Women & Society

E-CATALOGUE

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Important illustrated study of emblems, with a lengthy treatment of women’s emblems

1. BARGAGLI, Scipione. Dell’ imprese die Scipion Bargagli … Alla prima parte, la seconda, e la terza nuoamente aggiunte. Venice, Francesco de Franceschi, 1594. Small 4º (20.5 × 15 cm). With oval engraved device on title-page, full-page engraved portrait of Rudolf II, full-page engraved dedicatory emblem, and 138 engraved oval emblems in text. 19th-century half sheepskin parchment. € 3500

First complete edition of an important study of emblems, combining theory with (illustrated) examples, by Scipione Bargagli (1540–1612), “one of the chief authorities on devices” (Praz). The first part was first published in 1578 and republished in 1589, while the second and third parts appear here for the first time. It is presented as a dialogue between Scipione himself, Belisario Bulgarini and Ippolito Agostino, who engage with other theorists such as Girolamo Ruscelli and Paolo Giovio. Of special interest is the lengthy treatment of emblems composed or commissioned by women. Preliminaries browned, a few leaves slightly foxed, a tiny whole in the foot margin of one leaf (affecting part of the catchword) and a smudge obscuring several letters in the main text, otherwise in very good condition. Binding also very good.

24, “573” [=604], [15], [1 blank] pp. Chatelain 45; ICCU 016869; Landwehr, Romanic emblem books 142; Praz, p. 266, cf. p. 68; cf. G.W. McClure, Parlour games and the public life of women in Renaissance Italy.

More on our website
Questioning the existence of a female pope

2. BLONDEL, David. Familier esclaircissement de la question si une femme a resté assise au siege papal de Rome entre Leon IV, & Benoist III.
Amsterdam, Joan Blaeu, 1649. 8o. With a woodcut printer’s device on title-page. Contemporary limp vellum. € 1250

Second edition of a work questioning the existence of the female pope Joan, who supposedly reigned from 855 to 857, written by the French Protestant historian David Blondel (1591–1655). According to the legend, originating from the 13th century, pope Leo IV was succeeded by a talented woman, disguised as a man, who reigned as a pope for two years before her true identity was discovered after she gave birth to a child. Blondel believed the legend to be false, stating that there is no contemporary evidence supporting a female pope and that the chronology of 9th century popes doesn’t leave any room for a female pope reigning between Leo IV and his successor Benedict III.

With an armorial bookplate on paste-down. Title-page and first few pages slightly soiled at the upper margin, a few minor stains, otherwise in very good condition.


More on our website
Well-illustrated and comprehensive study of the orchids of Europe and the Mediterranean, one of the few copies with the second part of the atlas coloured

3. CAMUS, Edmond Gustave and Aimée Antoinette CAMUS. Iconographie des orchidées d’Europe et du Bassin Méditerranéen. Paris, Paul Lechevalier (colophon: printed by Jouve et Cie (part 1), Winter, Heidelberg (part 2)), 1821–1929. 2 text parts (4º, bound in one volume) and an atlas (folio). With a photographic frontispiece portrait in the text volume and 133 lithographed plates, including 120 coloured by hand. Contemporary brown half morocco. € 1950

First and only edition of a well-illustrated and comprehensive study of the orchids of Europe and the Mediterranean, published posthumously by the daughter of Edmond Gustave Camus (1852–1915), a pharmacist and botanist fascinated by the intricate taxonomy of the family Orchidaceae. Aimée Antoinette Camus (1879–1965) worked together with her father on this project until his death in 1915. She would continue the research and finally published the present work, which is preceded by an obituary by Henri Lecomte and a bibliography of the elder Camus's his works. The present copy not only has the regular 110 of the 122 plates of the first part of the atlas coloured by hand, but also 10 of the 11 plates of the second part.

A very good copy, well bound, with only the spines slightly discoloured.

559, [1]; 72 pp. Nissen, BBI 316; Stafleu & Cowan 971. ☞ More on our website
Conflicts based on differences in wealth and social status, by a famous Dutch female writer

4. [CHARRIERE, Isabelle de, Belle van ZUYLEN]. Lettres écrites de Lausanne.
Including: Caliste ou suite des lettres écrites de Lausanne.

Fifth edition of a well-known series of fictional letters by the famous Dutch novelist and playwright Belle van Zuylen (1740–1805), known as Isabelle de Charrière after her marriage to the Swiss teacher Charles-Emmanuel de Charrière de Penthaz (1735–1808). In a series of letters, Belle examines conflicts that arise from differences in wealth and social status, especially as it affects courtship rituals. “The work begins as a series of letters by an anonymous Mme de *** about her daughter Cécile’s (economically necessary) foray into the marriage market, but just when a serious and troubling match seems to be developing between Cécile and the Englishmen Edouard, this plot is abandoned for a long narrative about the ill-fated love of Edouard’s cousin William for a woman he calls Caliste. In this way, a courtship story narrated by a woman turns into a Romantic tragedy narrated by a man” (Lanser). “The two parts of Charrière’s project, radically different in content and tone, are thematically and structurally linked by the relationship between the original narrator (Cécile’s mother) and William, the ubiquitous guest in the narrator’s parlor throughout the first story” (Daniels).

Binding restored, but internally in very good condition with only occasionally some faint foxing.

Paris fashions ca. 1730: unrecorded version with 12 rather than 8 costume prints


Unrecorded version, with 12 rather than 8 prints, of an extremely rare costume print series, showing Paris fashions for men and women ca. 1730. We have located only two other sets, each with 8 prints. The series appears to originate with a series issued under the same title by Antoine Hérisset in 1729. It comprised 12 prints: a title-print, 6 prints of women’s fashions and 5 prints of men’s fashions. Hérisset’s costume figures were quickly copied by three different print publishers: Jean Crépy and Jacques Chereau in Paris, and Isaac Greve in the Netherlands, so there were four sets of plates with very similar costume figures. Greve surrounded the costume figures with flowers, birds and other decorations, while Crépy and Chereau rearranged the figures to put men and women together in the same prints. The Crépy and Chereau plates are nearly identical and it is not clear which appeared first. These two series are recorded as comprising 8 prints (with 21 figures), including the title-print. The present set lacks one of those 8 prints, but includes 5 additional prints with 10 costume figures showing women’s fashions, their arrangement probably remaining closer to Hérisset’s. Although these 5 extra prints have no imprints or captions, they are printed on the same paper stock as the others, so they were clearly published as part of the series. Since no other copy of the present version is recorded, it is difficult to know whether it was intended to include the 13th print.

With a small piece torn out of 1 print and repaired with no loss, some spots and a few creases or minor marginal defects, but still in good condition. The marbled wrapper is somewhat tattered and the front wrapper has been torn through and repaired.

[Cf. Cohen & De Ricci, col. 858; Colas 2502; Gaudriault, Répertoire de la gravure de mode française de origines à 1815, 112–122; Hiler, p. 737; Rahir, Bibliothèque de l’amateur, p. 456 (all citing 1729 Hérisset ed.); not in Lipperheide. More on our website]
Conchology for women, with 21 engraved plates


Second edition of a conchological work, addressed to female readers, by the French writer and naturalist Simon Louis Pierre Cubières (1747–1821). He opens with a preface, headed “aux femmes”, followed by a general introduction to natural history and seashells. The following chapters are devoted to the classification of sea shells (univalves, bivalves and multivalves) each dealing with a different family of these classes. Each plate depicts several shells, included at the end of the text is a list with the names of all the depicted shells.
A few small spots and a small water stain in the upper margin of the first few pages. Binding rubbed. Overall in very good condition.

[3], [t blank], viii, 202. junk, Thes. libr. conchyliorum 80; Nissen ZBI, 995. ✉ More on our website
Extremely rare first edition of a novel advocating the emancipation of women: author’s dedication copy, bound for presentation to Anna Pavlovna of Russia, Queen of the Netherlands

7. DUFFEYTE-DILHAN, Joseph. Les mémoires d’un ange, ou Les femmes vengées, roman historique, philosophique et moral, ... Tome I.er–II.
[Bordeaux], Edmond Ramadié, [1839–1840, with the author’s 1843 printed dedication to the Dutch Queen Anna Pavlovna of Russia]. 2 volumes. 8º. With 2 copies of the 4-page 1843 dedication to Queen Anna Pavlovna printed on heavy wove paper, signed by the author in brown ink on the first and last page and tipped onto the title-page in each volume. Contemporary finely diced (in horizontal lozenges) and gold-tooled red morocco for presentation to the Queen, (each board with a crown above flowers as centrepiece, and a decorative frame built up from separate tools; the spine with the title and volume number in the middle with decorations above and below), gold-tooled board edges, gilt edges. € 7500

Author’s dedication copy for Queen Anna Pavlovna of the Netherlands (daughter of the late Tsar Pavel I and wife of King Willem II) of the extremely rare first edition of an “historique, philosophique et moral” novel written for women, including chapters such as “Parallèle de la position sociale de l’homme et de la femme”. It tells the story of a virtuous young man who is visited by a beautiful angel who informs him that God has chosen him to write down and publish his revelations to teach men the value and moral influence of women and to rehabilitate women, who presently suffer under unjust prejudices. The author was a great fan of women and wrote primarily for and about them. He finds it unfair that men can do whatever they want while women “ces fleurs dans le désert de la vie” are virtually imprisoned. He also denounces arranged marriages and prostitution. The world was not ready for Duffeyte’s ideas: a reviewer of the 1856 Paris edition concluded that the author must not be married. The present copy is also remarkable because the author presented it to Anna Pavlovna of Russia, daughter of the Tsar, who became Queen of the Netherlands when she married King Willem II in 1840.
Without the “2 gravures” called for by the 1840 announcement, but it is not clear that the book was actually illustrated before the 1856 Paris edition, a notion strengthened by the fact that the author clearly presented this copy to the Queen in 1843 with no illustrations. With occasional minor foxing and a couple small marginal defects, but the book and binding are still in very good condition.

“408” [= 406]; 419, [1 blank] pp. Bibliographie de la France XXIX (1839), 1568 (3re livraison, 8½ sheets) in no. 13 (30 March 1839); 29 (1840), 1422 (2 vols. 5½ sheets) in no. 14 (4 April 1840); KVK & WorldCat (1 copy, incompl., plus 1 copy of a different issue). ☞ More on our website
Album amicorum of a young Dutch lady


Album amicorum of a young Dutch noble girl: Jonkvrouwe Johanna Maria Nicoletta (Marie) de Gyselaer, with her autograph on back of the first leaf, dated 31–01–1800. According to the first poem, the album was a gift from the girl’s mother, also dated January 31, 1800. The two following contributions are by the girl’s parents (pp. 4–5): Nicolaas de Gyselaar (1753–1818) and M.J. (Martha Francina) de Gyselaar (1754–1800), born Collot d’Escury. Her mother was the daughter of Simeon Petrus Collot D’Escury (1719–1800), lord of Naaldwijk en Sliedrecht, and Charlotte Elisabeth van der Burch (1722–1775).

Johanna Maria Nicolette de Gijselar was the eldest of two daughters. She was born in 1785 in Gorinchem and married in 1810 to Lambert Joost Gansneb Tengnagel (1786–1819), who died in Batavia. By then, she had long given up collecting contributions for her album amicorum. The last entry is dated October 24, 1805. The various contributions, with intervals, and at continuously different places, suggest that the young lady is “coming out”, staying with friends and relatives at different places possibly to meet suitable young men.

Binding slightly rubbed. Internally in very good condition.

192 pp. ☞ More on our website
9. **HOOLA VAN NOOTEN, Berthe.** Fleurs fruits et feuillages choisis de l’île de Java … Troisième édition.

Brussels, Leipzig, Librairie Européenne C. Muquardt (printed by Weissenbruch, Brussels), [1880]. 1º (56.5 × 42 cm). With 40 chromolithographed plates by P. Depannemaeker in Ghent after Hoola van Nooten’s original paintings, each accompanied by a page of text (English and French), giving a description as well as information on the plant’s culinary, medical, religious and other uses. Contemporary red half goatskin; rebacked with modern endpapers. € 12 500

Third edition of a magnificent display of Javanese fruits and flowers, their bright colours ideally suited to the new technique of chromolithography. Hoola van Nooten (1840–1885), a twenty-two-year-old widow in “exile” on the island of Java, “was clearly a more than competent artist, for the splendid tropical plants, with their lush foliage, vividly coloured flowers and exotic fruit, have been depicted with great skill. She managed to accentuate the splendour of each species by adopting a style that combined great precision and clarity with a touch of neo-Baroque exuberance, revelling in the rich forms and colours of the tropics. The reader’s eye is immediately captured by the dark leaves, shown furled or crumpled or partly nibbled away by insects, the delicately rendered details of the follicles and seeds, and the heavy clusters of flowers that cascade down the page. The excellent reproduction of the artist’s drawings in the form of chromolithographs lends an added tactility to these striking images” (Tomasi).

With a deeply personal two-page preface (on one leaf) by the artist (“This work is particularly addressed to women. Its object, its tendency, its entire scope, all marks it with the special seal of our sex”).

Binding restored, new endpapers, some browning; a good copy.

[44] ll. GFB, p. 60; Plesch, p. 349; Stafleu & Cowan 3025; Stiftung für Botanik 365; Tomasi, An Oak Spring flora 87. ☞ More on our website
Famous poem with moral lessons for maidens, married women and widows


Volume 1: Delft, Adriaen Gerritsen, 1615 (colophon: 1614); volume 2: Leiden, Jan Paets Jacobszoon, 1611. 8º. Volume 1 with an engraved title-page by Jan Wiericx and 8 full-page engravings by Jan Wiericx; volume 2 with the main text set in civilité type. Matching contemporary vellum. € 3950

Late editions of a very popular poem for young women, the most famous work of the Belgian humanist poet Jean Baptista Houwaert (1533–1599). The poem is divided into sixteen books, offering numerous historical and legendary narratives packed with moral lessons, mostly intended for young girls and maidens. A few books are addressed to married women and widows, and only the last book is devoted to “the duty of the polite men”. Other books are captioned “the treasure of the honest maiden”, “the manners of gracious maidens”, “the marriage of modest ladies”, etc. According to the author the work could be seen as a manual for life. Mixed set. Title-page of the second volume slightly stained, only occasionally a few small spots. Spine of volume 1 slightly damaged at the head. Overall in very good condition.

Handcoloured print for making a female pantin

11. [JUMPING JACK]. [Female pantin].
[Paris, ca. 1750]. Handcoloured engraving of a woman (31 × 22 cm), with the separate parts designed to be cut out and assembled to form a puppet. € 2250

Rare hand-coloured print for making a jumping jack in the form of a rococo woman wearing a short dress and a plumed hat, possibly intended to represent a shepherdess from the Commedia dell’arte. Rudimentary marionettes such as these with articulated limbs were in great vogue in Paris in the 1740s and 1750s and called pantins after the nearby village where they were supposedly invented. The diarist Edmond Barbier (1689–1771) wrote in his journal in 1747: “At first the Pantins were designed for children’s toys; but after a time they were used to amuse the entire public. They were little figures made of pasteboard. All parts of the body were separate and were attached by strings at the back of the figure. When these strings were pulled, the arms, legs, and head were all jointed together and the Pantin could be made to dance… These silly things engrossed the attention of all of Paris, amusing everyone to such an extent that you could not go into any house in January 1747, without finding a Pantin hanging by the mantelpiece” (Hillier). D’Alembert wrote in the *Encyclopédie*, 24 (1778), s.v. “Pantins”, that “posterity will find it difficult to believe that in France persons of a ripe age could have, in an access of vertigo that lasted far too long, amused themselves with these ridiculous toys and employed themselves in searching for them with such enthusiasm, while in other countries Pantins were relegated to children of the most tender age” (Adams).

Slightly worn at the edges; somewhat browned and with a few spots; in good condition.

Cf. Adams & Keene, Paper dolls, pp. 14–20; Hillier, Dolls and doll-makers, p. 45. ☞ More on our website
Laudatory poems
on the paper cutting art of Joanna Koerten

12. KOERTEN, Joanna (subject). Het stamboek op de papiere snykunst van mejuffrouw Joanna Koerten, huisvrouw van den heere Adriaan Blok. Bestaande in Latynsche en Nederduitsche gedichten der voornaamste dichters. Amsterdam, 1735. 8º. With an engraved medallion portrait of Joanna Koerten surrounded by putti as frontispiece (dated 1734) and an engraved illustration on title-page, each designed and engraved by Jan Punt. Contemporary half calf, gold-tooled spine, later endpapers. € 1750

Pirated edition of a collection of laudatory poems on the paper cutting art of Joanna Koerten (1650–1715). It is suggested she was involved in the publication of Konstig en vermaakelijk tyd-verdryf, der Hollandsche jufferen of onderricht der papiere sny-konst (1686), a very rare early Dutch guide to the art of paper cutting. After her death her husband Adriaan Blok put her art on displayed and created a “stamboek”, where admirers could leave a poem or a drawing. This book would grow to 6 volumes. The laudatory poems where published here and include contributions by Maria Sibilla Merian, Balthasar Bekker, Adriaan Reland, Claas Bruin, Abraham Bogaert, and many others.

The present 8º edition was supposedly pirated from the rare 4º edition published by Steven van Esveldt in 1736. That either happenend while the printing was still in progress or after that publication and antedated.

Recased, with minor restorations to the spine, otherwise in very good condition.

Botanical almanac for women and girls,
with illustrated title-page and 14 flower plates,
all hand-coloured


Amsterdam, Jan Barend Elwe, [1799]. 12°. With engraved title-page and 14 botanical flower and herb plates, all hand-coloured. Contemporary stiff, yellow paper wrappers. € 950

Beautifully illustrated and hand-coloured introduction to herbs and flowers, published as an almanac for women and girls and designed to teach them the principles of botany. It is the first of four annual volumes published. The first twelve plates show plant species of classes one to six and eight to thirteen, so the plates are accordingly numbered Cl. I–VI and VIII–XIII. Each plate is accompanied by one leaf of letterpress text. Even though these texts are numbered I–XII, the names and classes agree with the plates. These are preceded by 6 leaves containing the 12 months of the calendar and another 6 with information on eclipses, holidays, advice to girls or women interested in botany and an introduction to the botanical texts. The last two plates and the numbered pages then follow with a thorough instruction on herbs and flowers, which continued in the almanacs for the following three years. These rare almanacs, really quite thorough botanical instruction books, were edited by the celebrated botanist Johan Carl Krauss (1759–1826).

In very good condition. The wrapper is slightly dirty and the spine slightly tattered, but also very good. A rare and lovely little almanac designed to teach botany to women and girls, with 14 coloured botanical plates.

[12], 3, [9], pp. xii ll., 52 pp. Jacobsen Jensen 301; Waller, Cat. Ned. populaire boeken 92. ☞ More on our website
Botany for women and girls, with 2 illustrated title-pages and 36 flower plates, all hand-coloured


Amsterdam, Jan Barend Elwe, 1810. 2 (of 3) volumes. 12º. With 2 engraved title-pages, and 36 botanical flower and herb plates: 4 in volume 2 and 32 in volume 3. Contemporary boards covered with the original publisher’s engraved paper.

Beautifully illustrated and hand-coloured introduction to herbs and flowers, designed to teach women and girls the principles of botany, with 36 plates in the present 2 (of 3) volumes (all 32 plates of individual species plus 4 of the 10 detail plates). It first appeared serially in Almanach der kruid-kunde published in four annual volumes for the years 1800 to 1803, but for the present independent publication the almanac elements were dropped and the botanical texts and plates of the four volumes rearranged in three volumes. The book names no author but was in fact prepared by the celebrated botanist Johan Carl Krauss (1759–1826). The 4 plates in volume II, numbered Pl. VII–X, show 131 detail figures numbered per plate. Each of the 32 plates in volume III shows one whole plant and is preceded by a letterpress leaf giving a 2-page account of the plant and its botanical characteristics. These plates are not numbered, but each gives the number of the botanical class of the plant species, Cl. I–VI, VIII–XXIII (there was never a text or plate for class VII).

With an old owner’s inscription and modern bookplate. Lacking volume I (with plates I–VI) and with some water stains at the head of the title-page and a few text leaves in vol. II, but otherwise in good condition. The bindings are rubbed and the spines restored (with the loss of most of the engraved backstrips). A rare and lovely little introduction to botany for women and girls, with 36 hand-coloured botanical plates.

130, [2 blank]; [64] pp. plus engraved title-pages and plates. Kinderen lezen, kinderen lezen 349; KVK & WorldCat (8 copies); NCC (6 of the same 8 copies); Saakes V (1811), p. 212. ☞ More on our website
**Important obstetrical work**  
*by a famous French midwife*,  
*with 26 colour-printed engravings*

15. **LE BOURSIER DU COUDRAY**, Angélique Marguerite.  
Abbrégé de l’art des accouchemens, dans lequel on donne les préceptes nécessaires pour le mettre heureusement en pratique. On y a joint plusieurs observations intéressantes sur des cas singuliers. Ouvrage très-utile aux jeunes sages-femmes, & généralement à tous les élèves en cet art, qui désirent de s’y rendre habiles.

Saintes, Pierre Toussaints, 1769. 8º. With an engraved author’s portrait by J. Robert and 26 engraved plates printed in 3 colours (black, red and beige) by J. Robert and P. Chapparre. Contemporary gold-tooled calf. € 4000

Revised second edition of an important work in the history of obstetrics, by the pioneering midwife Angélique Marguerite Le Boursier du Coudray (1715–1794), probably the most famous midwife of the 18th century. The first edition was published in 1759, without the 26 coloured engraved plates of the present edition. The plates depict the pelvis with the uterus or the baby, showing different positions of babies in the womb and how the midwife should act. In 1759, in an effort to end infant mortality, Louis XV commissioned Madame du Coudray to travel throughout France to teach the art of childbirth to illiterate peasant women. During the thirty years that followed she instructed women in nearly forty cities. “Madame du Coudray taught her delivery method either directly or through her trained disciples to roughly ten thousand women and girls. … Day-long lessons and demonstrations lasted at least two months and culminated in the ceremonious granting of royal certificates” (Goldsmith).

With a faint owner’s inscription on the title-page. Engraved portrait trimmed at the lower margin, outer margin of the title-page slightly soiled and only a few small spots. Overall in very good condition.

Signed letter by the mother of the Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II of Prague to the Duke of Parma

Praque, 15 April 1581. 2º (32.5 × 21 cm). Signed letter written in brown ink on paper, with a large seal on a diamond-shaped slip of paper over red sealing wax with the Imperial coat of arms encircled by an inscription. € 800

Letter in Spanish by Maria of Austria, also called Maria of Spain (1528–1603), daughter of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V and Isabella of Portugal, Empress as the wife of the Emperor Maximilian II and at the date of the present letter mother of the Emperor Rudolf II. It is addressed to the Italian Duke of Parma, Ottavio Farnese (1521–1586), responding to the news he had sent from Marquis Pier Francesco Malaspina (ca. 1540–1624) in Piacenza, who had married into the Farnese family in 1564. Farnese had passed on Malaspina’s letter about his ill health. Maria was relieved that Malaspina was at least able to write. He apparently made a full recovery, for he was to live another 43 years. The Duke's wife was Maria’s illegitimate half-sister Margaret of Austria (1522–1586), and the present letter opens with the warm salutation, “Ilh[ustre] Duque n[uest]ro charo y amado amygo” and is signed “Maria”, and below to the right of the seal signed, “Herz[og] de Marnelo”[?].
The letter was folded for delivery, with the address on the outside. It also has 3 later horizontal folds. With a light stain running into the address, but not the main text, and with some wear and tear to the seal, otherwise in very good condition, and mostly untrimmed. A letter from Maria of Austria to the Duke of Parma, with the Imperial seal, showing the close personal relations between them and their mutual relative the Marquis Malaspina.

[1], [2 blank], [1] pp. ☞ More on our website
Pharmacological manuscript with 319 medicinal recipes, at least many for sexual ailments with a presentation inscription in French to an unmarried woman

17. [MANUSCRIPT—PHARMACOLOGICAL]. [Medicinal recipes for sexual ailments].
[Germany?, ca. 1857]. Small 8º (17 × 11 cm). Manuscript in Latin and German. Contemporary half tan cloth. € 1500

A mid-19th-century pharmacological manuscript, with recipes to treat many sexual ailments, with what appears to be a presentation inscription between the two parts to “Mademoiselle Josephine Castella sorti de l’asil le 16 Septembre 1857”, so she appears to have been given the book (probably before part 2 was written) when she left some sort of asylum or other institution. Did she leave a job providing health care for women at some sort of institution, or had she been an inmate there? (a lady who had come into difficulties? or a high class prostitute?). There is clearly a fascinating story here, but it requires further study. The first part of the manuscript comprises neatly written Latin lists of ingredients for 202 numbered medicaments in a hierarchical classification scheme. Although they do not name their uses or the ailments they treat, spot checks show that some are sexual in nature, such as “Solut arsenic. Fowleri” (no. 173, used to treat uterine ailments) or “Decoct Zittmanni” (nos. 174 & 175, used to treat syphilis). Many include mineral or botanical poisons, such as mercury, arsenic, antimony and belladonna. The second part, in two numbered series of 5 and 108 recipes, is more hastily written in a second hand, in German and arranged under occasional headings indicating the ailments or the function of the medicine. Many of these are of a sexual nature: “Prophylaxis”, “Gonorrhaea” (and two related headings), “Haüfig und schmerzhafte Erectionen’, “Bubo sympathicus” (syphilis?) and several more. Many of the recipes are followed by a name, apparently the source of the recipe: Otto (by far the most frequent), Eisenmann, Schneider, Fischer, Simon, Langston Tarket[?], J.A. Schmidt, A. Lößler, Knox, Vogler, Westberg, Wyatt and several others.

With occasional minor foxing but generally in very good condition. The sides are rubbed and the cloth of the spine has a few small tears, but the binding is structurally sound.

33, [35], [32 blank] pp. ☞ More on our website
Short play against stricter prostitution regulations in Paris

18. [PROSTITUTION]. Les filles en cage, ou Déguerpissons! Par un abonné au cachet des maisons de plaisir de la capitale.

Paris, Peytieux (colophon: Sétier), 1830. 8º. With a lithographed title-page with an illustration and a small woodcut decoration on the letterpress title-page. Later black half morocco. € 1250

Very rare first and only(?) edition of a short play, criticizing new regulations issued by the Paris police in 1830 regarding prostitution, specifically the ordinance proclaiming that prostitutes were no longer allowed to go out on the streets at night. The author argues that the new regulations are bad for business, since one does not buy something without having seen it first. The play ends with the ladies of pleasure bidding adieu to France. They will go to a less barbaric country, suggesting America, in the knowledge that they will soon be missed, as France “cannot do without them”.

Lithographed title-page closely trimmed at the outer margin, some minor foxing, otherwise in very good condition.

14, [2] pp. CCfr (3 copies); Gay-Lemonnyer II, 312; WorldCat (1 same copy); not in Sudoc. More on our website
Photographs and negatives of surgical procedures, including images of three prominent female gynaecologists

19. QUILLIAM, Andrew. An abridged collection of photographs, taken in various departments of some of the hospitals which I have attended whilst a student 1940–43.

[England], 1940–1943. With 137 gelatin silver prints (including many repeats) and 161 celluloid negatives, most of them measuring ca. 5.5 × 8 cm, but some larger formats. Five albums of varying sizes with photographs, one box with some loosely inserted photographs and 2 albums with negatives.

Large collection of photographs and negatives of surgeries at several hospitals during the Second World War, taken by the medical student Andrew Quilliam (d. 2008), who would become lecturer in anatomy and embryology at University College London. Among the photographs are several showing three prominent female obstetricians and gynaecologists performing surgical operations: Josephine Barnes (1912–1999), Dr. Gertrude Dearnley (1884–1982), who founded the Fertility Clinic at the Royal Free Hospital in London (the first in London), and Gladys Dodds (1898–1982), who wrote the book Gynaecology for nurses (1946) and later worked in Hong Kong for the Family Planning Association. In one album all the photographs are captioned, mentioning the wide variety of operations that take place, often also mentioning the performing doctor. The negatives are inserted in two small albums, which open with a few pages mentioning briefly the content of the majority of the negatives. One album with most of its photographs removed (perhaps now included in the box with loose photographs). The loose photographs slightly curved. Otherwise in very good condition.

☞ More on our website
20. [SAINT-HILAIRE, Émile-Marco de]. L’arte di fumare e prender tabacco senza racar dispiacere alle belle ...
Milan, Giovanni Pirotta, 1828. Small 8º. Contemporary paper wrappers, pasted on top of the original lithographed wrappers. € 350

First edition of the Italian translation of a brief work on tobacco, including 14 “lessons” on how to smoke and snuff tobacco. It opens with an introduction, followed by a section on the origin of tobacco, the medical properties attributed to smoking and snuffing tobacco. The lessons deal with different types of tobacco, pipes, cigars, cigarettes, and tobacco boxes, and how to smoke tobacco without offending women. With an early owner’s inscription on the title-page. With some faint water stains, half-title pasted onto front wrapper. Paper wrappers damaged, especially along the spine.

96 pp. Arents 1355; ICCU 000511 (3 copies). ☞ More on our website
On the rights of married and divorced women

21. STIRNN, Johannes. Tractatio juridica de eo quod justum est circa nuptas, vom Recht der Ehe-Weiber; in celeberrima Marburgensium universitate anno 1693. edita. Halle, Hendel, 1734. 4º. Strip of marbled paper on spine. € 500

First and only edition of a treatise on law, concerning the rights of married and divorced women, written by the German lawyer Johannes Stirnn and based on his 1693 thesis, Disputatio inauguralis iuridica de eo quod iustum est circa nuptas. The text is divided into three parts, which are subdivided into several chapters. The first deals with the period before the wedding day, commenting on the proper age of women to marry, dowries, engagements, and the rights of a woman during her engagement. The second part deals with the roles and rights of men and women within a marriage, heritage agreements and remarriage. The third and last part deals with the dissolution of a marriage: justified and unjustified reasons for divorce, the punishment for unjustified divorce, remarrying after divorce and more. Some minor foxing (heavy on first and last page) and slightly soiled around the margins, a fair copy.

56 pp. VD18 15238393. ☞ More on our website
Very rare Dutch translation of a popular misogynistic pamphlet

22. [SWETNAM, Joseph] and Willem CHRISTIAENS (translator). Recht-banck, tegen de luye, korzelighe, en wispeltuyrighe vrouwen. Leiden, Willem Christiaens van der Boxe, 1641. Small 4° (18.5 × 14 cm). With a woodcut on the title-page showing several women assaulting and name-calling a writer. Decorated paper over boards (ca. 1900). € 2750

Very rare first edition in Dutch of The araignment of lewde, idle, forward, and uncon- stant women, a popular misogynistic pamphlet originally published in English in 1615. “Attacks on women (and defences of them) had been an established pamphlet genre for decades … and the Araignment owes its predecessors an immense (if unacknowledged) debt, for ideas and for whole sentences. What does distinguish the Araignment is the comprehensiveness of its attack on women, combined with an unprecedented level of vituperation … While others may adopt a tone of ironic sophistication, or jocular rib-nudging, this author lacks sufficient control over his own style to indicate when and if he is assuming a pose” (Butler). Although the book contains numerous arguments drawn from the Bible and classical antiquity, Swetnam (d. 1621), a fencing master, was no scholar and stated in the introduction that he wrote for “the ordinary sort of giddy headed young men”. As his intended reader was either a bachelor or a newly-wed young man, most of Swetman’s arguments are of an economic nature (mostly the spend-thrift wife) but he also discusses sexual promiscuity and nagging. Possibly due to its unscholarly nature, the pamphlet proved extremely popular and sparked numerous counter-pamphlets, some of them written by women. Swetnam’s pamphlet even formed the inspiration for the comic play Swetnam the woman-hater arraigned by women (1620). Binding slightly rubbed and the spine damaged and cracked. With a small hole in the head margin of the pamphlet and some ink remains on the final blank page; a very good copy.

[3], [1 blank], [14], 53, [1 blank] pp. Butler, “Introduction” in: Female-replies to Swetnam the woman-hater; STCN (2 copies); WorldCat (3 copies). ☞ More on our website
10-volume study of insects, with 110 engraved plates


First edition of a 10-volume study of insects attributed on the title-page to Martin Grostète de Tigny (1736–1799), who died two years before publication and supposedly written by his wife Mme Grostète de Tigny. This attractively illustrated work forms volumes 46 to 55 of the “Suite à Buffon”. Most of the plates are after drawings by De Sève and Barraband.

A very good set.

Horn & Schenkling 22197; Nissen, ZBI 681. ☞ More on our website
Comprehensive collection of “empirical” remedies, with a section on women’s diseases


Including:

— TOMAI, Camillo. Rationalis methodus atque compendiosa ad omnes frere curandos morbos humani corporis.

— TROTULA. Curandarum aegritudinum muliebri, ante, in, & post partum liber unicus.

Venice, Vincenzo Valgrisi, 1555. 8º. 18th-century(? ) gold-tooled calf, rebacked. € 2950

Reissue of the “second edition” (actually the third) of a comprehensive collection of empirical remedies for a wide range of illnesses, by the Italian philosopher and professor of medicine Benedetto Vittori (1481–1561), who wrote “one of the first books on medical theory to be published during the Renaissance …” (Heirs of Hippocrates). Vittori’s medicines are followed by a text by Camillo Tomai on the “rational treatment” of diseases (pp. 393–459), first published in 1549 by the Aldine press. Included at the end is a brief treatise called Trotula, dealing with women’s diseases and conditions often occurring during menstruation, pregnancy or after childbirth (pp.460–525), probably partly based on the medieval trotula-texts.

With an owner’s inscription on title-page and occasionally some notes in the margins. Some marginal water stains (especially on the title-page), slightly browned and some occasional spots and thumbing; a good copy.

[16], 525, [3] pp. Durling 4657; ICCU 003584; cf. Bird 2385 (first issue); Heirs of Hippocrates 188. ☞ More on our website
Shipwrecked and sold as a slave: a fine example for women, with 8 engraved plates

25. [WOMEN]. De heerlyke beloning en glorieryke zegepraal der deugd. Vertoond in de wonderlyke lot- en levens-gevallen, van een door het huwelyk ongelukkig geworden deugdzame huisvrouw; ...

Amsterdam, Steven van Esveldt, 1758. 8º. With an engraved frontispiece and 7 engraved plates. Modern blue cloth. € 1950

Rare first edition an anonymously published novel on the virtues of women, illustrated with 8 engraved plates. The title can be translated as *The splendid reward and glorious victory of virtue* and narrates the story of Antonetta, Marquise Alb***, a married noblewoman living in Genoa who gets into trouble when she finds out her husband cheats on her. Her husband sells her as a slave to the Turks in Algiers and ends up in a harem. She manages to escape, travels back to Italy but shipwrecks near Tuscany where she is found by a hermit, who takes care of her. She then travels back to Genoa, forgives her husband and they live happily ever after. According to the preface the story was based on true events and is promised to be both entertaining and educational, a real example for women.

First and last few leaves slightly foxed, occasionally some marginal stains. Overall in very good condition.

[6], 346 pp. Buisman 131; Scheepers II, 64; STCN 298415526 (2 copies); WorldCat (3 other copies). ☞ More on our website
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