

# CALIFORNIA, FEBRUARY, 2023

## PART II: 1701-1900

To the Soldiers of the 7<sup>th</sup> Military Division  
Soldiers

Bonaparte has landed on our coast, and advances into the interior of France. Let us remember that he has disengaged us from our oaths, and that we have taken others to the King.

You will be faithful to Honour and to your Duty and this storm will be soon dispersed: We will see then a beautiful Country become powerful and happy. But if on the contrary you suffer yourselves to be led by perfidious Councils every unhappiness will be thundred upon ~~us~~

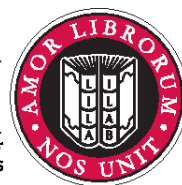
(ITEM # 36, THE ESCAPE FROM ELBA)

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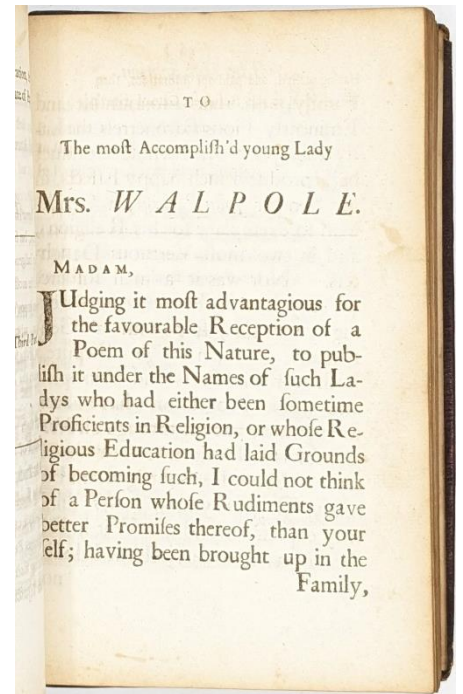
Please contact [info@editioaltera.com](mailto:info@editioaltera.com) for full-length descriptions and photos

**“THE PALACE’S SLIMEY WALLS WERE PLAISTER’D O’ER  
WITH FAETID EARTH, TEMPER’D WITH HUMANE GORE...”**

24. [MILTON, John] / SMITH, Marshall. *The Vision, or a Prospect of Death, Heav'n and Hell...* London: A. Bell, 1702. Large 8vo. (20), 28 pp; (4), 29-58 pp; (4), 59-96 pp; (4), 97-130 pp; (4), 131-166 pp, (2), plus engr. frontispiece signed by the Anglo-Dutch artist Michael van Gucht (ca. 1660-1725). Contemporary red morocco gilt (front joint repaired). **\$1,450**

Rare sole edition of this Miltonic epic in rather graphic language, each part of which is dedicated to a different, ‘accomplish’d’ young woman. According to Havens’ bibliography (p. 637), this is the eighth piece of English poetry directly influenced by *Paradise Lost*; the author indeed anticipates the charge of plagiarism, “for taking some Hints from Milton”; but defends himself by suggesting that “since Dryden hath done the same, and Oldham from Ben Johnson [sic], I am not asham’d of it, nor is it esteem’d a Fault when acknowledged.”

ESTC shows US copies at Harvard, Princeton, UCLA, Florida, Illinois, and Yale. However, more than half of the copies listed in ESTC seem to be incomplete, having been bound up with just one of the five dedications, or without the frontispiece. The last copy of Smith’s *Vision* to appear at auction was sold at Sotheby’s in 1990.



**RICHLY-ILLUSTRATED JESUIT LECTURES, FROM XENO TO DESCARTES**



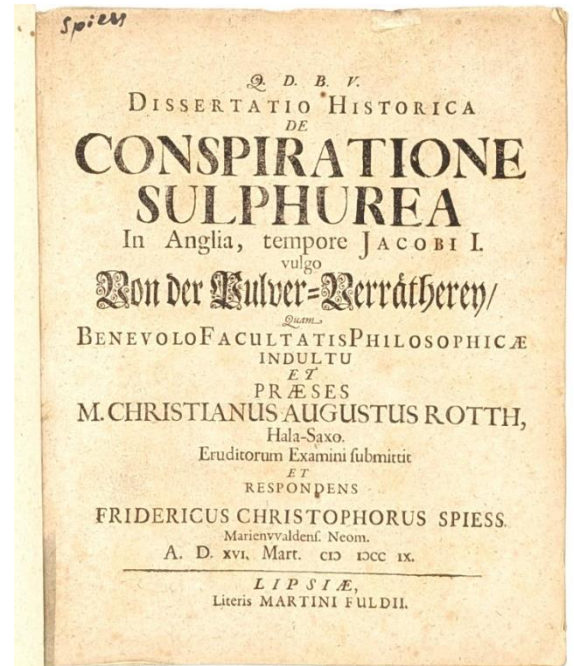
25. [LE VAILLANT, Guillaume, S.J.]. *Logica* [etc.]. Manuscript in Latin, (506) pp, plus 26 full-page engraved plates, two richly finished in fine hand-color. Bound with two printed items: 1) *Sodales Philosophi Collegii Aquicinctini*. Douai: [no printer], 1702. 7 pp, (1); and 2) a broadside, *Philosophia rationalis... theses praeside R.P. Guilielmo Le Vaillant S.J.* Douai: M. Mairesse, 1703. Contemp. calf. **\$4,850**

Handsome manuscript volume of philosophy lectures given at the Jesuit Collège d'Anchin in Douai, richly illustrated with added engraved plates probably specifically intended for such student notebooks. The two courses (Logic, 232 pp and ‘Emotions’ [De Affectibus], 264 pp) were evidently attended by many of 400 students who are recorded here by name as members of the Anchin ‘sodality’, including a handful of English and Scottish names (William Cooper Francis Ignatius Fordyce, William Jacob Drummond, George Seton, Jacob Joseph Leslie, Lewis Michael Ignatius Urquhart, Philip Loxly). The portraits include Descartes, Epicurus, Sultan Mahomet III, and Ginnaeghel, King of Ethiopia and Egypt – the latter two both lavishly colored by a contemporary hand.

## REMEMBER, REMEMBER, THE FIFTH OF NOVEMBER...

**26. SPIESS, Friedrich Christoph.** *Dissertatio Historica de Conspiratione Sulphurea in Anglia, tempore Jacobi I. vulgo Von der Pulver-Verrätherey...* Leipzig: Martin Fulde, 1709. 4to. (1) f, 44 pp, [1 integral blank]. Old cartonnato. **\$850**

Sole edition of this German dissertation re-examining the horrors of Guy Fawkes and the Gunpowder Plot of 1605. Spiess' interest lies not only in the events but in their supposed justification (sections VI-VIII) and how the plot was uncovered and ultimately foiled. Sections XVII-XXI examine the confessions of Guy Fawkes and Thomas Winter, while Section XXIV ("De Festo annuo conspirationis Sulphureae") discusses annual celebrations of 'Guy Fawkes' Day'. OCLC shows US copies at the Newberry, Harvard, and U Penn.



## A LAVISH, METER-WIDE 'ACHIEVEMENT' ON VELLUM FROM THE DUPONT FAMILY COLLECTION



**27. IRISH NOBILITY.** *The Achievement of the Right Honourable William Lord Fitzwilliam of Lifford in the Kingdom of Ireland.* [Ireland or England, ca. 1715]. Gouache heightened in gold on vellum, 106 x 67 cm [nearly 3.5 x 2 ft], with large central armorial flanked by the coats of arms and quarterings of William Fitz-William of Lincoln and William Fitz-William of Clixby. Framed in a relatively early gilt and painted wood frame, 128 x 90 cm overall.

**\$14,500**

Elaborately-conceived, richly decorated heraldic 'achievement' on vellum, depicting in enormous scale the holdings of the ennobled Fitzwilliam family, whose primary seat lay in Lifford, County Donegal. The work of a talented artist, the splendid central crest is flanked by two naked, tree-wielding savages – also found on several other Irish and Scottish armorials, and perhaps referring to the valor of the indigenous inhabitants of those regions.

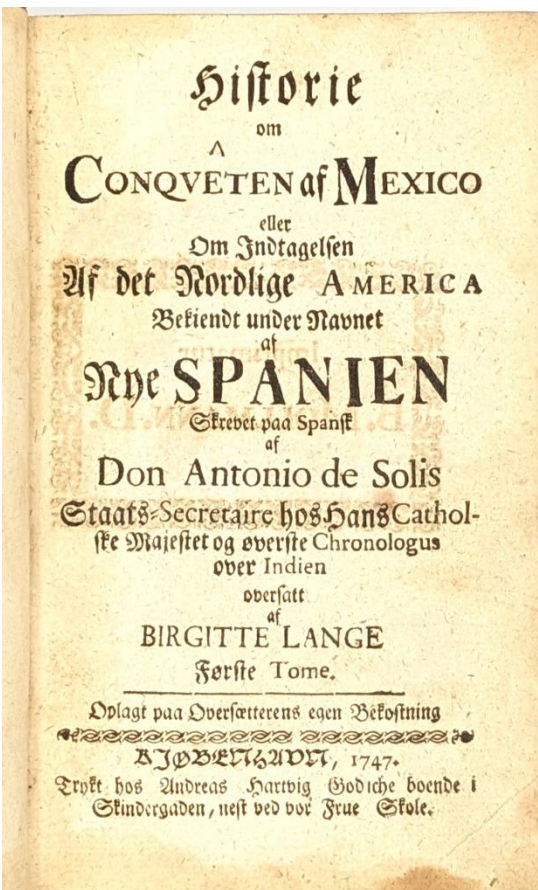
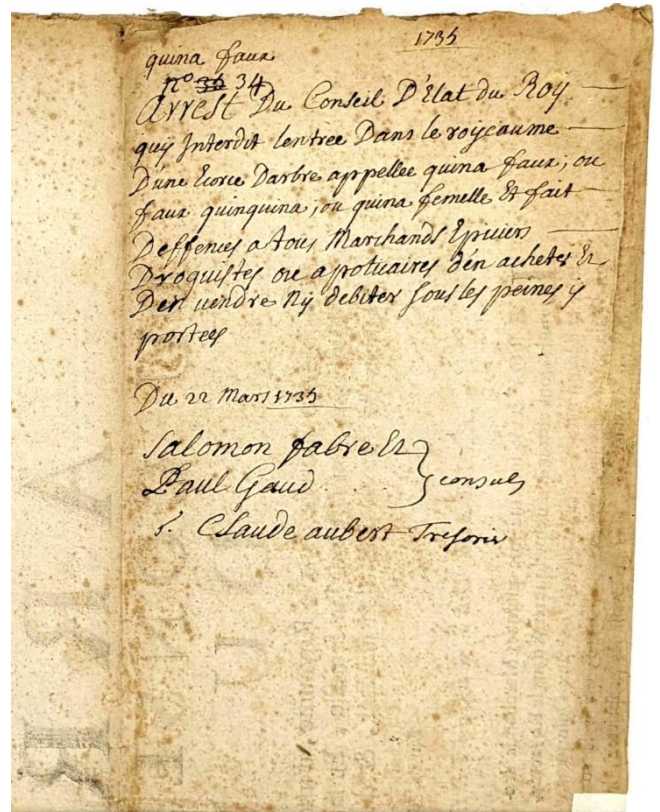
The attention to artistic detail is truly astonishing, from the ornate borders of the document heightened with a delicate light blue, to the garlands of flowers and elaborately-rolled cartouches surrounding each armorial, incorporating fish and birds.

## AN UNRECORDED BROADSIDE ON COUNTERFEIT CINCHONA

28. [QUININE]. *Arrêt du Conseil d'Etat du Roy, qui interdit l'entrée dans le Royaume, d'une écorce d'arbre appelée Quina faux, ou faux Quinquina, ou Quinquina femelle; Et fait deffenses à tous Marchands Epiciers, Droguistes & Apoticaire d'en acheter, & d'en vendre ni debiter, sous les peines y portées.* Aix-[en-Provence]: J. David, 1735. Folio broadside [52.5 x 41.5 cm] with woodcut arms of Louis XV; docketed on verso. **\$950**

Unrecorded, large-format broadside attempting to outlaw the trade in false cinchona which had become a significant problem in 18<sup>th</sup> century France due to its skyrocketing price.

The broadside describes the false cinchona as having the same appearance and color as the true bark, but without possessing the latter's medicinal properties. It is alleged that the counterfeit material is ground into a powder and mixed with a small quantity of real cinchona in order to imitate the smell of the original, causing the final product to be harmful to the public. The King thus orders an immediate ban on the import of all false cinchona, and the confiscation of any such material found in druggists shops', with the imposition of a 500 livre fine.



## THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO, FOR DANISH (FEMALE?) READERS

29. DE SOLIS, Antonio / LANGE, Birgitte (trans.). *Historie om Conqueten af Mexico, eller Om Indtagelsen af det Nordlige America Bekiendt under Navnet af Nye Spanien...* Copenhagen: A. Hartwig, 1747. 8vos., 2 vols in 1. (32), 478 pp; (2), 518 pp, (10). Contemporary calf with spine richly gilt. **\$2,450**

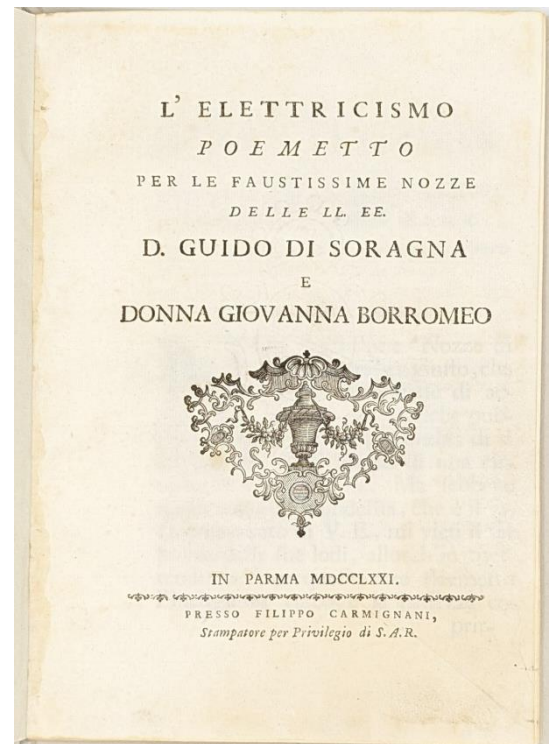
Extremely rare sole edition of this Danish translation of Antonio de Solis' *Historia de la conquista de México* (1684), produced by a self-taught Norwegian woman-of-letters, Birgitte Lange (1714-1753). Solis' account, focusing on the first three years of Cortes' invasion, became an instant European best-seller and enjoyed rapid translations into French, Italian, and English; the present work, as far as we can tell, is the only extant translation into a Scandinavian language. Perhaps as a nod to her interest in encouraging female readership, Lange dedicates the work to Louise of Great Britain (r. 1724-1751), daughter of the Prince of Wales and Queen of Denmark-Norway. It is also interesting to note that the present work coincided with the heyday of the Danish West India Company in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century. We have traced US copies at the JCB, Texas, and NYPL.

## SPARKS FLY FOR AN 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY MARRIAGE

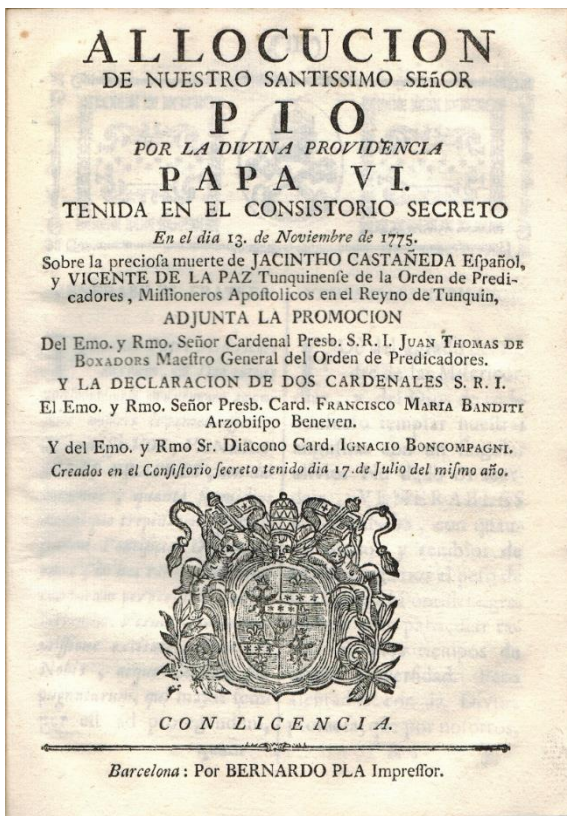
30. CIVETTI, Giulio. *L'Elettricismo, Poemetto per le Faustissime Nozze delle Il. Ee. D. Guido di Soragna e Donna Giovanna Borromeo*. Parma: F. Carmignani, 1771. 4to. (4), 5-58 pp, (2). Modern card covers. **\$850**

Sole edition of this curious example of 'scientific poetry', a genre which emerged in the mid-18th century and which was most famously epitomized by Boscovich's 250-page panegyric on Newtonian physics, *De Solis ac Lunae defectibus* (1760). Tracing the study of electrical phenomena from the ancient Greeks to the present-day experiments of Giovanni Battista Beccaria (1716-1781), Civetti quotes freely from Newton's *Optice* (on electricity's effect on light), Veratti's *Osservazioni... intorno all' Elettricità*, Otto von Guericke, Boscovich, William Gilbert, Robert Boyle, "ed in fine del famoso Franklino", including an account of Benjamin Franklin's giant lightning rod (p. 57).

OCLC reports US copies at Harvard, the Bakken Library, and the Smithsonian (Dibner Collection).



## NEWSLETTER ON THE DEATH OF VINCENT LÊ QUANG LIÊM, THE PATRON SAINT OF NORTH VIETNAM



31. [VIETNAM / LÊ QUANG LIÊM, St. Vinh Sơn]. *Allocucion de Nuestro Santissimo Señor Pio... Sobre la preciosa muerte de Jacintho Castañeda Español, y Vicente de la Paz Tunquinense de la Orden de Predicadores, Missioneros Apostolicos en el Reyno de Tunquin...* Barcelona: B. Pla, [1775]. 4to. XXIV pp. Modern marbled wrappers. **\$1,450**

Third recorded copy of this Papal report on the activities and martyrdoms of two Dominican missionaries in Vietnam, including the first native-born Vietnamese clergyman to be executed there. Under the reign of Trinh Sâm (1739-1782), the victims were ceremonially beheaded in Đồng Mỏ, Tonkin, on the 7th November 1773. We have been unable to trace any earlier printed announcement of St. Vincent Lê Quang Liêm de la Paz (1732-1773), making the present ephemeral document of considerable interest. Both men were eventually beatified in 1906, but only Lê Quang Liêm was canonized as a saint, in 1988.

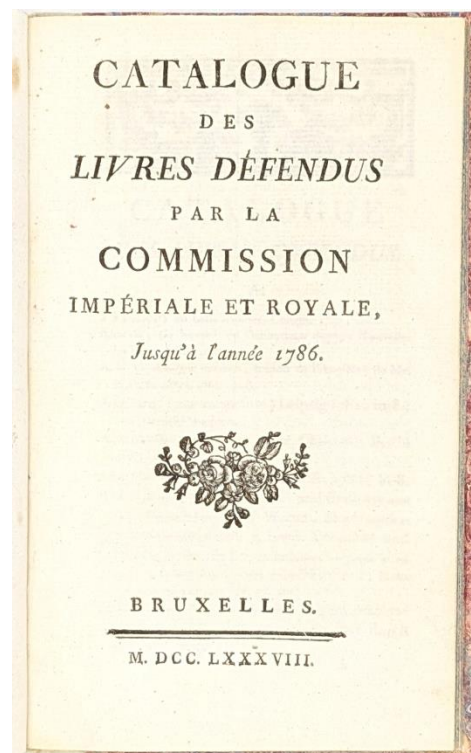
OCLC shows just two copies worldwide, at the National Library of Spain and the University of Barcelona

## A TOP-SECRET LIST OF CENSORED BOOKS FOR USE BY THE SECULAR AUTHORITIES

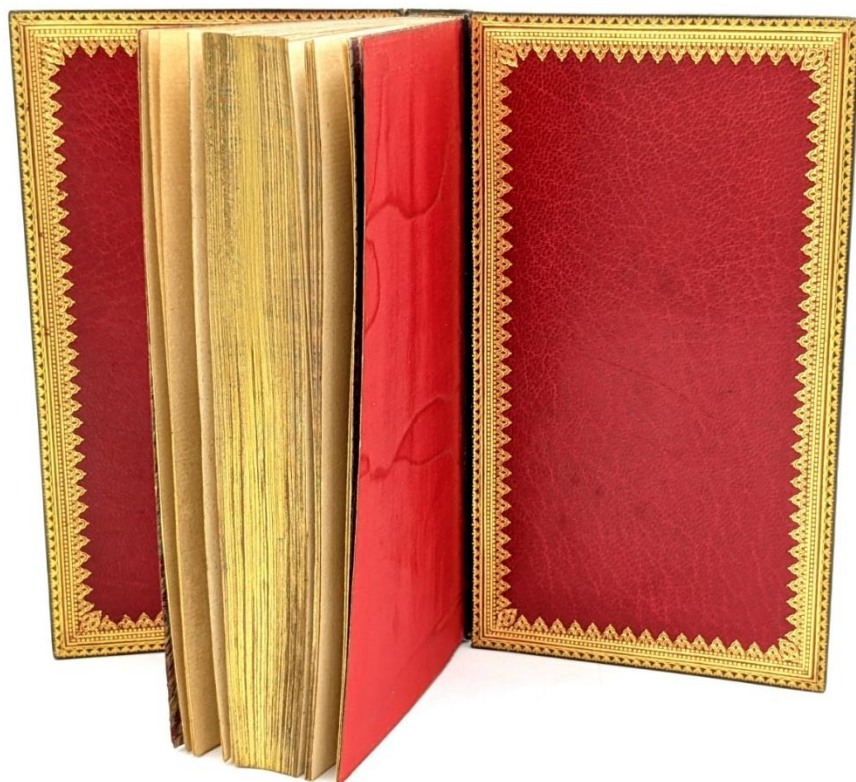
32. [JOSEPH II / CENSORSHIP]. *Catalogue des Livres défendus par la Commission impériale*. Brussels: [Emmanuel Flon], 1788. 8vo. (2), 91 pp. Bound to style in modern quarter vellum over marbled boards. **\$1,450**

Extremely rare sole edition of this curious catalogue, apparently printed for covert distribution to government outposts, but never intended to fall into the hands of the public. State archives record that the tender for the printing contract was won by a certain Emmanuel Flon, who published a run of just 300 copies. As Vercruysse explains, the catalogue accompanied a ‘circular’ sent to the relevant bureaus of the provinces of the Austrian Empire; the copy in the Royal Library of Belgium, for example, has an MS note “this catalogue is a secret item”.

The catalogue contains 1153 prohibited titles, of which 549 are in German; 497 in French; 58 in Latin; 24 in English; 19 in Italian, and so on. They run the gamut from the ‘atheistic’ works of Holbach, Helvetius, and Voltaire to the Life of Maria de Ágreda (the bi-locating nun), which is banned “in all editions”. OCLC shows fewer than a dozen copies worldwide, with US copies at Harvard, Columbia, and the NYPL.



## POLISH REFLECTIONS ON THE AGE OF EXPLORATION A MAGNIFICENT COPY IN AN UNUSUALLY FINE BINDING



33. [EAST INDIES] / CAMÕES, Luis de / PRZYBYLSKI, Jacek Idzi (trans.). *Luszyada Kamoensa Czyli Odkrycie Indyy Wschodnich. Poema w Pieśniach Dzięsięciu Przekładania*. Krakow: A. Grebla, 1790. 8vo. (1) f, 351 pp, (1). Full crushed levant morocco, covers ruled in gilt with dentelle borders and gilt edges, spine richly gilt, red morocco pastedowns and red silk endpapers. **\$2,450**

Extremely rare first Polish edition of the celebrated *Lusíadas* of Camões, celebrating the pioneering voyages of Vasco da Gama in search of the East Indies. The translation was accomplished by the polymath Jacek Idzi Przybylski (1756-1819), who adds his own notes on the text, including reflections on Camões’ ethnographic observations of the lands he had visited (Hormuz, Goa, the Malabar Coast, etc.).

OCLC shows 5 copies worldwide, at Harvard, Texas, BL, BSB, and the Biblioteka Narodowa in Warsaw.

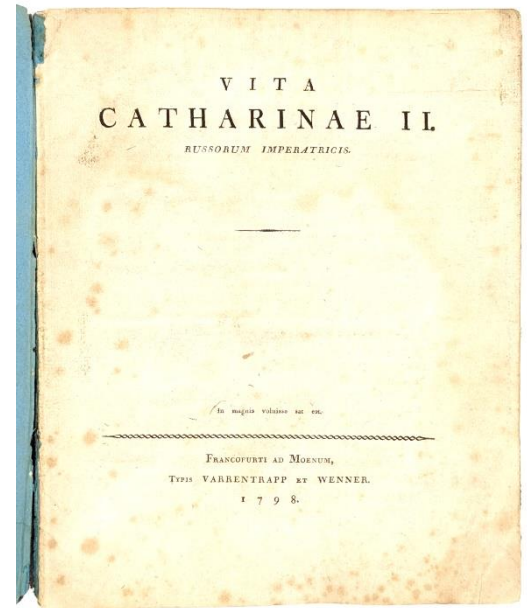
Please contact [info@editioaltera.com](mailto:info@editioaltera.com) for full-length descriptions and photos

## AN EARLY LIFE OF CATHERINE THE GREAT

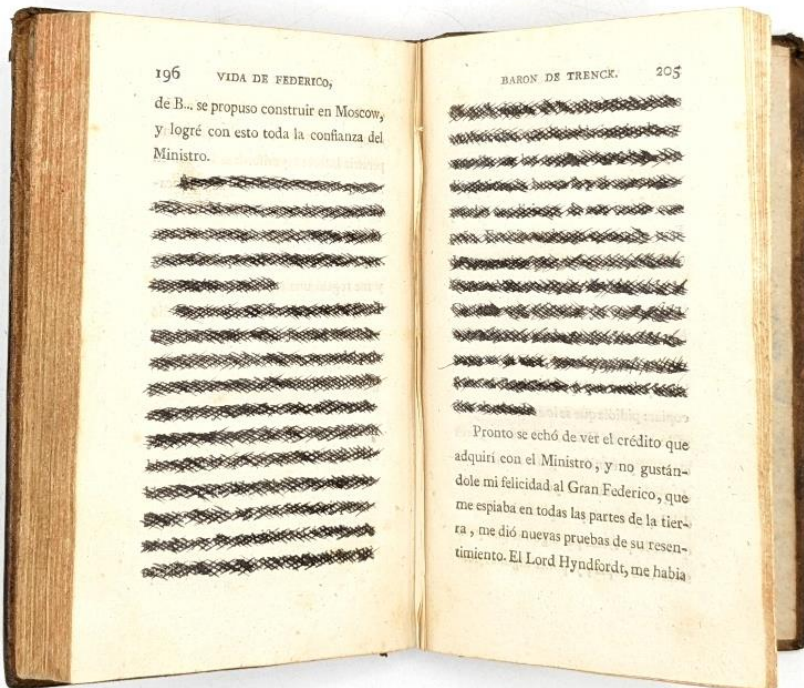
34. **VON STRUVE, Johann Christian.** *Vita Catharinae II. Russorum Imperatricis.* Frankfurt: Varrentrapp and Wenner, 1798. 4to. (7), 8-24 pp. 19th century boards with cloth spine. **\$750**

Sole edition of this paean to the recently-deceased Catherine the Great (1729-1796), composed by a young member of the Struve dynasty of Russo-German diplomats. Arranged into 14 chronological sections, the work pays tribute to the German-born empress in obsequious tones not generally echoed in other corners of Europe.

OCLC shows just four copies worldwide, none in US libraries.



## SEX SCENES CENSORED BY THE INQUISITION



35. **TRENCK, Friedrich von der.** *Vida y Persecuciones de Federico, Baron de Trenck...* Segunda Edicion. Madrid: Villalpando, 1802. 8vos, 2 vols in 2. XXXII pp, 224 pp, plus engr. portrait and 3 plates; 235 pp, (5), plus 4 plates. Contemporary tree calf. **\$1,850**

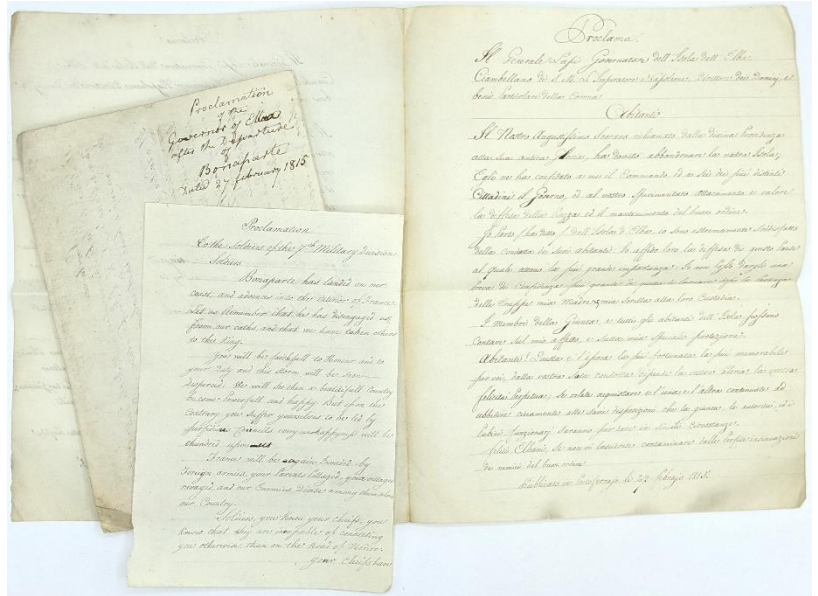
Trenck was a Prussian, and necessarily a Protestant, but his swashbuckling, raunchy memoirs were so widely read throughout Europe that it must have been difficult to resist publishing them in Spain. They were placed on the Spanish *Index* in 1806, and a diligent reader has here duly censored these volumes precisely according to the instructions given in the printed edict, including slicing out pp. 197-204.

Unlike most examples of Inquisitorial censorship which targeted objectionable theology, Trenck's prose was censored by the Inquisition partly on the grounds of decency. For example, the violently expurgated pages noted above relate to an amorous adventure in Moscow, which began with Trenck noticing that a certain married woman was making eyes at him across the dinner table.

## MANUSCRIPT PROCLAMATIONS DURING NAPOLEON'S ESCAPE FROM ELBA

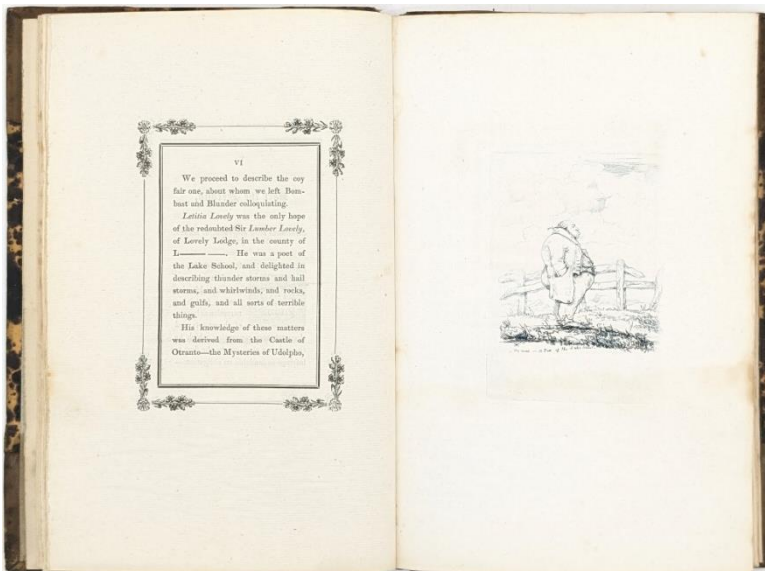
36. [ELBA] / BONAPARTE, Napoloen / LAPI, Pierre Joseph Christian / MARCHAND, Louis Joseph. *Proclamation of the Governor of Elba after the Departure of Bonaparte dated 27 February 1815.* [and 3 Italian manuscript copies of another proclamation, evidently for distribution]. Portoferraio, Elba, 1815. 8 pp in total, on various papers. **\$4,500**

A remarkable assortment of contemporary manuscript ephemera relating to Napoleon's infamous escape from Elba on the night of February 26, 1815. Lapi, a medic by profession, had been secretly promoted to Brigadier General by Napoleon upon his departure. One of the present proclamations in his name, dated the day after the escape, was probably intended to be copied and circulated in manuscript for the benefit of the inhabitants of Elba, and we have traced no record of its having been printed.



The text was meant to urge French soldiers to re-embrace their former leader, asking them to remain loyal to Bonaparte as he attempts to re-conquer the French mainland. The English docket inscription on Lapi's proclamation and the English translation of Marchand's proclamation strongly suggest that the present documents originated in the British commission resident on Elba, led by Colonel Neil Campbell (1776-1827).

## AN EXTENDED SATIRE ON SIR WALTER SCOTT'S BIBLIOPHILIC SOCIETY



37. [BELL, Benjamin?]. *The Remains of Wimbledon.* Edinburgh: [James Clarke for] Robert Hamilton, 1826. 4to. IV pp, LXVIII pp, plus etched frontispiece and 5 further plates printed in varying shades of blue-green. Late 19th century half calf over marbled boards, with gilt title on spine. **\$1,250**

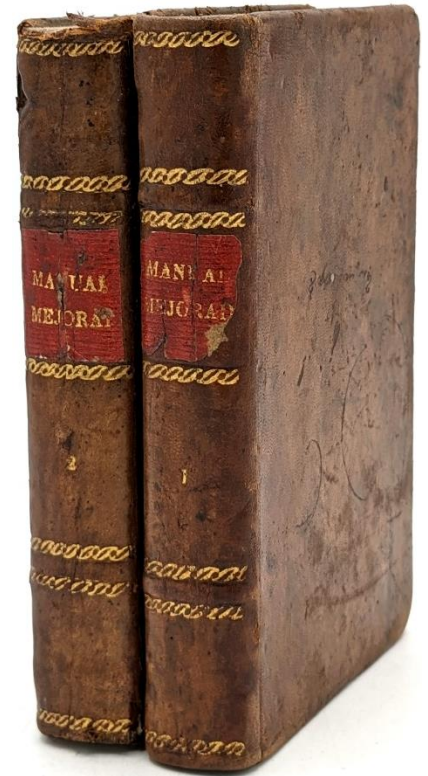
Sole edition of this curiously rare satire on the recently-founded Bannantyne Club, a literary and bibliophilic society spearheaded by Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) which sought to reprint rare works of Scottish interest. The anonymous text was attributed in the 19th century to Benjamin Bell, an Edinburgh surgeon, and includes 6 etchings (apparently also of his own design) ridiculing the physique and physiognomy of bibliomaniacs, Lake Poets, and so on. Bell's preface states that the present work (printed in 1826, three years after the founding of the Bannantyne Club in 1823) is itself a 'discovered' manuscript, having been in the possession of a certain "Superannuated Bibliomaniacal Wimbledon Winterton, Esq.", and was brought to the press at the "earnest request of the President and Council of the Dandyline Club".



**A RADICAL TEXTBOOK  
FOR NEWLY-INDEPENDENT LATIN AMERICANS  
NO COPY IN AUCTION RECORDS**

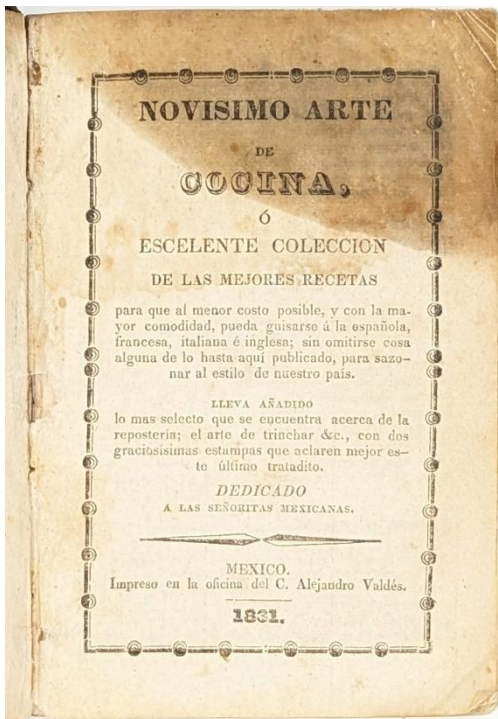
**38. OCHOA, Juan Eugenio de.** *Manual del Abogado Americano... Corregido y mejorado por una Sociedad de Amigos.* Arequipa: P. Benavides, 1830. 2 vols in 2, 8vos. (4), 302 pp, (5); (2), 325 pp, (5). Contemp. calf. **\$3,500**

Rare first American edition of this remarkable legal textbook composed specifically for use in the fledgling independent republics of Latin America during the first half of the 19th century. Little seems to be known of the author, but in his preface to the first edition, 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”. The text’s Arequipan editors have added numerous footnotes commenting on Ochoa’s original precepts and adding observations specific to Peruvian law. OCLC shows just seven copies worldwide, four of them in the US (Yale, GW Law, LC, and Harvard).



**“THE FIRST ORIGINAL MEXICAN COOKBOOK”  
– LIBRARY OF CONGRESS**

**39. BLANQUEL, Simón.** *Novisimo Arte de Cocina, ó Escelente Coleccion de las Mejores Recetas... para sazonar al estilo de nuestro país... Dedicado a las Señoritas Mexicanas.* Mexico: C. Alejandro Valdés, 1831. 8vo. (2), 3-245 pp, (1), XXVIII pp, plus 2 woodcut plates. Contemporary calf. Parrafin stain through upper corner of entire textblock, resulting in a waxy texture, but with all text legible. **\$3,850**



First edition, and a complete copy of this celebrated landmark in the history of Mexican cuisine. “Simon Blanquel’s important early Mexican cookbook... was first printed in 1831 and stands as the first original Mexican cookbook printed in Mexico.” (Library of Congress, describing their later edition of 1845). As the title-page makes clear, the work was intended for the female chef operating “*al menor costo posible*”, and incorporates recipes from Spanish, French, Italian, and English sources while providing methods “*para sazonar al estilo de nuestro país*”.

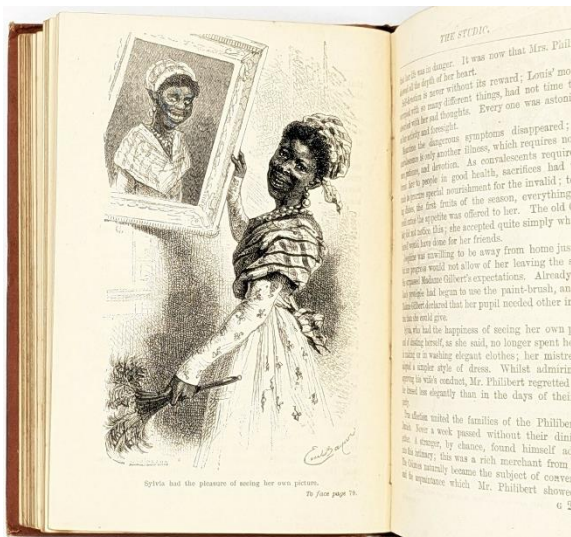
Blanquel provides hundreds of recipes for all manner of dishes, ranging from meats, *moles*, *albóndigas*, pastries, and vegetables, to chocolate, candies (*cajetas*, *dulces finos*), *jaleas*, *buñuelos*, and so on. The two woodcut plates depict various cuts of meat, how to prepare *pollo asado*, trout, and a fish called *rombo*. According to Pilcher (*Food and the Making of Mexican Identity*, p. 26), the present text contains the first printed recipe for *mole*; we also find stuffed avocados (*aguacates rellenos*) on p. 28 and *quesadillas* on p. 79.

## AN ARAB GIRL IN PARIS NO COPY IN US OR UK LIBRARIES

**40. DE BLAYS, Marie.** *Adrienne ou la Jeune Arabe, Nouvelle.* Limoges: Barbou, 1848. 12mo. 174 pp, including stipple-engraved frontispiece. Contemporary publisher's decorated embossed boards. **\$950**

Second recorded copy of this extremely rare tale for children recounting the successful assimilation of an Algerian Arab girl into Parisian society during the 1830s and 1840s. The only other copy of the present first edition we have traced resides at the BnF; a handful of further editions also appeared, but have survived similarly poorly, and none are held in US or UK libraries.

'Adrienne' is an Arab girl 'adopted' by a French colonel and his wife following one of the frequent skirmishes or 'razzias' during the French conquest of Algeria. Her new parents go as far as naming her Adrienne after the colonel's own *prénom* of Adrien. Shedding fascinating light on the status of Arab, rather than sub-Saharan Africans in contemporary French society, and their ability to occasionally 'pass' for Europeans, Marie de Blays's tale for children is an uplifting one for its time, challenging ideas of race as predestination. Adrienne is shown to be a model daughter to her adopted mother, and despite the obstacles presented to her, she succeeds in eventually marrying a rich Frenchman, Edmond. In a final grateful nod to her white saviors, she names her own son Adrien in turn.



## THE HAITIAN SLAVE UPRISING, FOR ENGLISH CHILDREN

**41. GOURAUD, Julie.** *The Two Children of St. Domingo... With Numerous Illustrations.* London: Sampson et al., 1875. Small 4to. 178 pp, (4), with 18 steel-engr. vignettes in text, plus 18 full-page plates. Publisher's embossed brown cloth, gilt. **\$950**

Very rare first edition of this tale for children curiously set during the slave revolt in Saint-Domingue in 1791 and its aftermath. Perhaps building on the success of the French original, which enjoyed a handful of editions in the 1870s, the present English translation introduces the young reader to themes of race in decidedly violent terms. Julie Gouraud (1810-1891) may have based the plot on the

adventures of her own creole mother, who fled Saint-Domingue presumably around the same period.

The first chapter, titled 'Surprise and Terror (1791)', sets the scene for the reader: one evening the wealthy *planteur* Edward Philibert is in his study when "William, a faithful mulatto servant, cautiously opened the door and threw himself at his master's feet, saying: 'Save yourselves, save yourselves! The white people will be massacred in a few hours...'"

OCLC shows US copies of the present London edition at the University of Florida only; a New York edition in the same year is held at the University of Miami and Temple University (the NYPL copy is a microform).