Dehortatione de la gentile theologa per Henrico Cornelio Agrippa, nella quale si di mostra, quanto sia utile a la anima Christiana il studio de le sacre lettere.

(Venice?, 1526), N. p. (4º); A₁–B₄ (B₄ is blank).

First edition. Papered spine. Title page with elaborate woodcut border of musical instruments and allegorical figures. With two woodcut initials. Text in Italian. Date and place of the dedication is June 10, 1526, Lyon. Precedes the bibliographical (Latin) first edition (Antwerp, 1529).

“Dehortatione de la gentile theologa” (A Dissuasion Against Pagan Theology) is a written version of a talk that Agrippa had given to some friends after taught a course on the Pimander (Poimandres). Only two other such informal lectures survived in print. In this work Agrippa “warns his friends, who have asked him to explain the Pimander to them, not to focus exclusively on the Hermetic writings to the detriment of the Holy Scripture. He is clearly worried that his friends might go too far in their enthusiasm for the pagan philosophical texts and forget their responsibility as Christians, but he by no means advises them to abandon the study of the Hermetic texts altogether. In fact, he emphasizes that his friends incorporate the Hermetic writings into their Biblical exegesis [...] and thus enrich Christianity, then the study of those pagan texts must not be condemned, but rather greatly appreciated.” (van der Poel, 1997. pp. 24–25.) At the time of the publication of this work, Agrippa lived in Lyon, serving as a physician of Louise of Savoy, the French Queen Mother. The dedication of the pamphlet is to Symphorien Bullioud (1480–1533), the Bishop of Bazas who was negotiating between Agrippa and the French Queen Mother concerning Agrippa’s unpaid salary. We could trace only one copy in libraries, at Biblioteca Nazionale Marciana.
LATIN AUTHORS ON GASTRONOMY

Angeli da Bucine, Nicolò – Cato, Marcus Porcius – Varro, Marcus Terentius – Columella, Lucius Junius Moderatus – Palladius, Rutilius Taurus Aemilianus


(Florentiae [Florence], July 1515. Philippi Iuntae [Filippo Giunta or Giunti]). (8º, 12º; AA1–8, BB1–12, a1–P8, Q1–Q12); (20), 339, (1) leaves.

Rare and early edition of this famous compilation of the writings of Latin authors on agriculture and its technology. It also contains descriptions by Cato of making mulled wine, Greek wine, straw wine, olive oil, the recipe of “Carthaginian soup” (made of oatmeal, cheese and honey), porridge, sweet-wine cake, pork tenderloin and mead or honey wine.

Printed by Filippo Giunta (1450–1517) who found his press in Florence in 1497. The Giunta family was one of the most prominent publisher families of the 16th and 17th century in Europe. They had presses – beside Florence – in Venice, Lyon, Antwerp, Burgos, Salamanca and Madrid thus the family had the most extended and developed book trading network at their time. Filippo published mostly Latin authors and also his contemporaries, Petrarch, Dante and Boccaccio. He worked together with the humanist Niccolò Angeli (1448–1532) who edited and prefaced several of the books (among them the “Libri de re rustica”) that were printed by Giunta.

[Vicaire 155.]

1300 €
BAKUNIN, THE FOUNDER OF ANARCHISM – APPEAL TO THE SLavs

Bakunin, Mikhail (Alexandrovich)

Odezwa do Slowian Przez Ruskiego Patriotę Michała Bakunina Członka Zjazdu Sławiańskiego w Pradze. [Appeal to the Slavs by a Russian Patriot, Mikhail Bakunin, Member of the Prague Slavic Congress.]


First Polish edition. Papered spine. Light foxing, otherwise in good condition.

The proclamation was first published in German, in December 1848 and it followed, presumably in a few weeks, the Polish edition. Early, scarce and important work of the founder of anarchism.

Bakunin (1814–1876) was member at the Pan-Slav Congress which was held in Prague, on June 2, 1848 and ended 10 days later when Austrian troops bombarded the city. After the event he wrote “Appeal to the Slavs”, in which he proposes that Slav revolutionaries unite with Hungarian, Italian and German revolutionaries to overthrow the three major European autocracies, the Russian Empire, the Austro-Hungarian Empire and the Kingdom of Prussia. However this work is not merely a statement of Bakunin’s Pan-Slavism but in many ways it anticipates his later anarchist attitudes (e.g. the peasants as revolutionary force; the destruction of the bourgeois social order; anti-parliamentarianism; federalism) and his commitment for the social revolution that – in his view – must be total, and take precedence over the political revolution.

“The Appeal to the Slavs” considered as the first call in history for the destruction of the Austrian Empire and the building of a Slav state on its ruins.

No copy located in the USA according to WorldCat.


4000 €
BANNISTER’S WORK ON THE NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS

[Bannister, Saxe]


London, 1822. Thomas and George Underwood (Thomas Davidson, Whitefriars). (8°); (4), 64 p.


Saxe Bannister (1790–1877) barrister and attorney-general of New South Wales, founder of the first infant’s school in Sydney, author of numerous pamphlets on behalf of natives in the colonies.

[Sabin 3220.; Howes B105.]

2000 €
VIEWS OF VERONA

Bennassuti, Giuseppe B.

Raccolta di vedute e monumenti antichi della città di Verona [...].
Recueil des vues et des monumens anciens de la ville de Verone [...].


Twelve elaborate aquatints of antique and medieval monuments and views of Verona: Arena, Porta Borsari, Castelvecchio Bridge, Basilica of San Zeno, Portoni della Bra, San Fermo Maggiore, Piazza delle Erbe, Piazza dei Signori, Scaliger Tombs, Sant’Anastasia Church, Colle San Pietro and San Giorgio in Braida. All engravings are signed “Della Calcographia Bennassuti in Verona”. The text gives a description of the monuments in Italian and French in parallel columns. With a list of art dealers in Verona on the back of the wrapper. WorldCat locates only one copy.

1800 €
ORIENTAL COLLECTION OF THE MEDICI LIBRARY
- BUILT BY MICHELANGELO

Biscionio, Antonio Maria

Bibliothecae Mediceo-Laurentianae Catalogus ab -- S. T. D. et Basilicae S. Laurentii Canonico ac Eiusdem Bibliothecae Regio Praefecto sub Auspicis Francisci Romanorum Imperatoris Magni Etruriae Ducis etc. etc. etc. Digestus atque Editus Tomus Primus [Secundus] Codices Orientales Complectens.

Florentiae (Florence), 1752. Ex Imperiali Typographio. [1] frontispiece, LV (including half-title and title page), (1) p., 9 plates, 199 p., 27 plates and 1 blank leaf (before the last unnumbered plate), 121, (1) p.

First edition. Folio. Two volumes in one. In contemporary rubbed vellum, foxing on edges of the last pages. With title label on spine, tinted edges. Title page in red and black with allegorical engraved figure. Magnificent typography, printed on thick paper. With numerous engraved initials and illustration in the text in addition to the 36 plates.
Catalogue of the Hebrew, Syriac, Arabic and Greek manuscripts at the Laurentian Library “Biblioteca Medicea Laurenziana” in Florence. The 9 engraved plates of the first volume showing the architectural details and ornaments of the Library that was planned and built by Michelangelo, the plates of the second volume showing illuminated manuscripts of the collection. Antonio Maria Biscionio (1674–1756) was a celebrated scholar and the appointed keeper of the Laurentian Library.

4000 €
BOLYAI’S SECOND BOOK

(Bolyai, Farkas [Wolfgang])


First edition. Printed in 500 copies. Bound in contemporary red maroquin, richly gilt with floral ornaments, inner edges gilt, corners slightly worn. Moiré endpapers. Spine with four raised bands. With old stamps of the Collegium of Marosvásárhely (where Bolyai was a professor) on title page.
The second book of Farkas Bolyai (1775–1856) the precursor of the non-Euclidean geometry. Beside mathematics Bolyai was committed to literature. He is one of the first Hungarian translator of Alexander Pope, John Milton, James Thomson and Friedrich Schiller and he was a prolific author of dramas and poems. “The Paris Trial” is his second drama-book, published in 1818 (some bibliographies dates erroneously to 1813 or 1817). It is a rather passionate and tough melodrama about the Jacobin Dictatorship. WorldCat locates only one copy worldwide.

5000 €
COLLOQUIES – ILLUSTRATED, EARLY EDITION

Erasmus, Desiderius – Rhenanus, Beatus

Familiarium colloquiorum formulae. Et alia quaedam per des Erasmum Roterodamum.


Colloquiorum is a collection of formal dialogues, provides examples of greetings some in ironic tone, and also informal conversations. First and early editions, like this copy, were only a textbook with simple questions and answers intending to teach a command of pure spoken Latin by actual practice. In the successive editions the content expanded until the final that was published in Erasmus’ lifetime, the March 1533 edition. Woodcut illustration on the title page of Saint Jerome depicts him as a scholar with a lion lays at his feet, it refers to the fact that Erasmus edited Saint Jerome’s works, thus identifying with the patron saint of translators. (Holbein’s portrait of Erasmus is showing him in study-like interior, such as the Renaissance depictions of the scholarly Saint Jerome). The further woodcuts (except the lower one on d₄r which is merely a horizontal ornament) are dealing with the concept of fools and the popular idea of the time the “Weibermacht”, the “Power of Women”. The two separate figures on d₅r are showing a jester,
as an allusion to Erasmus’ work “The Praise of Folly”, the other block depicts a woman, which is the representation of the fools in many satirical writings of the Renaissance. Illustration on e,r depicts Samson laying his head in Delilah’s lap, with houses and landscape in the background. Delilah holds scissors in her hand, cutting Samson’s hair to take away his strength. This is one of the most popular motifs of the “Weibermacht”, just as the story of Phyllis and Aristotle, the illustration at the end of the book. Phyllis the mistress of Alexander the Great rides Aristotle, Alexander’s teacher, who according the story retorted in this way when Alexander questioned him: “If a woman can make such a fool of a man of my age and wisdom, how much more dangerous must she be for younger ones?”

This work of Erasmus was first published by Froben in 1518 with the same preface by Beatus Rhenanus (1485–1547) which is a letter to Nikolaus and Crato Stalberger (Stalburg, Stalberg) sons of a wealthy Frankfurt merchant, in which he commending their keen interest in the classical languages. Their teacher in Paris and Louven, Wilhelm Nesen (1492–1524) is also mentioned in the preface, who was a student of Erasmus and from 1515 he was employed by Froben as a corrector, and in 1519 Erasmus invited him to teach at the University of Louven. Rhenanus praises Lambertus Hollonius (Lambert de Hologne, Hologne) a disciple of Erasmus, as the one who preserved the manuscript of “Colloquies”, that Erasmus thought permanently lost. It is unclear how Hollonius obtained the manuscript, he may have purchased one of the copies circulated or he may taken the manuscript from Erasmus’ rooms, where he formerly lived in Louven.

Erasmus later accused Hollonius of having threatened Froben with selling the manuscript to one of his competitors for a higher price, and he disowned the Basel edition in the preface of the first and expanded authorized edition of the work (Louven: D. Martens 1 March 1519). It is known that in 1518, around the publication of the first edition of the Colloquies, Hollonius entered the service of Froben as proofreader at the request of Rhenanus, most likely in exchange for the manuscript.

This edition lacks the colophon. Compared with the 1520 Gengenbach edition (VD16 ZV 5269) the typeface is identical, just as the two woodcut initials and the two woodcut blocks.

4000 €
Jacques Gaffarel (1601–1681) was a French scholar, priest and astrologer, interested in natural history and Oriental occultism, fluent in several Oriental languages. By an assignment of Cardinal Richelieu Gaffarel travelled to Italy, Greece and Asia to retrieve rare books for the Cardinal’s library. During this mission he collected manuscripts of Giovanni Pico della Mirandola (1463–1494) the Italian Renaissance philosopher, close friend of Girolamo Savonarola and Marsilio Ficino. Pico was introduced to Kabbalah, that was thought in this time as ancient as the Old Testament, therefore he accorded it an almost spiritual status. It is recorded that he spent enormous sums collecting books and manuscripts, among them Kabbalistic literature and Hebrew manuscripts. It was also said that he purchased a copy of the “Book of Enoch”, but in this catalogue, compiled by Gaffarel it is not recorded.
PHOTO ALBUM OF JAPAN, KOREA AND CHINA

(Japan – Korea – China)

Reise-Erinnerungen 1903. Photo Album of Ferenc Hopp’s travel to the Far-East.

60 original vintage photographs (various sizes; approximately 150 x 105 mm), tipped on 30 album card leaves.

In contemporary, ornamented cloth. In good condition. Inscribed by János Szinell, Hopp’s traveling companion.

Ferenc Hopp (1833–1919) was a Hungarian traveler, collector of Oriental artifacts and founder of the museum, where his collection is exhibited. Hopp made five tours around the world, this photo album is showing the main stations of his third journey: “Ferencz Hopp’s Travel Around the World through Siberia”. The album contains photographs of the beginning of the travel on the streamer “Siberia” that he took in San Francisco to Japan, Yokohama. The core of the album are the images from Japan, showing the daily life of the people, markets, costumes, festive gatherings, the sacred architecture of Japan, and also pictures of the Fifth National Industrial Exhibition in Osaka. Hopp, according to his travelogue, visited Yokohama, Tokyo, Kamakura, Odawara, Hakone, Hamamatsu, Kobe and Nara. Travelled also to Kyoto where he made photos of a festive gathering on the street (it is also included into this collection). Hopp continued his travel on a streamer to Nagasaki. From Japan he went to Korea, arrived to Busan and than visited Seoul, the album also contains pictures of this part of the travel. From Korea Hopp went to China, Tianjin (Tientsin) and Beijing where he visited the Forbidden City, than to Shanhaiguan which is documented in this album too.

Hopp continued his travel through Manchuria to Vladivostok where he took the Trans-Siberian Railway to Moscow, and than back to Budapest.


7000 €
BOSNIA - BATTLE OF BANJA LUKA

Manuscript Map of Bosnia

Neue und Vollkorn[e]ne Carten, des Königreich Bosnien, Samt
ihren darzugehörigen Provincien. Wie auch dessen Grosse und Kleine
Vestungen, Samt anderen Orthern, So Sich bis auff das 1737te Jahr
befinden und Solche angemercket worden Seyn.

1740. By Johannes Weingartner. 660 x 470 mm; 620 x 430 mm.

Manuscript, colored military map of Bosnia on linen with green silk
edges, by Johannes Weingartner. In very good condition.

Showing the borders and the fronts of the Habsburg Empire in
Dalmatia and the Ottoman Empire in Bosnia on the day of the battle
of Banja Luka, August 4, 1737. It was one of the main battles of the
Russo-Turkish(-Austro) War (1735–1739) in which the Ottomans
led by, Hekimoğlu Ali Pasha (1689–1758) grand vizier, defeated the
Austrians, who entered the war a month before in July, 1737.

With four vignettes of views of principal cities: Banja Luka, Bihac,
Sarajevo (written “Seraglio” on the map, which is equivalent to
“saray” or “serail” which means the governor’s palace in Turkish)
and Zvornik.

3000 €
WITH REFERENCES TO AMERICA

Mercator (Kremer), Bartholomäus (Bartholomaeus, Bartholemaeus)

Breves in Sphaeram Meditatiunculae, Includentes Methodum et Isagogen in universam Comographiam, hoc est, Geographiae pariter atque Astronomiae initia ac rudimenta suggerentes, authore -- Louaninan. Cum Indice rerum & locorum memorabilium.

Colonia (Cologne), 1563. Arnold Birkmann. (8°); A_1– A_8, b_1– i_8, k_1–k_4 (k_4 is blank); (76) leaves.

First edition. In later half vellum, with marbled hard paper panels. Printer’s device on title page. With woodcut initials, and several marginal and text illustrations and diagrams. Contains references to America.
Bartholomäus Mercator (1540–1568) was the second son of Gerhard Mercator, he was the assistant of his father in teaching mathematics at the University of Duisburg, and also helped him in creating the map of Lorraine (Lotharingiae descriptio; 1563–1564; uncertain if it was published). He died soon after graduating at Duisburg, this book is his only published work.

[VD16 K 2333.; not in Sabin, Church, or J. C. Brown; Report of the New York Public Library. 1922.; Bulletin of the New York Public Library, Vol. 27. 1923.]

10000 €
ISAAC NATHAN BEN KALONYMUS

Nathan, Mardochai [Mordecai, Isaac Nathan ben Kalonymus] – Anton Reuchlin (translator)

[Hebrew:] Sefer Yair Nativ. Concordantiarum Hebraicarum Capita. Quae sunt de Vocum Expositionibus, à doctissimo Hebraeo Rabbi --, ante CIX annos conscripta, nunc uerò in gratiam Theologiae candidatorum, ac Linguae Sanctae studiosorum, ad uerbum translatæ per M. Antonium Reuchlinum Isnensem, in schola Argentoratensi Linguæ Hebraeæ professorem. [...].


In contemporary vellum, stained, worn. Title on spine lettered in ink with floral ornament beneath. Title page restored. Printer’s device on last page. Foxing and water stain throughout.

Isaac Nathan ben Kalonymus was a French philosopher and controversialist of the 15th century. Came from the renowned Nathan family, which claimed its descent from King David. He is the author of the first Bible concordance and the division of the Old Testament into verses is attributed to him.

[Adams I. 188.]

2500 €
One of the most important books in the history of biology and neurology by Ivan Petrovich Pavlov (1849–1936) the Russian psychologist and physiologist. He performed and directed experiments and did research for 12 years on digestion before publishing his work “The work of the Digestive Glands” in 1897, that earned him the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine in 1904.

[Dibner 135.; Garrison and Morton 1022.]

1700 €
ALGERIA AND THE MAGHREB

(Rehbinder, Johann Adam Freiherr von)


First edition. 3 volumes, in contemporary blue paper, spines worn. Title pages affirmed by Japanese paper, otherwise all volumes in good condition.

Scarce first and only edition of the description of Algeria and the Maghreb by Baron Johann Rehbinder who served as the consul general of Denmark in Algeria for twelve years. During this time he traveled through the Maghreb and compiled his knowledge on the region, customs, traditions, costumes and history into this grandiose, almost 3000 page work. Illustrated with engraved plates (by Georg Vogel, Nürnberg) of costumes and buildings, vedutas, a large view of Algiers, and a large colored map of the region (by Philipp H. Moßner, Nürnberg, 1789). Also two folding charts with chronology and history of Algeria (included in the pagination).
The Russian Revolution in 1917 (8 March – 8 November) overthrew the Tsarist autocracy and led to the establishment of the Soviet state. One of the strongest Bolshevik organization outside of Moscow was in Tomsk. During the Revolution there were massive demonstrations organized by the Bolsheviks for the Soviet power. The center of these demonstrations and riots were at the University’s building (now: Tomsk State University) and at the now called Lenin Square. Two photos of the collection are showing these places. The photographer remained unknown, but most likely he was a Hungarian prisoners of war, as the 40 percent of the 600,000 Hungarian POW were held at this area (Tomsk, Omsk, Krasnoyarsk). The Hungarian prisoners of war in Tomsk were the most active pro-Bolshevik group among them and many of the later leaders of the Hungarian Soviet Republic in 1919 were imprisoned here, like Béla Kun and Ferenc Münnich.

The photographs are showing revolutionary gatherings, one is in front of the University, most of the people are in uniform, someone holds a placard with the word “земля” (soil). Other photos were made on the streets of Tomsk, picturing the Cathedral of the Epiphany at the now called Lenin Square, showing traditional wooden houses of the peasants, and the river port.
Semmelweis, J. [Ignaz] Philipp.

Zwei offene Briefe an Dr. J. Spaeth, Professor der Geburtshilfe an der k. k. Josefs-Akademie in Wien, und an Hofrath Dr. F. W. Scanzoni Professor der Geburtshilfe an Würzburg, von Dr. J. P. Semmelweis, Professor der Geburtshilfe and der königl. ungar. Universität zu Pest.


Ignaz Semmelweis (1818–1865) was a Hungarian physician, pioneer of antiseptic procedures, known as the “savior of mothers” because he discovered that the incidence of puerperal fever could be drastically cut by use of hand disinfection in obstetrical clinics. Despite the numerous publications of results where hand-washing reduced mortality, the idea was rejected by the medical community and Semmelweis was harassed by his colleagues. To response these insults he wrote and published rather angry and violent open letters, like these, to the prominent European obstetricians picturing them as irresponsible murderers. As a result Semmelweis’s friends and also his wife believed he was losing his mind and in 1865 sent him to an asylum. Ironically he died there of septicemia in 14 day later, possibly from the result of being severely beaten by the guards. His practice became accepted few years after his death, when Louis Pasteur developed the germ theory of disease, offering a theoretical explanation for Semmelweis’ findings.

[Waller 8834.; Norman 1928.]

1500 €
Saxoferrato, Bartolus de – Andrae, Johannes [Giovanni d’Andrea]

In utriusq(ue) iuris libros introductorium. Tractatus & processus diversi untriusq(ue) iuris: studiosis plurimis accomodati. Modus legendi abbreviaturas in utroq(ue) iure. Tractatus iudiciorum Bartholi legum doctoris. Tractatus renunciationum beneficior(m) in publicis instrumentis. Processus Sathanae infernalis & genus humanu(m). Ars notariatus. Sum(m)a Joannis andreae sup(er) secu(n)do Decretaliu(m). Arbor Co(n)su(n)itatis. Affinitatis. Joannis Andreae. (Arbor) Cognatio(n)is sp(irit)ualis. Conatio(n)is legalis.

_Basle, 1517. Adam Petri. A–O1–8, P1–4, Q1–6; (122) leaves._

In later paper. With contemporary marginal notes.
Third edition of this anthology after 1513 and 1514.

Bartolus de Saxoferrato (1313–1357) was an Italian lawyer and professor of law at Perugia, one of the most prominent jurists of Medieval Roman Law. Chief among postglossators, or commentators, a group of northern Italian jurists who wrote on the Roman civil law. He was already famous at his lifetime and later regarded the greatest jurist after the renaissance of Roman law.

Giovanni d’Andrea (ca. 1270–1348) was an Italian expert in canon law, the most renowned and successful canonist of the later Middle Ages.

2000 €
BLOOD LIBEL - THE FIRST FORMAL PROSECUTION IN EUROPE

Tiszaeszlár Blood Libel.

24 hand written letters and 29 telegrams with expression of gratitude during and after the Tiszaeszlár Affair from individuals and Jewish communities to Károly Eötvös (1842–1916, liberal politician, jurist, journalist and writer) the defense advocate of the Jews.

The letters sent from Germany (8), Austria (5), Poland (3), Bohemia (1), Hungary (4). 21 letters in German, 3 in Hungarian. 9 telegrams in German and 20 (1 double-page) in Hungarian.

Dates of the letters are between November 26, 1882 to September 4, 1883. Vast majority between August 3–10, 1883 right after the verdict of acquittal of the accused.

The Tiszaeszlar Blood Libel was an accusation of Jewish ritual murder in village Tiszaeszlar, Hungary. On April 1, 1882 a 14 years old Christian girl named Eszter Solyomosi disappeared. The rumor started to spread in the village that the Jews killed her in order to use her blood for the approaching Passover. This accusation led to the arrest, imprisonment and the six-week trial (June 19, 1883 – August 3, 1883) of 13 Jewish defendants. The course of the trial – which is considered the first formal prosecution in Europe for blood libel – was carried out in an atmosphere made tense by antisemitic propaganda and agitation. The trial was closed with the seven hour plea of Károly Eötvös, the counsel of defense, and resulted with the verdict of deliverance of the accused.

4500 €
Herrn \[\tilde{\text{h}}\]anzeu \[\tilde{\text{h}}\]

[Handwritten text in German]

[Signature]

Stettin, 6. August 1880.

[Signature]

K. \[\tilde{\text{h}}\]anzeu
EARLY CHARTER ON TOKAJ VINEYARD

[wine; Tokaj]

Charter of the Chapter of Eger (Hungary) from 17 October 1651.

One page manuscript in Latin on paper.

With the embossed seal of the Chapter of Eger. Artistically restored.
Charter regarding the Meszti family’s vineyard in Tokaj. Early and scarce document related to Tokaj wine region.

Tokaji is the most well-known wine in Hungary. Vineyards has been established in Tokaj as early as the 12th century but the rise as a major wine region can be dated to the early 16th century. In 1703 the Prince of Transylvania gave King Louis XIV of France numerous bottles of wine from his Tokaj estate as a gift. The wine was served and Louis XIV declared: “Vinum Regum, Rex Vinorum” (Wine of Kings, King of Wines).  

3000 €
AMERICA IN THE MID 19TH CENTURY – ILLUSTRATED

Xántus, János (Xantus, John de Vesey)


John Xantus de Vesey (1825–1894) was a Hungarian exile naturalist and zoologist. He was a Freedom Fighter in the Hungarian Revolution of 1848, and as a result a political refugee in the United States where he arrived in 1852. He became a stretcher-bearer in the US army where he met a surgeon William Alexander Hammond who acted as a collector for the renown zoologist Spencer Fullerton Baird. Through Hammond he became interested in natural history and became a talented collector. In 1859 he made an expedition to Baja California, which was almost unknown at the time. Xantus explored the entire surrounding region and many adjacent islands, he collected numerous unknown species of plants and animals. Baird stated that Xantus made “the addition of a larger number of new animals to our fauna than has been made by one person in any single region of North America before”. Several zoological and botanical taxa have been named for him. In 1862 Xantus was sent to the American consulate in the port of Manzanillo in southern Mexico. The consulate was closed two years later and Xantus returned to Hungary with part of his scientific collection that he later donated to the Hungarian National Museum. He became the appointed director of the Budapest Zoo and Botanical Garden and worked as a consultant and curator for the Hungarian National Museum. During these years he undertook several collecting trips through Asia and found more species previously unknown to western science. “Letters of János Xantus” was the first book he published about the nature of North America. It contains information of the early period of his career in America and about his expedition in Minnesota in 1855. The 37 letters to his family are dated from various places of his expedition like New Orleans, the Gulf of Iowa (the Hungarian settlements), the Great Plains, Kansas Territory and California between December 1, 1852 to July 5, 1857. Xantus reported on the flora and fauna and also on the life of the Native Americans, even a short dictionary of the Comanche and Wichita Indian languages is given. Parts of these letters were translated into English and published in the “Quarterly of the Southern California Historical Society” in the early 20th century, but the entire work only in 1975 (Letters from North America. Detroit, Wayne State University Press). The illustrations are reproductions of the original drawings of the author showing the customs and costumes of the Native Americans and detailed views of Los Angeles, San Gabriel and New York.

[Sabin 105715 and 35273 (under the name of the editor).; Wagner-Camp 316.]

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