Agriculture & animal husbandry
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Comprehensive 12th-century Arabic treatise on agriculture

1. **ABU ZAKARIYA ibn al-AWWAM**. Libro de agricultura. ...

Including:
— **BROECK, Victor van den**. Catecismo de agricultura.
— **VILLE, Georges**. Abonos químicos conferencias agrícolas.

Seville, Biblioteca Científico Literaria; Madrid, Victoriano Suarez (colophon: printed by Salvador Acuña y Comp., Seville), 1878. 2 volumes. Imperial 16º (18 × 11.5 cm). Later half turquoise sheepskin. € 1750

Second Spanish edition of a classic 12th-century Arabic treatise on agriculture, known in Arabic as Kitab al-filaha. Most of the book deals with agriculture, including fruits, vegetables, grains (including rice), legumes and cotton, with discussions of soils, the benefits of letting fields lie fallow, crop rotation, fertilizers, irrigation, pruning, grafting, ploughing, making preserves, and plant diseases. The last few chapters discuss animal husbandry, including horses and animal diseases. It was the most comprehensive Arabic treatise on the subject, incorporating large parts of the most important earlier works on the subject, most notably the work of Ibn Wafid. Zakariya also made use of classical Greek sources.

With bookplates. Slightly browned and with two or three leaves with minor marginal defects, but still in good condition. Bindings very good. A comprehensive practical guide to agriculture, originally written in Arabic ca. 1185.

512; 552 pp. REBUIN (4 copies!); cf. Schnurrer 425 (1802 ed.). ☞ More on our website
87 beautiful views of bovine animals, bound for presentation to the French Ministry of Agriculture

2. BAUDEMENT, Émile. Les races bovines. Études zootechniques.
Paris, Imprimerie Nationale, [1864]. 2 volumes (text & plates). Oblong 2º (36 × 49.5 cm). With 5 hand coloured maps and 87 numbered plates. Contemporary red half morocco, gold-tooled spine, gold-blocked boards with the note “offert par le Minstre de l’Agriculture”, gilt edges. € 2950

Presentation copy of one of the most beautifully produced works on cattle, by the “zootechnician”, Émile Baudement (1810–1864). The 87 plates of bovine animals are arranged by origin, each region with its own part-title: England, Holland and Denmark, Switzerland and Germany, (the empire of) Austria, and France. Many of the excellent plates are after photographs by Adrien Nadar. Artists like Emile van Marcke, Isodore Bonheur and Barye contributed to this work. “The plates were produced by a mixed process of photographic transposing on to a metal plate (heliography) followed by handwork of various kinds—soft ground etching, mezzotint and aquatint, the background tint being achieved by lithography” (Boalch).

While regular copies are bound in green half roan, with plain cloth sides, the present set is bound in red half morocco, with gold-blocked red cloth sides with the note “offert par le Minstre de l’Agriculture”. All copies include a preliminary “rapport” on the work by this ministry on two letterpress pages. Some minor, professional restorations to the spines and the atlas volume with a discolouration and an endleaf partly detached. Some occasional foxing, but otherwise in very good condition.

[6], lxxiv, [2]; [4], [10] pp. D.H. Boalch, Prints and paintings of British farm livestock; Nissen, ZBI 257.☞ More on our website
The productive and profitable aspects of the natural world


Amsterdam, Isaak Tirion, 1744. 8º. With title-page printed in red and black with woodcut vignette, and 29 engraved folding plates (numbered I–XVII and XX–XXXI: there were no plates XVIII or XIX), each showing several botanical and zoological illustrations. Contemporary vellum. € 975

First and only edition of the Dutch translation of a philosophical overview of nature by Richard Bradley (1688–1732), examining minerals, flora and fauna, in an attempt to demonstrate their practical applications, particularly in agriculture. It is therefore an early example of the conceptualization of the productive and profitable aspects of the natural world. It also includes a description of infertile lands in England with suggestions for improvements, a description of gardens in Great Britain with improvements for the growing of fruit trees, and a chapter on the maintaining of grapevines. It was first published in English in 1721 as *A philosophical account of the works of nature*. The present edition is translated from the second English edition of 1739, which adds an appendix on fleas and lice, Flemish agriculture and some suggestions for speeding up the growing process of several crops.

“Bradley was a prolific science writer, … His style was clear and readable, and his reputation immense; indeed, his publications did much to encourage a scientific approach to gardening and husbandry” (DSB).

Minor dampstain on the bottom of the inner margins of the first 15 leaves and some leaves slightly browned. Spine a bit soiled. Very good copy.

Cultivation experiments with oats

4. **BRUZELIUS, Carl and Engelbert JÖRLIN**. Avena elatior, knyl-hafre eller fromental.
Lund, C.G. Berling, 1781. 4º. With a folding engraved plate. Disbound. € 300

Scarce dissertation of Bruzelius, with cultivation experiments with oat. With Jörlin as praeses. Reprinted in 1783 and 1796 together with Jörlin’s “Specimen Botanico Oeconomicum siftens Trifolium Hybridum” (1780).
In good condition.
[4]. 24 pp. *Cat. Linnean Soc.*, p.400; *Krok, Jörlin 6*; *WorldCat* (3 copies). ☞ More on our website
Coloured Austrian cattle

5. [CATTLE]. Abbildungen österreichischer Rindvieh-Racen.
Vienna, Kaiserliche Konigliche Hof-und Staatsdruckerei, 1859. With 27 numbered chromo-lithographed plates. Oblong 2º text volume (34×46 cm) in original cloth-backed lithographed wrappers, the plates (each 33.5×45.5 cm) loose as issued, preserved together in the original gold- and blind-stamped blue cloth box (36.5×50 cm).

Rare and finely produced work on cattle with 27 plates of bovine animals after photographs taken on the *Landwirthschaftliche Ausstellung* in the Augarten (Vienna), held in May 1857. The plates are divided into 9 categories, arranged per species, area or country where they originate from: Pinzgau, Mürztal, Lavanttal, Tyrol, Voralberg, Egerland, Mahren, Hungaria, and foreign species (including cattle from Switzerland, and Württemberg, Germany).

The text volume supplies each plate with an explanatory text. In the 1850s, the Imperial printing office in Vienna pioneered many new printing techniques.

Spine and edges of box slightly worn; library stamp on title-page; some foxing throughout. A fine work on cattle with chromo-lithographed plates.

xii, 24 pp. *KVK* (5 copies); *Nissen, ZBI* 4518. More on our website
Anthrax in the 18th-century


Second, considerably enlarged edition of a work on veterinary medicine dealing with the livestock disease anthrax or splenic fever, by the French veterinarian Philibert Chabert (1737–1814), director and general inspector of the school of veterinary medicine. In this treatise Chabert warns of the deplorable hygienic conditions in which many farm animals live and tries to illuminate the causes of the epidemics that decimated French livestock in the eighteenth-century. It discusses not only sheep, cattle and horses, but even dogs (the first paragraph already notes that it attacks “animaux domestiques”).

In very good condition, with only occasional minor foxing. An interesting treatise on anthrax.

How to manage a country house and estate, with 24 woodcut illustrations


Amsterdam, Michiel Colijn, 1622. 2º. With the title-page in a richly illustrated woodcut border and 24 woodcut illustrations in text. Contemporary vellum, with leather ties; recased. € 3500

Rare sixth edition of the Dutch translation of a popular work on agriculture by the French writer Charles Estienne (1504–1564), physician and King’s printer in Paris. He collected and edited several treatises on different aspects of agriculture and country housekeeping, such as planting trees and creating gardens, including an herb-garden, vineyards etc., keeping cattle, fish and bees, distilling, cheese-making, even creating a park for wild animals. Besides using existing treatises he also added much new information based on his own experiences. The woodcut illustrations show animals, plants, furnaces and ovens. Sebisch (Sebizius) enlarged the Dutch edition with sections on sundials, land surveying and wolf-hunting, the latter a translation of Jean Clamorgan’s La chasse du loup. With the bookplate of “Domenicus Wilhelmus de Vries jzn.” on paste-down. Margins frayed, slightly affecting the woodcut title-page, marginal thumbing, some small spots and some water stains. Binding with a few stains. Overall in good condition.

Very rare treatise on the cultivation of tobacco, printed in the Philippines

8. [GOVANTES, Felipe Maria de]. Estudios ó cartilla sobre el cultivo del tabaco Filipino.
Binondo, J. de Loyzaga and company, 1869. 8°. Later green stiff paper wrappers, red paper spine. € 2500

Very rare study on the cultivation of tobacco in the Philippines. Arents identified the author as Felipe Gobrantes, but it seems more likely that the author was Felipe Maria de Govantes, who published several historical studies on the Philippines. The treatise comments on the proper soil and appropriate areas for planting tobacco plants, describing the Philippine island Luzon and other fertile provinces. Other sections deal with irrigation, fertilization, pesticides, sowing, harvesting, preparing the tobacco, etc.
Spine damaged, front wrapper detached. Internally in very good condition, with a manuscript correction on page 3 and page 8.

11, [1 blank] pp. Arents 1831; not in KVK; Vindel, Bibliotheca Filipina; WorldCat. More on our website
A rare work on the oil-bearing Chinese radish

9. GRANDI, Francesco de. Istruzione sulla coltura del rafano oleifero Cinese e relative manifatture dell’ olio.
Torino, Fea, 1793. 8º. With an engraved folding plate of a machine used for the oil production. Contemporary wrappers charmingly decorated in pink.

Rare first edition of a treaty on the Chinese oil-bearing radish, by Francesco de Grandi. Wishing to extend the production of oil for the growing consumption, the Patriotica Societa of Milan decided to reward the person that would come with a method to achieve this. As Francesco de Grandi had heard of the production of oil from radish in China, described by Linnaeus, he decided to take the challenge and in 1787 sowed 12 seeds of the radish. His experiment was a great success, and he was rewarded. This work contains information about the properties of the radish, the best circumstances for sowing, the grain harvest, the preparation of the seed, the extraction and conservation of the oil. With a letterpress bookplate on paste-down. With a small stain on the title-page, otherwise in very good condition. Paper wrappers damaged along the spine and somewhat frayed along the margins.

Beautiful large botanical drawings by Bordeaux students, including the first work of the painter Léon Hamonet

10. HAMONET, Léon, Z.J. & J.Z. BARRÈRE, Lucien LAURENT and Joseph GAUBAN (artists). Cours de botanique appliquée à l’agriculture, au commerce et à l’industrie. Bordeaux, [1892?]. Royal 2º (42 x 29.5 cm). Manuscript in pencil, ink, watercolours and gouaches on wove paper, with a calligraphic title-page, table of contents, divisional-titles, headings and captions, and 23 full-page and 3 double-page drawings, most entirely and the others partly in colour, and a double-page chart. Contemporary green half sheepskin. € 4850

A beautifully illustrated manuscript course in applied botany, including agricultural, viticultural and medicinal plants as well as some used for manufacturing cloth, pigments and other industrial products, including the earliest work of the painter Léon Hamonet. It is clearly built around the twenty spectacular flower drawings, which show 21 species from 19 genera. The album was produced at least partly and probably entirely by students at a Bordeaux boarding school, Pensionnat Jean-Baptiste de la Salle, established in 1874. The double-page chart shows wine production in the Département de la Gironde (the area around Bordeaux) for the years 1847 through 1891. Except for two of the trees in the preliminaries, all the drawings were signed by the five artists named above, who executed four to six drawings (or groups of drawings) each. Hamonet, who was about fifteen years old, produced all the drawings in the three “Ennemia de la vigne” double-page spreads and two of the large botanical drawings. The texts accompanying the botanical drawings were written by ten different authors, probably also students at the school. Léon Hamonet (1877–1953) was to gain fame as a painter in oils and watercolours, especially for his seaside landscapes. The calligraphic leaves are very slightly browned, and the ink used for some of them has made a thin brown shadow around the letters, but the manuscript is still in very good condition, with the colours fresh and bright. The binding shows some old water damage, the stubs and plain endpapers are somewhat brittle and are tattered as a result and the marbled front paste-down has separated from its conjugate free endleaf at the inside front hinge.

More on our website
On the alsike clover

11. HARDTMAN, Christian Fr. and Engelbert JÖRLIN. Specimen botanico oeconomicum sistens trifolium hybridum. Lund, Berling, 1780. 4º. With a woodcut tailpiece. Disbound. € 200

Hardtman’s dissertation of the alsike clover (Trifolium hybridum), with Engelbert Jörlin as praeses.
In good condition.
14 pp. WorldCat (5 copies). More on our website

Luxemburg, J. Belfort, 1886. 8º. With 23 albumen prints, mounted on thick paper, with letterpress captions below, showing Russian cattle and horses awarded prizes in international competitions. Original publisher’s gold- and blind-blocked red cloth. € 1200

Rare first and only edition of an account of a journey to Russia by a professor at the School for Agriculture in Ettelbruck in Luxembourg, with the purpose of studying farming and horse and cattle breeding in Russia. The book treats all aspects of Russian rural life, including the social and economic position of Russian farmers, the climate, soil, the buildings, the manner of cultivation, the various products of the soil, forestry, apiculture, the breeding of farm-horses and cattle, etc. Most of the photographs show Russian farm-horses and prize-cattle. The author also discusses the Agricultural Museums at Petersburg and Berlin, and tells about the founding of an Agricultural Museum near his own school at Ettelbruck.

With a presentation inscription on half-title: “A Madame Sophie de Bilderling | Hommage respectueux de l’auteur | Kunnen”. Spine damaged, hinges weak and fly leaves detached. Slightly browned throughout, but text and photos otherwise in good condition.

vii, 143, [1 blank] pp. KVK/WorldCat (6 copies); not in Cat. Russica. More on our website
On German mushrooms, mosses, cereals and grasses, with 111 hand-coloured engraved plates


With:

(2) **LOBE, William.** Die Gräser der Wiese und des Waldes. Aus der Landwirtschaftlichen Flora.

(3) **EBBINGHAUS, Julius.** Die Pilze und Schwämme Deutschlands. Mit besonderer Rücksicht auf die Anwendbarkeit als Nahrungs- und Heilmittel, so wie auf die Nachtheile derselben.

(4) **REDSLOB, Julius.** Die Moose und Flechten Deutschlands. Mit besonderer Berücksichtigung auf Nutzen und Nachtheile dieser Gewächse.

Four botanical and mycological works, all published in Leipzig by Wilhelm Baensch in 1863, bound together, all with hand-coloured engraved plates.

Ad 1: First edition of a work on cereals and legumes by William Löbe. The hand-coloured plates show two or more types of grains and wheat, accompanied by a description on the text-leaves. Also included is a list with both the Latin and German names of the plants.

Ad 2: Rare first edition of a work on grasses growing in German meadows and forests, also by William Löbe. Each plate depicts several species of grass.

Ad 3: First edition of a survey of edible and poisonous mushrooms in Germany by Julius Ebbinghaus. The 32 plates depict different mushrooms together with on the text-leaves brief descriptions of their appearances, and mentioning whether they are poisonous or not.

Ad 4: First edition of a work on German mosses and lichen by Julius Redslob, with 32 hand-coloured plates. With the bookplate of Theodor Wolf on paste-down. Ad 2 lacking two plates (XX–XXI “Systematische Uebersicht der Gattungen”). Occasionally some minor foxing or some small spots. Some pages bound in the wrong sequence. Binding rubbed. Overall in good condition.

[8], 54; vi, 72; [6], viii, 64; [4], 96 pp. Ad d/z: cf. Pritzel 5562 (third edition); ad 3: Nissen, BBI 577, Volbracht 529; ad 4: BMC NH, p. 1661; Staufen & Cowan 8753. More on our website.
Manual for the cultivation of mulberry trees

14. NIRSO, Tomas Sabattinno. Instrução sumaria sobre o modo de cultivar as amoreiras, e de crear os bichos da seda, offerecida ao Illmo. e Excmo. Senhor Marquez de Pombal.


First and only edition of a manual on the cultivation of mulberry trees for the purpose breeding silkworms, in order to encourage silk production in Portugal. It was published during a period of economic reforms instituted by the Marquês de Pombal, to whom this work is dedicated, aimed at the encouragement of Portuguese manufacturers, especially of luxury goods, in order to reduce the export of capital.

Internally in very good condition, only a few small spots. Binding damaged, most of the spine gone, part of the marbled paper covering the boards torn off.

96 pp. Innocêncio VII, p. 375. ☞ More on our website
Illustrated study of Fetal deaths by a pioneering veterinarian

15. NUMAN, Alexander. Waarnemingen omtrent het langdurig verblijf boven den gewone dragtijd van gestorvene jongen bij de moeder-dieren.
Amsterdam, C.G. Sulpke, 1831. Large 4º (28 × 22.5 cm). With 6 engraved anatomical plates (4 folding, 2 coloured and 2 partly coloured). Also published in the proceedings of the Instituut van Wetenschappen. Contemporary stiff grey-paper wrappers. € 475

Rare separate issue of Numan’s study of pregnant horses, sheep and especially cows that fail to give birth after the normal gestation period, either as a result of or causing the death of the fetus. He also discusses the dangers to the mother. The illustrations show calf and lamb fetuses taken from slaughtered animals or naturally aborted, as well as the uterus and kidneys of a sheep with a long dead lamb fetus. The illustrations are very finely engraved, most with a note indicating the scale, by Daniel Veelwaard, probably the elder (1776–1851), and the whole luxuriously produced on excellent paper (the plates on wove paper by Jan Kool & Co.) with generous margins.
The present essay appeared both in the Nieuwe Verhandelingen der eerste klasse van het Koninklijk-Nederlandse Instituut van Wetenschappen, vol. 3 (1831), pp. 27–71, and in the present much rarer separate publication, where only the plates refer to the journal. It appears to have been overlooked in the medical and zoological literature.
In fine condition and virtually untrimmed. The wrappers are slightly damaged at the spine, but still very good. A beautiful copy of a rare and well-illustrated essay by a pioneering veterinary researcher.

[i], [i blank], 47 pp. KVK & WorldCat (3 separately listed copies apparently taken from the proceedings); not in BMC NH; Cole Library; Landwehr, Coloured Plates; Nissen, ZBI. ☞ More on our website
A detailed study of the botfly, with 6 hand-coloured plates


€ 2500

Rare separate issue of Numan’s detailed and beautifully illustrated study of the larvae of the equine botfly (family Oestridae), an internal parasite of horses. The author, Alexander Numan (1780–1852) discusses the different species of botfly found in the stomachs of horses, the way the eggs are transferred to the intestines, their growth and development, the effect on the health of the host animal, and the various ways they can be removed. The essay appeared both in the Nieuwe Verhandelingen der eerste klasse van het Koninklijk-Nederlandsch Instituut van Wetenschappen, and in the present much rarer separate issue, where only the plates refer to the journal.

Numan is best known for his essays on the Keil dysentery epidemic of 1810 (1812) and on cow pox (1831).

The wrappers are slightly damaged at the spine, but still very good. A fine copy of a rare and well-illustrated essay by a pioneering veterinary researcher.

[2], 143, [1 blank] pp. KVK (1 copy); NCC (4 copies); not in Garrison & Morton; Landwehr, Coloured plates; Nissen, ZBL. More on our website
Agriculture & economy in Tuscany

17. [PAOLETTI, Ferdinando]. Pensieri sopra l’agricoltura.
Florence, Giovanni Battista Stecchi and Antonio Giuseppe Pagani, 1769. Large 8° (21.5×14 cm). With engraved headpiece, a large engraved folding plate showing a pruned and an unpruned mulberry tree with letterpress instruction for pruning, and a large letterpress folding table. Contemporary paperboard wrappers. € 3950

First edition of “thoughts on agriculture” by the Italian priest Ferdinando Paoletti (1717–1801), who spent much of his time studying agriculture to help his parishioners cultivating the land. The work specifically treats agriculture in Tuscany and mostly concentrates on economic theory.

Paoletti was a follower of the Physiocrats, who believed that the wealth of nations was derived solely from agriculture, and believed in the good effects of free trade. “Yet he supported, in his Veri mezzi, taxes on luxuries, the idea of aiding the exportation of commodities not of the first necessity such as oil, wine, etc.; and in his Pensieri protective duties to encourage agriculture” (Inglis Palgrave).

A follow-up was published in 1772 as I veri mezzi die render felici le società, which was later discussed by Karl Marx.

With bookplate on title-page. The large engraved plate isn’t clearly mentioned in the literature and is likely a later addition. With only a few unobtrusive stains and the binding slightly soiled and with the spine chipped. Very good wholly untrimmed copy.

[2], 6, III–XX, 168 pp. Einaudi 4285; Goldsmiths’-Kress 10528.10–2; ICCU SBLE 001708; Inglis Palgrave III, p. 57. ☞ More on our website
Description of Cuba’s population, agriculture and commerce around 1860


First edition of an important demographic and economic description of Cuba by the Galician politician Ramón de la Sagra (1798–1871), who lived in Cuba for several years and was appointed professor of natural history of Cuba. The chapters deal with the island’s population, agriculture, communication, trade, navigation and administration. The chapter on agriculture contains detailed information on the sugar, coffee and tobacco industry. Only a few small spots. Binding only slightly rubbed along the extremities. Overall in very good condition.

[4], 282 pp. Sabin 74913. ☞ More on our website
From a series of “the finest engravings of flowers ever made” by the teacher of Redouté


[Paris, 1799–1801]. Stipple engraving on unwatermarked wove paper (54 × 39 cm), printed in colour à la poupée and finished by hand, of a corncob, with 6 leaves and part of the stalk, on a stone wall, signed “P.F. Le Grand sculp.” In passepartout. € 2750

Magnificent illustration of a corncob with leaves printed in colour and delicately finished by hand. Maize is a cereal grain first domesticated by indigenous peoples in southern Mexico and has become a staple food in many parts of the world. It is originally part of a series of flower prints by Gerard van Spaendonck, the only engraved work published during his lifetime, “entitled Fleurs dessinées d’après Nature, which contains twenty-four magnificent drawings, brilliantly interpreted in stipple by P.F. Le Grand and other engravers. These are probably the finest engravings of flowers ever made” (Blunt) and “they are among the most breath-taking series of plates in the [Hunt] library” (Hunt). The series was originally published in 6 parts with 4 plates and available printed in black, printed in colour, or (as in the present case) printed in colour and finished by hand.

Gerard van Spaendonck (1746–1822) was a proponent of the Dutch school of floral painting. He singlehandedly transformed the genre of flower painting in France, where he managed to unite the realism of the Dutch school with the suave elegance of the French school. In 1780 he became Professeur de Peinture de Fleurs at the Jardin des Plantes. Among his many pupils was Pierre Joseph Redouté.

Minor restoration to the foot margin and some minor other blemishes also in the margins, all along the edges and covered by the passepartout. The illustration itself is in very good condition.

Van Boven & Segal, Gerard & Cornelis van Spaendonck, pp. 178–184, no. 12; for the series: Blunt, pp. 175–176; Dunthorne 1938; Hunt 673 note; Nissen, BBI 1879. ⇒ More on our website
A voyage to India and China, edited by Linnaeus


Milan, Les Freres Recyendus, 1771. 12º. Contemporary blue paper wrappers. € 2400

First edition of the French translation of an account of the travels of the Swedish botanist Olof Torén (1718–1753), who served as chaplain to a Swedish East India Company voyage to China and India in the years 1750 and 1752. Torén recounted his voyage in a series of letters in Swedish to his former professor Linnaeus in Uppsala. During his travels, Torén sent many of the plants he found to Linnaeus, who even named one of the plants after him, the *Torenia*. Torén died shortly after finishing his travels, so Linnaeus himself decided to edit and publish the letters. The text is especially valuable for its botanical and agricultural information. With a bookplate on paste-down. Occasionally some minor foxing around the margins, otherwise in very good condition, wholly untrimmed.

92 pp. Cordier, Sinica col. 2098; Lust 355. ☞ More on our website
**Curious work on agronomy**


Budißin, Johann Georg Hüneln, 1714. 2 parts in 1 volume. 8º. With title-page printed in red and black, 12 engraved plates and 1 small engraving and 7 woodcuts in text. Contemporary vellum. € 750

Second German edition of *Curiositez de la nature et de l’art sur la végétation* (Paris, 1705) by Pierre Le Lorrain de Vallemont, translated into German by Ferdinand Ludwig von Breßler und Aschenburg. De Vallemont (1649–1721) deals with many aspects of gardening and agronomy, including advice on cultivating grain, fruits, trees, but also on how to make an estate profitable. The work became very popular and went through numerous editions.

The second work, with a half-title following p. 456, is a German translation of *L’art ou la Maniere particuliere & seure de tailler les arbres fruitiers* (Amsterdam, 1697). The author of the preface states that it was written by a *Liebhaber* and translated into German, but it is most likely an excerpt from Jean de La Quintinye’s work on pruning of the same title.

With the bookplate of C. Otto G. Wibom on paste-down. Binding slightly soiled, otherwise in very good condition.

[Cf. Arnold Arboretum, p. 714; Brunet V, col. 1061; Graesse VI, p. 251; Hunt 410; Nissen, BBI supp. 2037n, 2037na; not in BMC NH; Cat. Lindley Libr; Cat. Linnean Soc.; Pritzel.](https://example.com) ☞ More on our website
One of the most influential works on agricultural chemistry

22. WALLERIUS, Johan Gottschalk (praeses) and Gustaf Adolf GYLLENBORG. Agriculturae fundamenta chemica, Åkerbrukets chemiska grunder, ...
Uppsala, 1761. 4º. Contemporary stiff paper wrappers. € 495

First edition of a thesis on the role of chemistry in the development of agriculture, by the Swedish Count Gustaf Adolf Gyllenborg (1743–1789) and with the Swedish chemist and mineralogist Johan Gottschalk Wallerius (1709–1785) as praeses. It established the notion that the chemical composition of both the plants and the soil were to be comparatively studied, which became the basic principle of agricultural chemistry. “In accord with the utilitarian tendencies of the time, Wallerius, as professor of chemistry, was called upon to show what his knowledge could contribute to economic social life. ... Wallerius’ interest in agriculture naturally led him to pursue agricultural chemistry, especially since agriculture was of great importance for the national economy. His research proved so basic and of such scope that he was called the father of agricultural chemistry” (DSB). The text is included in Latin with the Swedish text on the parallel page.

With a manuscript owner’s inscription on paste-down and title-page and a bookplate on paste-down. Occasionally some minor marginal foxing, internally otherwise in very good condition. Binding discoloured and worn along the spine, with a small hole in the front board.

Richly illustrated work covering fruit, vegetables, cereals and numerous other edible plants


€ 1500

Four volumes on botany of the second edition of the Unterhaltungen aus der Naturgeschichte, an encyclopedic work compiled by the German Protestant pastor and naturalist Gottlieb Tobias Wilhelm (1758–1811). The present volumes, number three to six, form a unity, covering fruits, vegetables, herbs, cereals, and plants from which oil and sugar can be extracted. The engraved plates depict various fruit trees (also including more exotic fruits like banana, mango and pineapple), wheats, cereals, corn, legumes, nuts, potatoes, cabbage, mushrooms, herbs, spices and many more edible plants, occasionally including illustrations of the cultivation and processing of the plants. The sixth volume closes with an index to volume three to six.

Occasionally some minor foxing, a few marginal water stains and a few small spots or stains throughout. Bindings slightly rubbed, volume six worn with front hinge cracked. Overall in good condition.

More on our website
Austrian folk medicine and magic, covering about 400 ailments in horses and about 50 in people

24. Wolfgang S. Ein Gerecht und Wohl Aprobierte Haus Apodeken oder Pferd Arztnei Buch

With: (2) Eine Agadami dass ist Arzney Mittel vor Menschen zu gebrauchen.

[Upper Austria, part 1 of 1st work dated 1812 at end]. 2 works in 1 volume, the 1st in 2 parts. 2º (35 × 22.5 cm). A practical manuscript handbook in brown and black ink on paper, written in German in a German gothic hand and with numerous headings and paragraph openings in a variety of decorated gothic styles. With an elaborately decorated main title-page in at least 6 colours, the title-page of part 2 of the main work with decorative lettering and flowers in brown and red with a half-page colour drawing of a bleeding horse in the foreground of a landscape with a partly ruined castle, a church, a stone entry and other buildings, and the title-page to the 2nd work with decorated lettering and a crowned figure of death (a skeleton with scythe and hourglass). Further with drawings of 2 magical signs to protect people and livestock, and a vase of flowers and a scene with 2 buildings as tailpieces. Contemporary blind-tooled half calf.

€ 14 000

A remarkable Austrian manuscript in German, richly and elaborately decorated in numerous colours, devoted primarily to veterinary medicine and pharmacology for the treatment of horses, but also discussing the treatment of other livestock and with the second (shorter) work devoted to the treatment of humans. It gives instructions for preparing and using many medicines, the main work covering about 400 ailments and the work for human medicine about 50. The slightly primitive landscape on the title-page of part 2 shows a horse standing in the foreground with what appears to be blood streaming from 12 points on his body. Several headings toward the end of part 2 announce sections on ailments caused, cured or warded off by magic, including “Zauberische Kranckheiten der Roß” (p. 110) and “Ein bewertes Styck [= Stück] vor Zauwerey fur Mensch und Viech dieses bey Sich zu Tragen, und den Vuch im Stall Angenagelt” (p. 117). The latter includes two drawings of the signs that are to be carried around or nailed up[?] in the stall. They look rather like alchemical signs.

With one or a few small and unobtrusive worm holes near the foot of the page through most of the manuscript, some stains and restorations in the gutter margin of the first few leaves and an occasional minor stain or smudge on other leaves, but still in good condition. The binding is worn and shows some restorations. A fascinating and elaborately decorated manuscript devoted primarily to the treatment of medicine ailments in horses, mixing folk remedies with magic.

[2 blank], [2], “97” [= 96]: [2], 117, [1 blank], [13], [5 blank]: [2], 53, [135 blank] pp. + 2 paste-downs. ☞ More on our website
Managing a farm,
together with a treatise on improving husbandry

25. [YOUNG, Arthur]. Rural oeconomy: or, essays on the practical parts of husbandry. Designed to explain several methods of conducting different farms. 

Including: HIRZEL, Hans Kaspar. The rural Socrates: or, a description of the oeconomical and moral conduct of a country philosopher.

London, T. Becket, 1773. 8º. Contemporary tree calf, gold-tooled spine. € 350

Second edition of a work on husbandry and farming by the English agriculturist Arthur Young (1741–1820). It deals specifically with the management of farms and advises how to maximise all resources: labor, crops, livestock etc. “Young uses lists and tables that order and quantify every detail to determine the best “proportions” of livestock to crops, of grass to turnips, of live-in servants to men hired by the day ... Journals, minute notebooks, and ledgers proliferate in his advice to gentlemen farmers” (Helsinger). Included is a treatise on the improvement of husbandry by the Swiss doctor Hans Kaspar Hirzel. “By the advice of the rural philosopher, the Swiss peasants were encouraged to attend the meetings of the Physical Society of Zurich. There every one gave an account of his method of husbandry, and received proper advice from the Society” (The monthly review). Included at the end are some letters concerning the treatise, several of which are by Victor Riquetti, marquis de Mirabeau (1715–1789), who considered it “one of the most useful books that ever was published” (p. 388).

With inscription on first blank. Some occasional minor foxing, and a small corner torn of page 227. Binding worn along the corners and spine. Overall a very good copy.

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