Earth Sciences

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First edition of a work on mineralogy by the French geologist and mineralogist Alexandre Brongniart (1770–1847), intended as a textbook for the mineralogical courses given by Brongniart and René Just Haüy at the Faculté des Sciences and the Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle. “For this purpose, the author created a simple classification system based primarily on physical properties, but also influenced by Haüy’s crystallographic theories. Brongniart insisted that studying how minerals occurred as well as their properties would lead to a better understanding of their origin” (Schuh). The engraved plates depict crystals and mining instruments and mechanisms. With an armorial bookplate on past-down of both volumes. Bindings rubbed. Internally in very good condition.

xii, 564; [4], 443, [1] pp. Schuh 869; Sinkankas 953; Ward 331.

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"a landmark in the history of geology" (DSB)

5. CUVIER, Georges and Alexandre BRONGNIART. Description géologique des environs de Paris ... Nouvelle édition, dans laquelle on a inséré la description d’un grand nombre de lieux de l’Allemagne, de la Suisse, de l’Italie, etc., qui présentent des terrains analogues à ceux du bassin de Paris.

Paris and Amsterdam, G. Dufour and E. d’Ocagne, 1822. Large 4° (30 × 22.5 cm). With a folding handcoloured engraved map, a folding engraved plate, and 16 lithographed plates (1 handcoloured). Modern half morocco. € 1500

First edition of the wholly revised and expanded version of the *Géographie minéralogique des environs de Paris* (1808), “a landmark in the history of geology” (DSB III). In this work the zoologist and palaeontologist Cuvier (1769–1832) collaborated with the geologist Brogniart (1770–1847), who did most of the work, in surveying the region of the Paris basin to determine the order of the strata in which Cuvier had found fossils, to determine their relative ages. “The significance of Brongniart’s stratigraphy of the Paris “basin” was quickly recognized. The general nature of stratified sedimentary rocks and the importance of observing their order of superposition were commonplaces in geology before his time. The highest, and therefore most recent, stratified deposit that could be recognized over a wide area was the Chalk, … Brongniart’s work proved that above the Chalk was a complex series of stratified rocks, many of them evidently formed by very slow deposition. By implication, therefore, the time that must have elapsed since the end of the Chalk period was greatly extended. …

Second, the strata showed an alternation between marine and freshwater conditions, countering the earlier assumption that all stratified rocks had been deposited in a gradually shrinking ocean... The third important feature of Brongniart’s stratigraphy was his use of fossils for the detailed correlation of strata. … Brongniart’s work demonstrated the value of precisely collected and identified fossils as criteria for tracing a detailed series of strata, …” (DSB II). By 1822 Brogniart “had travelled widely enough to be able to describe strata, equivalent to those of the Paris, region from many different parts of Europe” (DSB II). All this new information, together with the information published in the *Géographie minéralogique* was compiled to form the the *Déscription géologique des environs de Paris*.

With a few pencil annotations. Binding lightly worn at the extremities. With the half-title foxed and discoloured, a waterstain in the outer margin of the final 20 pp. and the folding-plates with some tearing; a good copy.

[3], [1 blank], [1], [1 blank], viii, 428 pp. For the authors: DSB II, pp. 493–497 & III, pp. 521–528. ☞ More on our website
Fossils from the Triassic and Cretaceous period in Sussex

6. DIXON, Frederick. The geology and fossils of the tertiary and cretaceous formations of Sussex.
London, Richard and John Edward Taylor, 1850. Large 4º (32 × 24.5 cm). With a hand-coloured lithographed frontispiece and 44 lithographed and engraved plates (including 2 coloured by hand and 2 double-page). Contemporary green cloth, new endpapers. € 700

First edition of a richly illustrated geological and palaeontological description of Sussex, England, during the Triassic and Cretaceous period, by Frederick Dixon. The work was published posthumously and edited by the British biologist and palaeontologist Richard Owen (1804–1892). The text is divided into three parts, the last part being a catalogue of numerous animal and vegetable fossils excavated in different areas. The first part describes the formations in Selsey, Bracklesham Bay, Bognor, Worthing and the Sussex coast. The second part compares the chalk formations in Sussex to those in Europe. Each plate depicts between 4 and 30 fossils. Some foxing. Spine restored. Overall in very good condition.

First scientific study of the St. Pietersberg at Maastricht

8. **FAUJAS DE SAINT-FOND, Barthélemy.** Natuurlijke historie van den St. Pieters Berg bij Maastricht. ... Uit het Fransch door J.D. Pasteur. Amsterdam, Johannes Allart, 1802. 8º. With an engraved title-page with a small illustration by D. Vrijdag, a folding engraved map and folding engraved plan of the St. Pietersberg, and numerous illustrations of minerals and fossils on 52 folding engraved plates. Contemporary half calf, gold-tooled spine.

First edition of the Dutch translation of a geological study of the St. Pietersberg near Maastricht, the Netherlands by Barthélemy Faujas de Saint-Fond (1741–1819), a French geologist and assistant of Buffon at the Museum of Natural History in Paris. When in the course of the French Revolution the Netherlands became part of France, Faujas de Saint-Fond came to explore the St. Pietersberg near Maastricht. He collected a mass of fossils, and published his natural history of the Sint Pietersberg, which represented the first scientific study about this now famous carbonate mountain. The work was richly illustrated with newly engraved plates showing the caves, fossils, and minerals. It became the favourite school book on the subject, especially in Limburg.

Slightly browned, with some occasional, mostly marginal, small spots and some of the margins slightly frayed. Binding worn along the extremities, with the marbled paper sides heavily scratched. Overall in good condition.


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Strata and fossils from Cretaceous Saxony, with 25 lithographed plates


First edition of an “excellent monograph of the strata and the fossils of the Cretaceous rocks in Saxony and Bohemia” (Zittel), by the German geologist Hanns Bruno Geinitz (1814–1900). The hand-coloured frontispiece depicts a geological profile of the earth from a tunnel between Leipzig and Dresden. The lithographed plates depict numerous fish, insect, crustacean and mollusc fossils found in strata. “The Saxony district was examined by H.B. Geinitz, who tried to determine two paleontologically distinct zones in the Productive formation, a lower zone exhibiting chiefly Sigillarian remains, and an upper with Calamites and ferns in greater profusion” (Zittel).

With several library stamps (with deaccession stamp). Some minor foxing. Binding slightly rubbed. Overall in very good condition.

On volcanic activity and earthquakes


First edition of a lecture on volcanoes and earthquakes, held at the “wissenschaftliche Verein” in Berlin by Heinrich Girard. Based on historic examples, Girard discusses the manifestations of volcanic activity, eruptions, earthquakes and the development of mountain ranges. According to Girard, ocean water penetrates into the fiery centre of the earth. The water damp seeks an outlet via volcanoes or, if they are blocked, may cause earthquakes. The folding plate at the end contains four illustrations: a map of the area around Naples, the Vesuvius before and after the eruption of 1794, and a Roman archaeological site, which had been covered under volcanic dust for centuries.

Slightly foxed, paper wrappers damaged and front wrapper detached, otherwise in good condition.

32 pp. Cf. Poggendorf I, cols. 904–905; not in Hoover; Ward; Zittel. ☞ More on our website
On the relation between plants and minerals

13. HENCKEL, Johann Friedrich. Flora saturnizans, die Verwandtschaft des Pflanzen mit dem Mineral-Reich, nach der Natural-Historie und Chymie aus vielen Anmerckungen und Proben ...
Leipzig, Johann Christian Martini, 1722. 8º. With engraved frontispiece showing a mining operation, and 9 engraved plates. 18th-century vellum. € 2800

First edition of a study of the relation between plants and minerals, generally recognized as Henckel’s first major work. He “described in his many books … the best early accounts of arsenic, zinc, and a variety of pyrites” (Hoover). Henckel compares the formation of minerals to the growth of plants, used chemical techniques, recognizes the alkali content of plants, already present to some extent in living specimens but increased by burning, and finally describes a method for making blue glass. The illustrations include both living and fossil plants, as well as a shell.
Johann Friedrich Henckel (1678–1744) worked as a physician in the mining town of Freiberg in Saxony. In 1730 he was appointed councillor of the mines and was able to establish a large laboratory, where he resumed his course in metallurgical chemistry, which became renowned throughout Europe.
With early manuscript annotations on endpapers and title-page. Trimmed close to the text of the title-page, dedication and frontispiece, just shaving the corner of the frontispiece but with no significant loss. In good condition.

Account of an important mining voyage


First edition of a comprehensive and well-illustrated treatise on theoretical and practical metallurgy, published by Gabriel’s brother, M.G. Jars, who had accompanied him on his journey through Belgium, Holland, Norway, Sweden, Germany, England and Scotland. “Ce livre très estimé, offre, non un itinéraire, mais divers mémoires sur les mines des pays visités par l’auteur: elles sont décrites avec beaucoup d’exactitude; Jars donne leur histoire, les règlements et la forme de leur administration, le mode de leur exploitation ...” (Quérard). The plates show accurate layouts and cross-sections of mines, shafts, mining equipment, and some are maps with mining veins indicated.

Some slight foxing, slight waterstain outer margin in volumes 2,3; vol. 3, p. 87 lower corner torn off; some damage to binding. Well-preserved copies on wide-margined paper with attractive plates of this classic work on mining.

Important geological classic on the “subterranean world”

15. KIRCHER, Athanasius. D’onder-aardse weereld in haar goddelijk maaksel . . .
Amsterdam, heirs of Johannes Janssonius van Waesberge, 1682. 2 volumes bound as 1. 2º. With engraved frontispiece, engraved coat of arms of the dedicatee, Thomas Ernsthuyys, 15 engraved plates (mostly double-page) and numerous woodcut and engraved illustrations in the text. Contemporary blind-tooled vellum, each board with a large centrepiece in a double panel of fillets. € 14 500

First Dutch edition of a major scientific work Kircher, covering many branches of science, including physics, geography and chemistry. Kircher’s “subterranean world”, is an extensively illustrated mixture of odd speculation with genuine insight. It includes chapters on the Andes mountains, the Iroquois Indians in Canada, the Strait of Magellan and gold & silver in America. “Major topics include gravity, the moon, the sun, eclipses, ocean currents, subterranean waters and fires, meteorology, rivers and lakes, hydraulics, minerals and fossils, subterranean giants, beasts and demons, poisons, metallurgy and mining, alchemy, the universal seed and the generation of insects, herbs, astrological medicine, distillation and fireworks” (Merrill).
With three owners’ inscriptions on the title-page. With frequent pencil marks, a leaf with contemporary manuscript annotations tipped in and another loosely inserted. With some quires slightly browned and an occasional marginal water stain or similar minor defect, but otherwise in very good condition. Binding soiled, joints and hinges professionally restored.
French translation of an early English mineralogical work


First edition of the French translation of a well-known mineralogical work by the Irish chemist, mineralogist and geologist Richard Kirwan (1733–1812). The original English was first published as *Elements of mineralogy* in 1784, and was “the first systematic mineralogy in English that classifies minerals by their chemical composition” (Schuh). The book opens with a preface, in which Kirwan discusses the position of mineralogy within science in Britain, comparing it to progresses made in France, Germany and Scandinavia. “He concludes that mineralogy must be considered a branch of chemistry. In this regard, Kirwan follows Cronstedt and uses the latter’s basic classification, subjugating the mineral species into earths and stones, salts, inflammables and metals, based upon the species’ chemistry” (Schuh).

With a small bookplate and owner’s inscription on title-page. Internally in very good condition, only a few tiny spots. Binding very slightly rubbed and slightly damaged at the foot of the spine. Overall in very good condition.

[4], xlvi, 432 pp. Schuh 2678; Ward 1264. ☞ More on our website
Important poem on the magical and medicinal qualities of precious stones

17. MARBODE of Rennes. De gemmarum lapidum pretiosorum formis, naturis, atq; viribus eruditu[m] cu[m] primis opusculu[m], ... scholiis q[uo][ue] illustratu[m] p[er] Alardu[m] Aemstelredamu[m].

Cologne, Hero Alopecius [Fuchs], 1539. 8º. With a woodcut illustration on the title-page, representing a Jewish priest behind a board with the names of 12 stones which represent the 12 tribes of Israel. 17th-century gold-tooled red morocco, richly gold-tooled spinel, gold-tooled fillets and small cornerpieces on both boards, gold-tooled board edges and turn-ins. € 12 500

Perhaps the best of the seven 16th-century editions of an influential treatise in verse on the virtues of precious stones, compiled by Marbode of Rennes (1035–1123), archdeacon and schoolmaster at Anjou, later bishop of Rennes. Beside the magical powers of the 60 precious stones treated in this poem, it also lists medicinal qualities, and is hence often seen as a medical treatise. The first printed edition of the text appeared in 1511, edited by the German physician Georg Pictorius (ca. 1500–1569). The present edition was edited by the Dutch humanist Alardus Amstelredamus (1491–1544), who “had a much more complete and correct manuscript than Pictorius so that this edition contains 100 more verses of the original poem” (Schuh). Alardus added extracts from various writers, including Plinius and Dioscorides, and also included Pictorius’s commentaries. The preliminaries include two letters from the mysterious Arabian King Evax to Tiberius, annotated by Alardus.

With the bookplate of the Prince of Liechtenstein on paste-down. Some minor damaged on the title-page, some ink underscoring, some minor marginal foxing. Binding only very slightly rubbed. Overall in very good condition.

124, [2] ll. Adams M519; Caillet 7102; Schuh 3229; Sinkankas 4173; Thorndike I, pp. 775–782; VD16, M 932. ☞

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Jurassic strata in Württemberg

Tübingen, H. Laupp, 1851. 8°. Contemporary boards covered with paste-paper. € 400

Enlarged second edition of an important treatise on strata from the Jurassic period by the German mineralogist Friedrich August von Quenstedt (1809–1889). The work can be seen as a precursor of Quenstedt’s famous work Der Jura, published in 1858. Quenstedt distinguished 18 zones from the Jurassic period in the earth of Württemberg based on petrifications and paleontological features. He describes the various stones, petrifications and fossils found in the strata, paying attention to different species and the quantity of fossils in specifying areas and periods. Included at the end is a list of fossils and petrifications.

Lacking first flyleaf. Some minor foxing. Binding rubbed along the extremities. Overall in good condition.

Comprehensive mineralogical textbook


First edition of comprehensive mineralogical textbook by the German mineralogist Friederich August von Quenstedt (1809–1889). “It begins with a short history of mineralogy, which is followed in the introductory portion by discussions of goniometers, crystallographic notation and methods of projection, descriptions of the crystal systems, Haüy’s and Levy’s crystallography, optics, polarized light, optical properties, and pseudomorphs. The descriptive portion of the text reviews the reasons for systematic mineralogy and then presents the descriptive mineralogy. A reference list concludes the work” (Schuh). The illustrations mostly depict various forms of crystallization.

Binding slightly worn along the extremities. Some minor foxing, mostly in the first few pages. Otherwise in very good condition.

viii, 728 pp. Schuh 4000; Zittel, p. 145. ☞ More on our website
**Descripive catalogue of the mineralogical cabinet of the Paris School of Mines**


First and only edition of a descriptive catalogue of the mineralogical cabinet of the Paris School of Mines, established a year earlier in 1783. At the time it was one of the most complete collections in Europe. “The specimens are ordered by chemical qualities, which had been determined through experimentation and blowpipe analysis. Brief descriptions and locality information are provided for each entry, but the overall content is scant on information” (Schuh). Without the scarce supplement of 156 pages which was published in 1787. A few occasional spots, but otherwise in very good condition. Boards rubbed and spine worn, but the binding is structurally sound.

xvi, 487, [i blank], xi, [i blank] pp. Schuh 4241; Sinkankas 5685. ☞ More on our website
"A large and highly important treatise on gemstones", from the library of the Earl of Derby

24. **STREETER, Edwin William.** Precious stones and gems, their history and distinguishing characteristics.
London, Chapman & Hall, 1877. 8°. With 5 chromolithographed plates (including frontispiece), a title-page printed in red and black, 2 lithographed plates, 2 photographs mounted on plates, and 2 illustrations in text. Contemporary red morocco, gold-tooled spine with 2 title-labels, and with the arms of the Earl of Derby in gold on front board (bound by Stooker, London). € 750

First edition of a “large and highly important treatise on gemstones” (Sinkankas) by the London jeweller Edwin William Streeter. “Section 1 contains chapters defining gemstones, their occurrences, ancient uses, lapidary treatment, and commerce. The next three sections take up the mineral gemstones and provided for each a description which includes remarks on properties, deposits, varieties, etc. The last section is on pearls and coral” (Sinkankas). The two photographs show diamond mines in South Africa, the chromolithographs depict precious stones and intricate jewels.
First flyleaf, half-title and frontispiece detached from book block. Leaves browned and apart from the first three leaves, not damaged. Binding discoloured along the spine. Overall in good condition.
ix, 265, [i] pp. Sinkankas 6594; not in Schuh. ☞ More on our website
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