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Second edition of a Latin translation of a work on the geography of Africa, written by the Islamic geographer and botanist Muhammad al-Idrisi (1100–1165). It deals specifically with the geography of northern Africa, Egypt and the Sahara desert, covering its soil, cities, population, mountains, deserts, rivers and monuments. Al-Idrisi also mentions various travel routes from one city to the other. Around 1138, al-Idrisi was invited to the court of the king of Sicily, Roger II, who asked him to map the world as it was then known. This map is now lost, but Roger II also asked for supplemental texts to comment on the map. “Emissaries were sent far and wide, and from the information they brought back the Kitab al-Rojari [Book of Roger] was compiled, and completed by January 1154” (Howgego). Various manuscripts containing (parts of the) Kitab al-Rojari have survived, and the present translation was based on one of them. The present work was translated and edited by the Johannes Melchior Hartmann (1764–1817), who worked from a medieval Arabic manuscript at the University of Jena. With a library stamp. Somewhat browned and foxed throughout. Binding worn at hinges and along the extremities. Otherwise in good condition.

CXXIV, 530, [50] pp. Gay 345; Howgego, to 1800, I5; not in Atabey; Blackmer. ☞ More on our website
Rare contemporary compilation of official accounts of Napoleon’s campaign in Egypt

2. BERTHIER, Louis-Alexandre and Napoleon BONAPARTE. Relation des expéditions d’Égypte et de Syrie, de la bataille d’Aboukir et de la reprise du fort de ce nom, par les troupes de la République Française, commandées par le célèbre Général Bonaparte.

Including:


€ 5500

Rare account of Napoleon Bonaparte’s campaign in Egypt (1798–1799), including Berthier’s chronicle of the campaign and the official reports describing the Battle of Aboukir. Based on the various despatches sent to France in 1798, the first part describes the capture of Malta, the arrival in Alexandria, the Battle of the Pyramids and the revolt of Cairo. Of particular interest are several orders giving insight into the organization of French-occupied Egypt and concerning matters such as the distribution of bread, the free navigation of the Nile, the formation of a regiment consisting of former Mamluks and the establishment of a bureau to improve sanitation and prevent disease in Cairo. With its short-lived conquest of Egypt, France would introduce many modern ideas and inventions into the country, eventually leading to the independent and modernized Egyptian state under Mahammad Ali (1769–1849) and to the cultural renaissance in the Arab lands of the Ottoman Empire.

The main part of the book consists of the official account written by General Berthier (1753–1815) for the French Minister of War and describing events from the capture of Malta to the Siege of Acre and the return of the French Army to Egypt. Following it are the two accounts written by Napoleon (1769–1821) for the Directorate and describing the Battle of Aboukir and the recapture of the fortress of Aboukir. All these accounts were published in instalments in the French newspapers, with the Relation appearing less than two weeks after the publication of the final instalment. By that time Napoleon had returned from Egypt, overthrown the Directorate and brought himself to power.

With the binding lightly rubbed. Lacking pp. 1–2. Slightly browned and with water stains on the title-page and the last 10 pp.

[2]. 1 blank pp. “Annonces”, in: La décade philosophique, 1 trimestre, no. 6 (an VIII/1799); CCFr (2 copies); “Nomenclature de livres militaires”, in: Journal de la librairie militaire I (1875), p. 137; Van de Weyer, [Catalogue of the] Napoleon [library], p. 43; WorldCat (3 copies); cf. Hanley, the genesis of Napoleonic propaganda (Gutenberg e-book), Chapter 2. ☞ More on our website
100 original photographic portraits of Berber men, women and children in Algeria


[Paris (photographs taken in Algeria), ca. 1889]. 2 volumes. Two albums (41×34 cm), each containing 50 photographic portraits (21×15.5 cm), each photograph mounted over a brown-gold tint block on a thick paperboard leaf, with “Collection du Prince Roland Bonaparte” printed in script lettering in the foot margin below. Contemporary and uniform black half sheepskin. € 18000

A pair of albums containing 100 original photographic studio portraits of at least mostly Algerian Berbers, some variously described elsewhere as “Arabes et Touaregs” or “Algériens et Kabyles”. They were made by and/or under the direction of Prince Roland Bonaparte, most or all in one studio that he set up, probably in Kabylia, a mountainous region in northern Algeria, east of Algiers, though the sitters could be ethnic Tuaregs, whose traditional lands in the Sahara included southern Algeria. Bonaparte presented many of these photographs at the Exposition Universelle held at Paris in 1889. Kabylia had remained largely independent when most of Algiers was governed by vassals of the Ottoman Empire and was one of the last regions conquered by the French in 1830.

Prince Roland Bonaparte (1858–1924), grandson of Napoleon’s brother, was a geographer, ethnologist, member (from 1910 to his death president) of the Société de Géographie, and photographer, though many photographs that appeared under his name were taken by photographers whom he hired and directed, including Felice Beato (1832–1909). In what Bonaparte and his crew intended as scientific studies, they photographed and measured indigenous peoples in or from many regions around the world. For the 1889 Exposition Universelle at Paris Bonaparte published several small collections of his photographs under the title Collection anthropologique du Prince Roland Bonaparte with subtitles indicating the cultural group shown, but except for a larger collection of Hottentot (Khoikhoi) portraits they contained only 22–31 photographs each. One of these published collections shows “22 phot. anthropologiques d’habitants de l’Afrique du Nord”.

Three photographs in the first album are somewhat spotted, and the sitters in one of them and one other portrait are slightly blurred, apparently because they moved during the exposure, but the prints are otherwise in very good condition, with only some slight fading. One of the mounts is foxed and another shows a fold, neither affecting the photographic prints. The bindings show a few scuffs but are still in good condition.

Islamic religious orders in Algeria, “a work of great learning and value”, presentation copy


First edition of a work on the khouan, the brothers of Islamic “religious orders” in Algeria, written by Charles BrosSELARD (1816–1889). He describes the origin, hierarchy, organization and (initiation) rituals of seven influential Sufi brotherhoods. “A work of great learning and value” (Playfair).

With author’s presentation inscription to the French general Charles Cousin-Montauban, Comte de Palikao (1796–1878), who served as a cavalry officer in Algeria, on half-title. With an armorial bookplate on paste-down. Overall in very good condition, binding only very slightly rubbed along the extremities.

36 pp. Levtzion & Pouwels, The history of Islam in Africa, pp. 170, 184; Playfair, Bibliography of Algeria, 2099. ☞ More on our website
5. CRESWELL, Keppel Archibald Cameron, and others. The mosques of Egypt from 21 H. (641) to 1365 H. (1946) being a series of views in colour and monochrome of the principal mosques of Egypt with a brief note on each monument ... accompanied by detailed plans and maps. Giza, The Survey of Egypt, 1949[-1954]. 2 volumes. Double Crown folio?. Each volume with the chromolithographed title-page and frontispiece, 243 plates (image size mostly about 30×23 cm) showing mosques and architectural and decorative details (27 in colour): 216 in photogravure with sepia ink, 2 in photogravure with chromolithographed colour, 3 chromolithographed, and 22 in halftone offset lithography after paintings by Alhusain Fawzy. Further with about 100 offset lithographic line illustrations on the integral leaves (many full-page). The present second issue also includes 2 large folding chromolithographed maps and the loosely inserted index to these maps, dated 1951. Gold – and blind-blocked dark green coated cloth with a morocco texture. € 6500

First English edition (second issue, with 2 chromolithographed maps added) of a splendid display of views, many in colour, of Egyptian mosques dating from 21 AH (641 CE) to 1365 AH (1946 CE), an official Egyptian government publication first published in Arabic in 1946 and here translated into English. Creswell himself called it “the finest piece of book production achieved in Egypt”. Plates 1–206 show the mosques in chronological order, including exteriors, interiors and many architectural and decorative details, nearly every plate showing a single large image. These are followed by several series of plates covering specific aspects, mostly with multiple images per plate. The 133-page text discusses the history and form of all these mosques and their decorative work, with about a hundred line illustrations, including floor plans, elevations, sections, architectural and decorative details, kufic and other inscriptions and furnishings. The two 5-colour lithographs of faïence arabesque decoration are stunning, apparently printed with special glossy inks, and the photogravures provide lovely views of the mosques and details.

In very good condition.

[5], [1 blank], [4], A-D, 2–68, [1 blank], [1], [1 blank]; [2], 11, [3], 14, [2], 13, [1 blank] (index); [5], [1 blank], A-B, [1], 69–133, [1], [1 blank] pp. Sotheby’s, Blackmer Library 1214; WorldCat (4 copies of this issue).

More on our website
Compilation of texts on the Ottoman Empire, with two chapters on Algeria and Tunisia

6. [DE LAET, Johannes]. Turcici imperii status. Accedit de regn. Algeriano atque Tunetano commentarius. Leiden, Bonaventura Elzevier, 1634. 16mo (10.5×5.5 cm). With an engraved title-page. 19th-century textured brown cloth. € 750

Second edition of a work on Turkey, including a section on Algeria and Tunisia, compiled by the Dutch geographer Johannes de Laet (1581–1649), director of the Dutch West India Company (WIC). It is a compilation of several texts on Turkey written by different authors, including Montalbano, De Busbecq, Leunclavius, Lazarus Soranzi, and some anonymous authors. They mostly deal with the Ottoman Empire and its rulers, Constantinople, Turkish warfare, religion and the role of Christianity in the area, customs, their relations with surrounding countries, and occasionally commenting on its flora and fauna. Included at the end are two brief chapters on Algeria and Tunisia, based on texts by Jean-Baptiste Gramaye.

Binding slightly discoloured, otherwise in very good condition.

[8], 363, [5] pp. STCN 832705888.☞ More on our website
A signed autograph letter by William Drummond (1770–1828), Scottish classical scholar, poet and British ambassador to the Ottoman Empire, written in Bucharest en route from Constantinople (Istanbul) to Berlin. The British had taken Alexandria from Napoleon's troops on 2 September 1801, but abandoned it in March 1803, disappointing the Mamluks and their leader Muhammad Bey al-Alfi, who had supported the British against the French and Ottoman forces and remained in Alexandria. The Ottomans, facing financial troubles, disbanded their non-Turkish forces without pay, and their Albanian captain Muhammad Ali (1769–1849) and his troops in Cairo mutinied and wrested control of the city from the Ottoman governor. Although this put the Albanians on the British and Mamluk side against the French and Ottomans, the Mamluks were not prepared to leave Cairo in Albanian hands. Drummond therefore notes in the present letter that the latest news when he left Constantinople was that the “Beys” (Mamluk forces under Muhammad Bey al-Alfi) had raised the siege of Alexandria and returned to Cairo due to “a mutinous spirit” among their “new allies”, the Albanian troops, and he regrets that the “French interest” among the Mamluks “has taken a decided ascendancy.” In the event, Muhammad Ali was to prevail in 1805 when Sultan Selim III in Istanbul recognised him as his viceroy in Egypt. In fine condition. A letter on the power struggle that was to bring Muhammad Ali to power in Egypt in the aftermath of the French Revolutionary War.

Letter on the Mamluk-Ottoman power struggle in Egypt that would bring Muhammad Ali to power in 1805

7. DRUMMOND, William. [Letter on the fighting between the Ottomans and Mamluks in Egypt]. Bucharest, 13 December 1803. 4to (23.5×18.5 cm). Autograph letter in English, signed, written in brown ink on laid paper. € 1950
Photo album of a study trip to Libya, with 42 photographs

8. DUEMLEIN, Ludwig. 2200 Kilometer durch Libyen. [back of title-page:] Bildbericht über die Libia-Studienreise 1938. [Libya, 1938]. Album (18×14 cm) with 42 original photographs (ca. 14×9 cm), including a portrait of the author, a manuscript title-page with a drawing, two drawings of animals, a manuscript map, and 5 manuscript divisional titles (all written and drawn in white on the black album leaves), and 13 leaves with typewritten text. Contemporary half sheepskin. € 3250

Photo album of a study trip to Libya, containing 42 photographs, compiled by Ludwig Duemlein, who was accompanied on his travels by Wilhelm Völcker and Harald Froese. It also contains some leaves with descriptive text. The goal of the journey was to collect some zoological material and to bring some animals back to Germany alive where they could be observed in captivity. The album opens with a portrait of Duemlein himself, a manuscript title-page, two leaves containing a preface, a photograph of Tripoli, and a manuscript map showing Duemlein’s route. The album is divided into five sections, each preceded by a manuscript divisional title-page. One section contains photographs of animals spotted during the journey, including a chameleon, agamid, gecko, camel and some dolphins. Other photographs contain portraits of locals, views of mountains, forests, trees and deserts, local merchandise and archaeological remains. The majority of the photographs are captioned, mentioning the photographer as well. The two drawings show animals Duemlein spotted on some Libyan silverware.

With a small note pasted on the back of the title-page. Binding only very slightly rubbed. Internally in very good condition.

☞ More on our website
Botanical part of Ehrenberg's great “Symbolae physicae”

9. EHRENBERG, Christian Gottfried and Friedrich Wilhelm HEMPRICH. Symbolae physicae seu icones adhuc inedetae. Berlin, Georg Reimer, 1900. Large folio. With 24 engraved and lithographed plates, 23 finely coloured by hand, printed in the second quarter of the 19th century, but issued here for the first time. Text and plates loose as issued in original printed grey portfolio. € 1250

Very rare and complete botanical section of Ehrenberg’s great Symbolae physicae. The plates depict the specimens collected by Ehrenberg and Friedrich Wilhelm Hemprich on their expedition to North Africa and western Asia from 1820 to 1825 (Hemprich died during the journey). The fine plates were drawn by Bartusch, Ehrenberg, Finzi, Roch and Röthig, and executed by Fink, Röthig, Weber and Wienker.

A fine copy of this scarce botanical report. Printed on fine wove paper, wholly untrimmed and in the original printed portfolio with the title on the front in an elaborate border and a list of the first 10 plates on the back.

III, 65 pp. Junk, Rara, p. 138; Nissen, BBI 582; Stafleu & Cowan 1643. ☞ More on our website
Eyewitness account of the bombing of Algiers in 1688

10. ESPINOSA, Antonio de. Copia de una carta que ha escrito desde la ciudad de Argel el padre procurador Fray Antonio de Espinosa, religioso calzado del Orden de la Santissima Trinidad, redencion de cautivos, y administrador de los cinco reales hospitales, que su sagrada religion tiene en aquella ciudad. (Colophon: Madrid, Sebastian de Armendariz), 12 October [1688]. Small 4to (19×14 cm). With a large woodcut initial with a parrot. Disbound. € 2500

Very rare first and only early edition of a letter written by the Spanish friar Antonio de Espinosa at Algiers, after the city had been bombed by the French navy in 1688. Espinosa worked as an administrator at the hospitals of the Trinitarian Order in the city. He describes the arrival of the French fleet on 26 June, the diplomatic actions between the French and the ruler of Algiers, and the subsequent bombing of the city. The bombing led to reciprocal trials and executions by Algiers’s government against the non-native inhabitants of the city, including Espinosa. Algiers was an important base for pirates, who started attacking French ships after the city signed a peace treaty with Great Britain. The French responded with bombardments in 1683 and 1688, which led to a peace treaty in 1690. Browned and with a water stain in the head margin, otherwise in good condition.

6 ll. Palau 82664; WorldCat (1 copy). ☞ More on our website
Origin and development of earth, continental drift and radiometric dating

11. **Hume, William Fraser.** Terrestrial theories. A digest of various views as to the origin and development of the earth and their bearing on the geology of Egypt. Cairo, Government Press, 1948. Large 8vo. With a chromolithographed folding geological map of the Atlantic Ocean, South America and Africa (loosely inserted in a pocket), 45 plates (some line drawings, maps, diagrams, etc.; some photographs probably reproduced by photogravure) and 37 figures in the text. Contemporary half cloth with original publisher’s printed paper sides. € 500

Scarce work by William Fraser Hume (1867–1949), printed and published in Cairo, giving a detailed account of the origin and development of the earth and weighing various recent theories. The book begins with a broad perspective in chapters on the nature of the universe, the origin of the solar system, etc., and narrows down to the earth’s internal structure and its pre-Cambrian state. The first half of the twentieth-century saw several revolutions in this field, and the present book gives special emphasis to these new developments, as well as to specific applications of these theories to the geology of Egypt. Discussed in detail are geological radioactivity, pioneered by George Darwin and John Joly in 1903, and Arthur Holmes’s 1911 application of it to radiometric dating, finally debunking Lord Kelvin’s famous 1862 dismissal of the idea that the earth might be more than a few tens of millions of years old (Lord Kelvin dated the earth based on thermodynamic principles, though one of his less influential contemporaries is now known to have shown that it could be much older if one considers thermodynamic convection, which accounts for more of the error than radioactivity). The theory of continental drift, proposed less scientifically on occasion since the sixteenth-century, was first set out in detail by the meteorologist, Alfred Wegener in the first half of the 1910’s. Though leading geologists still scoffed at the theory proposed by this “weatherman” until supported by plate tectonics and magnetic field data ca. 1960, Hume keeps an open mind and says the question will only be answered by the collection of further data. The quires of the book were stapled rather than sewn, and the staples have rusted slightly, but the book is otherwise in very good condition. The binding is slightly worn and a bit loose.

XLIX, [1], 522, 160 pp. More on our website
Freeing Christian slaves in Algiers and Tunis in 1720


First edition of an account of a voyage of three Trinitarian Fathers, François Comelin, Joseph Bernard and Philemon de la Motte, to Algiers and Tunis, initiated to free Christians enslaved by the Muslim rulers of North Africa. It describes the people they meet in Algiers, the progress of their negotiations with ambassadors, and the manners and customs of the Moors living in North Africa, and their journey to Tunis and back to France. Also included are more general descriptions of the cities and their ports. According to Barbier, the account was written by Jean-Baptiste de la Faye. The second part, La tradition de l’église, includes a list with the names of more than 400 Christian slaves, noting their ages and years in captivity and describing their return home. It also quotes Biblical texts related to slaves, captives and prisoners, to illustrate the proper Christian attitude towards slavery.

With two owner’s inscriptions in ink on title-page. Some occasional minor foxing or spotting, pages 11–12 torn with minor text loss. Binding somewhat rubbed along the extremities, head of spine damaged. Overall in good condition.

[8], 169, [1 blank]; [10], LX, 306, [5], [1 blank] pp. Barbier IV, col. 1095; Gay 484.

☞ More on our website
150 beautiful chromolithographs of 19th-century Tunis with ca. 100 proofs without letterpress text bound in

13. LALLEMAND, Charles. Tunis et ses environs. Paris, Quantin, 1890. Large 4to (31x24 cm). With 150 detailed chromolithographs (most in the text; some on separate plates), with extra ca. 100 duplicates without text of the illustrations. Contemporary half morocco. € 2500

First edition of a beautifully colour-illustrated account of the city of Tunis and its surroundings, by the French watercolour artist Charles Lallemand (1826–1904), who was responsible for both the illustrations and the text. The text is divided into 20 chapters covering various subjects, such as mosques, religion, antiquities, coffeeshops and Muslim women, all with relevant illustrations. Many include Islamic decorative patterns in addition to views of architectural or cultural sites and costume prints, and they document a great deal of Muslim culture that has since been lost. In the present copy nearly two-thirds of the chromolithographs are present in two versions, one with letterpress text as usual, and one without letterpress text. The book was re-printed or re-issued in 1892. With occasional very minor foxing and with the half-title slightly browned. The binding is very good, with only the spine slightly faded and a small tear in the marbled paper. Fine copy.

245 pp. Vicaire, Manuel de l’amateur, p. 946; not in Atabey, Colas; Hiler; Lipperheide. ☞ More on our website
Algeria and its notorious pirates


Including: Lyst der schepen, welke sedert den 24 december 1715, tot het einde des jaars 1724 door de Algiersche roovers van den staat der Vereenigde Nederlanden genomen zyn.

Amsterdam, Marten Schagen, 1725. 3 parts in 1 volume. 4to.
With engraved title-page, folding engraved map of Algeria, folding engraved view and a folding engraved bird’s eye view of Algiers. Contemporary calf, richly gold-tooled spine, gold-tooled boards, gold-tooled board edges.

Rare first and only edition of the Dutch translation of an influential description of Algeria, published in the same year as the original French, and expanded here with a detailed list of 73 Dutch ships captured by Algerian pirates. Algeria was at this time nominally ruled by the Ottoman Empire, but retained a great deal of independence in practice. After more than a century as a French colony (1830–1954/62) it regained its independence and is now a member of the Arab League, the United Nations and a founding member of the Maghreb Union. The work begins with a description of the various inhabitants, including separate chapters on the Arabic and Turkish populations, followed by chapters on its architecture, military, navy, politics, slavery, trade etc.

It was written by the Jacques Philippe Laugier de Tassy, a former diplomat in Algeria and at this date commissioner of the French navy and consul in the Netherlands. It was translated into English as A complete history of the piratical states of Barbary, a title that emphasized the notorious Algerian pirates.

With owner’s inscription. A good copy; some minor thumbing, a couple smudges and the bird’s eye view has some restorations. Binding slightly rubbed along the extremities and some restorations to the spine, but otherwise good.

[16], ”300” [=298], [16] pp. Cat. NHSM, p. 201; STCN (8 copies); Tiele, Bibl. 644; WorldCat (6 copies?); cf. Playfair 220; not in Blackmer. ☞ More on our website
First Latin edition
of the most important Renaissance source of information on Africa

15. LEO AFRICANUS, Johannes. De totius Africae descriptione, libri ix.
Antwerp, Johannes Laet, 1556. 8vo. With printer's device on title-page. Later sheepskin, gold-tooled flat spine, each side with blind-tooled coat of arms. € 18500

First Latin edition of a justly celebrated work on African geography by the Islamic scholar Hasan ben Muhamed el-Wazzan-ez-Zayyati (1485–1552), better known under his Latin name Johannes Leo Africanus. His work long remained the principal source of information on the geography of Africa in general and the Sudan in particular. He is thought to have written his description of Africa directly in Italian, although he certainly relied also on Arabic notes, some of which he might have composed while travelling in Northern Africa.

With owners' inscriptions and library stamps. Title-page slightly dirty and the prilims and last leaves with a faint waterstain. Spine slightly damaged and most of the tooling gone, front hinge reinforced, but otherwise in good condition.

[16], 302, [2 blank] ll. Adams L-480; Belg. Typ. 1874; Gay 258; South African Bibliography III, p. 86. ☞ More on our website
Life (and death in Morocco) of King Sebastião I of Portugal

16. MESA, Sebastian de. Jornada de Africa por el Rey Don Sebastian y union del reyno de Portugal a la corona de Castilla.

Barcelona, Pedro Lacavalleria, 1630. 4to. Each page framed with thin printed rules. Contemporary gold-tooled leather (blackened and flaking), each board with the helmed and mantled arms of the Mazarin family in the centre. € 12000

First and only edition of an account of the life, death and succession of King Sebastião I of Portugal (1554–1578), written in Spanish by Sebastian de Mesa. Sebastião became king of Portugal at the age of three, after the death of his grandfather João III. He was under the regency of his grandmother and uncle Henrique, cardinal and later king, until he was declared of age in 1568. Sebastião, educated by the Jesuits, combined religious fanaticism with an unlimited admiration for the military. He thought of himself as a Christian knight, who was going to fight and rescue the “misguided” muslims in Africa from their faith. He was killed in the bloody and disastrous Battle of the Three Kings at Alcazarquivir in the north of Morocco. Many supporters refused to believe he had died, and many awaited his return for decades. This resulted in Sebastianism, a messianic religious belief that lasted well into the 19th century.

In good condition, the first few leaves with foxing or very slight browning and small, mostly marginal worm holes. The leather on both boards is badly damaged, perhaps by chemicals used to prepare it combined with abrasion. The arms, lying somewhat lower, have survived, that on the front board in fairly good condition.

[2], 169, [1] ll. Diaz 5661; Palau 166152; not in Gay. ☞ More on our website
1728 treaty between the Dutch Republic and the semi-autonomous state of Tripoli

The Hague, Jacobus Scheltus II, 1729. 4to. Modern paper-covered boards. € 1250

First edition, published in Dutch translation, of a treaty signed between the Dutch States General and Pasha Ahmed Karamanli (1686–1745), Turkish Muslim leader of the semi-autonomous state of Tripoli since 1711, when he killed the Ottoman governor and took the throne. The treaty, in 13 articles, guarantees the safety of Dutch ships trading at Tripoli and their crews (even when shipwrecked), sets restrictions on taxes (military supplies such as gunpowder, lead, iron, cannonballs and ships’ masts are exempted). The governor of Tripoli is to see to it that the whole city is warned when one of the Dutch States General’s ships drops anchor, so that all who own slaves can keep an eye on them to ensure they do not flee to the ship. Merchants under Dutch authority, whether Christians or Jews, are to be allowed to reside in the city unhindered, except for taxation. In very good condition and untrimmed.

Original watercolour of 3 wheatears, for Temminck’s monumental ornithological work

18. PRÊTRE, Jean Gabriel. [Traquet oreillard, Traquet à queue noire & Traquet leucomèle (= plate 257 from Temminck’s Nouveau recueil de planches coloriées d’oiseaux ...)].

[France], 1823. Watercolour of 3 birds on unwatermarked wove paper (ca. 48×35 cm), all standing on a branch, the lowest branch signed: “JG Prêtre/ 1823”. With plate number in pencil in the lower left corner.

Original watercolour of a Black-eared Wheatear (Oenanthe hispanica), a Blackstart (Oenanthe melanura) and Pied Wheatear (Oenanthe pleschanka) by the prolific zoological artist Jean Gabriel Prêtre, produced for Temminck’s Nouveau recueil de planches coloriées d’oiseaux... (Paris, 1820–1839).

The Black-eared Wheatear and the Pied Wheatear are both small migratory passerine birds. The Black-eared Wheatear is found in northern Africa, southern Europe, and from the Middle East to China, and the Pied Wheatear in eastern Europe and Asia. The Blackstart, also described as belonging to the genus Cercomela instead of the genus Oenanthe, is a small passerine bird found in desert regions in North Africa, the Middle East and the Arabian Peninsula.

Temminck’s lavishly illustrated Nouveau recueil de planches coloriées d’oiseaux... issued in 102 parts between 1820–1839, was published as a kind of continuation to Buffon’s Histoire naturelle des oiseaux (1770–1786). In total it contains ca. 600 engraved plates with about 800 figures of birds by Nicolas Huet and Prêtre, and it’s considered “the most monumental work of the post-Napoleonic period” (Balis).

Paper slightly browned. A beautiful watercolour of three wheatears.

For the published work see: Anker 502; Balis, Van diverse pluimage 75; Nissen, IVB 932; Zimmer, pp. 626–628. ☞ More on our website
Original watercolour of three sunbirds, for Temminck’s monumental ornithological work

19. PRÊTRE, Jean Gabriel. [Souimanga métallique, mâle & femelle & Souimanga souci, mâle (= plate 347 from Temminck’s Nouveau recueil de planches coloriées d’oiseaux ...)]. [France], 1825. Watercolour of 3 birds on unwatermarked wove paper (ca. 48×35 cm), all standing on a branch, the middle branch signed: “JG Prêtre/ 1825”. With the birds numbered in pencil, and the plate number and bird names in pencil in the lower left corner. € 1500

Original watercolour of a male and a female Metallic Sunbird (Anthreptes metallicus) and a male Flame-breasted Sunbird (Cinnyris solaris) by the prolific zoological artist Jean Gabriel Prêtre, produced for Temminck’s Nouveau recueil de planches coloriées d’oiseaux... (Paris, 1820–1839). Sunbirds make up a family of very small passerine birds. The Metallic Sunbird, best known as the Nile Valley Sunbird (here named: Souimanga Métallique), are found in north-west Africa and the Middle East, while the Flame-breasted Sunbird (here: Souimanga Souci) is primarily found in Indonesia and East Timor. Temminck’s lavishly illustrated Nouveau recueil de planches coloriées d’oiseaux... issued in 102 parts between 1820–1839, was published as a kind of continuation to Buffon’s Histoire naturelle des oiseaux (1770–1786). In total it contains ca. 600 engraved plates with about 800 figures of birds by Nicolas Huet and Prêtre, and it’s considered “the most monumental work of the post-Napoleonic period” (Balis). Paper slightly browned. A beautiful watercolour of three sunbirds.

For the published work see: Anker 502; Balis, Van diverse pluimage 75; Nissen, IVB 932; Zimmer, pp. 626–628. ☞ More on our website
On Muhammad Ali, Pasha of Egypt, from the memoirs of an Austrian diplomat

Vienna, Wilhelm Braummüller (colophon: Adolf Holzhausen), 1877. 8vo. Contemporary blind-blocked cloth.

First and only edition of a work on Muhammad Ali (1769–1849), Pasha of Egypt, written by the Austrian diplomat Anton Prokesch (1795–1876). From 1824 onwards Prokesch was active in the Middle East, surveying the region and negotiating in various conflicts. In this work he describes his activities during these years especially those relating to Muhammad Ali, for example the peace treaty between Muhammad Ali and the Ottoman Sultan Mahmud II, where Prokesch was present. Title-page very slightly foxed. Binding slightly discoloured. Overall in very good condition.

Savary’s literary letters on Egypt, in attractive contemporary binding

21. SAVARY, (Nicolas) Claude Étienne. Brieven over Egypte. Amsterdam, Martinus de Bruyn, 1788–1789. 3 volumes. 8vo. With 4 numbered engraved folding plates, including maps of Egypt and northern Egypt, a plan of Alexandria, and a cross-section of the Great pyramid. Contemporary mottled calf, richly gold-tooled spines and binding edges. € 2500

Surprisingly rare first and only edition of the Dutch translation of a collection of literary letters published after Savary’s travels in Egypt (1777/79). Claude Étienne Savary (1750–1788) was a French Arabic scholar and traveller, known for his translation of the Quran and his posthumously published Arabic grammar. The letters provide, in a polished literary style, a broad overview of the country, treating its rich history, (historical) inhabitants, agriculture, trade, politics, religion, etc. The first two volumes detail his travels, while the third is pure didactic and treats Egyptian mythology, etc. “Savary was the first Frenchman to cite Arabic texts in a work of this nature, and indeed his knowledge of Arabic served him well in his travels at a time when there were many difficulties for the European explorer in Egypt” (Blackmer)

Only the flyleaves and title-pages are slightly foxed, otherwise in very good condition, nearly untrimmed. Bindings only slightly rubbed along the hinges, otherwise very good and attractive bindings.

XVI, 446, [1], [blank]; XVI, 364, [2 blank], [1], [1 blank]; “XIV” [=XXIV], 390, [1], [1 blank] pp.
STCN (2 copies); WorldCat (4 copies, incl. 2 the same);
cf. Blackmer 1492/977; Gay 1622; Howgego, to 1800, S53.
☞ More on our website
The first monograph on the ibis, with four hand-coloured plates after Redouté and Barraband

Paris, Allais (back of half-title: Imprimerie de H.L. Perronneau), 1805. 8vo. With 6 engraved plates, including 4 hand-coloured (2 folding) by Bouquet after Redouté and Barraband. 19th-century dark red half sheepskin. € 2500

First and only edition of a natural and mythological history of the ibis by Marie Jules-César Lelorgue de Savigny (1777–1851). It contains six engravings after drawings by two major natural history illustrators: Pierre-Joseph Redouté (1759–1840) and Jacques Barraband (1768–1809), of which four are hand-coloured. The book gives an account of the black and the white ibis, their mythical position in ancient Egypt and the related cults, their natural habitat and answers the question whether they eat snakes or not. The engravings show the black and the white ibis, close-ups from the beak and leg and some Egyptian illustrations. Barraband is well known for his beautiful ornithological illustrations for Levaillant’s works on parrots and birds of paradise. “A learned essay on the Ibis, with observations made during the author’s sojourn in Egypt. A rare book ...” (Wood).
With a faint and somewhat blotted library stamp on half-title, title-page somewhat soiled, a few occasional small smudges, and plates shaved with slight loss of plate-numbers. Otherwise in good condition.

XIII, [1], 224 pp. Nissen, IVB 819; Ronsil 2718; Wood, p. 552. ☞ More on our website
Six lithographs depicting people from the Ottoman Empire, Egypt and Athens

Stockholm, L.J. Hjerta, 1839. Folio. With 6 lithographed plates by Schützercrantz. Original publisher’s printed paper wrappers mounted on a larger sheet serving as a folder. € 8500

Very rare first edition of a series of 6 lithographed plates, illustrating a journey to the Ottoman Empire, Egypt and Greece, drawn and lithographed by the Swedish artist Adolf Ulrik Schützercrantz (1802–1854). In 1838 he visited Greece, Istanbul and Cairo. The lithographs include a portrait of the Ottoman Sultan Mahmud II (1785–1839) in full dress; Muhammad Ali (1769–1848), Pasha of Egypt, depicted on horseback; an Ottoman garrison at rest in Constantinople; a view of the Galata neighbourhood in Constantinople, with people in the streets; some Egyptian soldiers with pyramids in the background; and three Greek men in Athens. The plates are followed by 4 pages of descriptive text, all loosely inserted in a paper folder.

With a few small, marginal stains, otherwise in very good condition.

4 pp. Atabey 1112; WorldCat (1 copy); not in Blackmer. ☞ More on our website
Chromolithographed map of the Sinai Peninsula and northeast Egypt

24. [SINAI–EGYPT]. The peninsula of Sinai, the Negeb and lower Egypt, to illustrate the history of the patriarchs and the exodus. London, Stanford's Geographical Establishment, 1879. Chromolithographed map (ca. 60.5x77 cm), divided into 28 pieces mounted on cloth so it can be folded, with a small inset map of the northern Arabian Peninsula. Scale ca. 1:380,000. Contemporary marbled paper. € 750

Large chromolithographed map of the Sinai desert and northeast Egypt, with the supposed route of Moses and the Israelites from Egypt to Canaan highlighted in red. An inset map at the lower right depicts "the migration of Terah and Abraham".

Added in manuscript in red ink is the route of the expedition by the American explorer John Lloyd Stephens (1805–1852), with the manuscript note "Map accompanying Mr. Stephens' report", probably referring to Stephens' *Incidents of travel in Egypt, Arabia Petraea, and the Holy Land*, published in 1837. Only slightly browned, with some manuscript addition in red ink, as mentioned above, and a large letter D. added with blue pencil next to the map's title. Overall in very good condition.

*Ibrahim-Hilmy, The literature of Egypt and the Soudan, p. 450. ☞ More on our website*
Four articles on the date palm in the Middle East, northern Africa and America

25. SWINGLE, Walter Tennyson. The date palm and its culture. ... (Reprint from Yearbook of Department of Agriculture 1900).
[Washington, Government printing office, 1900]. With 9 plates with black and white photographic reproductions.

With:

(2) SWINGLE, Walter Tennyson. The date palm and its utilization in the southwestern states. Washington, Government printing office, 1904. With a wood engraved device of the United States department of agriculture on title-page, 21 (of 22) plates (including 2 chromolithographed maps) and 10 illustrations in text.


(4) KEARNEY, Thomas Henry. Date varieties and date culture in Tunis. Washington, Government printing office, 1903. With the same wood engraved device on title-page and 10 plates with reproductions of photographs.

4 works in 1 volume. 8vo. Modern blue cloth, each work with its original printed paper wrappers bound in. € 3500

Ad 1: Offprint of an article on the date palm in America by the American botanist Walter Tennyson Swingle (1871–1952). He describes the characteristics of the date palm, its history in America, its cultivation, commenting on the proper climate, irrigation, fertilizing, soil, etc., and the uses of its fruits.
Ad 2: First edition of Bulletin no. 53 of the USDA Bureau of plant industry, devoted to the date palm growing in the south of America, also by Swingle. It deals again with the cultivation of the tree, but in much more detail than in ad 1. A large part is devoted to the trees resistance to alkali, comparing alkali conditions in Algeria and America. Besides many photographs, it includes two chromolithographed maps of California showing where the date can grow and showing the variation in soil.
Ad 3: First edition of Bulletin no. 54 of the USDA Bureau of plant industry, being a brief article on the introduction of date trees from the Arabian Gulf to America, written by the American botanist David Fairchild (1869–1954). He distinguishes many varieties of the palm growing in the Middle East (Bagdad, Basra, Al-Hasa, Masqat and more).
Ad 4: First edition of Bulletin no. 92 of the USDA Bureau of plant industry, on different date palm varieties growing in Tunisia by Thomas Henry Kearney (1874–1956). He gives a description of geography, climate, the cultivation of the tree in Tunisia, the different types of dates and fruits and their characteristics. Paper wrappers of ad 1 very slightly damaged, ad 2 lacking 1 plate (no. vi); text-leaves slightly browned, otherwise in very good condition.

D.R. Hodel, Imported and American varieties of dates, p. 106 (ad 3 & 4) and p. 108 (ad 1 & 2); not in Bradley.

More on our website
The conflict between Europe and the Ottoman Empire for control of the Mediterranean


Second edition (first dated), of Alfonso de Ulloa’s account of the Siege of Tripoli (1551), the Battle of Djerba (1560) and the Great Siege of Malta (1565): a series of conflicts between a large Christian Mediterranean Alliance and the Islamic Ottoman Empire for control of the Mediterranean.

The Ottomans attacked and took Tripoli (modern day Libya) in 1551, held since 1530 by the Christian military order known as the Knights Hospitaller. A powerful naval force was sent to recapture Tripoli in 1560, but that force was defeated near the island of Djerba. The climax of the conflict was the Great Siege of Malta, when the Ottomans unsuccessfully attacked the island defended by the Knights Hospitaller, whom they had earlier defeated at Tripoli. With early 19th-century manuscript bibliographical note on flyleaf. First few leaves foxed (especially the title-page, which has some stains as well), some occasional minor spots and the edges of a few leaves slightly tattered. A good copy. Binding rubbed along the extremities, otherwise very good.

Gay 1494; Palau 343401; Gölner 1134; not in Blackmer; Atabey. ☞ More on our website
Portrait of a man in traditional Arab garb

27. WILLIAMS, E.M., R.A. [Portrait of a man in traditional Arab garb].
Tripoli, 1914. Oil on canvas (51×40.5 cm), with artist’s name, place and date on the back. € 6500

Attractive painting of a man in traditional Arab garb in Tripoli, by one E.M. Williams from the Royal Academy of Arts.
More on our website
Original painting made to be reproduced as picture postcard for the Egyptian tourist industry

28. WUTTKE, Carl. A souk in Cairo.
Cairo, 1902. Signed and inscribed “C. Wuttke. Cairo. 1902”.
Oil on canvas board (20×28 cm). Unframed. € 9500

Painting of a souk in Cairo, by the German orientalist Carl Wuttke (1849–1927). Paintings such as these were made to be reproduced as picture postcards, an archetypal consumer product from the early 20th century. Postcards, as a convenient alternative to the letter, had first appeared in the 1870s. The simultaneous improvements in photographic and printing techniques, led to the introduction of full-colour postcards in the 1890s. Although photographs were used as a basis for the creation of half-tone blocks, which were then used to print the postcards, well-made paintings such as these by Wuttke, were just as popular. For the numerous visitors to Egypt, picture postcards were a way of “collecting” the visited sights, thereby documenting their travels.

Carl Wuttke was one of the most well-travelled artists of his time, visiting Italy, North-Africa, the United states, China and Japan. During his travels, he painted various views in Egypt and China for the Dresden firm of Römmler & Jonas that were subsequently reproduced as picture postcards. Wuttke’s quick style, reminiscent of contemporary impressionism, but also of traditional oil sketches, was well suited to that end, giving an even better suggestion of a “snapshot” than contemporary photography.

Relined at the back and numbered (on the relining) “94”. Varnish yellowed; craquelure in the blue and white sky parts; otherwise in very good condition.