Middle America & Mexico

E-CATALOGUE

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Travels to the West Indies during the years 1521–1524

1. [AA, Pieter van der]. Naaukeurige versameling der gedenkwaurigstee zee en land-reysen na Oost en West-Indiën, ... gedaan; zedert het jaar 1521 tot 1524 ... [volume 10]. Leiden, Pieter van der Aa, 1707.

Comprising:
(1) Vervolg der roemwaardige zee- en land-reysen des dapperen Ferdinand Cortes; aan de vaste kust van Mexico en Nieuw-Spaanje. Gedaan in ’t jaar 1521, en vervolgens.
Leiden, Pieter van der Aa, 1706.
(2) Drie verscheyde togten ter zee en te land in de West-Indien, gedaan in ’t jaar 1523 en vervolgens. De eerste door Franciscus de Garay van Jamaica na Panuco; de tweede door Pedro d’Avarado van Mexico na Guatemala; de derde door Diego de Godoy; mede van Mexico.
Leiden, Pieter van der Aa, 1706.
(3) Scheeps-togt van Johan de Verrazano, Florentyner, na Florida.
Leiden, Pieter van der Aa, 1706.

3 works in 1 volume. 8º. With 15 engraved double-page plates and 4 engraved folding maps. Contemporary calf, gold-tooled spine and board edges.

€ 2500

First edition of the tenth volume of the 8º edition of a collection of travelogues, compiled by the publisher and cartographer Pieter van der Aa (1659–1733). The complete collection, consisting of 28 volumes, covers important voyages to the East and West Indies and other countries from 1246 to “this day” (1696), undertaken by all European countries other than the Dutch. The present volume deals with voyages during the years 1521–1524 to the “West Indies”, including North America, Mexico, and Nicaragua. The three works were meant for publication, with a general title-page and index. The first work gives a chronological account of the explorations and conquests of the Spanish conquistadors Hernán (Ferdinand) Cortes (1485–1547) and Dil Gonzales Davila, and the Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan (1480–1521). The second text, entitled Drie verscheyde togten..., deals with voyages to the West Indies by Franciscus de Garay, Pedro d’Alvarado and Diego the Godoy. The book ends with a small work on the voyages of the Florentine navigator Giovanni de Verrazano (ca.1485–1528), including a report on French voyages and colonies in Canada and Florida.

With bookplate. Minor browning and a waterstain on some of the last pages. Binding rubbed and slightly damaged. Overall in very good condition.

The book that opened America

2. ACOSTA, José de. Historie naturael ende morael van de Westersche Indien. Enkhuizen, Jacob Lenaertsz. Meyn (colophon: Haarlem, printed by Gillis Rooman), 1598. 8º. With a woodcut decoration on the title-page. Vellum (ca. 1700?). € 7500

First Dutch edition of “the most convincing, detailed and reliable account of the riches and new things of America” (Streeter), written by the Spanish Jesuit José de Acosta (1539/40−1600) and translated by Jan Huyghen van Linschoten from the original Spanish. The “West Indies” of the title still referred at this date to the New World as a whole, and the book concentrates on the Spanish possessions in Peru and Mexico, covering the Inca and Aztec people, customs, history, botany, zoology, mineral riches, trade, products, and much more. It was this book above all others that opened the eyes of the Dutch, the English and the rest of Europe to the extraordinary wealth Spain was reaping from its possessions in the New World, and it includes practical information such as sailing instructions, accounts of diseases, etc.

With a 1645 owner’s inscription, library stamps and the armorial bookplate of the Marchese of Bernezzo on the back of the title-page. With some repairs in the first two quires, the title-page rather worn and two leaves somewhat browned, but otherwise in good condition. The binding is scuffed and has cracks in the vellum at the front hinge, but is still good and structurally sound. The most influential early work on America, in its first Dutch edition.
Conquest of Mexico & Central America in 42 large plates & portraits

3. BOUTTATS, Gaspar & Pieter Baltasar. [Portraits and historical scenes from the conquest of Mexico and Central America]. [Brussels, Antwerp, ca. 1675–1700]. 2°. Collection of 42 engraved portraits and historical scenes (plus one repeat), (ca. 22 × 18 cm), relating to the Spanish and Portuguese conquest of Mexico and Central America in the 16th century, some signed by Gaspar (Caspar) and Pieter Baltasar Bouttats. In several different elaborate engraved borders. Contemporary vellum. € 11 000

Unique collection of 18 rare and interesting views and battle scenes plus 24 portraits of Spanish and Portuguese conquistadores and native Kings in wide decorative borders, taken from several series of illustrations used in various historical books on the subject, published around the last quarter of the 17th century or early 18th century in Brussels or Antwerp. The collection includes: 12 unsigned engraved portraits (by Pieter Baltasar Bouttats?); 3 engraved portraits by Pieter Baltasar Bouttats; 9 engraved portraits in ovals by Gaspar Bouttats; 16 engraved views, battle scenes, local folklore of the natives, etc. by Pieter Baltasar Bouttats (6 signed by him); 2 engraved plates from other sources. Gaspar Bouttats (ca. 1640–ca. 1695) and Pieter Balthasar Bouttats (1666–1755) were both engravers active in Antwerp and Brussels. Some plates may come from one of J.B. Verdussen's Brussels editions (1706 or 1728) of Antonio de Herrera's Historia general de las Indias occidentales (cf. Palau 114289, Sabin 31545); one probably from Ant. de Solis y Rivadeneyra, Historia de la conquista de Mexico (Brussels, Foppen, 1705).

Binding used, spine damaged; some thumbing, a few tears, portrait of Diego de Almagro torn. Collection in good condition, with all but one plate in clear impressions.

Full list of plates available on request.

Thieme & Becker IV, p. 476; Wurzbach I, p.166; cf. Hollstein (Dutch & Flemish) III, p. 175, no. 20 (mentioning only a few of the plates present in our collection). ☞ More on our website
Illustrations of columnar basalt formations throughout Europe and in Mexico


First edition of an atlas with plates of columnar basalt formations by Scipione Breislak (1748–1826). The present atlas was published as an addition to Breislak’s Institutiones géologiques (1818), a geological work first published in Italian titled Instituzione geologiche (Milan, 1818). Binding slightly rubbed. Good copy.

Asworth, Vulcan’s forge and Fiungal’s cave, 36; cf. DSB II, 439–40. More on our website
Rare Dutch translation of a work on Spanish America, with 4 maps

5. CAMPBELL, John. De tegenwoordige staat der volken van het Spaansche ryk in Amerika, met een byzonder verhaal, van den koophandel uit Oud-Spanje, met de galjoenen, flota, &c.; en van den verboden handel der Hollanders, Engelschen, Franschen, Deenen en Portugezen, in de West-Indiën.
Amsterdam, Bernardus Mourik, [ca. 1745 or ca. 1748]. 8º. With 4 folding engraved maps, showing the city and harbours of Veracruz, Havana, Portobelo and Cartagena. Contemporary red half sheepskin (roan).

Rare second issue of the first and only edition of a Dutch translation of *A concise history of the Spanish America* (1741), by the prolific Scottish author John Campbell (1708–1775). The work is divided into 4 parts, the first on the discovery of America, the second on the Spanish settlement in North America, the third a description of South America, and the fourth on the trade with America. The second and third part contain chapters on Buenos Aires, California, Charcas, Chile, Cuba, Florida, Guatemala, Lima, Mexico, Puerto Rico, Panama, Tucuman Province and Quito.

“Grub Street provided some indifferent manuals, of which the most informative—despite its author’s capacity, if Boswell is to be believed, for drinking thirteen bottles of port at a sitting—was *A concise history of the Spanish America*, published by Dr. John Campbell in 1741” (Hanke).

It contains 4 maps, not included in the original English editions. With modern bookplate on pastedown and an earlier owner’s name covered with opaque white. The sides of the binding were apparently never covered with paper, leaving the roughly cut ends of the sheepskin clearly visible. Binding slightly rubbed, lacking back endpapers and front flyleaf; title-page loosening. Internally in very good condition.

[8], 328 pp. Alden & Landis 745/34; Sabin 10234; STCN (1 copy, incomplete); WorldCat (5 copies, incl. same incomplete copy); cf. Hanke, History of Latin American Civilization (1967), p. 529. ☞ More on our website
Paris, Gaume brothers, 1857. 8°. With large folding engraved map of Texas (ca. 45 x 35.5 cm) by J. Cordova, partly coloured by hand. Original publisher’s printed paper wrappers. € 800

First edition of an account of the early Catholic mission in Texas and Mexico by the French missionary Emmanuel Domenech (1825–1903). He published his *journal* “for a French audience eager to read about the latest exploits of Catholic missionary priests in North America. In it, the ordained Frenchmen describes his 1848 visit to the abandoned Spanish missions of San José and Concepción... “ (Pasquier). He describes the trials of the early missionaries in Texas, and is filled with vivid sketches of the frontier and anecdotes on its people. “Reading Domenech’s memoir is like reading a Western adventure novel, complete with dueling Texas Rangers, Mexican knife fighters, scalping victims, and scenes of horrible massacre at the hands of both Americans and Indians” (Pasquier). Foxed throughout, but otherwise in very good condition, wholly untrimmed and in the original printed wrappers.

Sumptuous coloured lithographs of Mayan antiquities bound for Czar Alexander II


Paris, Jules Didot l’aîné, 1834. 3 parts in 2 volumes. Large 2º (55.5 × 36 cm). With lithographed frontispiece and 161 (numbered as 166) lithographed plates (1 double-page and 160 full-page), nearly half beautifully hand-coloured and most of the rest tinted or double-tinted. Lacking (as usual) the map mentioned on the title-page. Gold-tooled red morocco (1855?), with the arms of Czar Alexander II of Russia on the boards. € 98 500

First edition of a magnificent show-piece displaying the recently discovered antiquities of Mexico, especially those of the Mayan city of Palenque, based on the expeditions of Captain Guillermo Dupaix in the years 1805 to 1807 and illustrated with 162 lithographic plates (including the frontispiece), mostly tinted or beautifully hand-coloured. Some copies were issued with the plates uncoloured and many with them partly coloured, but only a few with the splendid and extensive colouring shown here. The extraordinary illustrations, nearly all drawn by José Luciano Castañeda, who accompanied Dupaix on all three voyages, gave Europeans their first good look at Mayan civilization. They also show many buildings and artefacts that have since been lost or damaged (soon after the expeditions Mexico sank into turmoil and revolution for three quarters of a century). In addition to Palenque, the book covers the Zapotec/Mixtec site Mitla in Oaxaca and even Aztec and other sites. The arms on the binding were in use by the Czars of Russia from 1645 to 1856, after which the image of St. George was reversed. Nicholas I was Czar when the book first appeared, but if the initial A in each rectangular element in the chain of the order of St. Andrew stands for his son Alexander (as suggested by Breslauer), the binding probably dates from the first year of the reign of Czar Alexander II, who succeeded his father in 1855. Perhaps his accession to the throne was the occasion for presentation of the book.

In very good condition (most of the plates fine) with the text leaves slightly foxed as usual and a few minor marginal defects. The frontispiece, normally bound with the text, appears here with the plates. The bindings also very good, with cracks in the hinges at the foot of the plates volume. A splendid book that revolutionized European knowledge of ancient Mexico and remains an essential primary source for the study of Mexican antiquities.

[4], xiv, [1], [1 blank], 20, 56, 40, 88, [4]; 82, 224, [4]; [10] pp. Breslauer, Cat. 50, item 1085 (this copy); Leclerc 1065; Palau 13069; Sabin 40038. ☞ More on our website
8. [GALVEZ, Josef de, and edited by Manuel CARVALLO]. Reales ordenanzas para la direccion, regimen y gobierno del importante cuerpo de la mineria de Nueva-Espana, y de su Real Tribunal Jeneral.
Santiago (Chile), Imprenta de la Opinion, R. Rengifo, 1833. 2º. Contemporary blue wrappers.

First Chilean edition of a rare and valuable compendium of mining laws and mineral customs in New Spain, (Mexico and Peru), originally published in Madrid in 1783 and later in Lima in 1786, prepared by Josef de Galvez, inspector general for the King of Spanish, charged with reforming and inspecting the administration of New Spain. The present edition, intended for the miners themselves, includes rules for the training of workers and officials, newly discovered mines and the introduction of new mining technologies. The new and improved technologies led to a boom in silver and other mining in Mexico and Peru.

Fine copy, with only some minor foxing, and untrimmed. Spine slightly rubbed. A valuable compendium of mining laws in Mexico and Peru.

The ancient habits of Mexico

9. GARCIA CUBAS, Antonio. The Rèpublic of Mexico in 1876. A political and ethnographical division of the population, character, habits, costumes and vocations of its inhabitants.

Mexico City, La Enseñanza, 1876. 8º. With 8 chromolithographed plates, finished by hand, double-page map, and 4 leaves with printed music on both sides. 19th-century red morocco, gold-tooled spine, blind-tooled boards, gold-tooled turin-ins, gilt edges. € 950

Interesting work on the politics, history and ethnography of Mexico, by the Mexican scientist Antonio Garcia Cubas (1832–1912). In the third part on ethnography the focus is on several indigenous Mexican Indian families. “For a better knowledge of the races, their real characteristics, their uses and customs should be studied, as I have mentioned on another occasion, in the depths of the mountainous regions where they still preserve their ancient habits and their dialects with greater purity. ...” (pp. 67–68).

Corners of the binding slightly rubbed. Very good copy of a work on the politics, history and ethnography of Mexico.

Mexico in the 1880s, with atlas volume, including 13 chromolithographed maps and 1 general map of Mexico


Including: Atlas Pintoresco e Historico de los Estados Unidos Mexicanos.

México, Fomento & Debray, 1885. 2 volumes. 8º and oblong large 2º (64.5 × 82 cm). With 2 folding tables and 2 full-page plates in the text volume and in the atlas 13 chromolithographed maps (52 × 69 cm), and a full-page chromolithographed map of Mexico at the end. Contemporary black cloth with gold lettering on front board (text); contemporary red half morocco, title and ornaments in gold on spine (atlas). € 11 000

Both the text and the atlas volume of an important work on 19th-century Mexico by Antonio Garcia Cubas (1832–1912), not often found together.

The text contains full accounts on the politics, ethnography, religion, education, mining, agriculture, history, archaeology, etc. of Mexico. The atlas includes thirteen double-page maps illustrating several aspects of Mexico, such as politics, ethnography, transport routes, mountains, hydrography, education, agriculture, mining, history and archaeology, and a full-page chromolithographed general map of Mexico at the end.

iv, 474, [3] pp. text. Chadenat 7016; Palau 98736 (not mentioning the general map); Phillips & LeGear 2686; not in Sabin. ☞ More on our website
19th-century panorama of Mazatlán, Mexico

GONZALEZ, F.M. [Panoramic photograph overlooking Mazatlán].
[Mexico, ca. 1880–1900]. Albumen print (ca. 17 × 71 cm) in 3 parts with photographer’s credit in white in the negative, mat mount. Pasted on heavily spotted and browned contemporary wove paper. € 2500

Fine panorama of Mazatlán, on the Pacific coast of Mexico showing the historical centre and harbour. By the mid-19th century a large group of immigrants had arrived, developing Mazatlán into a thriving commercial seaport, importing equipment for the nearby gold and silver mines.

Cf. Getty Research Institute, A nation emerges: 65 years of photography in Mexico (online research guide with photographs of Mexico from the mid-19th century to the early 20th century from the special collections of the Getty Research Institute). ☞ More on our website
On the prosperity of Cuba

Paris, P. Dufart, 1826. 8º. With 6 folding letterpress tables and 2 engraved maps (1 folding), depicting Cuba and surrounding islands. Contemporary half calf, black- and gold-tooled spine. € 1250

First edition of a work on Cuba, compiled by Bertrand Huber, French Minister of Foreign Affairs. The first half of the work (pp. 29–219) consists of seven letters by Robert Francis Jameson, first separately published in English in 1821. They deal, respectively, with the social aspects and inhabitants of the island, slavery, the Cuban law, religion and education, its culture and recreation, trade and commerce, geography and geology, and finally its climate and animals.

The Aperçu statistique (pp. 221–300) deals with a large variety of subjects concerning Cuba, but is largely devoted to the production and trade of the island, comprising many tables and statistics. The supplement (pp. 301–326) contains a Discours by Ramon de la Sagra on Cuba’s flora and agriculture. With this book Huber tries to show Cuba’s prosperity, to attract new French investors to the island.

Some earlier library stamps removed from half-title and title-page. Browned in the margins with some occasional minor foxing. Overall in good condition.

331, [1] pp. Chadenat 2914; Leclerc 1346; Sabin 33471. ☞ More on our website
Rare enlarged second edition of De Laet’s important account of the Americas, with 14 maps

13. LAET, Johannes de. Beschrijvinghe van West-Indien ... Tweede druck. Leiden, Elzevier, 1630. 2º. With engraved frontispiece, 14 folding engraved maps, and many text illustrations. Contemporary vellum. € 25 000

Rare enlarged second edition of an important account of the Americas by a director of the Dutch West India Company, Johannes de Laet (1581–1649). As a director of the WIC, Laet was in a good position to have access to information from the great wave of Dutch seafaring in the early part of the 17th century. Each of the 18 constituent books is devoted to a different region of the New World. The first book treats the West Indies, the second Canada, the third Virginia, the fourth Florida, and the fifth Mexico. The sixth book devotes extensive space to discoveries in California, the Gulf of California, and New Mexico. The remaining books describe the northern coast of South America, Peru, Chile, and Brazil. The 14 maps are engraved by the famous Hessel Gerritsz., official chart maker of the Dutch East India Company. These maps are the very best of the Americas to appear up to this time of publication (only 10 appeared in the first edition); they illustrate the Western Hemisphere, the Caribbean, New France, New England and Virginia, Florida, Mexico and Central America, Terra Firma (north-western South America), Peru, Chile, far South America, Paraguay and the Rio de la Plata basin, Brazil, Guiana, and Venezuela. Some light dampstains, minor soiling, without first free endpaper, otherwise in very good condition.

Set of 67 stunning colour orchid drawings from Petschkau (Pecky) castle in Bohemia

MASCHEK, Caroline. 67 studies of orchids. Cervené Pechy (Bohemia), 1885–1889. 67 drawings of orchids in coloured gouaches on thin laminated board, mostly with a smooth grey surface (32 × 24 cm; the painted images about 14 to 28 cm tall), most captioned with the Latin name, place of origin, name of a botanical collection or reference and the month of the drawing. Some drawings dated and monogrammed by the artist. Each drawing with a tissue attached to the back to protect the next drawing in the stack. The drawings loose in a half red morocco clamshell box. € 48,000

A collection of 67 fine orchid drawings in coloured gouaches, clearly forming a series in a consistent style and format, commissioned by Baron Theodor Karel Josef Hruby z Gelenj (1826–1914) at Petschkau (Pecky) castle in Bohemia (Cervené Pecky, east of Prague), where he assembled the largest and most important collection of orchids in the Austro-Hungarian Empire at the end of the 19th century. Each is meticulously drawn in coloured gouaches on thin laminated board. The board used for most of the drawings has a smooth grey surface, but that used for a few has a light brown, dark brown, light blue or cream-coloured surface to show the orchid to best effect. A few are executed in landscape format. The caption to nearly every drawing gives the Latin name, the place of origin (many from Brazil or elsewhere in South America, Central America, Mexico, Africa and Southeast Asia), the name of one of a dozen botanical collections or catalogues (most often Lindley or Reichenbach) and the month of the drawing. Little is known about the artist, normally cited as Caroline Maschek (1857–1938), who would have been only about 30 at the time. She is said to have been born in Prague, so her name was probably Germanized from the Czech Karolina Masek. She is thought to have prepared some 300 drawings of Baron Hruby’s orchids. Some survive at the Imperial palace Schloss Schönbrunn in Vienna, which apparently acquired them in 1916. A collection from the same series as the present, but containing 59 drawings compared with the present 67, brought $92,500 at auction in 2011. With an occasional small marginal tear, not approaching the drawing, but generally in fine condition. The box also fine. A stunning set of drawings of orchids from the gardens of one of the greatest orchid collectors.

More on our website
Treaty between The Netherlands and the United States of Mexico

15. [MEXICO]. Traktaat van vriendschap, scheepvaart en handel, tusschen de Nederlanden, en de Vereenigde Staten van Mexico. | Traité d’amitié, de navigation et de commerce, conclu entre le Roi des Pays-Bas, et les États-Unis du Mexique. [Brussels], November 1828. 8º. Sewn. € 500

Second copy located of a treaty of friendship, navigation and trade between The Netherlands and the United States of Mexico. This treaty was closed on 15 June 1827 and presented November 1828 to the parliament of the States General by Willem, King William I, king of the Netherlands. It was considered useful for the commercial relations between the two countries. The deputies for both countries were Anton Reinhard Falck for the Netherlands and Sebastian Camacho for the United States of Mexico. The text is given in Dutch, French and Spanish. Some minor water damage, but otherwise in good condition, untrimmed.

More on our website

Paris, Gide & J. Baudry, 1857. 2 volumes. 8°. With 2 pages of letterpress music, a folding lithographed map of Yucatan, Guatemala and Cuba, and 22 wood-engraved illustrations, after drawings by the author, heading each chapter. Original publisher’s printed paper wrappers, preserved in modern chemises and slipcase. € 4500

First edition of an important account of a voyage to Central America and Cuba by the French naturalist, malacologist and traveller Pierre Marie Arthur Morelet (1809–1892). “In 1846 Morelet visited isolated regions of Guatemala and Yucatán which had not been described for many years” (Howgego). He was the first to explore the vast territory of Guatemala, which was inhabited by the Itzas and the Locadons, describing his observations and experiences extensively. He starts describing his voyage from France to Central America and his first expeditions into the tropics, other chapters are devoted to Cuba, Havana and Isla de la Juventud (Isle of Pines), Guatemala, the indigenous populations, ancient ruins, forests, mountains and lagoons, and more geographical, ethnological and archaeological observations. In his report to the Paris Académie des Sciences of February 1850, Morelet indicated that he had deposited at the Museum 90 plants, 150 species of molluscs which were described for the first time, 32 unknown fish species, 104 reptiles, 70 birds and 57 mammals.

Some foxing, otherwise in good condition, wholly untrimmed.

[4], 337, [3]: [4], 323, [3] pp. *BMC NH, p. 1549; Chadenat 2706 (Ouvrage recherché et devenu rare); Howgego, 1800–1850, M56; Numa Broc, Amérique, pp. 231–3; Sabin 50591. > More on our website
An 1896 photo-chromolithographic facsimile of the pre-Hispanic Mexican polychrome Codex Vaticanus B (3773), the original codex written on deerskin in the Nahuatl language (with Mixtec influences) in polychrome hieroglyphs and 104 pictures (showing gods, priests, animals, trees, implements, etc.), probably in the last decades of the 14th century. The facsimile was produced in an edition of fifty copies. The manuscript itself is a ritual and divinatory almanac. With a preface in Italian by Franz Ehrle, an 1895 lecture by Paso y Troncoso about the manuscript in Spanish and in English translation, and a colour facsimile of the manuscript itself, in accordion-fold with a facsimile of the original wooden boards. The manuscript belongs to the so-called Borgia Group (the only manuscript in the group that is preserved in its original form, complete with binding). The dating and localization of these manuscripts remains problematic and there are differences in style within the group. They are thought to have been produced by the Tlaxcalans, a Nahuatl (Aztec)-speaking group about 100 km east and southeast of Mexico City that was culturally distinct from the Aztec, who were in fact their enemies. It probably dates from the last decades of the 15th century. The Tlaxcalans sided with the Spanish against the Aztec, so the early conquistadors are likely to have acquired several of their manuscripts. Nothing is known about the ownership of the manuscript before it came to the Vatican Library (probably between 1565 and 1570, and certainly before 1589).

In very good condition. The leather covering part of the wooden box is damaged, so that only parts of the gold-tooled arms and title can be seen.

Mexico, Peru and indigenous American culture

18. **ROBERTSON, William.** L’histoire de l’Amérique ... Traduite de l’anglais.

Paris, Panckoucke, 1778. 4 volumes. 12°. With 4 title-pages, each with a different woodcut vignette, 4 folding engraved maps depicting the Gulf of Mexico (33 × 49 cm), South America (46 × 33 cm), Mexico (30 × 39 cm), and the northwestern part of South America (39 × 25 cm) and 1 folding engraved plate illustrating the chronology of Mexicans (27 × 24.5 cm). Contemporary French calf, gold-tooled spines with red morocco labels, marbled endpapers and edges.

A French translation of an immensely popular anthropological account of American history that focuses on the explorations, the conquest of Mexico and Peru, and the anthropology of the indigenous American cultures. “In these volumes Robertson wrote the first history of the discovery and Spanish conquest of America based on ample bibliographical information and documents in the Simancas archives. The bibliography [a catalogue of Spanish books and manuscripts] at the end of the last volume is remarkable for the time” (Borba de Moraes).

The map in the first volume shows the Gulf of Mexico with Florida and New Orleans and the Caribbean Islands. The work was first published in 1777, and reprinted many times and translated into several languages.

In good condition, with some small nicks and tears throughout, affecting the text in 1 leaf. Quire P in volume IV misbound. With some cracks in the hinges and other minor damage to the backstrips, but bindings good. Famous history of Spanish activities in America.

Mexico’s industry and commerce, dedication copy by the author


First and only edition of a topographic work important for the industrial and commercial relationship between France and Mexico, by the journalist Gaston Routier (1868), based on official documents and the best Mexican statistics and geographical data. It contains a preface by Don Ignacio Manuel Altamirano, to whom the work is dedicated, and covers geography, orography, hydrography, agriculture, flora, fauna, mines, industry and commerce. The very elaborate section on agriculture includes the cultivation of corn, cacao, vanilla, coffee, fruit trees, pepper, rice, tobacco, sugar cane and cotton.

Fine untrimmed, numbered copy, printed on Dutch paper (“exemplaire sur Hollande nr. 9”) with the author’s presentation description to “Monsieur Jules Roche, Ministre du Commerce et de l’Industrie, très respectueux hommage de profonde estime,” dated Paris, July 1892.

xvii, 110 pp. Biblioteca botánica-mexicana, p. 292; Palau 279644; not in BNF; Sabin. >> More on our website
A devil’s claw
by a Dutch master naturalist painter

20. [SCHOUMAN, Aert]. [Proboscidea louisianica].
[Netherlands, 2nd half of the 18th-century]. Watercolour on laid paper (40.5 × 27 cm) of a flowering Proboscidea louisianica, with fruit and a horned seedpod on the ground. In passepartout (55 × 40 cm). € 12 500

Beautiful watercolour drawing of a Proboscidea louisianica by the notable and versatile Dutch artist Aert Schouman (1710–1792). “He was best known for his ornithological studies rather than for his botanical work, but the latter are so pleasing, with the plants in their pale, scenic settings that do not distract the eye” (De Bray). This species, native to Mexico and the southern United States, is commonly known under a variety of names, including devil’s claw and ram’s horn. It’s named after its claw-shaped seed pods, that appear as its fruit dries and the flesh falls away, leaving a hard beak that splits into two horns. Both the fruit and the seedpod are depicted.

Like most of Schouman’s botanical drawings, the present is unsigned as it was probably part of the artist’s private collection of study drawings auctioned after his death in The Hague on 10/11 December 1792. We like to thank the Schouman expert Charles Dumas for his information and confirmation of the attribution.

In very good condition, with a small faint waterstain on top and a couple specks.

A famous history of the conquest of Mexico


Fourth(?) edition of the French translation of the famous Historia de la Conquista de Mexico by the gifted Spanish historian Antonio de Solís y Ribadeneyra (1610–1686), originally published in Madrid in 1684. Renowned for his historical knowledge and his taste for letters, Solis was invited to become secretary to Philip IV, and in 1666 he was charged with the important function of cronista mayor, historiographer for the Indies and began working on the present publication. It covers in detail the three years following Cortés’s conquests of what is now Mexico, mentioning many battles and shifts in power and describing the native inhabitants and their cities, temples, customs, etc. The plates include a general map of Mexico, some views of ships, a view of Mexico-city, a large folding bird’s eye view of Tezeuco, a map of the area surrounding the lake of Mexico and views of battles.

Some marginal (water) stains. Bindings slightly rubbed and worn at the corners. Overall in very good condition. 

[32], 606, [26]; [12], 560, [22] pp. Chadenat 6434; Sabin 86478. > More on our website
Ordinances and decrees of the interim government leading to the “Lone Star” Texas Republic

22. [TEXAS REPUBLIC]. Ordinances and decrees of the consultation, provisional government of Texas and the convention, which assembled at Washington March 1, 1836. By order of the secretay[!] of State.


Rare first edition of a collection of the ordinances and decrees declaring Texas’s right to secede from Mexico and setting up an interim government and its laws. Texas had been a Spanish territory and since 1824 part of the Mexican Federation, but large numbers of immigrants from the United States had settled there. When Mexico established its independence from Spain (1821–1824) the immigrants’ already uneasy relations with the government authorities worsened. In 1835, the Mexican president, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, abolished the 1824 federal constitution and assumed greater centralized powers. The present book opens with the 7 November 1835 decree in which “the people of Texas” declare that Santa Anna overthrew the legitimate government of Mexico and that Texas therefore claims the right to secede.

The present book opens with the 7 November 1835 decree in which “the people of Texas” declare that Santa Anna overthrew the legitimate government of Mexico and that Texas therefore claims the right to secede. It is followed by the “Plan and powers of the provisional government of Texas”, adopted 13 November. This led to war on 2 October 1835. These declarations are followed by numerous ordinances of the interim government up to 17 January 1836. As independent Texas would reinstate the practice of slavery, among these is an ordinance foridding “any free negro or mulatto to come within the limits of Texas... and upon satisfactory evidence... that such free negro or mulatto emigrated into Texas... it shall be the duty of the Judge or Alcalde... to expose him or her to sale at public auction to the highest bidder” (p. 12).

With Sangorski & Sutcliffe’s binder’s stamp on the first free endleaf. Book and binding in very good condition.

156 pp. Sabin 94959; Streeter, Americana 365; Streeter, Texas 246; WorldCat (5 or 6 copies). ☞ More on our website
Photographs of Mexico at the turn of the 20th century

23. **WAITE, Charles Burlingame.** [Collection of 36 albumen prints]. [Mexico, ca. 1896–1907]. Size mainly between 10 × 14 and 12.5 × 20.5 cm. 30 large and 6 smaller paper photographs, the large captioned in English and numbered in the negative with photographer’s name [C.B.] Waite bottom right. Mounted on 30 leafs (one leaf with pasted booksellers and stationers ticket of F.F. Hansell & brothers, New Orleans).

With: (2) [Collection of 38 related smaller format black and white prints and silver print snapshots mounted on 7 leafs, plus a small Kodak panorama in 4 parts, pasted on 2 leafs]. [Mexico, ca. 1960–70]. Size mainly between 7 × 9 and 9 × 13 cm. € 1750

Ad 1: Interesting collection of 36 photographs illustrating the daily life, religion and nature of Mexico, the state of Veracruz in particular, of which 30 numbered and with the name of the photographer C.B. Waite. The American photographer and member of Sonora News Agency Charles Burlingame Waite (born 1861) moved from California to Mexico in 1896 and was active there until his return to the United States in 1913. His photographic activities ranged from documentation of archaeological and scientific expeditions to contributions to periodicals and tourist guides.

The René D’Harnoncourt Photograph Collection 1900–1925 (Benson Latin American Collection, University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin, USA) holds many photographs of Waite, the majority dated 1901–1907. The Research Library of the Getty Institute, the University of California in Berkeley and the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque also have a collection of Waite photographs.

Ad 2: Collection showing cows on the road near Vera Cruz, a ceramist at Coyotepec (Oaxaca), stone work at Mitla (Oaxaca), a Western family posing at archaeological sites, Indians dancing in the Cathedral square (of Mexico city?), a bulls stadium ring, views of Acapulco, etc.

Ad 1: About half of the photographs faded but images still clearly visible; few with small corners torn off. Important collection capturing early 20th-century Mexico.

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Medical botany, including many American
plants, with 26 illustrations on 6 plates

24. ZORN, Bartholomaeus. Botanologia medica. Seu dilucida et brevis
manuductio ad plantarum et stirpium tam patriarum, quam exoticarum
in officinis pharmaceuticis usitatarum cognitionem.
Berlin, Johann Christoph Pape [printed by Ulrich Liebpert or his heirs?],
1714. 4º. With 26 botanical illustrations on 6 numbered engraved plates.
Half vellum (ca. 1790?). € 1250

First edition of a medical guide to the use of plants that can improve health and
are available from apothecaries, by the Berlin physician Bartholomaeus Zorn
(1639–1717). It discusses the medicinal use of about 1500 plants, many from
Mexico and South America, including a nine-page chapter on tobacco. It also
has chapters on coffee and cannabis. The clear illustrations include tea, vanilla,
cacao and other medicinal and culinary plants. The plants are arranged alphabetically by their Latin names, but there are indexes of both the Latin (including some alternative) and the German names.

Foxed throughout and with occasional, mostly marginal worm holes or small
stains, affecting an occasional word of the text on a few leaves, but otherwise in
good condition. The binding is rubbed and tattered, with the lower part of the
backstrip lost. A detailed guide to medical botany, including tobacco, chocolate,
tea, coffee and cannabis.

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