

Florisatus Fine Books, Manuscripts & Musicalia

Edwin & Liesbeth Bloemsaat



Occulta, Masonica, Alchemica, etc.

Albertus Parvus, De Bartas, Trithemius etc.

12 books from 1561 to 1787

SUITE
DES
ADMIRABLES SECRETS
D'ALBERT
LE GRAND,
QUI N'AVOIENT PAS
encore parus jusqu'à présent.

Tirez des ouvrages de ce sçavant homme.
Enrichi de plusieurs Figures en taille d'ou-
ce & en bois.



A COLOGNE,
Chez Le DISPENSATEUR DES SECRETS.

M. DCCXV.



A magical handbook full of of christian magic and pagan superstition
- With a depiction of a *Hand of Glory*, the inspiration for *Thing* in the Addams family -

ALBERTUS PARVUS.

Suite des admirables secrets d'Albert le Grand, qui n'avoient pas encore parus jusqu'à present.

Cologne [France?], Chez le dispensateur des secrets, 1715. 12^{mo} (152 x 83 mm). 504, [28, last blank] pages. {A-Aa¹² Bb⁴}.

With 4 folding engraved plates, each containing 4 talismans, 1 full page copper engraving, 1 folding woodcut plate showing the course of the planets (partly cut off), one full page woodcut depicting the "Main de la Gloire", 9 woodcuts in the text and some typographical tables in the text.

Brown sheep with gilt spine. (heavily damaged).

€ 500

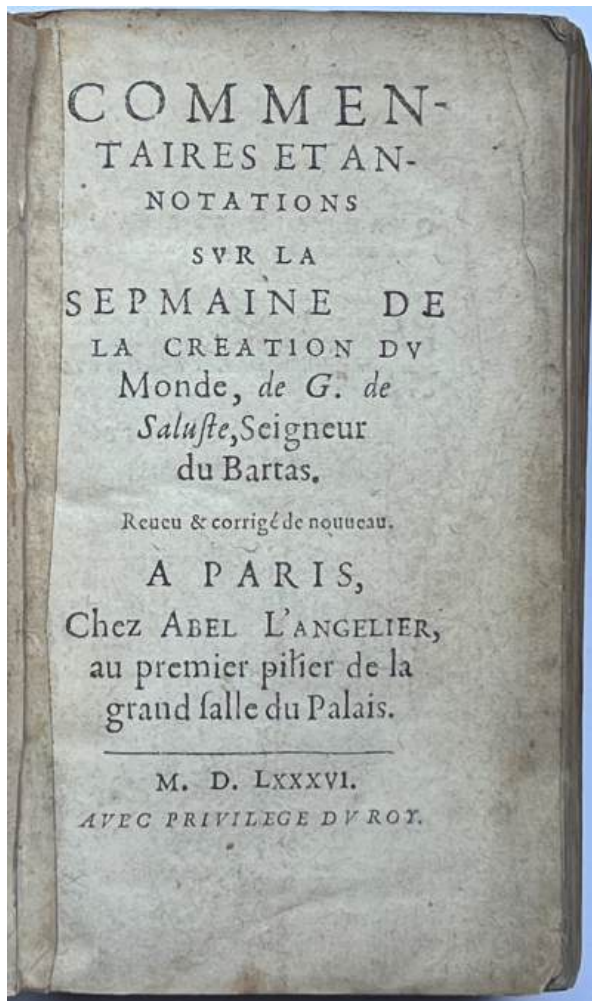
This is in fact a copy of the so called *Petit Albert*, with the characteristic "Hand of glory", presented as a continuation of the work of Albertus Magnus, but in reality a collection of pagan magic and Christian mysticism, partly derived from later authors and deeply rooted in popular superstition. It was highly popular among the common people, but viewed critical by the church. Copies were mainly sold by travelling peddlars and issued in large numbers, but most are lost and they are all quite rare nowadays.

The first edition of the *Petit Albert* was published in 1668.

No copies found by us in WorldCat, or the KvK. Issued as the second volume (in the signatures marked as "Tome.II" to *Les Admirables secrets contenant plusieurs Traitez sur la conception des Femmes & les vertus des Herbes, des Pierres précieuses...*, Cologne 1715.

-Literature: Brüning, V. F. *Bibliographie der alchemistischen Literatur*, no. 3208.

-Condition: L2 corner torn off, but present; Folding plate facing p. 127 partly cut of; Binding heavily worn and lacking fragments of the leather; Engraving facing p. 149 damaged in the fold; Working copy, exact number of plates uncertain! Some staining, but internally generally a clean copy.



Immensely popular in France and the rest of Europe

BARTAS, Guillaume de Salluste, sieur de.

Commentaires et annotations sur la sepmaine de la creation du monde.

Paris, Abel l'Anglier, 1586. Reveu (sic) & corrigé de nouveau. 12^{mo} (143 x 80 mm). [XII], 416, [18] leaves. { *¹², A-Mm¹² Nn⁸ Oo⁶ }.

With a folding table after the prelims and 2 woodcuts in the tekst (on folio 2 & 38) and an author's portrait as frontispiece, added at a later date.

Vellum laced case binding with yapp edges.

€ 650

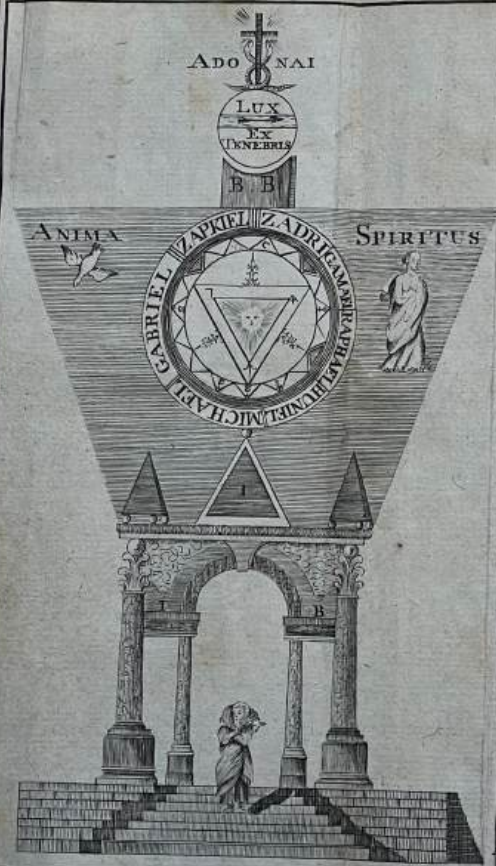
The 1586 Paris edition is one of the early and important annotated editions of Du Bartas's celebrated *La Sepmaine*, the great Protestant epic on the Creation of the World. First published in 1578, *La Sepmaine* rapidly became one of the most widely read poetic works of late Renaissance Europe, admired for its synthesis of biblical narrative, natural philosophy, theology, and encyclopedic learning. The commentary was prepared by the Calvinist scholar and theologian Simon Goulart (1543-1628), whose annotations transformed the poem into a vast repository of Renaissance knowledge. This edition contains, next to *La Sepmaine*, with an own title page on leaf Ee6 (dated 1585), *La Judit*, *L'Uranie*, *Le triomphe de la foy* and *Poëme dressé pour l'accueil de la royne de Navarre*.

Guillaume de Salluste du Bartas (1544-1590) was a Gascon Huguenot courtier and poet. Trained as a doctor of law, he served in the court of Henri of Navarre (later Henri IV) for most of his career. Du Bartas was celebrated across sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Europe for his divine poetry, particularly *L'Uranie* (1574), *Judit* (1574), *La Sepmaine; ou, Creation du monde* (1578), and *La Seconde Semaine* (1584-1603).

-Literature: USTC 30984 (9 copies); Adams D969; Pettegree, *French vernacular books*, 16758.

-Condition: Vellum at the frontside backcover torn off; Old repairs in upper blank margin leaf 319-324 and in lower margin gathering Mm; Some pencil annotations; Some unobtrusive smaller waterstains; Laces lacking.

Frontispice



LES
PLUS SECRETS MYSTERES
DES HAUTS GRADES
DE
LA MAÇONNERIE
DÉVOILÉS,
OU
LE VRAI ROSE-CROIX,
TRADUIT DE L'ANGLAIS;
SUIVI
DU NOACHITE,
TRADUIT DE L'ALLEMAND.



A JÉRUSALEM.

M. DCC. LXVIII.

1768

A famous anti masonic work

[BERAGE or KÖPPEN, Karl Friedrich] (attr.).

Les plus secrets mysteres des haut grades de la Maçonnerie dévoilés, ou Le vrai rose-croix, traduit de l'anglois; Suivi du Noachite, traduit de l'allemand.

Jérusalem, 1768. 8^{vo} (170 x 100 mm). xvj 152 pages. {a⁸ A-I⁸ K⁴}.

With an engraved frontispiece and engraved folding plate, 2 woodcuts in the text (p. 144, p. 152) and typographical headpieces.

Mottled sheep. Gold tooled spine with 5 raised bands, red title label and fleurons. Marbled end leaves. Edges coloured red.

€ 950

All editions are very rare. It is an eighteenth-century “exposé” of higher-degree Freemasonry. The book claims to reveal the origins, symbols, rituals, passwords, signs, and ceremonies of advanced Masonic grades beyond Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master. It presents an historical narrative connecting Masonry to the Crusades, Christian mysteries, and esoteric traditions, while describing seven higher degrees culminating in the Rose-Croix. Combining instruction, ritual detail, and polemical commentary, the work reflects both fascination with and suspicion of secret societies during the Enlightenment era.

Barbier attributes the work to Bérage; however, it may instead have been authored by Karl Friedrich Köppen and only translated by Bérage. **Wolfstieg** and Kloss attribute the history of the Noachites, or Prussian Knights, to Karl Friedrich Köppen (ca. 1734-1797).

-Literature: cf. Caillet no. 966, other editions mentioned; Kloss, *Bibliographie der Freimaurerei* 1844, no. 1898; Fesch, *Franc-maçonnerie*, col. 158

-Condition: Folding plate 3 tears, but complete; Spine ends damaged; Leather upper joint broken; Board edges and corners rubbed; Internally a clean copy.

TRAICTE DE
LA NATURE DE L'OEVE
des Philosophes.

*Composé par Bernard , Comte de Tre-
ues , Allemand.*



A PARIS;

M. DC. LIX.

A treatise about the Philosopher's stone by the master alchemist

BERNHARDUS TREVISANUS.

Traicté de la nature de l' oeuf des philosophes.

Paris, [Pierre Moët], 1659. 8^{vo} (167 x 105 mm). 64 pages {A-D⁸}.

19th century green half morocco with gold tooled title vertical on the spine (Binding signed: FÉCHOT).

€ 950

Very rare second edition of this of the French translation (first 1624) attributed to the legendary Italian alchemist Bernard of Treviso (ca. 1406-1490), normally bound together with Basilius Valentinus' *Les douze clefs de philosophie* and *Azoth*. It is an important work of early modern alchemical literature. Centered on the symbolism of the Philosophers' Egg, it explores the processes of transformation, generation, and perfection that lie at the heart of the alchemical *magnum opus*. Written in the allegorical language characteristic of Hermetic philosophy, the treatise seeks to elucidate the creation of the Philosopher's Stone and the hidden principles of nature. Published during a period of renewed interest in alchemy, it reflects the close relationship between alchemy, medicine, and natural philosophy in seventeenth-century Europe and remains a significant document for the study of esoteric thought and the origins of modern chemistry.

-Literature: Ferguson I, p. 101; Duveen p. 48; Caillet no. 1043 "ce traité est difficile à trouver isolé".

-Condition: Boards paper a bit rubbed; Title page and last leaf a bit stained; In general a very fine copy of this rare work on the Philosopher's stone.

LES
CLEFS
DE
LA PHILOSOPHIE
SPAGYRIQUE,
QUI DONNENT LA
connoissance des Principes &
des véritables Operations de
cet Art dans les Mixtes des
trois genres,

Par feu M. LE BRETON,
Medecin de la Faculté de Paris.

✠ *allemand*

A PARIS,

Chez P. G. LE MERCIER fils, rue
Saint Jacques, près la Fontaine
S. Severin, à S. Hilaire.

M. D. CCXXXII.

Avec Approbation & Privilège du Roy.



Essential for philosophers and physicians wishing to master Hermeticism

BRETON, M. le.

Les clefs de la philosophie spagyrique, qui donnent la connoissance des principes & des véritables operations de cet art dans les mixtes des trois genres.

Paris, Claude Jombert, 1722 **On paste over paper slip:** Paris, P.G. le Mercier fils, 1732. 16^{mo} (131 x 78 mm).
[VIII], 398, [2] p. {a⁴ A-Bb⁸}.

Marbled calf. Gold tooled spine with 5 raised bands and red title label. Board edges gilt. Marbled end leaves.
Green ribbon marker. Edges coloured red.

€ 1.500

First edition, with pasted over impressum. "Divided in two parts, this alchemical treatise was much in demand by those who wished to pass from the theory to the practice of the Hermetic art. The author describes the main operations and processes of practical chemistry, as well the philisopher's stone and transmutation" (Neville II, p.28).

Spagyric, or spagyria, is a method developed by Paracelsus and his followers which was thought to improve the efficacy of existing medicines by separating them into their primordial elements (the tria prima: sulphur, mercury, and salt) and then again recombining them. Paracelsian physicians held that through this method the medically beneficial ingredients of a compound (the purified tria prima) were separated from the harmful and toxic ones, turning even some poisons into medicines.

Impressum printed on paper slip over impressum "Paris, Claude Jombert, 1722".

-Provenance: "Ex libris Allemand" in ink on fly leaf.

-Literature: Neville II, p.28; Caillet II 6315; Dorbon 2543 : "Très rare"; Ferguson II.15; Duveen p.344.

-Condition: Spine at the tail damaged; Pen annotation on p. 339; Pencil marks in the white margin.

LES VIES
D'EPICURE,
DE
PLATON,
ET DE
PYTHAGORE.

Recueillies de différens Auteurs, & sur-
tout de DIOGÈNE LAERCE.

Par

M**

L. M.



A AMSTERDAM,

Aux dépens de la Compagnie.

M. DCC. LII.



Not in STCN

M* [=De Combles?].**

Les vies d'Epicure, de Platon et de Pythagore. Recueillies de differens auteurs, & surtout de Diogen Laerce.

Amsterdam, Aux dépens de la Compagnie, 1752. 16^{mo} (139 x 80 mm). [II], 284 pages.

Mottled calf. Flat spine with red title label and completely filled with a small lozenge shaped pattern filled with stars. Marbled end leaves. Green ribbon marker. Edges coloured red.

€ 120

This edition not in STCN nor in UB Amsterdam. Sometimes De Combles is mentioned as author.

-Condition: Spine head damaged; Else a fine copy.

DICTIONNAIRE

MYTHO-HERMÉTIQUE.

DANS LEQUEL ON TROUVE

LES ALLÉGORIES FABULEUSES DES
POETES , LES MÉTAPHORES , LES
ÉNIGMES ET LES TERMES BARBARES
DES PHILOSOPHES HERMÉTIQUES
EXPLIQUÉS.

Par Dom ANTOINE-JOSEPH PERNETY , Religieux
Bénédictin de la Congrégation de Saint-Maur.

*Sapiens animadvertet parabolam & interpretationem, verba sapientum,
& enigmata eorum. Prov. i. v. 6.*



A PARIS, Quai des Augustins

Chez BAUCHE, Libraire, à Sainte Genevieve & à
S. Jean dans le Désert.

M. DCC. LVIII.

AVEC APPROBATION ET PRIVILEGE DU ROI.



An essential source for Hermetic and alchemical symbolism
-First edition-

PERNETY, Antoine-Joseph.

Dictionnaire mytho-hermetique, dans lequel on trouve les allégories fabuleuses des poètes, les métaphores, les énigmes et les termes barbares des philosophes Hermétiques expiliqués.

Paris, Bauche, 1758. 8^{vo} (177 x 105 mm). [IV], XX, 546, [6] pages.

Mottled sheep. Flat richly gold tooled spine with red title label. Edges coloured red.

€ 500

First edition of this essential reference work of alchemical and Hermetic symbolism. Organized as a dictionary, it explains the obscure vocabulary, allegories, metaphors, myths, and enigmatic expressions used by alchemists and “Hermetic philosophers.” Pernety argues that classical mythology, poetic fables, and esoteric writings often conceal alchemical teachings beneath symbolic language. Entries decode figures, substances, processes, and divine names, linking them to the pursuit of the Philosopher’s Stone and the “Great Work.”

Intended as a guide for readers of alchemical texts, it became an important source for understanding the history, language, and symbolism of Western alchemy.

-Provenance: With the oval ex libris stamp "Dordigny ainé Noyon".

-Literature: Ferguson II, 181; Duveen 466; Caillet 8525;

-Condition: Spine ends missing; Board edges rubbed; Small hole on upper cover in the leather; Old catalogue description glued in; Few underlinings in red pencil.

DICTIONNAIRE
MYTHO-HERMÉTIQUE,

DANS LEQUEL ON TROUVE

LES ALLÉGORIES FABULEUSES DES POETES,
LES MÉTAPHORES, LES ÉNIGMES ET LES
TERMES BARBARES DES PHILOSOPHES
HERMÉTIQUES EXPLIQUÉS.

Par Dom ANTOINE-JOSEPH PERNETY, Religieux
Bénédictin de la Congrégation de Saint-Maur.

*Sapiens animadvertet parabolam & interpretationem, verba sapientum,
& anigmata eorum. Prov. I. v. 6.*

Prix, 6 liv. rel.



A PARIS,

Chez DELALAIN l'aîné, Libraire, rue Saint-Jacques,
N°. 240.

M. DCC. LXXXVII.

AVEC APPROBATION, ET PRIVILEGE DU ROI.

An essential source for Hermetic and alchemical symbolism

PERNETY, Antoine-Joseph.

Dictionnaire mytho-hermétique, dans lequel on trouve les allégories fabuleuses des poètes, les métaphores, les énigmes et les termes barbares des philosophes Hermétiques expliqués.

Paris, Delalain, 1787. 8^{vo} (175 x 107 mm). XXIV, 546, [2] pages.

Mottled sheep. Flat richly gold tooled spine with red title label. Marbled end leaves and marbled edges.

€ 300

Second edition (first 1758) of this essential reference work of alchemical and Hermetic symbolism. Organized as a dictionary, it explains the obscure vocabulary, allegories, metaphors, myths, and enigmatic expressions used by alchemists and “Hermetic philosophers.” Pernety argues that classical mythology, poetic fables, and esoteric writings often conceal alchemical teachings beneath symbolic language. Entries decode figures, substances, processes, and divine names, linking them to the pursuit of the Philosopher’s Stone and the “Great Work.” Intended as a guide for readers of alchemical texts, it became an important source for understanding the history, language, and symbolism of Western alchemy.

-Literature: Ferguson II, p. 181 (note); Caillet 8525; cf. Duveen 466.

-Condition: Leather upper joint broken; Spine heavily rubbed; End bands damaged; Large note on the author in old pen on the verso half title; Internally a clean copy.

Principes de Chimie

Appelle corps simple, un corps simple qui n'est
Composé d'aucune différente nature homogène
qui est immuable, qui ne souffre aucune extension,
et qui se dissout.

Il y a plusieurs corps simples différents entre
eux, les uns par leur grandeur, ou largeur ou leur
figure, mais leurs parties sont les mêmes.

Ces corps sont si petits qu'il est absolument difficile
à nos yeux de reconnaître les approximations de la
dissolution, nous ne pouvons donc admettre de
figures, ces corps ne sont point composés de
la composition des corps comme quelque un
l'ont prétendu.

Les mixtes

Plusieurs différents corps simples se réunissent
ensemble, forment un corps qui s'appelle mixte.

L'analyse des mixtes se fait à l'aide d'un feu
pur ou quelque une de leurs propriétés de
nouvelle composition, est donc un composé de
nouveau mixte. La difficulté de la nature des
mixtes, ne vient pas seulement de la union de la
consistance de leur parties, mais encore de la
présence des principes qui les composent, et qui se
parlent par leur nature, leur proportion, et leur
macrocosme des minéraux.

Les mixtes sont de composition de la nature
il est presque impossible d'en trouver de purs
dans la nature, c'est la chimie qui les sépare des corps.

Manuscript textbook for an alchemist or pharmacist

Principe de Chimie. Manuscript in French written in one hand in brown ink, structured in paragraphs.

[France, not before 1735]. 4^{to} (260 x 180 mm). 467 (recte 466, 266 not counted), [2 blank] pages.

Green vellum, flat spine.

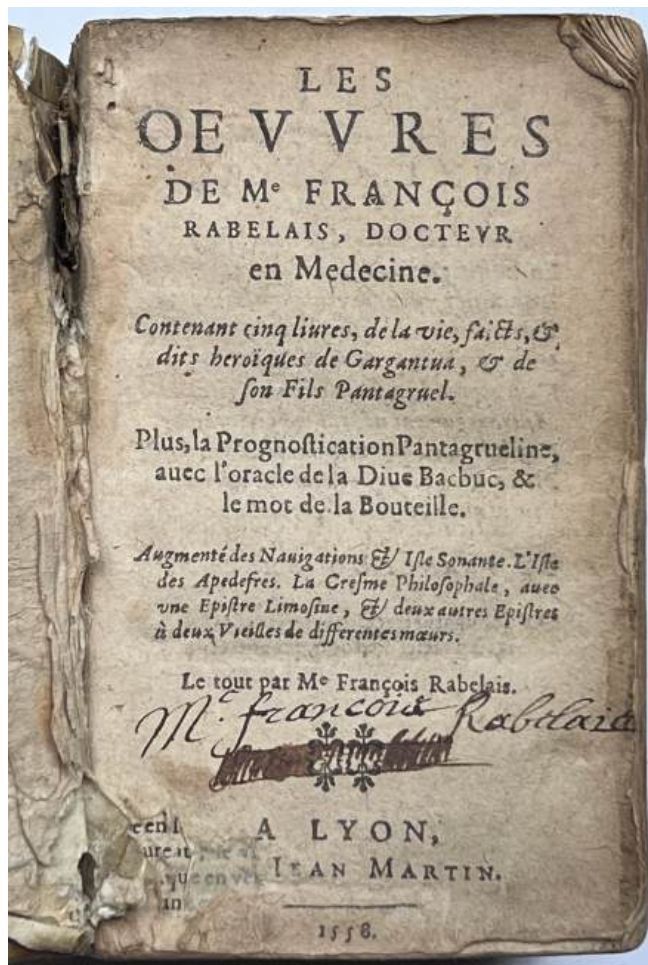
€ 1.450

Well structured good readable manuscript textbook for an alchemist or pharmacist starting with the basics of the elements and alchemy, distilling etc., containing many recipes, and finishing with an index (p. 456-467). Several times methods are mentioned or commented on, i.a. Homberg (p. 252), Kunkel (p. 219, 349, 394, 436) and Boerhaave (p. 218, 450). Some of the subjects touched are: Beer (p. 80), wine and distilling (p. 82-116), making of soap, colour pigments, oils, varnish and at the end a short passage on the "Grand oeuvre", the philosopher's stone.

The manuscript is dated after a chapter on page 211 "Première facon de faire l'Aether en 1735".

-Provenance: In pencil on fly leaf: "Trouvé a Corbigny en 1932"

-Condition: Binding soiled, with traces of what appear to be chemical splashes; Upper joint split, but the upper cover remains firmly attached by the binding supports; Edges of the boards with minor losses to the vellum; Internally clean.



Rare early Rabelais pocket editon

RABELAIS. François.

Les oeuvres. Contenant cinq livres, de la vie, faicts, & dits heroïques de Gargantua, & de son fils Pantagruel. Plus, la prognostification Pantagrueline, avec l'oracle de la diue Babuc, & le mot de la Bouteille. Augmenté des Navigations & Isle Sonante. L'Isle des Apedefres. la Cresme Philosophale, avec une Epistre Limosine, & deux autres Epistres à deux Vieilles de différentes moeurs.

Lyon, Jean Martin, 1558 [= after 1584]. 12^{mo} (127 x 76 mm). 347, [7]; 469, [9]; 166, [32, last 3 pages blank] pages. {A-Vv¹²} (Vv 12 used as pastedown).

One full page woodcut of a bottle with a typeset poem in it in part III on page 157.

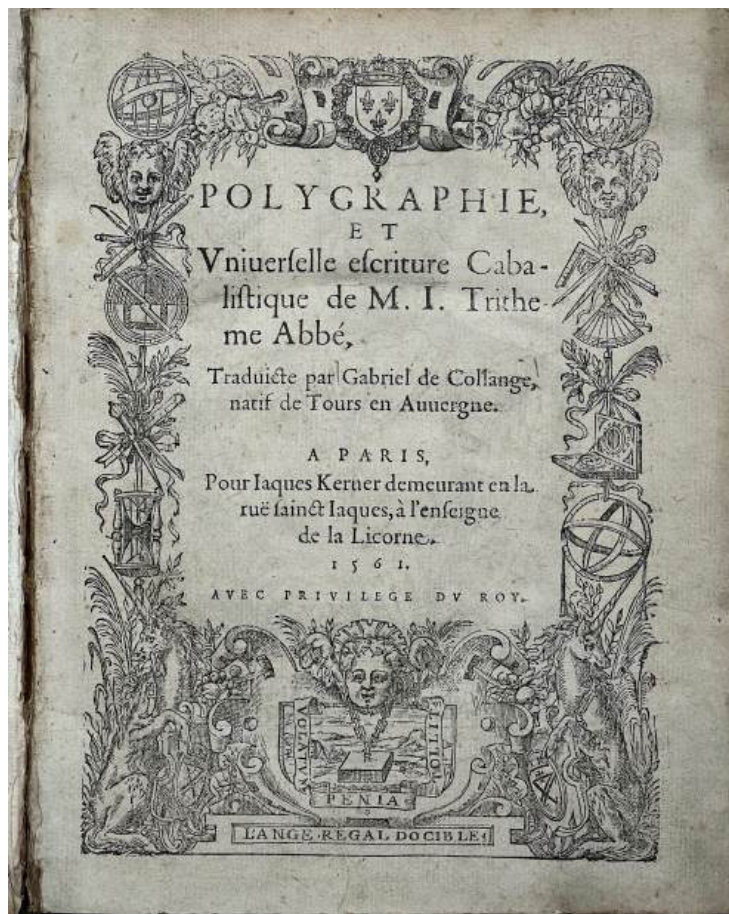
Limp vellum.

€ 1.000

Rare early edition. Antidated edition, according to the contents it cannot be printed before 1584 and has to be dated late 16th or early 17th century. The printer Jean Martin is probably a fictitious printer.

-Literature: Cappellen, *À l'enseigne du masque: imprimeurs, libraires et éditeurs de Rabelais de 1552 à 1588*, Réforme, Humanisme, Renaissance vol. 82-83, 2016, p. 65-115; Plan, no 95; Rawles-Screech, *A new Rabelais Bibliography*, no. 89

-Condition: Binding lacks ties; Upper part of the vellum on the spine and lower corner of the back cover renewed; Inner lower corner of the title page and the second leaf damaged with loss of some letters; Some running titles touched by the binders knife; Last line of leaf Ff 7 and 8 cut off; Many old pen underlinings; Author's name repeated in old pen on the title page; Much used but still a sound and complete copy.



LIVRE QUATRIESME

c ^m 100000	dccc ^m 800000	lxc ^m
cc ^m 200000	deccc ^m 900000	lxxc ^m
ccc ^m 300000	xc ^m 1000000	lxxx ^m
cccc ^m 400000	xxc ^m 2000000	lxxx ^m
d ^m 500000	xxx ^m 3000000	ic ^m
dc ^m 600000	xxxx ^m 4000000	xc ^m
dec ^m 700000	lcm 5000000	xccc ^m

Ayant deuément, par bon ordre, & assez intelligiblement escrit & interpreté par les fuidites figures & tables, tant literales, orchemales, que numerales, tout ce qui est contenu en ce present quatriesme liure, avec l'ayde & interuention de nostre Seigneur, ie mettray fin à iceluy.

FIN DV QUATRIESME LIVRE
DE POLYGRAPHIE.

CINQ

Handwritten text in a cursive script, likely a continuation of the text or a signature.

TABLES ET FIGVRES. 281

qué par les lettres communes d'Arithmetique; & l'autre d'apres ensuyuant par les mesmes valeurs & intelligences des valeurs & caracteres numeraux des Arabes magiciens.

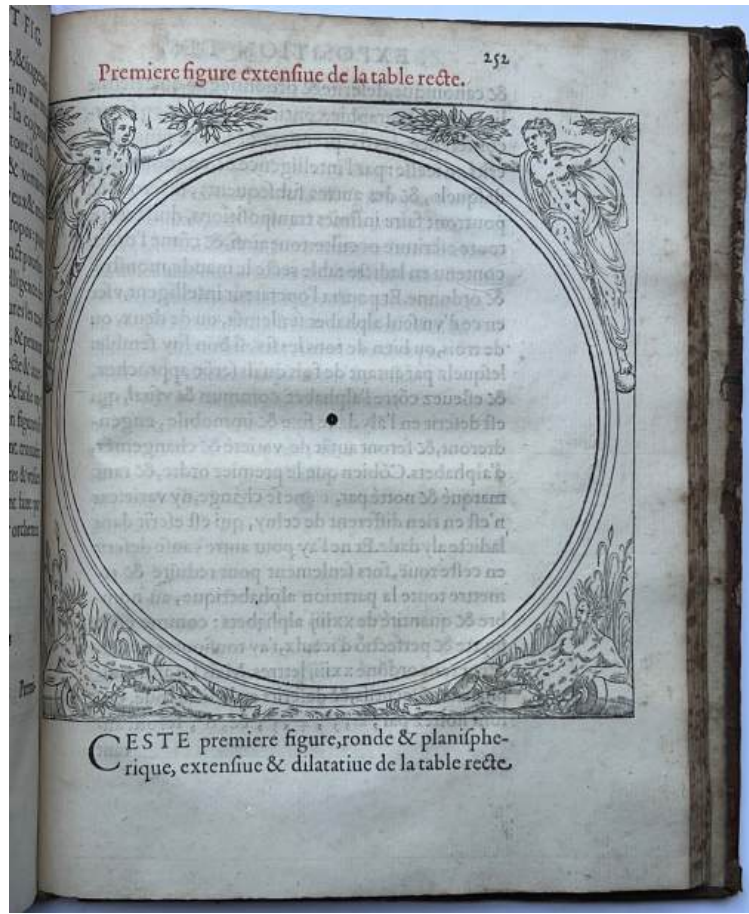
ALPHABET TETRAGRAM-

matique, selon le nombre & supputation d'Arithmetique & chiffre.

a	1	g	7	n	13	t	19
b	2	h	8	o	14	u	20
c	3	i	9	p	15	x	21
d	4	k	10	q	16	y	22
e	5	l	11	r	17	z	23
f	6	m	12	s	18	&	24

A V T R E A L P H A B E T

selon la supputation & nombre des Arabes magiciens.



*Psalmus LVIII. Cuius misericordia regnabitur quoniam
de rebus humanis et de diis nobis respondit
Non ego aueritum numerum latitum prout*



**ADILECTVS QVEMADMO-
DVM FILIVS VNI-
CORNIVM.
PSALMO XXVIII.**

PREMIER LIVRE⁷⁴ de la Polygraphie.

VOUS AVONS vingt & qua-
tre lettres & notes en l'alpha-
bet tant pour le langage Latin,
que pour le François. Lesquel-
les j'ay par bon ordre prepo-
sées à autant de dictions & pa-
raphrases symentiques, qui
pourront servir pour toute am-
ple description de tous, & de

tant de secrets, que l'opérateur intelligent voudra. Et sont
lesdits paraphrases, y estants redigés par tel ordre & artifi-
ce, que, prenant d'un chacun ordre vne seule diction seu-
lement, vous trouverez en apres assez bonne & concor-
dante oraison François. Et fault noter que, tant pour le
commun usage de nostre langue François, qu'aussi pour
l'abbeuuation d'écriture, y trouuez adioustée ceste
vingtquatriesme lettre (&) qui signifie en François & en Latin
Et. Et d'avantage les dictions & paraphrases, signifians
vne mesme chose, sont colloquées par tel ordre & indu-
strie, qu'ayant d'une chacune ligne & rang (comme dit est)
pris vne seule diction seulement, apres qu'auz fait dedu-
ction & description d'icelles, demeurera entre toutes bone
accordance, & l'enfuyra bonne & parfaite clause d'orai-
son. Mais sur tout fault songneusement estre aduise, que
d'une chacune ligne & rang ne preniez qu'une seule diction
seulement, & que le monade, ou vnité, ne face iniure ou
tort au binaire. Fault aussi noter prouidement, & sur tout

First French edition of the first printed work on cryptography

TRITHEMIUS, Johannes & COLLANGE, Gabriel de.

Polygraphie et universelle escritura Cabalistique. Traduite par Gabriel Collange.

Paris, [printed by Benoît Prévost for] Jacques Kerver, 1561. 4^{to} (245 x 187 mm). [18], 300 folia. {a⁸e¹⁰ a-z⁸ A-G⁸ H⁴ I-P⁸}.

With 3 title pages with an elaborate allegorical woodcut border showing mathematical instruments, 3 portraits of Collange verso of each title page, 13 plates for volvelles (without the movable parts), large woodcut printer's mark of Petit on the last leaf, partly printed in red and black.

18th century sprinkled calf. Richly gold tooled spine with 5 raised bands. Edges sprinkled red and brown.

€ 1.500

First French edition of the first printed work on cryptography (first latin edition 1518),
unfortunately with some major faults! (see below under Condition).

The work contains three sections each with a separate title page. The first section contains a short history and description of the art of cryptography, and extensive lists of ciphers to use in coded messages. The second section contains the key, the title is (leaf 193 recto): *Clavicule et intepretations sur le contenu és cing livres de polygraphie, & universelle escritura Cabalistique, traduite & augmentée par Gabriel de Solange*, and the third extra information to help use the ciphers (leaf 245 recto) by Collange himself: *Tables et figures planispheriques, extensives & dilatives des recte & averse, servants à l'universelle intelligence de toutes escritures, tant metathesiques, transpositives, mythologiques, numerales, anomaes, que orchemales.*

It contains hundreds of codes and ciphers, which could be used for writing or deciphering coded messages. It also includes many ancient alphabets and is the oldest known source for the Theban or witches' alphabet, which is still used in modern witchcraft today. That it really has been used show several old annotations (ca. 14) varying in length from 1 to 21 lines in French and Masonic script and some text corrections in pen, and several times the name of a previous owner in cabalistic script.

-Provenance: Valerian du Val David escuyer seigneur du lieu et de Mauny, 17th century.? **-Literature:** Caillet 10850; USTC 1225.

-Condition: Without the movable parts of the volvelles, which never have been present in this copy; **8 initials ca. 57 x 60 mm cut out** of leaves[IV] (without loss of text on verso side) and 14, 112, 163, 177, 229, 240, 246 (all with loss of text on verso side); Some pencil lines; Large part of blank lower margin coloured black, with offsetting on the other side; Spine ends damaged and lacking fragments; Upper joint weak, Corners bumped; Upper free endleaf pasted down; Internally clean;

Despite all this, it is still an interesting copy, **sold with all faults.**

LES
DOVZE CLEFS
DE
PHILOSOPHIE
DE

FRERE BASILE VALENTIN,
RELIGIEUX DE L'ORDRE
Saint Benoist.

*Traictant de la vraye Medecine
Metalique.*

Plus l'Azoth, ou le moyen de faire
l'Or caché des Philosophes.

TRADVCTION FRANCOISE.



A PARIS,

Chez PIERRE MOËT, Libraire
Iuré, proche le Pont S. Michel,
à l'Image S. Alexis.

M. DC. LX.

A Z O T H;
OU LE MOYEN DE FAIRE
l'Or caché des Philosophes.

De Frere Basile Valentin.

Reueu, corrigé & augmenté par Mr. L'agneau Medecin.



A PARIS.

Chez PIERRE MOËT, Libraire Iuré, proche le
Pont S. Michel à l'Image S. Alexis.

M. DC. LIX.



*Declaration & explication
d'Adolphe.*



M ij



Matiere Premiere.

E suis Dragon enueni-
mé estant par tout pre-
sent & à vil prix, la cho-
se sur laquelle ie repose, & qui se
repose sur moy se trouuera en
moy, qui recherchera bien & di-
ligemment mon eau & mon feu
destruiseur & composeur.



voir page
179.

Two of the major alchemical publications

VALENTINUS, Basilus.

Les douze clefs de philosophie. Traictant de la vraye medecine Metalique.

Paris, Pierre Moët, 1660. 8^{vo} (170 x 105 mm). 176 pages {a⁸ A-K⁸}.

With one full page engraving within collation of the Phoenix and 1 woodcut in the text (p.52).

-Bound up with (as indicated on the title page of the first work): IDEM. *Azoth, ou le moyen de faire l'or caché des philosophes.*

Paris, Pierre Moët, 1659. Reveu (sic), corrigé & augmenté par Mr. L. Agneau. 196 pages. {A-M⁸ N²}.

With a large woodcut on the title page and 14 woodcuts in the text.

Early 20th century brown sheep. Blind tooled fillet on the covers, spine with 5 raised bands and gold tooled titles and decorative tools in the compartments. Marbled end leaves.

€ 1.000

Rare second French edition of both works (first 1624). The *douze clefs* is dedicated by the printer to Sir Kenelm Digby by virtue of his work on the 'Powder of sympathy', a form of sympathetic magic. The twelve keys, corresponding with the twelve signs of the zodiac, are to unlock the doors of knowledge and unseal the secret of the fountain of youth. The 12 engraved plates intended to illustrate them are often lacking, and are not called for by Ferguson. It is very often bound together with

Bernardus Trevisanus *Traicté de la nature de l'oeuf des philosophes*.

The *Azoth* embodies the transition between Renaissance Hermeticism and early modern scientific inquiry. Attributed to Basil Valentine, the work expounds the doctrine of Azoth—the universal agent of transmutation and regeneration—through a sophisticated synthesis of allegory, natural philosophy, and Christian symbolism. Its celebrated emblematic illustrations and esoteric interpretations made it one of the most influential texts of the European alchemical canon.

-Literature: Duveen, p.48 (ed 1659, 3 parts); Ferguson p. 77 Douze clefs (1 woodcut) and Azoth (ed 1659); Cailliet, no. 802 and 798; Dorbon 5029 "Cette édition est beaucoup plus estimée et plus belle que celle de 1624".

-Condition: The first work lacks the frontispiece and the 12 plates of the keys; Hole in the last lines of leaf Diiij, damaged before printing and line in handwriting completed; Small hole in upper blank margin leaf A1; Some small damages and traces of use; Few old pen marginalia and lines in the margin; Board edges and raised bands a bit rubbed.



All the books in the order of the catalogue

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