Herbals & medical botany

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265 beautiful botanical lithographs of medicinal plants, coloured by hand as published


Rare work on Dutch medicinal plants, and one of the first scientific works illustrated with lithographs in the Netherlands, printed in an edition of only 125 copies. The plates, coloured for the publisher, show flowers (including roses and orchids), fruits, berries, nuts, cactuses and trees. Among the plants are tobacco, cacao, cannabis, sugar cane, pepper, eucalyptus and vanilla. The book was originally issued in 54 parts from 1829 to 1838, with part 1 containing 5 plates printed by Van Sander and Co. and published by J. C. Sepp en Zoon. Anslijn was apparently not satisfied with their work, so the publication was transferred to Du Mortier en Zoon, apparently in 1830, and the printing of the plates to Met and Meylink, who lithographed and printed plates 1–5 anew. When Anslijn set up his own press to print the plates beginning with plate 121, he began to experiment with the technique, often exchanging the hard outline for a softer stipple. Du Mortier and son published the completed book in 4 volumes with title-pages dated 1832, 1834, 1836 and 1838, each with a list of the plates in the preliminaries. A few plates slightly soiled around the extremities, but otherwise a very good unbound set, wholly untrimmed.

Materia medica of the vegetable kingdom

2. BERGIUS, Peter Jonas. Materia medica e regno vegetabili, sistens simplicia officinalia, pariter atque culinaria. Stockholm, Peter Hesselberg, 1778. 2 volumes. 8º. Contemporary calf. € 850

First edition of a *materia medica* of the vegetable kingdom by the Swedish physician and botanist Peter Jonas Bergius (1730–1790). It opens with an introduction, followed by the description of 571 herbs and plants, arranged according to their classification. The entries contain the plant’s names, habitat, appearance and properties, and note for which ailments and diseases they can be used and how they can be processed for simple and compound medicines.

Internally in very good condition. Bindings very slightly rubbed, binding of volume 1 stained on the front board and spine, otherwise in good condition.

[16], 448; [2], 449–908, [17], [1 blank] pp. Blake, p. 43; Krok, Bibliotheca botanica Suecana, p. 76; Wellcome II, p. 148. ☞ More on our website
Description of plants in Leiden University’s botanical garden: first edition

3. **BOERHAAVE, Herman.** Historia plantarum, quae in horto academicico Lugduni-Batavorum crescent cum earum characteribus, & medicinalibus virtutibus.

Rome [printed in Leiden?], Francesco Gonzaga[?], 1727. 2 volumes bound as 1. Large 12º. Contemporary calf (rebacked ca. 1900), gold double fillets and sheepskin spine label on spine. € 1750

First edition of Boerhaave’s description of the plants in Leiden University’s botanical garden. It gives an account of the various species, including the origins of the plants, their names, characteristics and possible medicinal properties. It includes trees, herbs, flowers, mushrooms and marine plants, including an account of cannabis and many American, East Indian and other exotic plants. Upon his appointment as professor of medicine and botany at Leiden University in 1709, Herman Boerhaave (1668–1738) automatically became head of the botanical garden. He published his first catalogue of plants, *Index plantarum*, in 1710, and added more than two thousand species by the second edition in 1720, reflecting Boerhaave’s extensive additions to the garden. Although the present work carries Boerhaave’s name, it is believed to have been prepared by one of his students with the aid of lecture notes. It therefore provides insights into Boerhaave’s teaching methods.

With an embossed library stamp of the English botanist Alfred James Wilmott (1888–1950). With the sewing to one quire loose and with minor damage to the gutter fold of its outer bifolium, not approaching the text, but otherwise in good condition. The binding is scuffed and chipped, with cracks in the spine. Important botanical first edition giving insights into Boerhaave’s teaching methods.

The last great pre-Linnaean botanical catalogue, recording 5850 plants in the Leiden botanical garden, with 40 plates

4. **BOERHAAVE, Herman.** *Index alter plantarum, quae in Horto Academico Lugduno Batavo aluntur.*

Leiden, Boudewijn and Pieter Jansz. vander Aa, 1727. 2 volumes. 4º. With 40 engraved plates (3 folding, including 2 printed from 2 copper plates each), 1 showing a plan of the botanical garden and the others showing plants. Contemporary half roan, covered with plain paper at an early date. € 1950

Definitive second edition (second issue) of Boerhaave’s famous catalogue of about 5850 plants in the botanical garden at the University of Leiden. This second edition, first published in 1720 adds more than 2000 plants to the 1710 first edition and is especially rich in South African plants. It shows the remarkable growth of the collections under Boerhaave’s direction. Hunt calls the first edition “a provisional list” compared to the present “monumental work ... the last comprehensive work with generic descriptions published before Linnaeus’ *Genera plantarum* of 1737”. Herman Boerhaave (1668–1738) was appointed professor of botany in 1709 and took over the direction of the Leiden University botanical garden. The plants had not been catalogued since his predecessor Paul Hermann published *Florae Lugduno-Batavae* in 1690. His first task therefore was to prepare an up-to-date catalogue for both himself and his students. With the owner’s inscription of the Bruges pharmacist J.B. Sobry, dated April 1847, and several dozen manuscript annotations in the margins. Sobry’s names appears several times in the pharmaceutical literature, mostly in relation to experiments with chemical processes. Traces of removed library stamps on the title-pages, the paper covering the bindings heavily worn, but internally in very good condition, with only some thumbing to the first few leaves of each volume. Wholly untrimmed, with all deckles intact.

Rare pocket handbook of practical herbal medicine

5. BRUNFELS, Otto. Epitome ex gravissimis authoribus, totius rei medicae summam complectens, ... congesta: nuper verò emendata et locupletata. Paris, Guillaume Julian, 1552. 16o (11.5 × 7.5 cm). Old limp parchment. € 2500

Fourth(?) edition of a rare pocket handbook of practical herbal medicine, in Latin. The tiny separately published editions probably served as simple handbooks for many practicing doctors and clerics who tended the sick. It includes numerous, often alphabetical lists of plants, each covering a different category according to their botanical or medical characteristics or the ailments they can ameliorate.

Otto Brunfels (ca. 1464–1534) took an interest in the healing powers of plants, moved to Switzerland and became a physician and one of the most important fathers of modern botany.

With several early owners’ inscriptions, a bookplate and a library stamp. With 2 letters in 1 note very slightly shaved, a corner of a couple leaves torn off, and a few marginal stains, otherwise still in good condition.

104 ll. Adams B2922; for Brunfels: Greene, Landmarks of botanical history II, pp. 241–270. More on our website
Medical properties of wood avens


Hinges slightly damaged, very good copy.

60 lovely illustrated poisonous plants and fungi


Vienna, Reilly, 1807. 8º. With 60 hand-coloured engraved plates. Contemporary paste-paper boards.

Rare first and only edition of a description of 60 poisonous plants and fungi found in the Austrian pharmacopoeia, each illustrated with a lovely hand-coloured engraving. It gives extensive descriptions (ranging from 1 to 11 pages), including comparisons with similar looking plants. Plants included are the Opium poppy, belladonna, curcuma, Garcinia gummi-gutta tree, etc. and several species of mushrooms such as the fly agaric.

In the preface the “Gesellschaft” who published the work, lists the names of the people who helped them compose the volume: Joseph Franz and Nikolaus Joseph von Jacquin, Leopold Trattinnick, Franz Bredemeyer, Ignaz Joseph Pessina, but most of all Anton August Castelliz.

A very good copy, with only a few spots to the title-page and one plate printed on paper with a slightly blueish hue.

211, [1 blank], [9], [3 blank] pp. Plesch, p. 346 (“livre peu common qui semble avoir été neglige par les bibliographes”); Volbracht 722 (Plesch copy); WorldCat (8 copies).

More on our website
The prototype off all house-hold manuals, well illustrated, including Ibn Sirin’s book on dream interpretation

8. **COLER, Johann.** Oeconomia ruralis et domestica darin[n] das gantz Ampt aller trewer Hauß-Vätter, Hauß-Mütter, beständiges und allgemeines Hauß-Buch, ...

Including: [**IBN SIRIN, Muhammad**] and Johannes LEUNCLAVIUS (translator). Traumbuch apomasaris, das ist: kurze Ausslegung und Bedeutung der Träume, nach der Lehr der Indianer, Persianer, Egypter und Araber.

Mainz, Nikolaus Heil, 1665. 3 parts in 1 volume. 2º. With engraved title-page, 24 engraved and 101 woodcut illustrations in text and several woodcut examples of foreign scripts. The engravings include one large astrological illustration, 12 charming views of the seasons (it starts with a lovely ice-skating scene for January, followed by carnival celebrations for February, planting trees for March, etc.), an allegorical view to 12 of the chapters and one illustration of distillation equipment. The woodcuts mostly show plants, animals and distillation equipment. Contemporary vellum; recased, with new endpapers. € 2500

Well-illustrated late 17th-century edition of the prototype off all house-hold manuals, originally published by Johann Coler (1566–1639) in instalments (1593–1603), based on the writings of his father Jakob (1537–1612). “The book was written to show how to take of all aspects of the estate ... Taken as a whole, the economy included: cultivating, sowing, and harvesting fields; gardening; procuring wood; caring for horses; attending cattle; herding sheep; raising swine; overseeing dogs and cats; tending poultry; brewing beer, brandy, and vinegar; producing honey; hunting wild animals and birds; fishing; preparing herbs and medicines; and nursing the sick. The Colers instructed their readers on poisonous plants, fertilizing, weights and measures, and hedges” (M.W. Gray).

Added is a German translation of the Great book of interpretation of dreams (**Tafsir al-Ahlam al-kabir**), attributed to the 8th century Muslim mystic and interpreter of dreams Muhammad Ibn Sirin (d. 729). With an owner’s inscription on title-page and a library stamp on its back. Engraved title-page slightly browned and with a few tears and restorations, a couple marginal (restored) tears throughout and the binding recased and with a few stains, but otherwise very good and complete.

Commelin’s last and most extensive catalogue of the Amsterdam botanical garden, with 441 plants

9. COMMELIN, Caspar. Horti medici Amstelaedamensis plantarum usualium catalogus. Amsterdam, [1724]. 12º. With engraved frontispiece by Jan Goeree showing the gates to the Hortus Medicus and a woodcut Amsterdam coat of arms on the title-page. 18th-century boards covered with red paste-paper. € 1500

Third enlarged edition of a catalogue of medicinal plants at the Hortus Medicus in Amsterdam, containing 441 numbered descriptions. It is the last of three editions produced by Commelin (1667/68–1731), whose uncle Jan Commelin had been the garden’s botanist to his death in 1692. Caspar was appointed to the same post in 1695 and professor of botany in 1706. The title-page is undated, but the preliminaries contain both Commelin’s 1698 note to the reader from the first edition and his new note to the reader dated 15 March 1724 for the present edition. The garden’s new entry gate was built in 1715 and Goeree engraved the present frontispiece showing it for the second edition of Commelin’s catalogue, published in that year. This work should not be confused with Commelin’s Hortus medici Amstelodamensis plantae rariores et exoticae, 1706, a supplement to his uncle’s Hortus medici Amstelodamensis rariorum tam orientalis, 1697–1701.

With library stamp. Lacking the second of the 2 final blank leaves. In good condition. Most extensive edition of Commelin’s catalogue of medicinal plants in the Amsterdam botanical garden.

[8], 107, [3 blank] pp. Pritzel 1835; STCN (7 copies); D.O. Wijnands, Botany of the Commelins, 1983, p. 13. ☞ More on our website
Extensive Belgian herbal, with sections on gardening

Gent, H. Hoste; L. Hebbelynck, 1848–1849. 4 volumes. 8º. With a double-page lithographed plate. Modern half calf, gold-tooled spine. € 650

Rare first edition of an extensive herbal compiled by the Belgian landowner Lievin-Amand Delathauwer. As he states in the preface, Delathauwer wished to create a herbal in the Dutch language, as an addition to the many French works. It opens with a preface and introduction, followed by a general chapter covering all the different components of a plant. Next is a section on gardening and classification of plants and herbs. The majority of the work consists of descriptions of herbs, arranged alphabetically, mentioning the plant’s habitat, characteristics and special properties if there are any. Each volume closes with an index for that volume. The fourth volume also contains a chapter on plant cultivation, plant diseases and pesticides.

With a collector’s label on title-page. Only very slightly browned with a few minor spots, overall in very good condition.

[6]. 435, [1 blank] pp. Anet (3 copies); BMC NH, p. 437. More on our website
Popular work with many medicinal and household recipes, also including Kircher on magnetism

11. DIGBY, Kenelm, Nicolaus PAPINIUS and Athanasius KIRCHER. Theatrum sympateticum, ofte wonder toneel der natuurs verborgentheden. ... Benevens twee waardige vervolgen, van veele zeldsame antipathien en sympathien. Als mede, hoe dat de dieren, planten, metalen, &c. zonder zaad of voortteelinge konnen voort komen, ... Vierde druk. Amsterdam, Nicolaas ten Hoorn, 1727. 8°. With an engraved frontispiece by Jan Luyken. Contemporary vellum. € 1750

Rare fourth edition of the Dutch translation of a popular work on medicinal herbs, plants, minerals etc. with recipes. It starts with the Theatrum sympateticum, divided into two parts, by the English diplomat and philosopher Kenelm Digby (1603–1665). The first contains notes on medicinal herbs and plants curing everyday ailments, the second explains how to make the “powder of sympathy”, “a potion which allowed the healing of the wound by treating the weapon which caused it” (MacDonald), and includes extracts from works by Papinius and Sylvester Rattrat. The powder of sympathy could also be put on a bandage that had been in contact with the wound, without ever touching the wound. Digby’s work is followed by ’t Groote licht der natuurkunde by Athanasius Kircher (1602–1680), a work on magnetic forces and the influence of the moon, sun and planets on the earth. The book closes with extracts from Digby’s memoirs containing recipes for “new” medicines, including mostly household and cosmetic recipes, like face powder for women and water to whiten teeth.

Slightly browned, mostly in the margins, engraved title-page closely trimmed, but with no loss of the image. Binding slightly soiled. Overall in very good condition.

[12], 528, [24] pp. STCN (1 copy); WorldCat (5 other copies); for Jan Luyken see: Klaversma & Hannema 441 + 442 (first and third edition); cf. P.S. MacDonald, Kenelm Digby’s two treatises (2013), p. 6. ☞ More on our website
Hand-coloured plates of 96 plants and flowers, with comments on their medicinal properties

12. GOOD, Peter Peyto. Good’s family flora. A materia medica botanica, containing the botanical analysis, natural history, and chemical and medical properties of plants. [Volume 1]: New York, J.K. Wellman (back of title-page: S.W. Benedict), 1845; [Volume 2]: Elizabethtown, by the author, [1847]. 2 volumes. 8º. With a tinted lithographed frontispiece in each volume and 98 hand-coloured lithographed plates. Contemporary blind-blocked black cloth. € 750

First edition of a practical flora by Peter Peyto Good (d. 1875). Both parts contain 48 plants and flowers, all depicted on the hand-coloured plates, with two plates showing the classification of the vegetable kingdom in the second volume. Each plate is accompanied by four pages of descriptive text, covering the plant’s classification, names, characteristics (essential, secondary, specific and artificial), natural history and chemical and medical properties and uses. The first volume contains a preface, a table of contents and a glossary, and the second volume includes some recommendations, a table of contents and an introduction to the study of botany. Both volumes have a printed “Notice of removal” leaf bound in, stating the author’s new address in Cambridge, MA, instead of Elizabethtown, NJ. The first volume has some leaves of advertisements bound in at the end. With two bookplates on paste-down. Some marginal spots or stains. Bindings only slightly rubbed along the extremities. Overall in very good condition.

Not in Nissen; Stafleu & Cowan. More on our website
Rare herbal intended for apothecaries


Dresden, Johann Nikolaus Gerlach and son, 1764. 8º. With an engraved plate showing the annual flowering plant Chenopodium botrys. Contemporary boards, spine strengthened with marbled paper. € 1250

Rare first and only edition of a basic herbal intended for apothecaries, giving descriptions of ca. 750 plants. All entries are alphabetically ordered using Linnaean plant names and are followed by the common name in German, other nomenclature, a visual description and a specification of the parts used for medicine. The anonymous author writes in the preface that he had help from an experienced botanist, but curiously enough, while the descriptions are clearly carefully written, no mention is made of any medical qualities. Usual minor foxing, but otherwise in very good condition, boards slightly soiled and rubbed along the extremities, but otherwise good.

[8], 724, [2] pp. VD18 10578978; Waller 11695; WorldCat (9 copies). ☞ More on our website
Exotic and other plants in the Leiden botanical garden, with 107 full-page engravings

14. HERMANN, Paul. Horti Academici Lugduno-Batavi catalogus exhibens plantarum omnium nomina, quibus ab anno MDCLXXXI ad annum MDCLXXXVI hortus fuit instructus ut & plurimarum in eodem cultarum & à nemine hucusque editarum descriptiones & icones ...

Leiden, Cornelius Boutesteyn, 1687. 8º. With engraved frontispiece and 106 full-page engravings on integral leaves (at least 1 by Jacob Harrewijn). Contemporary gold-tooled calf.

First edition of a botanical catalogue of about 3300 plants in the botanical garden of Leiden University (106 illustrated), compiled and apparently drawn by Paul Hermann (1640–1695). Hermann had only recently introduced many to Europe from the East Indies, Ceylon, the Cape and America. Most entries give the Latin name of the plant with references to the literature; some give more detailed descriptions. Hermann, born in Halle an der Saale, sailed with the VOC (Dutch East India Company) to Ceylon in 1672 and collected many plants there. As a professor of botany and medicine at Leiden University, he directed the University botanical garden from 1679 to his death in 1695. He made it the richest garden in Europe during the Dutch golden age, always looking over his shoulder at his leading competitor, Jan Commelin at the Amsterdam botanical garden. “He did excellent, vigorous work in depicting his plants” (Hunt). His premature death prevented publication of a planned second part.

With bookplate and initial stamp. With a stain in the gutter of some quires, slightly affecting the lower inside corner of the last few engravings, slightly foxed throughout and a few quires slightly browned, but generally in good condition. The binding is worn, with a crack in the back hinge and the leather flaked. An extensive and well-illustrated catalogue of plants in the Leiden botanical garden.

[20], 699, [1] pp. Hunt 378; Nissen, ZBI, 859; South African bibl., p. 345; Staefeu & Cowan 2684. ☞ More on our website
The cultivation of tobacco in Tuscany

15. [LASTRI, Marco]. Della coltivazione e manifattura libera del tabacco in Toscana. Discorso economico letto in un' adunanza de' georgofilo il di VI. luglio MDCCCLXXIV.

Florence, Bonduccia, 1789. 8º. Disbound, loose in later wrappers. € 250

Rare booklet on the cultivation and manufacturing of tobacco in Tuscany, written by the president of the Academy of Agriculture in Florence, Marco Antonio Lastri (1731–1811). It contains brief sections on the history of the tobacco plant, its cultivation, uses, etc. Most of the text deals with the introduction of tobacco plants to Tuscany, the manufacture of tobacco, and whether it harms the region's grain production. With a manuscript note on the title-page and traces of a removed owner's(?) inscription. The two quires only loosely attached to each other. Overall in very good condition.

40 pp. The New England farmer V, p. 188; ICCU (6 copies); WorldCat (1 additional copy); cf. Einaudi 3241–3243 (other works by Lastri); not in Arents. ☞ More on our website
On the cultivation of fruit trees
and the the planning of a herb and flower garden


Hannover and Wolfenbüttel, Gottfried Freytag, 1702. 2 parts in 1 volume. 12º. With engraved frontispiece. Contemporary half vellum, recased with modern endpapers. € 1650

Third edition of the German translation of a detailed and well-known work on the cultivation of fruit trees by Antoine le Gendre (1590–1665), chaplain of King Louis XIII and supervisor of His Majesty’s orchards, with emphasis on grafting, listing different types of fruit trees such as peaches, plumes, apples and pears, and also giving the French equivalent names. The second part contains advice on the planning of a herb and flower garden with an additional chapter on espaliers.

It was originally published in French in 1652 as La manière de cultiver les arbres fruitiers. An English edition appeared in 1660 by Jean de la Quintinie, who suggested Le Gendre was a pseudonym of Robert Arnauld d’Andilly, a still widespread but erroneous assumption.

With the bookplate of the Dutch nurseryman A.P.M. de Kluijs (1905–1973). Internally in very good condition, with only a couple leaves with some minor smudges. Binding recased a little too tight, the pressure resulted in a small gap between the title-page and the rest of the bookblock, and the boards slightly rubbed.

First dated edition, with ca. 800 hand-coloured woodcuts, in contemporary blind-tooled pigskin

17. [LONICER, Adam?]. Herbarum, arborum, fruticum, frumentorum ac leguminum. Animalium praeterea terrestrium, volatilium & aquatilium, ... Kreutter, Bäume, Gesteude, unnd Frücht, ...
Frankfurt am Main, Christian Egenolff, 1546. 4°. With a large woodcut on the title-page showing a gardener at work with his tools, and about 800 woodcut illustrations in the text. About 700 show trees, fruit, edible and medicinal plants, while the rest show insects, a tick, coral, shells, various sea and land animals and a view of a pond with plants and birds. With all woodcuts coloured by a contemporary hand. Contemporary pigskin over wooden boards, richly blind-tooled in a panel design with two rolls; brass clasps and catch-plates with engraved decoration.

Rare first dated edition of an extensively illustrated early herbal, coloured by a contemporary hand, with the title and most of the plant and animal names in Latin and German. The Folger Library notes that F.W.E. Roth attributes this herbal to Adam Lonicer (1528–1586) of Marburg and Frankfurt, who married Egenolff’s daughter and became a partner in the firm after Egenolff died in 1555. Egenolff published all three editions of the present herbal. VD 16 lists the undated one as ca. 1545 (citing only the Wellcome Library copy), making the present 1546 edition the second. Another appeared in 1552.
This copy has early owner's inscriptions by Georg Volland, in Latin at the foot of the title-page and in Greek on the facing endleaf. The Volland family were noblemen in and around the Duchy of Wittenberg in the 16th century, and the binding is likely to come from that region as well. With some browning and stains, especially in the first and last leaves. The binding is worn. A 1546 herbal with ca. 800 woodcuts, in contemporary richly blind-tooled pigskin.

[8], 265, [3 blank] pp. Adams H294 (1 copy); Nissen, BBI 2345; USTC 662102 (12 copies); VD 16, H2193 (4 copies); cf. Klebs, Early herbals 71 (undated Egenolff ed.); Wellcome I, 1983 (same undated Egenolff ed.); not in Stiftung Botanik. ☞ More on our website
Third, pirated edition of a comprehensive treatise on the medicinal qualities of tobacco. Although a similar book, written by Johann Neander, had been published in 1622, Magnen claimed to have found new medicinal uses for tobacco, which legitimised the publication of this new book. Like Neander, Magnen gives the botany, history and medicinal qualities of tobacco and presents his objections to some of his predecessor’s statements. “To the comprehensive collection of ailments and infirmities presented in earlier works on nicotian therapeutics, Magnenus adds the following: general lousiness, lichen and anchor, jaundice, lethargy, polypus, drunkenness, ranula, struma, pleurisy, empyema, mentagra, boils, lupus, herpes, etc. etc., ad nauseam.” (Arents).

With two late 18th-century inscriptions in French and Spanish quoting the use of tobacco. Somewhat browned and spotted throughout and the ownership inscription has damaged the paper; half-title is missing. Binding somewhat worn at the edges, the hinges worn and slightly cracked; otherwise in good condition.

[10], 222 pp. Arents 254-b; Wellcome IV, p. 27. More on our website
One of the finest works on medical plants

Düsseldorf, Arnz and Company, [1821]–1833. 4 volumes. 2º. With lithographed title-pages for the plate- and supplement-volumes; in total 552 plates, nearly all hand-coloured. Contemporary red half sheepskin.
€ 19 500

Rare complete set, including the supplement (often lacking), of a sumptuous botanical work with 552 striking lithographic plates by Aimée Henry. The work was begun by M.F. Weyhe, J.W. Wolter and P.W. Funke, and finished by the important German botanist and pharmacologist Theodor Friedrich Ludwig Nees von Esenbeck (1787–1837), best remembered for his systematic research on the medical properties of plants. It helped establish pharmacology as a serious academic discipline. The plates appeared in instalments between 1822 and 1828, followed by several instalments of text, and finally a supplement volume in 1833. Some confusion exists as to the general title of the work, since the volumes of plates are titled Plantae medicinales, whereas the text volume was published as Plantae officinales.

Bindings scuffed; some browning and foxing as usual; bookplate and stamps in each volumes. A good set of a rare botanical work.

Text volume: [406, incl. title, preface and contents]; ff.; supplement volume: [96] ff. with explanation for all 120 plates.
GFB, p. 69; Johnston 945; Nissen, BBI 1442; Pleisch p. 347; Pritzel 6662; Stafleu & Cowan 17.391. ☞ More on our website
On the lethal effects of tobacco in any form

20. SILVESTRI, Giuseppe Maria. Ragionamento sopra l’uso ed abuso del tabacco.
Rome, Arcangelo Casaletti, 1773. 8º. Yellow wrappers (ca. 1900?). € 1250

Rare first and only edition of a treatise on the use and abuse of tobacco, according to its own title, though the author, the physician Giuseppe Maria Silvestri, regards nearly all use as abuse. Silvestri strongly opposes all use of tobacco for pleasure or in social activities, considering it extremely dangerous and evil. He cites his own experiments injecting tobacco juice into the blood veins of animals, which rapidly caused convulsions and death. He also quotes extensively from previous medical writers and others citing deaths from its use as snuff or from smoking. Medicinal used carefully supervised by a knowledgeable physician he finds acceptable in cases of extreme need. Finally he declares that God put tobacco in America because it was not suited for use by Europeans. He nevertheless provides some information on its origins, introduction to Italy and preparation for use.
With library stamp. Some minor and mostly marginal foxing, but still in good condition.
A vociferous treatise against smoking.

xii, lxxxix [1 blank] pp. Arents 875; ICCU (8 copies). ☞ More on our website
Poem in the praise of tabacco by a physician

Utrecht, David van Hoogenhuysen, 1644. 12º. With a woodcut device on the title-page. 19th-century marbled paper wrappers. € 500

Fourth edition of a Latin poem in honour of tobacco, written by the London physician, poet and humanist Raphael Thorius (d. 1625). The poem is divided into two “books”, written in hexameters, and praises smoking mild and pure tobacco, though also recommending moderation. The first book covers the plant, the process of making tobacco, how tobacco compares to other herbs and the medicinal virtues of smoking tobacco. The second book covers tobacco’s mythical origins, attributing its discovery to Bacchus, also referring to tobacco from Virginia. “An elegant composition containing many felicitous expressions” (DNB). The present edition was originally published in a work entitled De herba panacea, ... , which contained four other tobacco-related texts, each with their own individual title-page.

Some quires detached from bookblock, some water stains. Spine damaged. Overall in good condition.

[225]–305, [3 blank] pp. Arents 226. For the first edition see: Arents 157; Sabin 95619–95622; Willems 246. ☞ More on our website
Rare treatise on the perniciousness of tobacco addiction with children. From the library of the grandfather of gymnastics Guts Muths


Leipzig, M. Rein “in Commission”; Siegen, Müller & comp., 1811. 8º. Contemporary stiff marbled-paper wrappers, library label on spine and front cover. € 950

An extremely rare treatise on the perniciousness of tobacco addiction. It was published for parents, priests and teachers to assist them in the education of children. Only one other copy found recorded, in the University Library of Tübingen.

This copy comes from the library of Johann Christoph Friedrich Guts Muths (1759–1839), a German teacher and educator especially known for his role in the development of physical education. He introduced systematic physical exercise into the school curriculum and developed the basic principles of artistic gymnastics. In 1793, he published the first systematic textbook on the subject, Gymnastik für die Jugend, which became a standard reference. He also published the magazine Neue Bibliothek für Pädagogik, Schulwesen und die gesammte neueste pädagogische Literatur Deutschlands, formerly known under the title Zeitschrift für Pädagogik.


60, [4] pp. KVK (1 copy); not in Arents. ☞ More on our website

Top of page:

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From the library of the grandfather of gymnastics Guts Muths.


Leipzig, M. Rein “in Commission”; Siegen, Müller & comp., 1811. 8º. Contemporary stiff marbled-paper wrappers, library label on spine and front cover. € 950

An extremely rare treatise on the perniciousness of tobacco addiction. It was published for parents, priests and teachers to assist them in the education of children. Only one other copy found recorded, in the University Library of Tübingen.

This copy comes from the library of Johann Christoph Friedrich Guts Muths (1759–1839), a German teacher and educator especially known for his role in the development of physical education. He introduced systematic physical exercise into the school curriculum and developed the basic principles of artistic gymnastics. In 1793, he published the first systematic textbook on the subject, Gymnastik für die Jugend, which became a standard reference. He also published the magazine Neue Bibliothek für Pädagogik, Schulwesen und die gesammte neueste pädagogische Literatur Deutschlands, formerly known under the title Zeitschrift für Pädagogik.


60, [4] pp. KVK (1 copy); not in Arents. ☞ More on our website
On the characteristics of and trade in Cinchona bark


8º. Contemporary half calf. € 1250

Rare first and only edition of a work on the Cinchona plant by Theodoor Daniël Vrijdag Zijnen (1799–1863). The bark of some species of Cinchona contains quinine, which was used in several medicines, especially in those against malaria. The book opens with sections on the history of the Cinchona tree, its physical appearances and how to obtain, split, store and categorize the bark according to its colour. The majority of the text deals with the trade in Cinchona bark, explaining how to distinguish real Cinchona plants and barks from fakes, either from very similar looking species or imitation bark that was offered for sale. Vrijdag Zijnen describes the physical and chemical characteristics of the Cinchona species included in the Pharmacopoea Belgica.

Binding slightly rubbed along the extremities, spine very slightly damaged at the head and foot, otherwise in very good condition.

xii, 120 pp. Bradley III, p. 724; NCC (6 copies); WorldCat (1 additional copy). ☞ More on our website
16th-century work
on the medicinal properties of stones

24. WITTICH, Johann. Bericht von den wunderbaren bezoardischen Steinen, so wieder allerley gifft kreftiglich dienen, und aus den Leiben der frembden Thiere genommen werden...

Including: WITTICH, Johann. Von dem Ligno Guayaco, Wunderbawm, Res nova genandt, von der China, ex Occidentali India, von der Sarssa Parilla, von dem Fenchelholz Sassafras, Und von dem Griessholz, so man Lignum Nephriticum nennet...

Leipzig, Hans Steinman’s heirs, 1589. 2 parts in 1 volume. 4º. 19th-century boards. € 3500

Very rare first edition of an early treatise on the bezoar stone and other minerals by the physician Johann Wittich (1537–1596). Translation of the title: “Advice concerning the wonderful bezoar stones, which serve powerfully against all kinds of poison and which are taken out of bodies of strange animals; as well as about stones which, from their hidden and inborn nature and force, exercise an unheard of and unbelievable effect...”. A large part of the work is devoted to tobacco (pp. 93–116). Finally, on pages 132–146, the new Silesian terra sigillata, called axungia solis is described. The second work is a treatise dealing with guaiac wood, China-root, the sarsaparilla of Vesalius, sassafras and lignum nephriticum which were all used against syphilis. An interesting compilation of extracts from writers such as Garcia de Orta, Jean Liebault (ca. 1535–1596) (on tobacco), and Nicolas Monardes (ca. 1512–1588).

With owner’s entries in ink in manuscript on title. Some worming and browning; corner leaf E3 cut off. Good copy of a work on the medicinal effects of stones, minerals and herbs, including tobacco.

[15], [1 blank], 146, [8]; [2 blank], [8], pp. 147–181, [1] pp. Alden & Landis 589/66; Arents 34; Sinkankas 7291 (not seen); VD16 W 3799 & VD16 W 3827. ☞ More on our website
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