea-drinking prepared by a ‘fabricant de chocolat et marchand de thé’, apparently in order to satisfy the curiosity of his customers. As it had been since the time of Louis XIV, tea was consumed in France mainly by the aristocracy and by invalids; here, Marquis gives a robust medical account of the plant as well as describing its natural history and Chinese methods of processing. One plate, for example, depicts a group of monkeys trained to pick a particularly rare type of tea. Cagle, A Matter of Taste, # 305.

Please contact info@editioaltera.com for full-length descriptions and photos
THE MAGNUM OPUS OF EUROPE’S FIRST BLACK PHYSICIAN
NO COPY IN AUCTION RECORDS

21. Fournier-Pescay, François (ed.). Traité des principales maladies des yeux par Antoine Scarpa... accompagné de notes et d’additions... Paris: Mêquignon-Marvis, 1821. 8vos, 2 vols in 2. (4), xxvii pp, (1), 484 pp, (2); (4), 422 pp, (4), plus 4 lithographed plates (of which 3 folding). Contemporary quarter calf over marbled boards, with gilt titles on spines. ON HOLD $3,850

Sole edition of this long-unrecognized milestone in the modern history of medicine. François Fournier-Pescay (1771-1833) was the son of the mulâtresse libre Adélaïde Rappau and a slave-owning, coffee-growing planter, François de Pescay of Saint-Domingue. Following a successful career as a military surgeon in the armies of Napoleon, Fournier-Pescay finally returned with his family to his father’s homeland, now the independent nation of Haïti, in 1823. Under the regime of Jean-Pierre Boyer, Fournier was appointed Inspector General of the Health Department and Director of Haïti’s first university (L’Académie d’Haïti). “It is simply a fact that no other physician of African descent was able to accomplish as much during the 18th and 19th centuries, or probably any time prior to the onset of the Industrial Revolution.” (Fikes). OCLC shows US copies at NYAM, Buffalo, Chicago, Kentucky, JHU, Cleveland, and Wisconsin.

A LEGAL MANUAL FOR NEWLY-INDEPENDENT LATIN AMERICANS
NO COPY IN AUCTION RECORDS


Extremely rare first edition of this remarkable textbook composed specifically for use in the fledgling independent republics of Latin America during the first decades of the 19th century. Little seems to be known of the author, but in his preface Ochoa rails against “political and religious despotism” and salutes “the individuals of all classes in these new republics who have risen as if by magic from the bosom of shame, seeing themselves elevated to the dignity of free men”. Celebrating the loss of Spain’s American dominions in the name of liberty and justice were evidently sentiments to which Ochoa could not publicly sign his name, and he is identified only by his initials on the title-page, proclaiming him to be a ‘Profesor de Jurisprudencia’. At the end of his preface (p. XIV) he suggests that his precepts have been strongly influenced by the (sill-living) English jurist Jeremy Bentham (1748-1832), considered a radical in his day. OCLC shows just a handful of copies worldwide, two of them in the US (Harvard and Texas).
**THE PERFECTION OF ENGRAVING:**
**THE COLLEZIONE MANFREDINI**

23. NEUMAYR, Antonio. *Collezione Manfredini di Classiche Stampe, divise in Quattro Epoche dell’ Incisione...* Venice: Tipografia di Commercio, 1833. 8vo, 4 parts in 1. With separate title-pages for each of the 4 parts, dated 1832-1833. Original publisher’s printed blue boards. **$1,250**

First printed catalog of the complete Collezione Manfredini, a group of 742 engravings which Federico Manfredini (1743-1829) considered ‘classical’ or typologically important. Manfredini’s rather positivistic vision sought to elaborate the “Progressi nel Perfezionamente delle Stampe”, and each of four epochs is characterized with representative examples and notes by the editor Neumayr. The periods are divided as follows: 1437-1581; 1570-1680; 1630-1790; and the modern era. Manfredini’s earliest piece was what he considered the ‘proof state’ for an engraving dated by him to ca. 1437 (‘The Conversion of S. Paul’, ascribed by him to Maso Finiguerra); his latest pieces were by the still-living Morghen Rafaello (of whom Manfredini collected some 60 different examples). Surprisingly, there are relatively few examples of the Flemish masters like de Jode and the Galle dynasty. Alongside a description of each piece, all 168 individual artists are given a critical commentary by Neumayr. OCLC shows US copies at the Newberry, Illinois, NYPL, and the Clark Art Institute.

**AN UNRECORDED PERNAMBUCO INCUNABLE**


Sole edition of this apparently unrecorded provincial Brazilian play, printed during the civil unrest preceding the last great rebellion in that region (the Praieira Revolt of 1848-49). The author signs his name only with his initials, and suggests that the play is adapted from a ‘romance’ of the French litterateur Paul-Henri-Joseph Gentilhomme (1814-1856); however, we have been unable to trace the corresponding work based on the title or main characters. The action takes place in Germany in 1550, and the text includes stage directions; according to p. 3, the play was performed for the first time at the ‘Theatro particular’ in Maceió on the 14th May 1846, 150 miles south of Recife.

Please contact info@editioaltera.com for full-length descriptions and photos
WORKING-CLASS VICE AND VIRTUE IN 1830s FRANCE

25. DAVID, Jules (inv. & lith.). *Vice et Vertu. Album Moral Représentant en Action les Suites Inévitables de la Bonne et de la Mauvaise Conduite...* Paris: Jeannin, [1836]. Oblong folio [46 x 31 cm]. Title (bound as front cover) and 12 lithographed plates, finished in rich contemporary gouache. $2,500

Unrecorded in this colored state, an evocative suite of plates intended as a warning to adolescents and those entering the workforce. The life of the industrious worker is here starkly contrasted with the progress of his anti-hero, who begins with ‘Vagabondage’ at the age of 12 and swiftly graduates to ‘Debauchery’ by the age of 20; ‘Idleness’ by 25; ‘Misery’ at the age of 30; and finally a life of ‘Crime’ (35 years old) and ‘Opprobrium’ (aged 40). OCLC shows copies at the Rijksmuseum, BnF, National Library of Poland, and the Morgan Library. COPAC confirms no UK copies. None of the copies in OCLC are noted as colored; the last copy as such recorded in Rare Book Hub was sold at Parke Bernet in 1949.

Please contact info@editioaltera.com for full-length descriptions and photos.
Purchased in the Slave Markets of Egypt, and Brought to Ancona

26. [OLIVIERI, Nicolò]. *Relazione del Riscatto e Battesimo di Tre Etiopi*. Iesi: Tipografia Flori e Ruzzini, 1853. 4to. (4), 5-13 pp, (3) including terminal blank. Publisher’s printed rose-colored wrappers. $1,850

Sole edition of this extremely rare, provincially-printed ‘deliverance’ narrative of three Sub-Saharan slave-children – Mzada, Tolombolo, and Zaide – purchased into freedom by a Genoese priest in 1852 and deposited into a small town near Ancona. Other than ephemeral printed pamphlets like the present one, astonishingly few records of these kinds of events seem to survive. Olivieri’s frequent expeditions to the slave-markets of Cairo (where he would disguise himself as a Muslim) were celebrated in Italy at the time, and precise details are given in the text of the early lives of each of the two girls Mzada and Tolombolo and the boy Zaide. Their baptisms are described as public spectacles, in which they were dressed in their native clothing and paraded through the streets; we also learn that they were separated, and each housed in a different local convent. This work is unrecorded in OCLC / COPAC, but the ICCU shows a single copy in Italy (erroneously dated 1855, at Loreto).

Colonial Nostalgia: The Tale of a Creole Family

27. GIRARD, Just. *Une Famille Créole des Îles Maurice et de la Réunion*. Tours: Mame et Companie, 1860. 8vo. (4), 140 pp, plus added chromolithographed half-title and lithographed frontispiece. Contemporary blind-ruled purple boards with gilt title on spine. $450

First edition of this nostalgic tale of the lost colony of Mauritius, which France had ceded to the English in 1810. Couched as an instructional story for children, the author describes an encounter in Bordeaux in 1858 with a Mauritian creole named Alfred la Roche. This provides a springboard for a lengthy discussion of Mauritius and its neighbor Réunion, and in particular of their historical prosperity. Some discussion is given of the particularly high creole population on the island; “for one cannot forget that the majority of the first colonists of Bourbon [Réunion] had married women of Madagascar…” (p. 119). A lengthy extract of a creole poem is printed on pp. 134-136. OCLC shows US copies (generally of later editions) at Western Michigan, the Morgan, Minnesota, Harvard, UCLA, and Cleveland Public Library.

Please contact info@editioaltera.com for full-length descriptions and photos
WITH A FRENCH CARIBBEAN SLAVE SONG


Sole edition of this swashbuckling tale of Caribbean piracy, set during Bolivar’s struggle to liberate South America from the Spanish. The action begins on board the ship Paramaribo, off the coast of Colombia, when a mutiny throws into motion a cataclysmic series of events. On board is an English merchant, ‘Sir Patrice Sunders’, whose ravishing daughter Lucy falls in love but is then kidnapped; a storm follows, with the obligatory shipwreck, and the narrative continues apace. On pages 158-9 the author presents a few snippets of local slave songs, with the corresponding music bound at the rear. Sabin 11519; OCLC shows a single US copy, at the Library of Congress.

YOGA FOR THE MASSES


Second edition of this early document in the Western ‘rediscovery’ of yoga. Traditional Hindu philosophical practices dating from the 2nd century BC remained of little interest to Westerners until the late 19th century, when they were suddenly brought to light thanks to the activities of the Anglo-Indian ‘Theosophical Society’. Tatya’s text bears little relation to the modern preoccupation with physical poses, but instead offers commentaries on techniques of what is today termed ‘transcendental meditation’. “The Edition now offered is calculated to help counteract the materialistic tendencies of the present age, and to re-open the path of the true spiritual philosophy and science of the ancient Aryans…. The leading feature of [Bhakti Yoga] is devotion without intermission, and absorbing, ecstatic thought regarding the Deity. The difference between this and Raj Yoga is that the former is based on pure and rational metaphysics, while the latter is founded on mere faith. In their results the former is by most considered superior to the latter.” (Author’s preface, pp. iv-v). OCLC shows US copies at the Newberry, Harvard, Minnesota, and the Theosophical Society (IL); the first edition (1882) is held at Stanford and Concordia Seminary.