

THE CENTURY OF WOMEN: A SELECTION

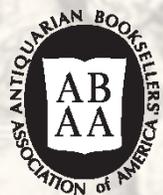
I. SCIENCE, POLEMICS, PEDAGOGY, ETC.

“ANOTHER BOOKSELLER’S
CATALOG – REALLY?”

ITEM #11

OFFERED WITH THE USUAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

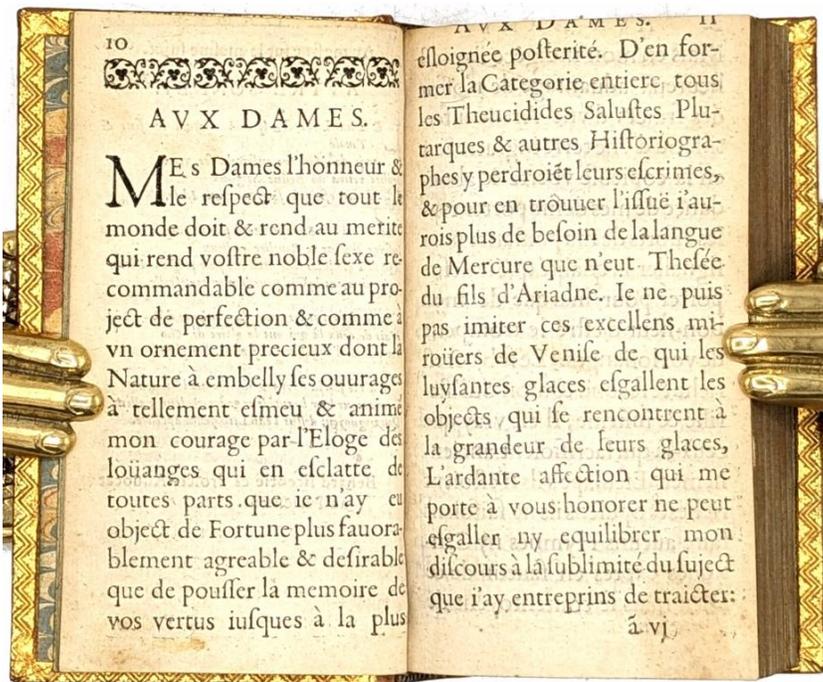
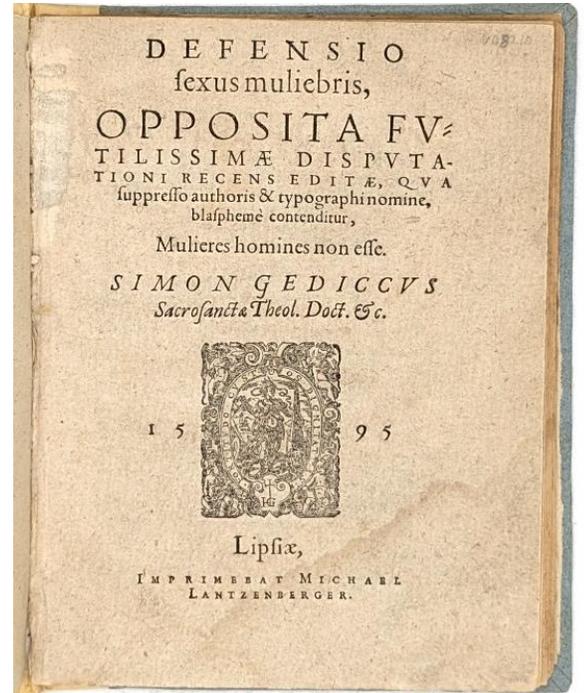
QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, AND RESERVATIONS WILL BE GRATEFULLY RECEIVED AND ANSWERED



WOMEN CAN BE SAVED!

1. **GEDIK, Simon.** *Defensio sexus muliebris, opposita futilissimae disputationi recens editae, qua suppresso authoris & typographi nomine blasphemae contenditur, mulieres homines non esse.* Leipzig: Lantzenberger, 1595. 4to. (62) pp. One sentence crossed out heavily on E1 by a contemporary hand. Modern boards. **\$1,850**

First edition. One of the earliest reactions to a notorious anti-feminist polemic, *Disputatio nova contra mulieres, qua probatur eas homines non esse* (no place, 1595), which had denied the humanity of women (and thus their capacity for salvation). “Within days of the publication of the New Disputation, on January 12, 1595... the dean and professors of the Theology Faculty in Leipzig published their reply. The Leipzig theologians were less concerned with the denial of the humanity of women in the New Disputation than they were with what they perceived to be its attacks on the true, Lutheran faith. They argued that the author of the New Disputation denied the resurrection of women only to call into question the doctrine of the resurrection as a whole. Having defended this doctrine, the Leipzigers argued that they had reestablished the dignity of the female sex and had dispelled doubts that the New Disputation might have given women about the certainty of their salvation.” (Reinis, “Catechism and *Querelle des Femmes* [1556-1689]”). OCLC: Chicago, Yale, NLM, U Penn, Harvard.



GENDER IS A CONSTRUCT

2. **DE LA MARTINIÈRE, Louis Bermen.** *Le Bouclier des Dames, contenant toutes leurs belles perfections.* Rouen: Jacques Besogne, 1621. 12mo. 21 pp, (3), 401 [i.e. 381] pp, (2), including engr. title-page. Later richly-gilt calf. **\$4,500**

Fourth recorded copy (after the BL, BnF, and Wisconsin) of this remarkable addition to the *querelle des femmes* which reached its peak in France between 1615-1625. “The defense of women by Louis de Bermen de la Martinière is an integral part of the entire controversial movement stirred up in reaction to Jacques Olivier’s *Alphabet* and its supporters ... There ought to be a study made on this eloquent piece of over 400 pages ...” (Angenot, *Les champions des*

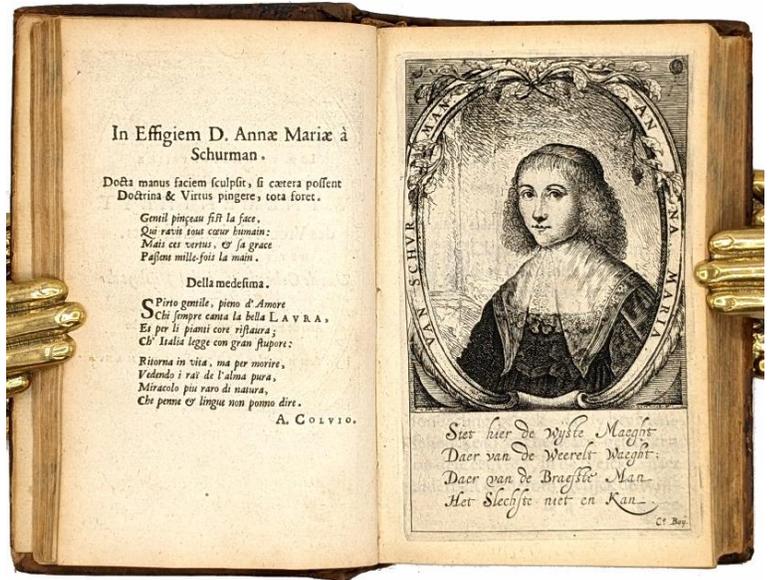
femmes (1977), pp. 51-53 trans.). Bermen also presents an argument unique at the time, that gender is a construct: Drawing on ancient sources, he points out that transgenderism and androgyny have always existed in human societies, and even married women have historically suddenly changed sex, got married, and impregnated their wives (pp. 133-134). Ian MacLean’s *Woman Triumphant: Feminism in French Literature, 1610-1652* (1977) also contains several discussions of Bermen’s work. OCLC shows a single US copy, at Wisconsin.

AN EARLY CHAMPION OF ANNA MARIA VAN SCHURMAN

3. BEVERWYCK, Jan van. *Van de Wtnehmung des Vrouwelicken Geslachts. Verziert met Historyen, ende kopere Platen...* In desen tweeden Druck op verscheyde plaetschen vermeerdert. Dodrecht: Hendrick van Esch, 1643. 8vo. 3 parts in 1. (42), 41 pp; (19), 401 pp; (9), 208 pp, plus double-page engr. title and full-page engr. portrait of Anna Schurman, and with 18 full- or half-page engravings in text. Contemporary calf. **\$2,650**

Second, enlarged edition (first, 1639), richly-illustrated with a total of 20 engravings. "In 1639 and 1643, Johan van Beverwijck... published *Van de wtnehmung des vrouwelicken Geslachts* (*Of the Excellence of the Female Gender*)... His work is unique in the *querelle des femmes* of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries because of

its blend of medical argument and historical examples, its use of modern historical and traditional classical sources, its inclusion of contemporary women, especially Dutch ones, and its absence of any intimation of women's inferiority" (Moore). Having read the pro-women treatises of Lucrezia Marinella (1600) and the rather more obscure Cristobal da Costa (1592), Beverwijck finds them both inadequate because they resort to denigrating men. Instead, Beverwijck seeks to present positive examples of female accomplishment, especially drawing on those known to him personally. To this end he dedicates Part II of the present work to the young Anna Maria van Schurman, and includes a sample of her work (a poem praising Marie de Gournay). OCLC: Boston Public Library, Huntington, Columbia, Harvard.

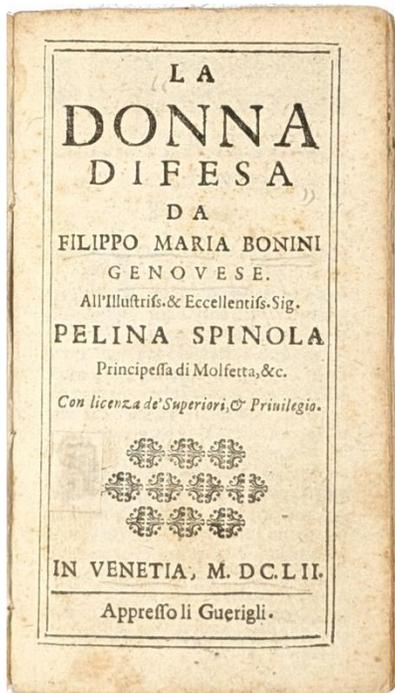


AN ALLY OF ARCANGELA TARABOTTI

4. BONINI, Filippo Maria. *La Donna Difesa. All'illustriss. & eccellentiss. sig. Pelina Spinola principessa di Molfetta, &c.* Venice: Guerigli, 1652. 12mo. (16), 296 pp. Contemporary vellum with richly calligraphed spine. **\$2,850**

First edition. "In 1647, there was published in Venice yet another version of the pamphlet refuting the existence of women's souls that had been in circulation in northern Europe at various times in the preceding century... [Arcangela] Tarabotti, already positioned to defend the female sex against all detractors, interpreted the work as an attack against women that needed refutation. She devoted her last completed work to the purpose... A similar defense was offered a year later in Filippo Maria Bonini's *La Donna [Difesa]*... Bonini and Tarabotti both provide detailed refutations of each of the points made by the anonymous writer, combining commonplaces with some ingenious new arguments." (Heller). Bonini distinguishes himself in the present work by citing hermaphrodite and transgender persons as evidence that men and women should be considered of the same species: "as not long ago in Genoa someone in the guise of a nun was seen to pass from one sex to

the other; and a number of others, having been women for many years, varying their sex, instead of taking a husband, wished for a wife" (trans. quoted in Heller). Bonini's treatise was published again in 1667, but **the present first edition – appearing around the same time as Arcangela Tarabotti's similar work – is exceptionally rare in census and in the trade.** OCLC: no US copies, just two other copies worldwide.



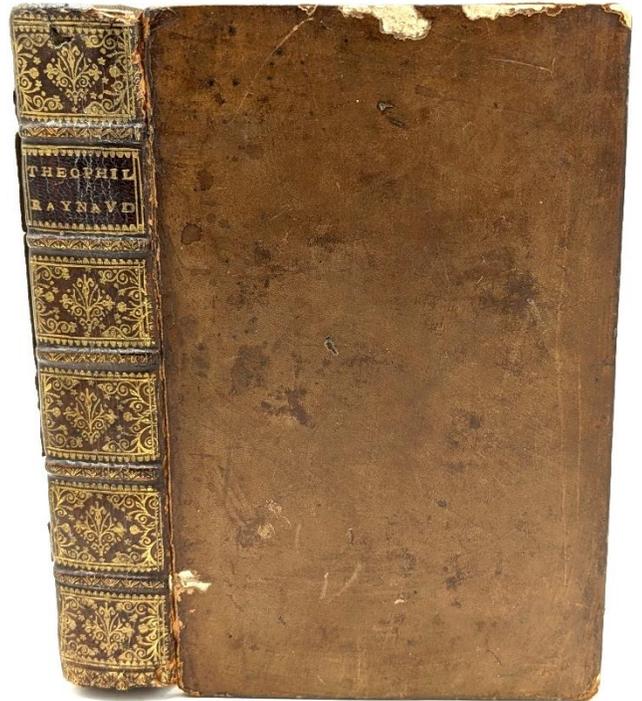
GUILLAUME POSTEL AND MADRE ZUANA

“ONE OF THE MOST VIRULENT [WORKS] EVER WRITTEN ON WOMEN”

5. **RAYNAUD, Théophile.** *Dissertatio de Sobria Alterius Sexus frequentatione per sacros et religiosos homines. In aedificata narratione deliriorum, quae Puella Veneta, Guilielmum Postellum... seculo superiore infatuavit.* Lyon: Michaelis Duhan, 1653. 8vo. (24), 600 pp, (28) including full-page engraved arms of the dedicatee. Early 18th century polished French calf, spine richly gilt; gilt dentelles.

\$2,250

First edition of this curious work, “one of the most virulent ever written on women” (*Bibliographie Clérico-galante*). The focus of Raynaud’s discourse is the dangers which religious men face when consorting with the opposite sex; all sorts of pitfalls are described, including the seductive charm of the well-educated woman, who is considered especially unchaste (p. 459). Raynaud was spurred to write his cautionary treatise based on the true story, related in detail here, of the relationship between the famous philosopher and mystic Guillaume Postel (1510-1581) and the visionary Venetian mystic known as ‘Madre Zuana’ or ‘Mère Jeanne’, with whom, as the title-page suggests, Postel became ‘deliriously infatuated’. OCLC: U Penn.

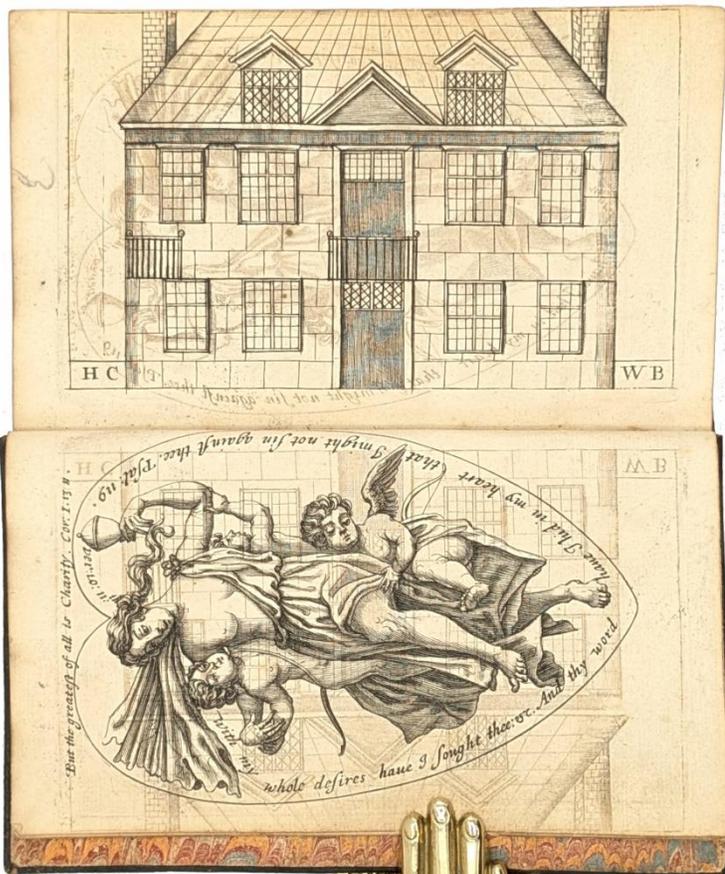


SOLD TO ‘WELL-DISPOSED LADIES’, WITH DETACHABLE DONATION SLIPS

6. **BLAKE, William.** *The Ladies Charity School-house Roll of Highgate: or, a Subscription of Many Noble, Well-Disposed Ladies for the Ease of Carrying it on.* [London: no printer, ca. 1670]. (4) leaves of engr. plates, 292 pp, (4), including terminal blank. Contemporary gilt-tooled black morocco, all edges gilt.

\$2,850

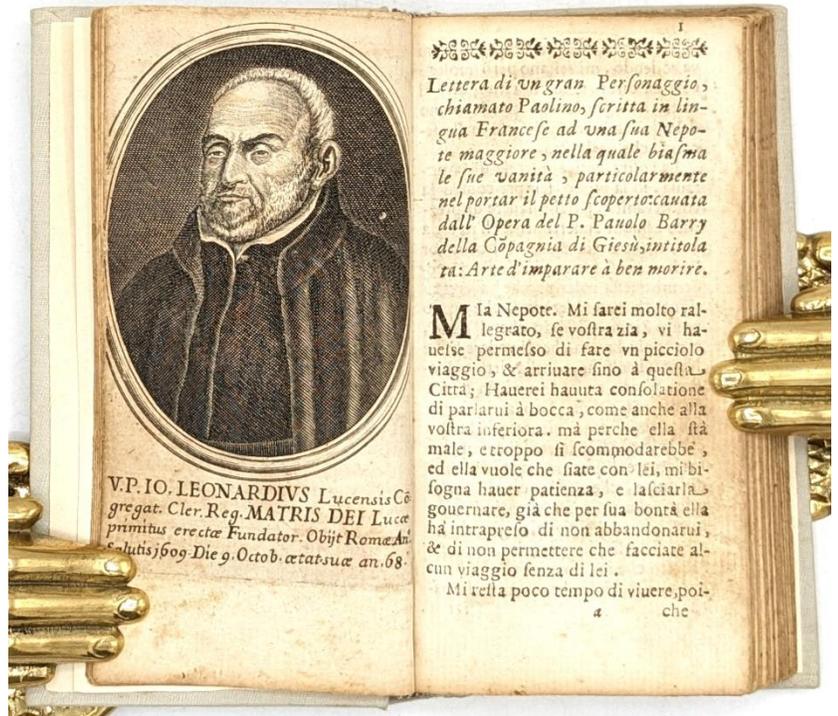
Sole edition of an unusual item sold only to women, and an exceptionally well-preserved example of this title most often found incomplete or very worn. Blake was a woollen-drafter by trade, and attempted to fund his grandiose school for orphans from the contributions of well-to-do women. As explained here, each engraving was intended to be detached by the purchaser if desired, and inscribed with the details of her donation to the school; it would then be “hung up in the School-house to be read of all from Time to Time, to the world’s end we hope”. The project finally folded in 1685, and Blake spent two years in debtors’ prison for his efforts.



CRITIQUING THE 'ORNAMENTATION' OF WOMEN

7. **LEONARDI, Giovanni.** *Trattato Utilissimo del Vano Ornamento delle Donne. Estratto da alcuni Principali Dottori di Santa Chiesa, et altri Scrittori Profani.* Rome: Lazari, 1673. 12mo. (16), 172 pp, (4), including engr. portrait of author. Modern boards. **\$1,850**

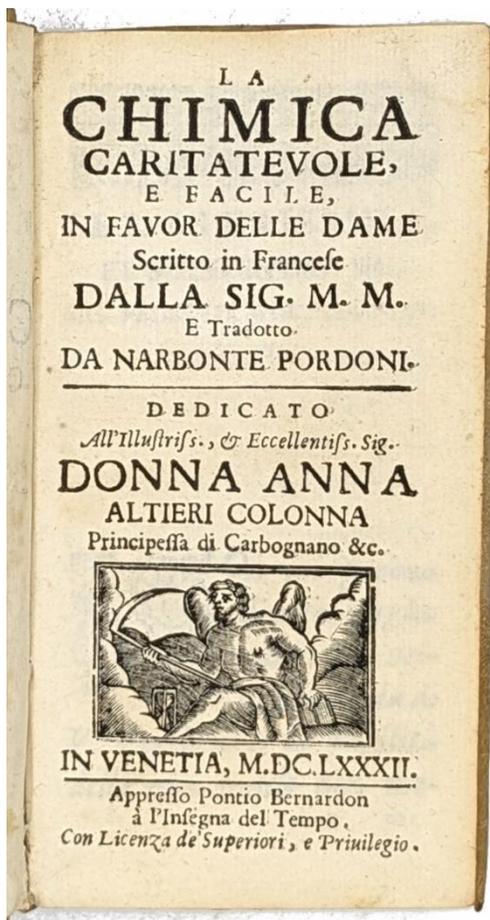
Later edition, following the vanishingly rare first edition of 1593. Leonardi decries all forms of female adornment, including strong criticisms of hairstyling, makeup, jewelry, and clothing. Drawing on secular and ecclesiastical authors, he even preemptively argues against the 'excuses' offered up by 'vain' women to justify their actions. OCLC: no US copies of any edition (and just a single copy of the 1593 edition worldwide, in Berlin!).



MARIE MEURDRAC'S 'CHEMISTRY FOR WOMEN' REACHES ITALY

8. [MEURDRAC, Marie]. *La Chimica Caritatevole, e Facile, in Favor delle Dame... Dedicato all'Illustriss. & Excellentiss. Sig. Donna Anna Altieri Colonna, Principessa di Carbognano &c.* Venice: Pontio Bernardon, 1682. 12mo. (4), 5-12 pp, 256 pp, (20) pp. Contemporary velum. **\$1,850**

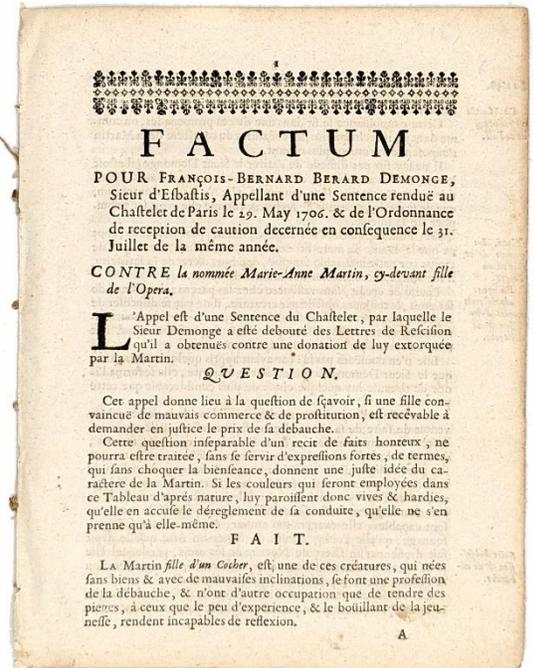
Sole edition of this Italian translation of an early chemistry manual for women by the remarkable French alchemist Marie Meurdrac (ca. 1610-1680), here dedicated by the translator to Anna Altieri Colonna (d. 1686) of the important family of patrons. The French original had appeared in 1656 (cf Smeltzer, *Extraordinary Women in Science & Medicine*, 85). While French editions are commonly encountered in the trade, the present example of the trans-national diffusion of Meurdrac's work is rare. OCLC: Delaware, U Penn, Wisconsin.



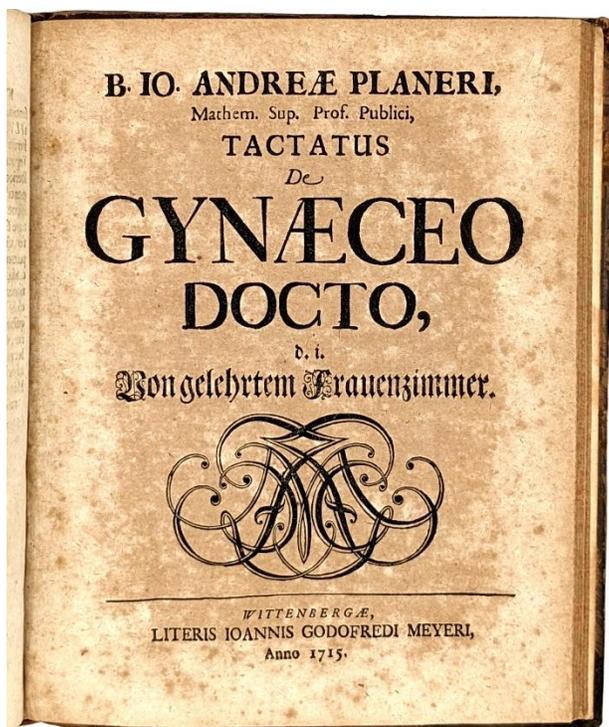
AN UNPAID PROSTITUTE SUES HER CLIENT

9. [PROSTITUTION]. *Factum pour François Bernard Berard Demonge, sieur d'Esbatis... contre la nommée Marie-Anne Martin, cy devant fille de l'Opera.* [Paris: no printer, 1706]. 4to. 12 pp. Disbound. \$1,250

A legal briefing, or *factum*, concerning the unusual case of a convicted prostitute suing her client for uncollected fees. "This petition concerns the question of whether a girl convicted of mal commerce and prostitution is eligible to sue for the price of her debauchery" (preface). The preface goes on to apologize for the unavoidable use of colorful language in the account, which may shock some readers. The client in this case was a young man, Sieur Demonge, "still a minor and a law student"; Marie-Anne Martin, one of numerous prostitutes who congregated around the Opera, is said to be the daughter of a coachman. The account even suggests that Mademoiselle Martin wrote some letters to Demonge, which "make Alosia, Aretino, and all the other salacious writers who have ever been, look modest and restrained in comparison". OCLC: no US copy.



WOMEN AND THE RIGHT TO EDUCATION



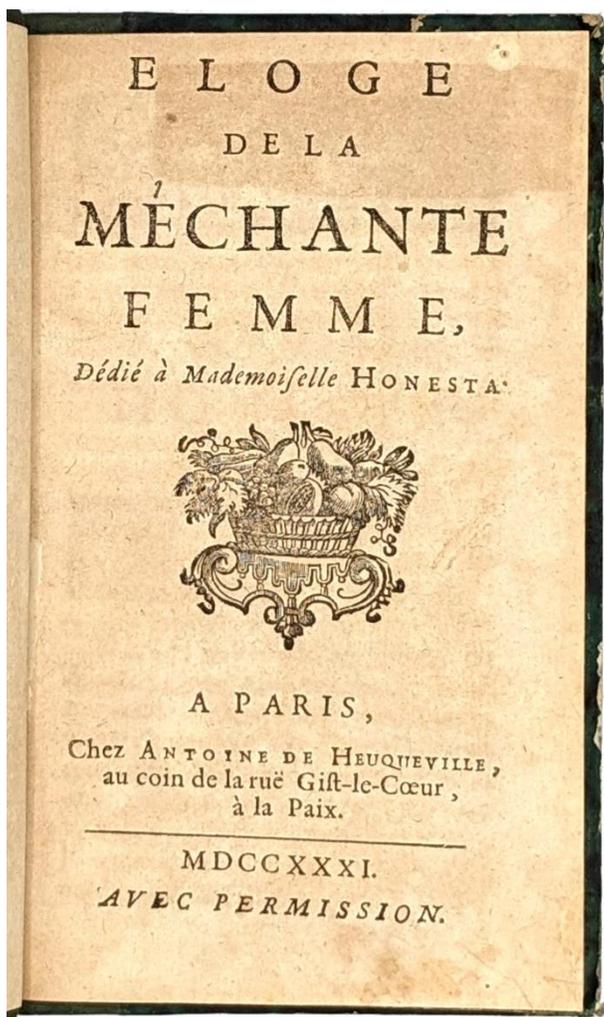
10. PLANER, Johann Andreas. *Tactatus [sic] de Gynæceo Docto, d[as]. i[st]. Von gelehrtem Frauenzimmer.* Wittenberg: Meyer, 1715. Contemporary sheep. 4to. 72 pp. \$1,500

Sole edition of this treatise in defense of the right of women to earn an education. Most of the work is taken up with an exhaustive list of educated women through history and their particular merits, up to the present day. Planer's entries thus include the writers Magdalena Heymair, Anna Maria Cramer, Vittoria Colonna, Isabella Andreini, Anna Bijns, Queen Christina of Sweden, Olympia Fulvia Morata, the astronomer Maria Cunitz (d. 1664), the Anglo-Czech poet Elizabeth Jane Weston, and dozens of other. The lengthiest entry is perhaps unsurprisingly devoted to Anna Maria van Schurman (pp. 61-63). Planer (d. 1717) was a professor of Mathematics at Wittenberg, and the present work is found in a *Sammelband* of his treatises. OCLC shows US copies at SUNY, Yale, and BPL (Galatea Collection, p. 3).

THE WOMEN'S LIBRARY

11. [WRAY, Mary Harrison?]. *Bibliothèque des Dames, contenant des Règles générales pour leur conduit dans toutes les circonstances de la Vie...* Amsterdam: Emanuel du Villard, 1716-1719. 8vos., 2 vols in 2. (12), 524 pp, (4); (8), 425 pp, (17), including engr. frontispiece of a woman in her private library intently focused on the pages of a large folio. Contemporary vellum. **\$1,250**

First edition of this translation of *The Ladies' Library* (1714), with a delightful frontispiece. Written in the first person by a female narrator, the work was long assumed to have been authored by Mary Wray, grand-daughter of the writer Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667). Today, Wray's authorship is disputed. OCLC shows both volumes at Harvard; Vol I only is held at the Huntington, Duke, and U Penn.



IN PRAISE OF 'THE WICKED WOMAN'

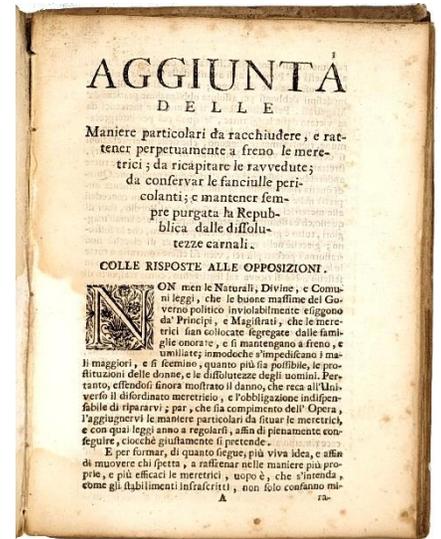
12. [COQUELET, Louis?]. *Eloge de la Méchante Femme, Dédié à Mademoiselle Honesta.* Paris: Heuqueville, 1731. 12mo. (8), 49 pp, (1). 19th century half green calf. Ex-libris of José M. Catarineu. **\$950**

First edition of this treatise on the 'wicked woman', an ambivalent text which "echoes in places earlier misogynist parodies, but [the author's] expressions of respect for strong women and disdain for male self-delusion seem unfeigned" (Musinsky, catalog description). Comparing men's stereotypical fears of the corrupting 'strong woman' to the absurdity of superstition, the author traces the root of this fear to their upbringing, just as they are taught to fear the number thirteen. Finally, our author notes that these almost congenital prejudices are further strengthened by the misogyny inherent in the literature of great male writers, illustrated by numerous citations and references. OCLC shows US copies at Harvard, Princeton, and UCLA.

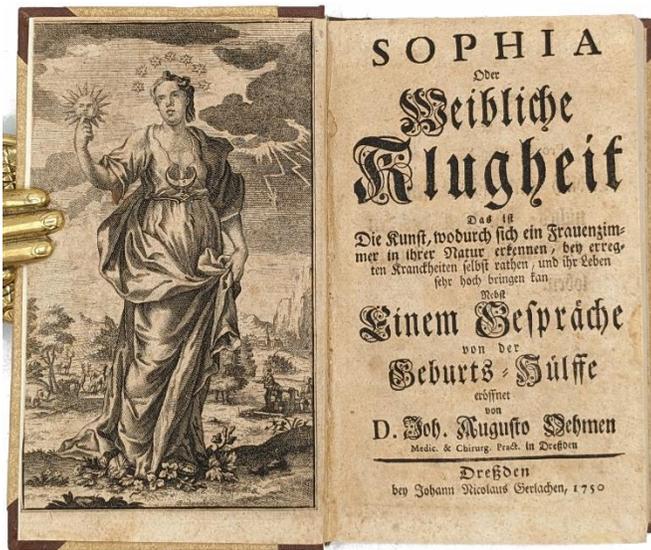
HOW TO DEAL WITH NEAPOLITAN PROSTITUTES

13. SARNELLI, Gennaro Maria. *Ragioni Cattoliche, Legali, e Politiche: In Difesa delle Republiche Rovinate dall' insolentito Meretricio. Coll' Aggiunta delle Maniere da restringere, e frenare le Meretrici, da conservare le fanciulle pericolanti, e mantenere le Contrade purgate dalle carnali dissolutezze.*... Naples: [no printer], 1739. 4to. 20 pp, (14), 176 pp, (2), 80 pp, (4), 8 pp, (16). Contemporary vellum; many signatures faintly dampstained. **\$2,850**

Extremely rare sole edition. Rather than the vituperative attack on 'insolent prostitutes' suggested by the title-page, Sarnelli instead offers an in-depth discussion of all possible facets of the trade in early 18th-century Naples, based on observation and experience. His 'remedy' consists of designating certain areas of the city for prostitution, as well as restricting the type of clothing they may wear and the houses they may reside in. He is also very concerned by the practice of 'honorable' gentleman frequenting low-class women, and suggests avenues to support women who leave the trade and their children. Various paginations are offered in the Italian Union Catalogue, but our copy seems to contain at least one more section than others. The catalogue entry at the National Library of Naples cheekily suggests that "the author demonstrates a profound knowledge of the geography of the prostitutes in Naples, which suggests that he must have been a frequent visitor". OCLC: Chicago.



EVERY WOMAN HER OWN PHYSICIAN



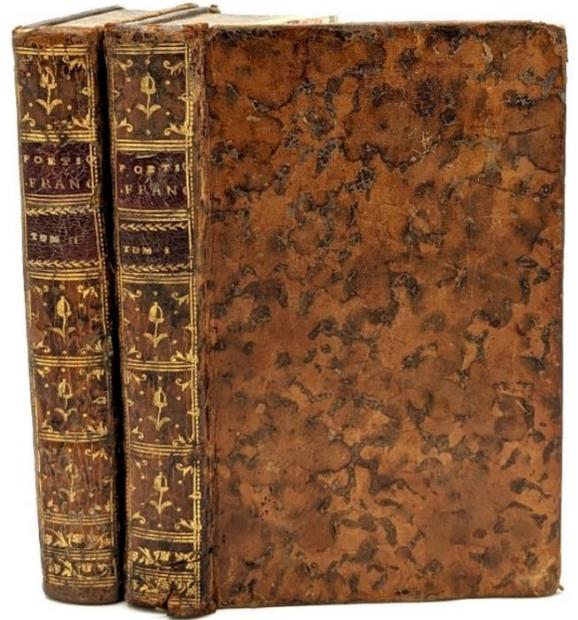
14. OEHME, Johann August. *Sophia oder Weibliche Klugheit, das ist die Kunst, wodurch sich ein Frauenzimmer in inhrer Natur erkennen, bey erregten Kranckheiten selbst rathen, und ihr Leben sehr hoch bringen kan...* Dresden: Gerlach, 1750. 8vo. 454 pp, (10), including engr. frontispiece. Modern quarter calf. **\$2,000**

Very rare second edition (first 1742) of this vernacular guide to 'feminine medicine', titled in full 'Sophia, or Feminine Wisdom, that is: the Art by which a Woman can know her own Nature, cure herself of acute illnesses, and improve her Life. As well as a Conversation on Birthing-Help'. The topics covered revolve in large part around menstruation, pregnancy, and motherhood. The former is the subject of much treatment: its non-appearance is taken as a sure sign of illness, and Oehme describes a "Sophia Pill" which remedies too-frequent menstrual flows and 'restores unnaturally congested' menstruation without the least discomfort (pp. 20-21). Recipes for a 'Mother-Elixir' and a 'Mother-Essence' on p. 371 are said to be effective against cramps, with the curious disclaimer that "this is exactly the powder with which the Devil roasted his own mother". Page 136 suggests treatment for those who experience menstrual flows so strong that their life is endangered. We also find discussions of the effects of coffee on women (bad!), the care of newborns; how to detect 'false' pregnancies (p. 174); disorders of the breast including cancer (p. 326); and so on. The last section takes the form of a dialogue between an 'experienced [male] obstetrician' and an 'inexperienced [female] midwife', and even gives some detail on contemporary medical regulation – e.g. a new rule in Leipzig forcing female midwives to attend lectures at the local medical college (p. 392). The obstetrician also argues against the use of so-called 'circular chairs' for birthing and instead recommends birth in bed. OCLC: Harvard, JHU, NLM.

“IT IS WOMEN WHO TEACH US TO THINK AND TO FEEL, AND THE PUBLIC CAN ONLY GAIN IMMENSELY, EVERY TIME THEY DESIRE TO EXPRESS THEIR THOUGHTS AND FEELINGS.” (p. viii)

15. GAILLARD, Gabriel-Henri. *Poétique Française, à l'Usage des Dames. Avec des Exemples.* Paris: Nyon, 1749. 8vos, 2 vols in 2. ix pp, (1), x pp, 402 pp; (4), 404 pp, (4). Contemporary mottled calf. **\$1,500**

First edition of this intriguing example of Enlightenment pedagogy. Gaillard's noteworthy preface speaks of rescuing women from the "shameful prejudice, which confined [their] minds to the obscurity of their domestic affairs, and which pitilessly forbade them to have sophistication and intellectuality". This attitude, he warns, risks plunging the country back into the dark ages of illiteracy – but is being countered by formidable female authors in the sciences, "disciples and rivals of the Maupertuis, Muschembroeks, Fontenelles, & Algarottis", who are leading the charge "for the gain of society". OCLC shows US copies at the BPL, Harvard, Michigan, Washington, Yale, and Duke. A second edition appeared in 1752, also rare.



WITH INSTRUCTIONS FOR 'DRESSING' PRINTS



16. [ANONYMOUS]. *Des galanten Frauenzimmers bequemes und nützliches Hand-Buch, darinnen alle dem Frauenzimmer wohlanständige Wissenschaften und häusliche Verrichtungen enthalten.* Esslingen: Schall, 1756. 8vo. (16) including engr. frontispiece, 680 pp, (32). Contemporary boards (spine perished). **\$1,850**

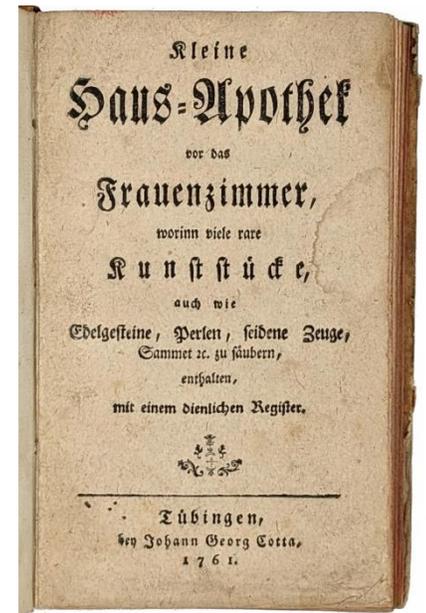
Sole edition, and a rare survival of a provincial household guide for women, containing thousands of recipes and instructions for all conceivable aspects of a housewife's station: cooking, cleaning, dyeing, weaving, medicine, and cosmetology. Pages 100-105 even describe the lost art of 'dressing' prints – i.e. applying strips of silk or embroidery to pre-printed engravings or paintings, a popular past-time

in late 18th century Southern Germany. OCLC shows a single US copy, at the NYPL.

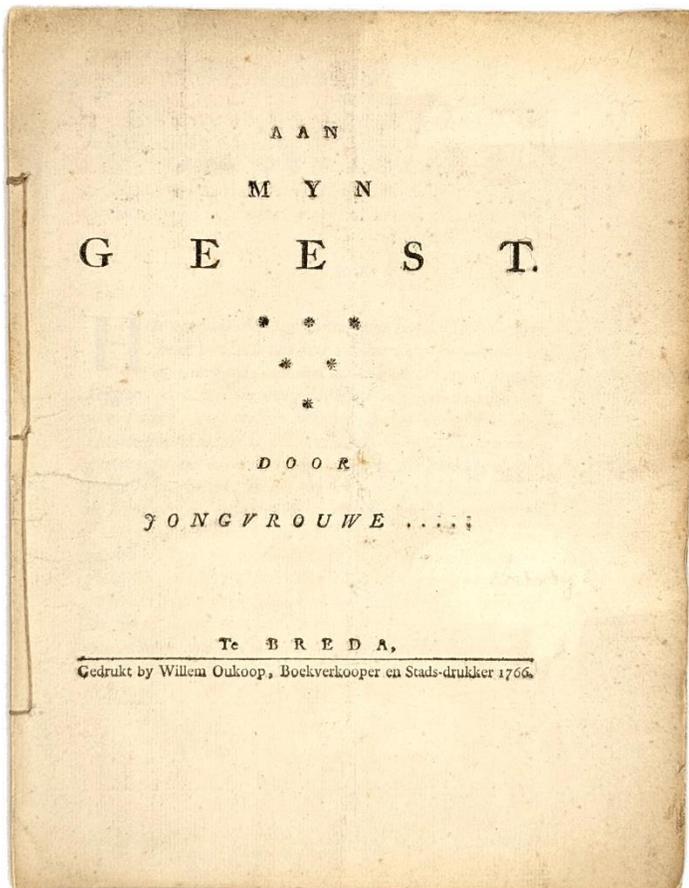
A MANUAL FOR HOUSEWIVES

17. [ANONYMOUS]. *Kleine Haus-Apothek vor das Frauenzimmer, worinn viele rare Kunststücke, auch wie Edelsteine, Perlen, seidene Zeuge, Sammet &c. zu säubern, enthalten...* Tübingen: Johann Georg Cotta, 1761. 8vo. (2), 179 pp, (11) pp. Contemporary boards. **\$1,500**

Sole edition, and the third recorded copy of this guide to the expected duties of housewives – including sections on cooking, pharmacy, chemical cleaning, and cosmetology. A rare survival of this type of household guide used by women or their servants. OCLC shows no US copies, and just the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Thüringen in Europe.



AN INTERNAL DIALOGUE; NO US COPY



18. LANNOY, Juliana Cornelia de. *Aan myn Geest*. Breda: Willem Oukoop, 1766. Large 4to. (4), 12 pp. Stab-stitched as issued. **\$1,850**

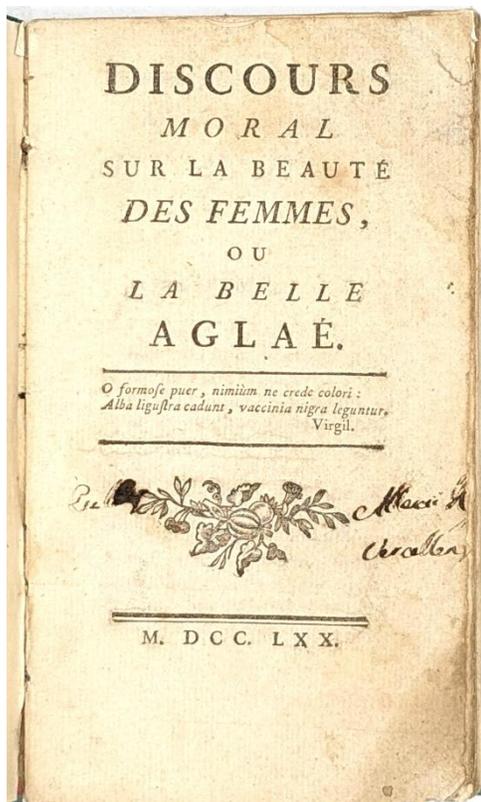
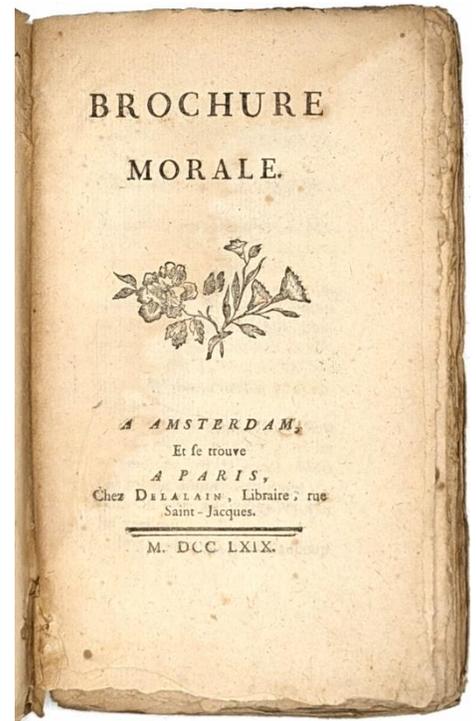
Very rare first edition (reprinted in 1767) of this landmark of Dutch literature. Published anonymously as the 28-year old De Lannoy's first work to appear in print, the title translated as "To My Intellect", and "describes a discussion between 'I' and 'my mind'. The 'mind' argues that a woman should be free to make use of her intellectual abilities, to which 'I' replies that this would expose her to rejection and social exclusion. The 'mind' acknowledges the risk, but is prepared to take it." (Lia van Gemert, *Women's Writing from the Low Countries 1200-1875: A Bilingual Anthology*, pp. 46-7. As Gemert further notes, "Juliana Cornelia, Baroness de Lannoy was a witty, self-assured woman who remained unmarried and lived in several places in the Republic... This background may help to explain the confident tone of De Lannoy's work. Although she always observed the social niceties, she was never afraid to give her opinion and often used irony to expose prejudices about women. Already in her first long poem, *To My Intellect*, De Lannoy disputed the prejudice

that women were intellectually less gifted than men and should therefore settle for an inferior social position. She argued that women could and should do more than care for their husbands and children. To De Lannoy, writing was much more than an appropriate pastime: it was an honourable way of life, one that she was determined to pursue. (Ibid, p. 418). OCLC: no US copy.

THE SECOND RECORDED COPY OF A POWERFUL CRITIQUE OF SOCIAL MORES

19. FONTETTE DE SOMMERY, Mademoiselle. *Brochure Morale*. "Amsterdam, et se trouve à Paris": Delalain, 1769. 8vo. iv pp, 182 pp, (2). Early wrappers using contemporary binder's waste. All edges deckled; a few signatures with light dampstains. **\$2,850**

Impossibly rare first edition of the earliest known work of this little-studied author, whose later work has been recently described as "one of the most curious novels in eighteenth-century French literature" (Paul J. Young, *Diderot Studies* Vol 32, 2012). Sommary's *Brochure Morale* offers a no-holds-barred critique of contemporary French society from all sides: her chapters range from "De l'Éducation" to "De la Naissance"; "De la Société", and "Du Mariage". A lengthy review of her work was offered by the critic of *l'Année littéraire* for 1769 – who was evidently ignorant of her sex. **The only other surviving copy resides at the BnF.**



AN UNRECORDED DISCOURSE ON THE ABUSE OF FEMALE BEAUTY

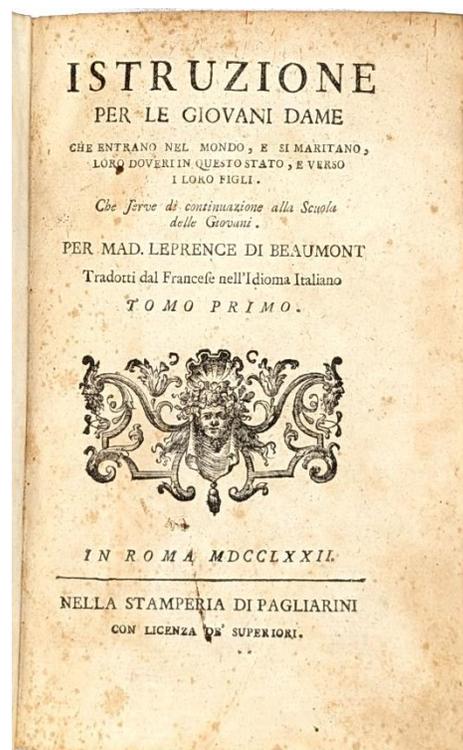
20. [ANONYMOUS]. *Discours Moral sur la Beauté des Femmes, ou la Belle Aglaé*. [Lyon?: no printer], 1770. 8vo. 82 pp. Modern card covers. **\$2,250**

Sole edition, unrecorded in OCLC or the CCFr. A fascinating appraisal of societal perceptions of female beauty; a contemporary review (*Le Moniteur judiciaire de Lyon*, 1771) gives a good flavor of the contents: "the Author ... [is] a philosopher who, without misanthropy, examines in the light of reason, the desire which occurs to us far too lightly, according to him, to grant women the title of 'beautiful' of which they are so jealous, which adulation, rather than truth, puts them in possession of. He... wants to convince us of the futility of Beauty. To persuade us, he proves that the imaginary privileges which our 'Beauties' arrogate to themselves, are established only on a frivolous and chimerical basis, since beauty itself exists only by the fictions & delirium of the imagination, & by national prejudices..."

TRANSLATED BY THE 21 YEAR-OLD ELISABETTA TURRA

21. LEPRINCE DE BEAUMONT, Jeanne-Marie / TURRA, Elisabetta (trans.). *Istruzione per le Giovani Dame che entrano nel Mondo, e si maritano, loro Doveri in questo Stato, e verso i loro Figli...* Rome: Pagliarini, 1772. 3 vols in 1. 8vos. 203 pp, (1); 243 pp, (1); 250 pp, (2). Contemporary velum. **\$1,650**

Very rare sole edition of Elisabetta Turra's early translation of this didactic guide for young women "who are entering into society, and marrying". According to Karen Green (*A History of Women's Political Thought in Europe, 1700–1800*), "Leprince de Beaumont's educational works emphasize autonomous critical reasoning, and the reconciliation of reason and faith, and were arguably more widely read than those of the atheist Denis Diderot." The translation of Beaumont's guide was one of the first works undertaken by the young Elisabetta Caminer Turra (1751-1796); it features a group of female interlocutors wrestling with significant social and moral issues of the time including the duties of a wife and the role of a mother. Green suggests that Beaumont is an example of a female Enlightenment figure who has been largely written out of intellectual histories. "Her attitudes... promoted education for women grounded in a rational faith reminiscent of Locke". The present work must have been completed when Turra was just 21 years old; funnily enough, the date of publication of the *Istruzione per le Giovani Dame* is frequently misquoted in even the most serious scholarly studies of Turra as 1782, leading us to assume that it has not been widely consulted 'in the flesh'! OCLC shows US copies at Chicago and UC Davis.



PHILLIS WHEATLEY'S FAME SPREADS TO ITALY NO COPY IN US OR UK LIBRARIES

22. SORESI, Pierdomenico. *Saggio sopra la Necessità e la Facilità di Ammaestrare le Fanciulle.* Milan: Federico Agnelli, 1774. Large 8vo. (2), 110 pp, (2). Contemporary wrappers, edges deckled; clean and fresh internally. **\$3,500**

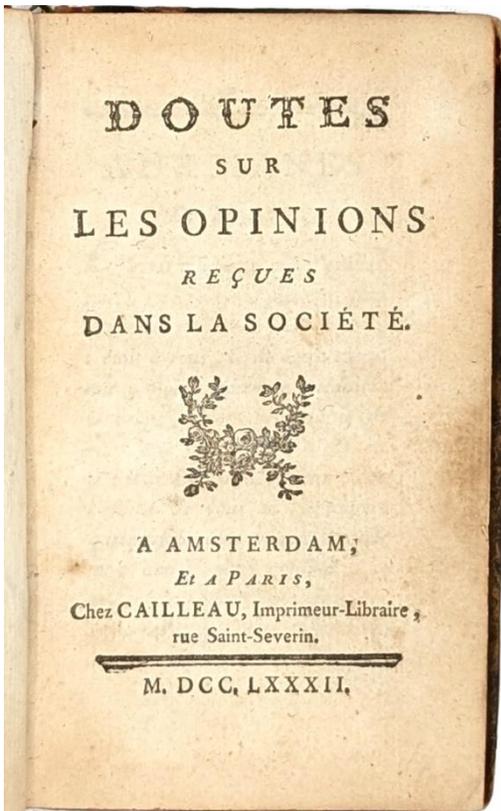
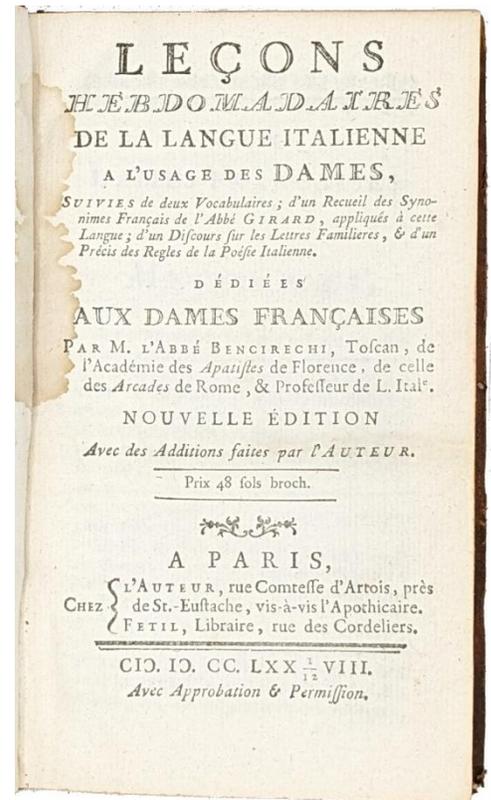
Sole edition. By way of advocating for the educational instruction of young girls, Soresi offers a litany of examples of remarkable female intellects, including still-living contemporaries such as his fellow Milanese mathematician Maria Gaetana Agnesi and the physicist Laura Bassi. On p. 68, Soresi even extends his survey to a single known example of American female ingenuity: that of "*Fillide Wheatley Poetessa non dozzinale*" [extraordinary poet]. Wheatley's *Poems on Various Subjects* had appeared in London just a few months earlier (September, 1773), and Soresi assumes that his reader will not be familiar with her current reputation, which he summarizes in a lengthy and adulatory paragraph: "Led by her genius, she had already learned to write in 1765. Currently in 1773 she is being taught Latin, which she ardently desires to know. Her first essays have appeared under the title of *Poems on Various Subjects* [... in which] the simplicity of expression equals the depth of thought and the strength of feeling...". Relatively little attention seems to have been paid to the critical reception of Wheatley and her poems outside of England and America. Unlike the majority of Anglophone reviewers, Soresi is not fascinated by Wheatley's African or 'primitive' origins, and instead holds her up as an example of purely American genius.



**AN ITALIAN-MASTER
ADVERTISES HIS SERVICES FOR LADIES**

23. BENCIRECHI, Abbé. *Leçons Hebdomadaires de la Langue Italienne a l'Usage des Dames... dédiés aux Dames Françaises.* Paris: chez l'auteur, 1778. 8vo. (2), viii pp, 324 pp, vii pp, (5). Contemporary calf. With a delightfully-preserved large printed contemporary bookseller's advertisement pasted onto front pastedown. **\$1,250**

Second recorded copy (the other resides at the BnF). Bencirechi provides 'weekly lessons' for French women desiring to learn the language of love. In his preface the author assures 'mesdames' that they will find Italian the easiest of languages to pick up, and that his system will have them ready for any conceivable 'business, concern, visit, or recreation' in Italian within just 8 months. **Facing p. 1 Bencirechi further advertises his services specifically to the female sex:** "L'auteur demeure près de St.-Eustache... il a professé l'Italien auprès des Dames de la Cour de Vienne & autres personnes de distinction, pendant huit ans qu'il a demeuré dans cette Capitale..." OCLC shows no US or UK copy; the first edition appeared in 1772 and is equally rare in census.



SOMMERY'S 'DOUBTS ON SOCIETY'

24. FONTETTE DE SOMMERY, Mademoiselle. *Doutes sur les Opinions reçues dans la Société.* Amsterdam & Paris: Cailleau, 1782. 12mo. viii pp, 124 pp. Contemporary calf. **\$2,000**

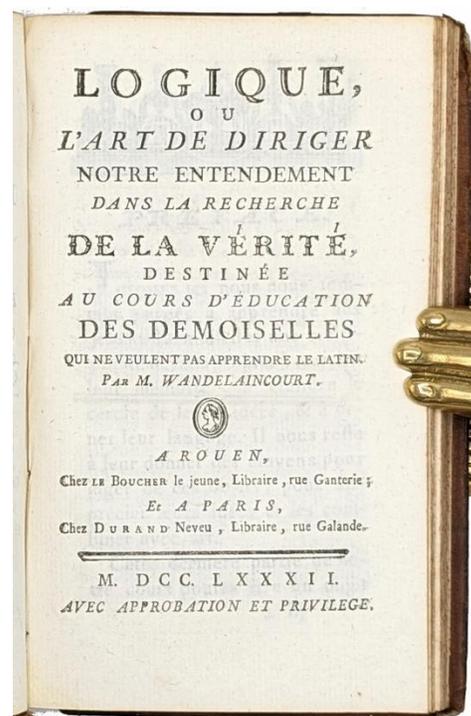
First edition of Sommery's *Doubts on Received Opinions in Society*, a revised and enlarged version of the *Brochure Morale* printed some 13 years later, but still anonymously (see item # 19 above). Under the chapter "On Beauty", for example, she writes: "The woman who is most hideous, most mal-formed, most disgusting, stupidest, most ridiculous, cannot renounce the ability to please. There are always people to be found who have truly bizarre taste, and for whom this array of deformities is exciting and enchanting..." (p. 37). OCLC shows 5 copies worldwide, of which 1 in the US (Yale).

LOGIC FOR WOMEN NO US COPY

25. WANDELAINCOURT, Antoine-Hubert. *Logique, ou l'Art de Diriger notre Entendement dans la Recherche de la Vérité, destinée au cours d'Education des Demoiselles qui ne veulent pas apprendre le Latin.* Rouen & Paris: Boucher & Durand, 1782. 8vo. xii pp, 175 pp, (5). [bound with]:

IBID. *Grammaire Française, destinée au cours d'Education des Demoiselles, et des jeunes Messieurs qui ne veulent pas apprendre le Latin.* Rouen & Paris: Boucher & Durand, 1782. 8vo. (6), xvi pp, 260 pp, (4). Contemporary calf. **\$2,850**

First editions. According to the half-titles, these books were meant to be taught to girls in the 'Quatrième Classe'. In his *Logique*, Wandelaincourt notes that "this last part of our course could be the object of criticism; one finds, perhaps, that the study of Logic is too serious for women and beneath their manners: but women think, speak, act, have to make decisions, comport themselves, and choose between several means; and the errors of their reason are undoubtedly as pernicious than those of men...", further going on to argue that even though women's minds are not as susceptible to direction as men's, and are incapable of "grandes applications, de combinaisons suivies, d'opérations longues & abstraites", it would be for the good of society as a whole if they were better educated. OCLC reports no US copy of either title.



SCIENTIFIC DEMONSTRATIONS FOR WOMEN

26. ATZE, Christian Gottlieb. *Naturlehre für Frauenzimmer.* Vienna: Trattner, 1785. 8vo. (4), 555 pp. Contemporary quarter calf. Ownership inscription of 'Elise Comtesse ???' on pastedown.

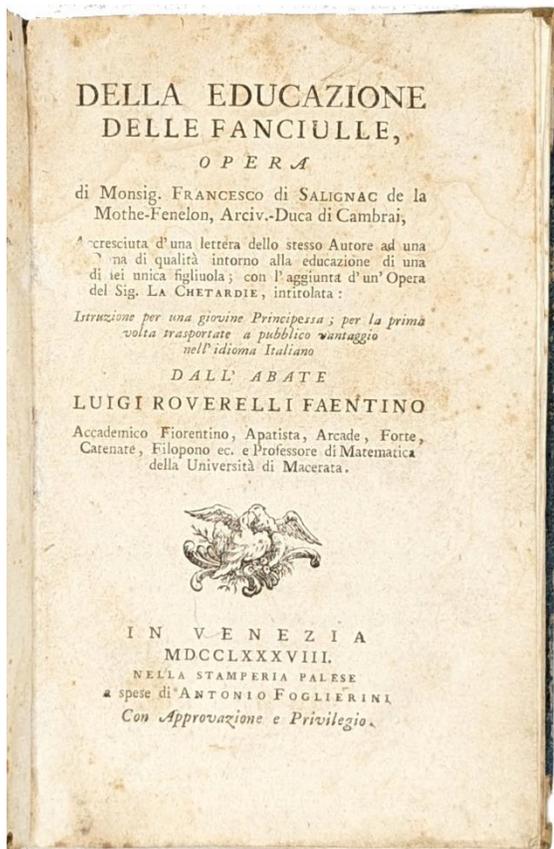
\$2,500

Second edition (first, 1781) of this rare guide to the natural sciences for women, and a charming work of the German Enlightenment. The engraved vignette on the title-page (unique to this edition) gives a charming depiction of three women observing scientific demonstrations, perhaps given by the author himself, who invokes his 'theuerste Freundinnen' in his preface. Addressing the perceived need for an introductory textbook of the Natural Sciences for women, the text delves – through nearly 550 pages – into modern questions of astronomy, physics, and meteorology, before focusing for the most part on natural history, perhaps deemed the most practical area of study for women. No US copies, per OCLC.

A GUIDE TO FEMALE SELF-IMPROVEMENT

27. MEYER, Andreas. *Wie soll ein junges Frauenzimmer sich würdig bilden?* Prague: Diesbach, 1786. 8vo. (9) including engr. frontispiece, 10-95 pp, (1). Contemporary half calf. **\$950**

“Sixth edition” (first, Leipzig, 1771); all editions are extremely rare in census. Meyer rejects both extremes of female education: a woman who knows only housework is little more than her husband’s maid, but a woman who strays into the realm of masculine learning is “a fool who wants to rule him with her knowledge”. To this end, rather than attempting to discuss “Wolff or Newton”, Meyer recommends to women the reading of history and geography, music and drawing, and the practice of handwriting. All editions are rare in census.



ON THE EDUCATION OF YOUNG GIRLS

28. ROVERELLI, Luigi. *Della Educazione delle Fanciulle... Accresciuta d'una lettera dello stesso Autore ad una Dama di qualità...* Venice: Foggierini, 1788. **\$850**

Sole edition. Dedicated to a noblewoman, Maria Severoli of Faenza, in order to assist in the education of her daughter Vittoria (according to the dedication). Roverelli’s work translates Fénelon’s famous *De l’Education des Filles* as well as Chetardie’s *Instruction pour une jeune Princesse* (1701) – the latter apparently appearing here in Italian for the first time. OCLC shows no US copy.

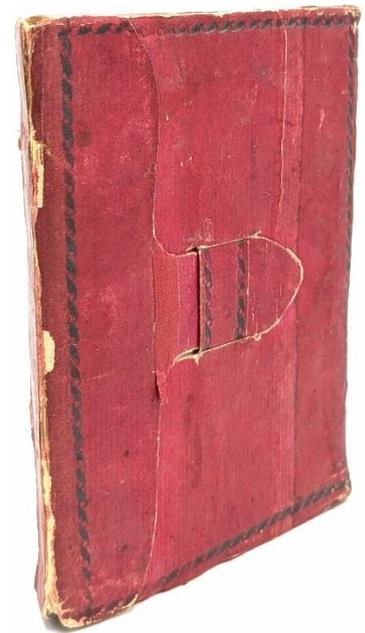
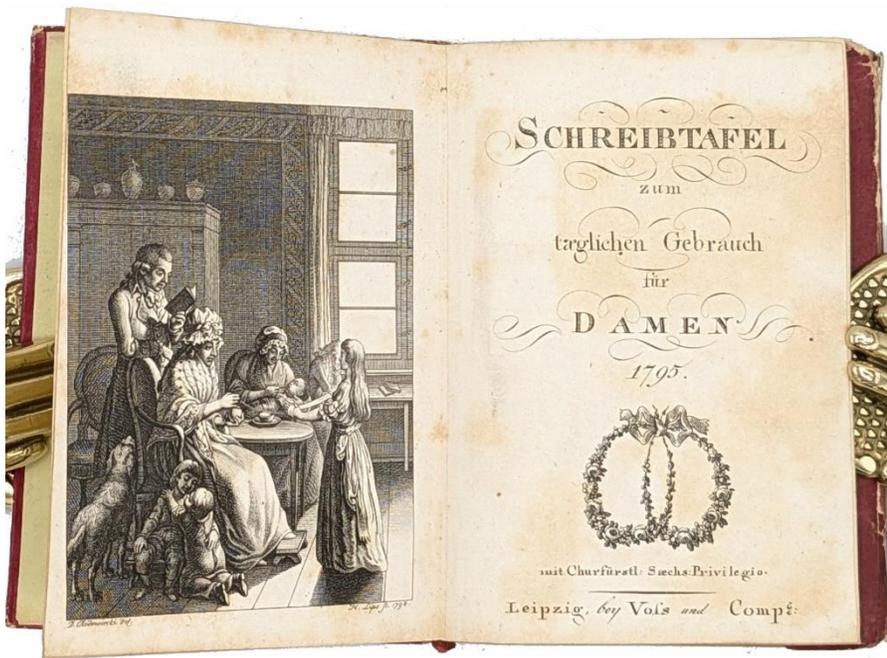
ASTRONOMY FOR LADIES

29. HELMUTH, Johann Heinrich. *Anleitung zur Kenntniß des großen Weltbaues, für Frauenzimmer in freundschaftlichen Briefen...* Braunschweig: Schulbuchhandlung, 1791. 8vo. XX pp, 348 pp, (2), plus folding engr. plate. With engr. vignette of two female stargazers being instructed by a man. Title-page with crudely excised hexagonal stamp; private (?) stamp 'S.B.' on verso and final leaf; bookplate of Swedish jurist Wilhelm Penser (1901-1993). Contemporary publisher's navy boards. **\$1,450**

First edition of this guide to astronomy for women. Helmuth dedicates his work to a local patroness, Catharina Maria Kagel; on pp. VII-XIV we find a list of hundreds of mainly female subscribers who financially supported the publication of the present work. OCLC shows US copies at the Adler and Oklahoma only.



A PRE-PRINTED ACCOUNTING BOOK FOR WOMEN



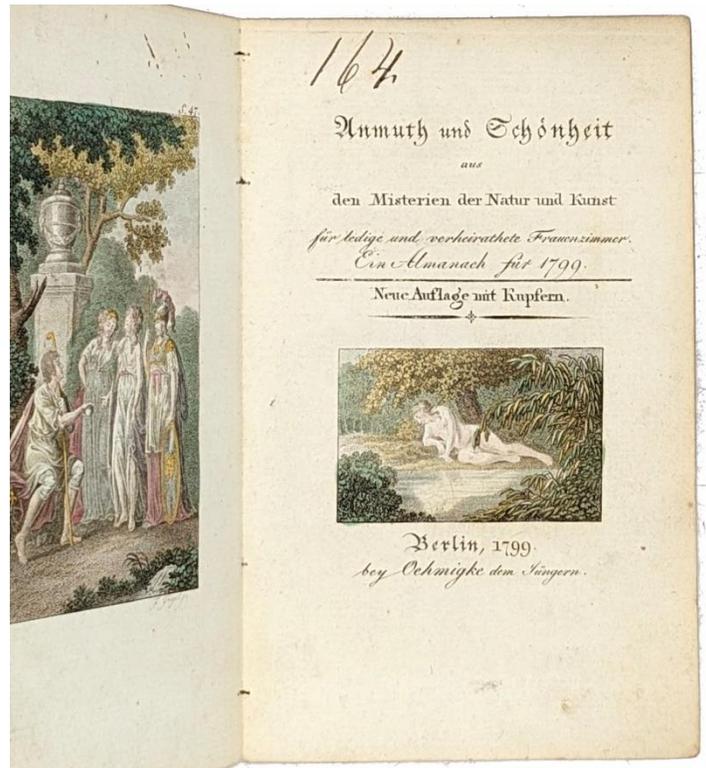
30. [ROHR, Heinrich Julius Ludwig von]. *Schreibtafel zum täglichen Gebrauch für Damen.* Leipzig: Voys, [1794]. Small 4to. (40), 144 pp, (136), plus engr frontispiece by Chodowiecki and engr. title-page. Publisher's red wallet binding with buckle, rebacked. **\$1,650**

Extremely rare sole appearance of this almanac for women (no other years were printed). At the end are pre-formatted tables for the reader to fill in her daily expenses as well as for 'female duties' [weiblichen Bedienungungen] such as expenditures on children, the cook, the chambermaid, laundry-woman, etc. A charming copy in a publisher's wallet binding with fastener. OCLC shows no US copies.

'NATURAL' COSMETOLOGY FOR LADIES

31. [FLITTNER, Christian Gottfried]. *Anmuth und Schönheit aus den Misterien der Natur und Kunst für ledige und verheirathete Frauenzimmer*. Berlin: Oehmigke, 1799. 8vo. XII pp, 227 pp, (1), plus delicately hand-colored frontispiece, engr. title-page, and 3 further stipple-engr. plates. Contemporary publisher's printed boards; a beautifully-preserved copy. **\$1,250**

“New edition, with plates”; a charming copy of this rare guide to cosmetology, promising to deliver “Grace and Beauty from the Mysteries of Nature” to the “single or married” female reader. The work is concerned not only with denoting standards of female beauty, but providing recipes to enhance it, and even a discourse on physiognomy – in which women are taught how to recognize a ‘comedic’ suitor; or a romantic one; or a profound one; or a determined one. OCLC shows no US copy of this edition.

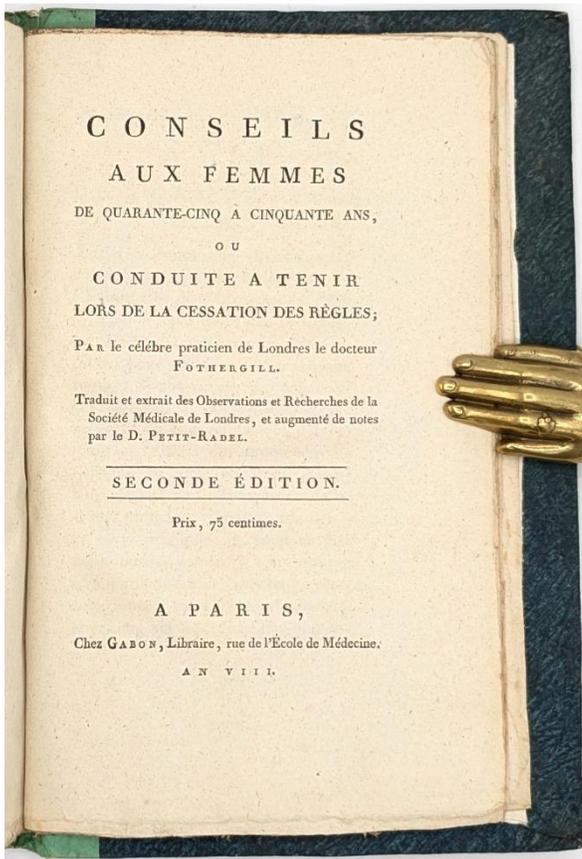


AN EARLY MONOGRAPH ON MENOPAUSE

32. PETIT-RADEL, Philippe / FOTHERGILL, John. *Conseils aux Femmes de Quarante-Cinq à Cinquante Ans, ou Conduite a tenir lors de la Cessation des Règles... augmenté de notes... Seconde Édition*. Paris: Gabon, An VIII [1799]. 8vo. (5), 6-46 pp, (2) pp translator's catalogue. Bound (with two other rare medical titles) in marbled boards with arsenic-green paper spine featuring printed ex-libris of “Pourcelot, Medecin” [various physicians bore this name around the early decades of the 19th century: Charles-Philippe, Louis-Edmond, and Victor]. Wonderfully fresh copies of all three works, with deckled edges. **\$1,850**

“Advice to women aged 45 to 50, or the course to follow during the cessation of the menses”: the second edition of this early treatise on menopause, greatly expanded from the equally rare first edition. Wilbush (1979) notes that in the late 18th century menopause began to be treated as a disease or disorder, culminating with the coining of the term “*la ménospausie*” in 1812. “While the English physician John Fothergill was the first to author an article on the cessation of menses, it was French doctors who invented the word *la ménospausie*, and who elaborated it profusely throughout the nineteenth century,

while other medical cultures remained largely silent on the matter until the early twentieth century.” (Moore). OCLC shows just a handful of copies of the first edition (none in the US) and the present, expanded second edition at Loyola Marymount, Chicago, Illinois, and the NLM.

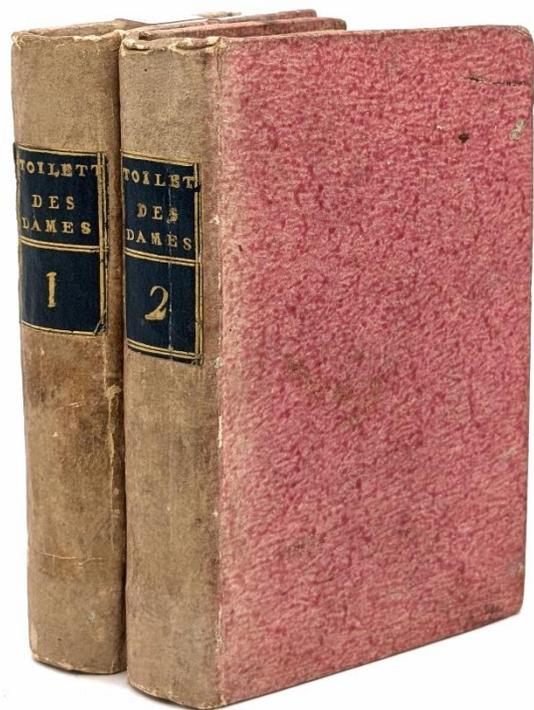


A TECHNICAL DICTIONARY FOR WOMEN

33. LIPPOLD, Georg Heinrich Christian & FUNKE, Carl Philipp. *Neues Natur- und Kunstlexicon, enthaltend die wichtigsten und gemeinnützigsten Gegenstände aus der Naturgeschichte, Naturlehre, Chemie und Technologie. Zum bequemen Gebrauch insonderheit auch für Ungelehrte und für gebildete Frauenzimmer.* Weimar: Industrie-Comptoir, 1801-1805. 4 vols in 4. 4tos. (4), 1203 pp, (1); (2), 891 pp, (1); (4), 1186 pp; IV pp, 208 pp, (4). Contemporary half-calf.

\$1,250

First edition, complete in four volumes, of this technical dictionary expressly intended for ‘uneducated as well as educated women’. OCLC shows one complete copy in US libraries, at Cornell; Chicago has Vol 1 only.



THE PHYSICAL AND MORAL BASIS OF BEAUTY, INCLUDING A CHAPTER ON WOMEN WHO DRESS AS MEN

34. [CARON, Auguste]. *Toilette des Dames, ou Encyclopédie de la Beauté; Contenant des Réflexions sur la nature de la beauté; sur les causes physiques et morales qui l'altèrent; sur les moyens de la conserver jusqu'à un âge avancé...* Paris: Debray, 1806. 12mos. 2 vols in 2. 360 pp; 378 pp. Original publisher's pink boards; a very fresh and unsophisticated copy.

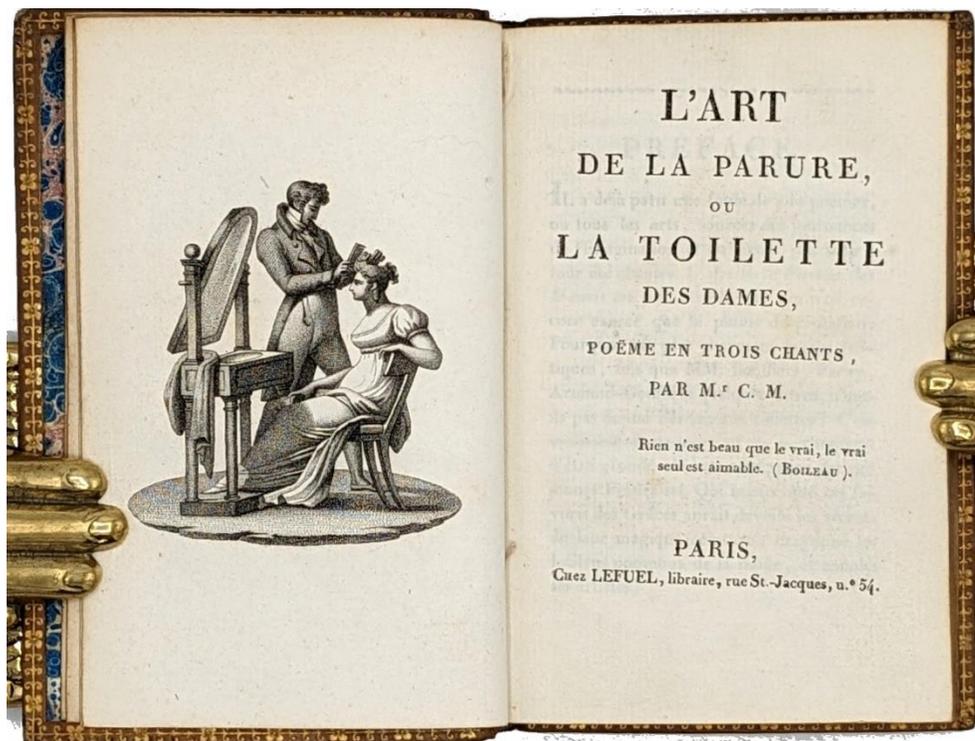
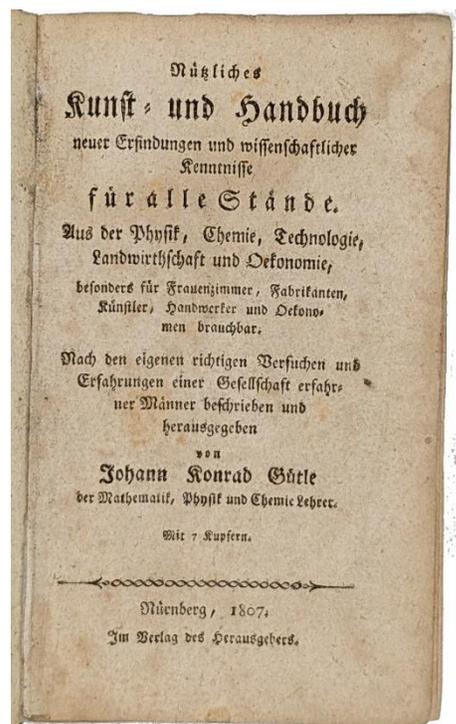
\$1,850

Sole edition, focusing on a variety of aspects of the male construction of female beauty, including the “methods of conserving it until an advanced age”. **Chapter XII (“Du costume d’homme adopté par les femmes”)** addresses the concerning practice of women who adopt men’s clothing. “Caron’s guide *Toilette des dames ou encyclopédie de la beauté* (1806) advised that women could and should use cosmetics because the social harmony of the sexes depended on feminine beauty. Caron argued that, because the female’s appearance reflected the respectability as well as the class status of her family, she must strive to be at all times beautiful and clean.” (Grout, *The Force of Beauty*, p 26). OCLC shows US copies at NYPL, SUNY Buffalo, Delaware, Chicago, Duke, and Texas.

POPULAR SCIENCE FOR WOMEN AND ARTISANS

35. GÜTLE, Johann Konrad. *Nützliches Kunst- und Handbuch neuer Erfindungen und Wissenschaftlicher Kenntnisse... besonders für Frauenzimmer, Fabrikanten, Künstler, Handwerker und Oekonomen brauchbar...* Nuremberg: for the author, 1807-1808. 8vo. 2 parts in 1. XXVIII pp, (4), 352 pp; (18), 256 pp, plus 7 engr plates (2 folding, 1 lightly finished in handcolor). Part II apparently lacking the 2 plates it was issued with. Contemporary boards. **\$1,450**

Extremely rare sole edition of this artistic, scientific, and culinary miscellany intended for 'women, artisans, artists, and hand-laborers'. Such attempts at popularizing scientific concepts for women and unlearned audiences began to emerge in full force in the early 19th century. The present guide, perhaps used as a household reference work or given to a young woman, has survived exceptionally poorly. **We have located just one other complete copy worldwide, at the Provincial Library of Amberg;** two other copies in Germany consist of Part I only, with 5 plates.



THE ART OF THE HAIRCUT

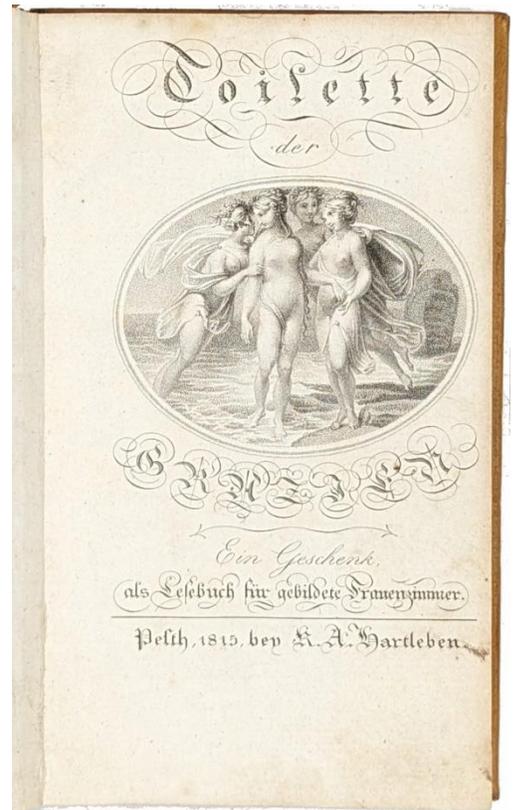
36. [MULLOT, Charles]. *L'Art de la Parure, ou La Toilette des Dames, Poème en Trois Chants*. Paris: Lefuel, [1811]. 12mo. (4), 155 pp, plus engr. frontispiece. Contemporary calf, gilt. **\$1,650**

Charming pocket-sized poetic treatise on the 'art of the female haircut', replete with the author's detailed notes on the subject, by the aptly-named Mullet. OCLC reports a single US copy, at UCLA.

CORRECTING THE DEFECTS OF FEMALE BEAUTY

37. LÜBECK, Johann Carl. *Die Toilette der Grazien, oder die Kunst, die Schönheit der Damen zu erhalten, zu erhöhen, die mangelhafte zu ersetzen, und die verlorene herzustellen...* Pest: Harleben, 1815. 8vo. 245 pp, (9), plus added engraved title-page. Late-19th century calf. **\$1,250**

Sole edition. 'The Toilette of the Graces', offering a male perspective on methods of preserving, enhancing, and 'correcting the defects' of female beauty, composed as a 'readable present for all educated women' by a Hungarian physician. OCLC reports two US copies (Chicago, Lloyd Museum).



THE LADIES' DENTIST

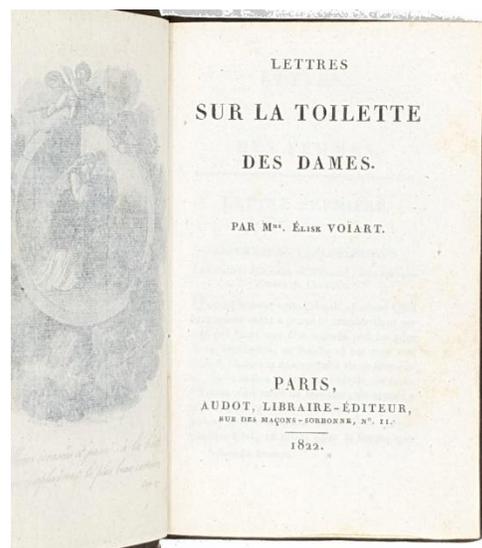
38. LE MAIRE, Joseph. *Le Dentiste des Dames.* Paris: l'auteur, 1818. Engr. title and 4 plates. 8vo. xxvi pp, 220 pp, plus added engr title-page and 4 plates. Contemporary blue boards, gilt; rebacked. **\$1,500**

First illustrated edition of this charming guide to home dental care for ladies. Princess Louise of Baden's copy made £10,000 at Christie's in 2012. OCLC shows US copies at Columbia and U Penn.

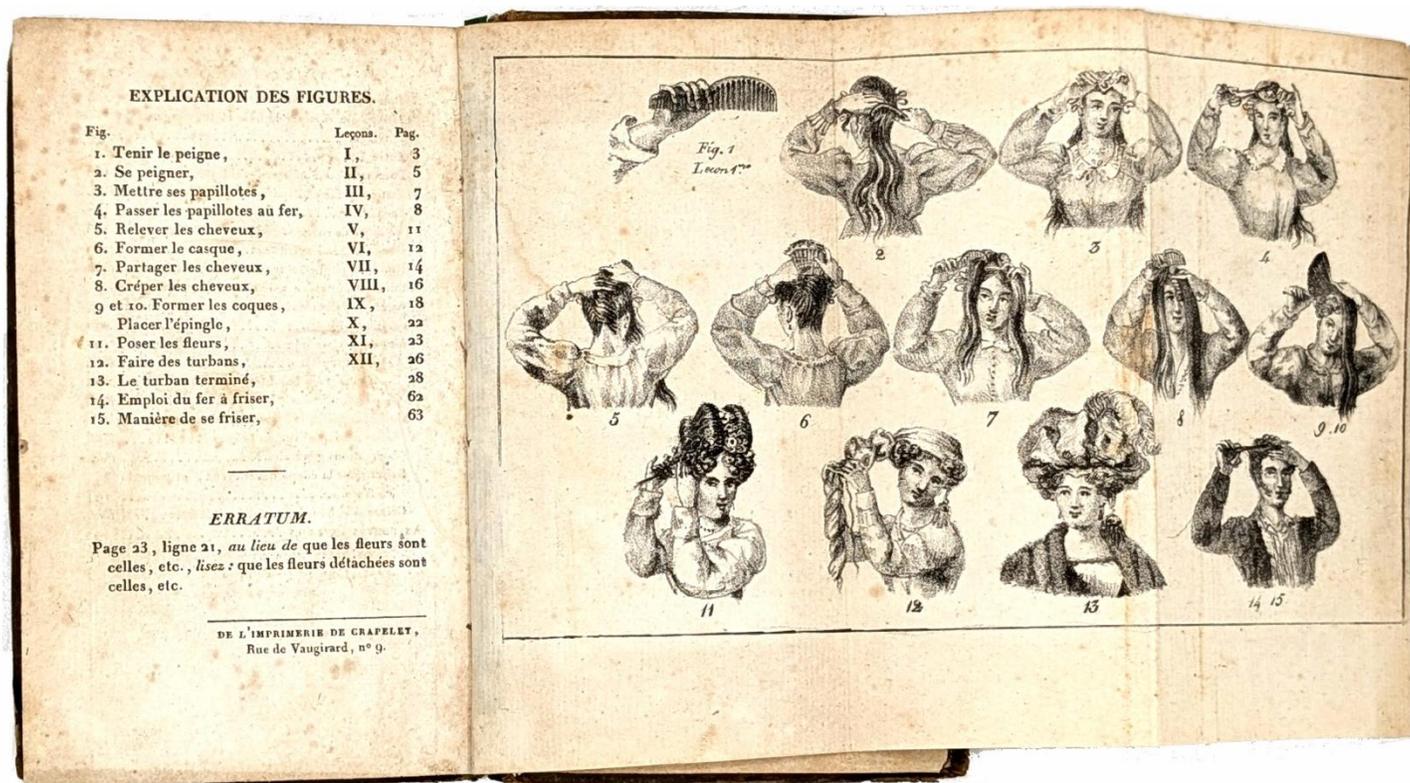
BEAUTY TIPS COMPOSED BY A WOMAN (FOR A CHANGE)

39. VOÏART, Élise. *Lettres sur la Toilette des Dames*. Paris: Audot, 1822. 12mo. (4), 305 pp, plus engr. frontispiece. Contemporary calf, gilt. \$1,500

One of the rarer titles in the series *Encyclopedie des Dames*. Voïart's work contains chapters on cosmetics, corsets and their 'abuse', skincare, wrinkles, bathing habits, haircare, earrings, oral hygiene, manicuring and pedicuring. The author ran a noted, liberal-minded salon near Paris. OCLC shows two US copies (NYPL, Bryn Mawr).



CUTTING YOUR OWN HAIR



40. VILLARET, Pierre. *Art de se Coiffer soi-même, enseigné aux Dames; suivi du Manuel du Coiffeur, précédé de Préceptes sur l'Antretien, la Beauté et la Conservation de la Chevelure...* Paris: Roret, 1828. 12mo. (4), 229 pp, (1), plus engr frontispiece and 1 folding engr plate. Contemporary calf. Bookseller's ticket of Juan Eschenburg, Mexico City, as well as 19th century Mexican ownership inscriptions of "Esther Garcia" and "Plutarea Parra". \$950

First edition. A comprehensive guide to the demanding art of styling one's own hair, written for middle-class women who could not afford to hire a hairdresser. The author was hairdresser to the stars: the King and Queen of Bavaria, the Duchess of Baden and her court, etc etc. OCLC shows US copies at Buffalo Public Library, NYPL, Tulane, Harvard, Duke, Library Co of Philadelphia, and U Penn.