(Imaginary) voyages, piracy & shipwrecks
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Imaginary voyage to Australia

1. [AUSTRALIA–IMAGINARY VOYAGE]. Voyage de Robertson, aux Terres Australes, traduit sur le manuscrit anglois.
Amsterdam, 1767. 12º. Contemporary mottled calf, gold-tooled spine. € 1250

Rare first edition (second issue) of a utopian novel, allegedly translated from an English manuscript left by a Captain Robertson, who had sailed with Francis Drake in 1585 in the Elizabeth. The protagonist discovers an exemplary people living on an unknown Australian island. This sets the stage for a long praise in the spirit of Rousseau of the political and social institutions, based on natural law and humanism, of these kind, happy and wealthy Australians, as against the primitive and barbarous institutions of the brutal, unhappy and poor Europeans. Front board with some wormholes, but otherwise in very good condition.

[4]. 474 pp. Davidson, pp. 43–44; Gove, p. 355; Kroepelien 1330; STCN (2 copies). ☞ More on our website
First edition of an interesting “Italian Robinsonade” full of piquant details on early 18th-century daily life

The Hague, Jean Neaulme, 1722. 2 parts in 1 volume. 8º. With 6 full-page engraved plates. Contemporary calf. € 750

First edition of these Avantures de Don Antonio de Buffalis, revamped as the “Italian Robinsonade”, on the education and travels of Antonio de Buffalis, a boy from an Italian family living in Milan, by the French writer Antoine de La Barre de Beaumarchais (died ca. 1757). Apart from travel accounts of journeys to Geneva and Venice, full of interesting details of the life in hotels including many more or less piquant stories of his encounters in these establishments, the book, like so many of the picaresque stories, includes also an excursion to Algiers. The book also provides us with information on the habits and traditions of the Moor people.

From the library of the counts of Erbach (Germany) with four library stamps; manuscript dedications in pencil on rectos of first flyleaves; lower part of spine gone. Good copy of this adventure book on an Italian Robinson.

Rare first edition of the leading Dutch translation of the Ship of fools

3. BRANT, Sebastiaen. Navis stultorum: oft, Der sotten schip. Antwerp, Jan II van Ghelen, 1584. Small 4º. With a woodcut of the Ship of Fools on the title-page, woodcut Dutch title-panel, Van Ghelen’s large woodcut greyhounds and goat device on the last page, 118 full-page and 2 smaller woodcut illustrations in text, each page (after the title and its verso) in a border built up from arabesque cast fleurons. 18th-century sprinkled calf, gold-tooled spine and board edges, mottled edges. € 18 000

Rare first edition of Jan II van Ghelen’s Dutch translation of Sebastian Brant’s famous Ship of fools, a telling satire on the foolishness of men. The book really is a picture book, each act of folly depicted in a large woodcut in which the fool with cap and bells plays the main role, the text explaining the woodcut and its moral. It first appeared in German in 1494, in Latin in 1497, and went through hundreds of editions in many languages, as well as spin-offs of various kinds, including a song by The Grateful Dead in 1974. A Dutch translation appeared in Paris in 1500 and a few more in the following decades, including one at Antwerp in 1548, but the present edition was far more influential and was long even cited as the first.

Sebastian Brandt (1457–1521) is famous largely for this verse satire, in which more than a hundred fools set sail in search of a fool’s paradise. Each humourously satirizes one particular vice or folly of Brant’s day, sparing neither clergy nor scholars, and each fool meets his death in an appropriate manner. Columbus’s discovery of America, made only 2 years before the first edition, earns a brief mention. Brant satirizes men and women in all walks of life and engaged in various activities, so the woodcuts add not only humour and beauty, but also a view of historical clothing, implements and customs.

Lower outside corner of title-page restored and a few leaves slightly browned, but still in very good condition. The binding is worn and restored. Rare and well-illustrated first edition of the leading Dutch translation of a classic of satirical literature.

[2], “234” [= 236], [10] pp. Belg. Typogr. I, 388; BKVK & WorldCat (3 copies); Rosenwald Coll. 1206; USTC 402039 (5 copies); not in Adams; Bibl. Belg. ☞ More on our website
Spanish translation of Campe’s Robinson der Jüngere

4. CAMPE, Joachim Heinrich. El nuevo Robinson. Historia moral reducida a dialogos para instruccion y entretenimiento de ninos y jovenes de ambos sexos. Traduvida al Castellano con varias correcciones por D. Tomas de Iriarte.

Paris, Garnier Hermanos, 1858. 8º. With wood-engraved frontispiece, 13 full-page wood-engraved plates. Original richly blind-stamped and coloured cloth, gilt edges. € 350

Spanish translation of Robinson der Jüngere, the German adaptation for use of children of Defoe’s Robinson by Joachim Heinrich Campe (1746–1818), enlightened pedagogue and director of the Philanthropinum at Dessau in Germany. The Philanthropinum was founded by Johann Bernhard Basedow in 1771 as a model-school for the new enlightened ideas on education. Spine loosening. A good copy.

xi, [i blank], 374 pp. Cf. Ullrich III, pp. 72–3 (other editions). ☞ More on our website
Portuguese shipwreck off the coast of Africa,
a classic of Portuguese literature


Lisbon, Francisco Rolland, 1783. Small 8º (15 × 11 cm). Contemporary limp vellum. € 650

Second edition in the original Portuguese of one of the most important works of Portuguese literature, by the poet, painter and musician Jeronimo Corte Real (ca. 1533–1590), first published in 1594. After Camões, Corte Real is considered the greatest Portuguese epic poet. His Sepúlveda “is a narrative of the disastrous shipwreck and ultimate fate of Manoel de Sousa de Sepúlveda, of Donna Leonora, his wife, and their children on their voyage from India to Portugal, on board the great galleon Saint John, which was lost at the Cape of Good Hope on the Coast of Natal.

With an owner’s inscription on title-page. In good condition, some small defects. Binding with a small chip at the foot of the spine and some small scuff marks. Influential second edition of a great Portuguese epic poem.

xiv, [1], [1 blank], 351, [1 blank] pp. Inocêncio III, 262–263 & X, 128; Palau IV, 63005; Porbase (2 copies); SAB I, p. 653. ☞

More on our website
Privately distributed eye-witness account of the mutiny at the Nore

6. [Cunningham, Charles]. A narrative of occurrences that took place during the mutiny at the Nore, in the months of May and June, 1797. Chatham, William Burrill, 1829. 8º. With the errata slip inserted between the introduction and main text. Contemporary boards. € 2500

First edition of a rare and detailed account of the historic mutiny at the Nore (in the Thames Estuary) in 1797, involving several ships of the Royal Navy. The errata slip notes, “A few copies only of this narrative are printed for the particular friends of the author.” The revolt closely followed a more peaceful mutiny at Spithead earlier that year and ended with the conviction and subsequent executions of 29 leaders. The demands of the mutineers included more shore leave, a more equal distribution of prize money and several changes to the Articles of War. The Admiralty, however, didn’t accede to the demands and the prime minister eventually outlawed the mutineers. Richard Parker, elected president of the delegates of the fleet, was court-martialed and hanged aboard the 90-gun Sandwich, the ship where the mutiny had started. Parker’s trial was followed by the hanging of 28 other mutineers. The author, Charles Cunningham (1755–1834), was commander of the frigate Clyde. He was refitting at the Nore in May 1797 when the mutiny broke out. A respected captain, he managed to suppress the mutiny on his ship after 17 days. With the armorial bookplate of John Gretton, Stapleford, 1st Baron Gretton (1867–1947), on the front paste-down, and an 1849 newspaper clipping about prize money for the officers and crew of 2 ships, tipped onto p. 24. An owner has corrected the text in manuscript in accordance with the errata slip. In good condition, with the spine and joints neatly repaired and the hinges reinforced.

More on our website
Rare Dutch edition of the account of the first circumnavigation of Australia

7. FLINDERS, Matthew. Ontdekking-reis naar het groote Zuidland anders Nieuw Holland; bezichtiging van het zelve in 1801, 1802, en 1803; noodlottige schipbreuk, en gevangenschap van 6½ jaar bij de Franschen op Mauritius.

Haarlem, Loosjes, 1815–1816. 4 volumes. 8°. Each volume with an engraved title-page with a different oval view (King George Sound, Port Jackson, Wreck Reefs and Rempart River), and a large folding engraved map of New Holland loosely inserted. Contemporary mottled half calf, with gold fillets on spine. € 7500

Rare first and only edition of the Dutch translation of an account of the first circumnavigation of Australia, by Captain Matthew Flinders, who was the first to give the continent its present name. “The greatest of all the early coastal voyages … His journal is a highlight of Australiana and in one form or another, should be in every collection” (Davidson). This anonymous Dutch translation contains a new preface and footnotes.

Flinders was appointed commander of the HMS *Investigator* in 1801 with instructions to explore the coast of South Australia. Almost a year later, in June 1803, he completed the first circumnavigation of the elusive continent. His ship was in such bad condition, however, that he was unable to complete his surveys. He sailed in the HMS *Porpoise* to obtain a suitable ship to finish his task, but was wrecked on a reef off the coast of Port Jackson. He managed to get back to Port Jackson, where he set sail for England in the Cumberland, which, again, proved to be in rather poor condition. Unaware that a war had recently broken out between England and France, Flinders called at Mauritius to seek repairs. Here he was immediately arrested by the French governor and kept imprisoned for nearly seven years. In June 1810, Flinders was finally allowed to set sail for England. There he struggled to get his journal published, finally succeeding in 1814.

With the labels of the Doctrina & Amicitia library, Amsterdam. Some occasional browning and foxing, especially to the opening leaves of each volume, bindings slightly rubbed, but generally in good condition.

[4], xvi, 362; [4], 346; [4], 415, [1 blank]; [4], 416 pp. Davidson, pp. 120–125; Ferguson 602; Kroepelien 439; NCC (6 copies); WorldCat (9 copies, incl. 6 the same); cf. Houwego, 1800–1850, F11; not in Tiele, Bibl. € 7500 More on our website
Early work on navigation
and a primary source for seamen’s “barbaric” language

8. GUEVARA, Antonio de. Libro de los inventores del arte de marear, y de muchos trabajos que se passan en las galeras. ... Tocanse en el muy excellentes antiguiedades, y avisos muy notables para los que navegan en galeras. Antwerp, Martin Nutius, [ca. 1545/46]. Small 8º (13.5 x 10 cm). With Nutius’s woodcut device on the title-page. Set in rotunda gothic type with a few words in a large roman. Blind-tooled brown goatskin (1920s?) in 16th-century style by Victor Arias (1856–1935) in Madrid, gold-tooled turn-ins. € 12 000

Rare (first?) separately published edition of an early discourse on the art of sailing and navigation, in the original Spanish, first published as part of Libro llamado Menosprecio de Corte. The book discusses the invention and use of the galley, mariners of classical antiquity, the dangers of the sea, pirates, the sea and its properties, and of special interest a chapter on the barbaric language spoken in Spanish galleys: a primary source for their lost maritime dialects. Although it covers sailing from classical antiquity onward, most of the text focuses on Guevara’s own era. He includes often humorous descriptions of the horrendous food aboard the galleys, and lists, with tongue in cheek, 58 “privileges” reserved for those who live a life at sea. Ultimately, sailing separates men from beasts, for beasts flee danger while men willingly sail into unknown waters. The present work was later translated into English, French and Italian, the first as A book of the invention of the art of navigation.

With the bookplates of the famous collector Harrison D. Horblit (1912–1988) and Frank S. Streeter (1918–2006), an important collector of voyages of discovery, but also the son of the great Americana collector, Thomas W. Streeter. Trimmed close to the running heads, but with no loss, in very good condition and complete with the two final blanks. The binding shows a small tear as the head of the spine and a bit of wear at the extremities generally, but otherwise very good.

xxix, [1], [2 blank] ll. Belg. typographica 1553 (1 copy); Iberian Books 9931; Palau 110395; USTC 440510 (4 copies). More on our website
Italian friar captured by Ottoman pirates


Rome, Ignatio de’ Lazzari, 1657. 4º. With 3 engraved plates. Contemporary limp sheepskin parchment. € 3500

Rare first and only edition of the biography of the Augustinian friar Alipio de Luca di San Giuseppe (1617–1645) from Palermo, by Francesco Maria Maggio (1612–1686), an Italian missionary in the Middle East.

Ottoman pirates captured Alipio’s ship on 1 July 1643 and brought it to Tripoli. He converted to Islam, but repented and was martyred on 17 February 1645 when he told the Pasha (Mehmed Saqizli) that he wished to return to his Christian faith. The account continues after his death, telling about his beatification and declaration of sainthood. The plates show the martyrdom and the holy relics of the Saint.

With owner’s inscription. One of the three plates slightly larger than the bookblock and folded in at the foot, otherwise in very good condition. Spine damaged.

[40], 24, [4], 25–234, [3 blank] pp. ICCU UM1Ev00752 (9 copies); Streit XVI, p. 525, no. 4001; WorldCat (6 copies); not in Atabey; Chabine. ☞ More on our website
Fictional account of life in Queensland, with illustrations reproduced photographically

10. MARCET, Edouard. Australie un voyage a travers le bush. Geneva, Jules-Guillaume Fick, 1868. 8. Illustrated with 20 original albumen prints of drawings (10 full-page, mounted on inserted leaves of heavy paper as plates, and 10 smaller, mounted on the text leaves in spaces left for that purpose). Contemporary gold-tooled polished green calf, richly gold-tooled spine, gilt edges. Rebacked in green cloth with the original backstrip laid down. € 3750

First edition, in the original French, of Marcet’s fictional narrative of life in Queensland, remarkably illustrated with mounted photographic reproductions of drawings. Edouard Marcet was a Swiss settler in Queensland, who also published two factual accounts of life in the colony. The present work includes descriptions and illustrations of dramatic encounters between settlers and the aboriginal people. It further describes Queensland’s natural history, including the platypus, which is shown in two illustrations.

In very good condition, with only some spotting. Binding expertly rebacked and with some scratches and discolouration, but otherwise also very good. A fascinating fictional account of life in Queensland, illustrated by drawings reproduced as albumen prints.

268 pp. Bibl. of Australian lit. III, p. 305; Boom & Rooseboom (eds.), A new art: photography in the 19th century, B265; Ferguson 12258. ☞ More on our website
The account of a voyage of a Swedish privateer together with a vivid account of travels in Germany


Nyköping, Peter Winge, 1798.


Göteborg, Samuel Norberg, 1797–1798. 2 works in 1 volume. 8º. Contemporary half calf. € 5000

Rare first Swedish edition of George Mortimer’s Observations and remarks. The present translation is slightly abridged and was probably made after Carl Fr. Landell’s German version, which was augmented with a preface and some footnotes. Mortimer narrates the voyage of the Mercury, which visitied New Holland, Van Diemens Land, Tahiti, Alaska, and Canton (China), and Hawaii. The ship anchored at Kealakekua Bay, and the narrative includes notes on James Cook’s death here in 1779. The book further contains a very interesting account of the Russian establishment at Unalaska, and of the collecting of sealskins and oil on Amsterdam Island.

The Mercury was in fact Gustaf III, a privateer sailing under the Swedish flag sent by the King of Sweden to attack Russian fur trade settlements in the North Pacific, during the war between Russia and Sweden in 1788–1790.

The work is bound with the Swedish edition of Gaspard Risbeck’s entertaining account of travels through Germany.

Some foxing, binding rubbed, otherwise in good condition.

77, [3 blank] pp. Ad i: Beddie 259; Ferguson 275b; Forbes 295. ☞ More on our website
Prints series of the naval battles of René Duguay-Trouin and Jean-Bart, including a double-page map and a print of Rio de Janeiro

Paris, Yves Marie le Gouaz, [1774]. Engraved print series with xv plates (2 double-page) and 7 leaves with engraved text on both sides. Lacking a half-title present in some copies.
Paris, Yves Marie le Gouaz, 1806. With 19 numbered engraved half-page plates by Le Gouaz after Ozanne. 2 works in 1 volume. 2º (41.5 × 29 cm). Contemporary half green sheepskin parchment.

Ad 1: Rare engraved print series depicting the naval battles of René Duguay-Trouin (1673–1736) from the year he went into the French navy under Louis XIV in 1692 to the end of the War of the Spanish Succession in 1711. It includes the capture of Rio de Janeiro in 1711, with a double-page map and a view of the battle. Duguay-Trouin had begun as a privateer but in the navy he fought both privateers and the Dutch and English navies. The print series was drawn by Nicolas Ozanne, engraved by his sister Jeanne François Ozanne and published by her husband Yves Marie Le Gouaz. The maps were engraved by Drouet.
Ad 2: Rare first edition of Yves Marie Le Gouaz’s finely engraved series sea-battle prints from the career of the infamous French privateer, Jean-Bart (1650–1702), after drawings by Ozanne. They include a title-print showing a fishing boat before the entrance to the port at Jean-Bart’s native Dunkerque, seventeen views of his conquests of Dutch, Spanish and English ships from 1675 to 1696, and a view of his Channel crossing in a small row boat after escaping from an English prison in 1689.
The first work lacks the engraved half-title. otherwise both works in very good condition, with only some minor foxing, and a small waterstain in 1 letterpress leaf.

12, II engraved pp. text plus xv plates; 8 pp. plus [9] ll. with engravings. Ad 1: Borba de Moraes, p. 273; Bosch 244; Polak 7235; Rodrigues 908; not in Sabin; ad 2: Cohen-De Ricci, col. 778; Polak 7240 & supp. 10707; WorldCat (3 copies). ☞ More on our website
The wondrous travels of Pinto according to radical enlightenment philosophy

13. PINTO, Fernão Mendes and Jan Hendrik GLAZEMAKER (translator). De wonderlyke reizen van Fernando Mendez Pinto; die hij in de tijd van eenentwintig jaren in Europa, Asia en Afrika... gedaan heeft.

Amsterdam, printed for Jan Rieuwertsz I and Jan Hendricksz Boom, 1653. 4º.

Second edition of a translation into Dutch of the travels of the Portuguese explorer Pinto through Asia. Over a period of 21 years Ponto travelled to Africa, India and China and even claimed to have been in Tibet. By his own account he was the first westerner to enter Japan. Although the historical accuracy of his account is debatable, his story is highly entertaining and remained very popular for long after his death. The first edition in Dutch was published in 1652 and translated by Jan Hendrik Glazemaker, most famous for his translations of the works of Descartes. Glazemaker, who did not know Portuguese, based himself on an earlier French translation by Bernard Figuier. Instead of providing an accurate translation, he edited the text to conform to the radical enlightenment ideals of Spinoza, supported by himself and his publisher. This stripped Pinto’s travels of most of the Catholic elements, including miracles and saints. “Glazemaker excludes what cannot be explained from a scientific perspective” (Couto). What remains is the image of the ruthless Portuguese who used faith to justify their cruelty and greed. Contrasting with them is the book’s description of a utopian China in which religions harmoniously coexist.

The back of the engraved title-page, letterpress title-page and first page of the introduction were used for a writing exercise. The main allegorical figure of the engraved title-page has been perforated at the edges and the 14 following leaves, including the letterpress title-page and one engraving, contain small, nearly invisible perforations.

With a restored tear in A1, some thumbing and some water stains in the margins including a larger water stain at the bottom corner of the second half of the book; a good copy.

[8], 280 pp. STCN (2 copies); Cordier, Japonica, col. 38; Cordier, Sinica, col. 2067; Couto, The marvellous travels of Fernando Mendez Pinto across the Low Countries; Thiele 195. More on our website
2 signed autograph letters from a French privateer

14. PLEUC or PLEVE?, Jacques René. [Two autograph letters, signed, attempting to secure promised payments for the booty of the captured English frigate HMS Liverpool by the French privateer Le Grand Décidé, one addressed to Auguste-Anne de Bergevin, Commissaire principal de Marine in Bordeaux, and the other to the brothers Amédée & Eugene Larrieu in Bordeaux, who sold the booty].

Bordeaux, 30 June & 18 November 1820. 2º (32.5 × 21 cm) & 4º (19.5 × 20.5 cm). In dark brown ink on paper. € 1750

Two letters by Jacques René Pleuc (or possibly Pleve), officer of the infamous French 18-gun privateer Le Grand Décidé which had been operating out of Bordeaux since 1799 under its captain Duchesne Lasalle for its owner Pierre Leleu. With the capture of the English frigate Liverpool off the coast of Brittany near Brest in 1799, Jacques René was made Capitaine de Prise giving him responsibility for the captured ship. In the first letter, he writes to Auguste-Anne Bergevin (1753–1831) the relevant authority at Bordeaux, complaining that Leleu has still not paid the promised share of the proceeds from the sale of the booty, which was carried out by the brothers Amédée and (Joseph?) Eugène Larrieu in Bordeaux. The second letter is addressed to the Larrieu brothers, still trying to secure payment, referring to the earlier letter and naming the ship and the amount of money (5000 francs), not noted in the first letter.

The first letter somewhat tattered at the head with the loss of parts of 3 or 4 words and both were formerly folded for sending. Both are in good condition. A fascinating primary source providing a window into the logistics and finance of a privateering venture.

[2], [2 blank]; [2], [2 blank] pp. ☞ More on our website
Two dialogues discussing Dutch warships capturing Dunkirk privateers and merchant ships. Dunkirkers, serving the Spanish Navy, were a major threat to Dutch trade and shipping, taking hundreds of ships during the Dutch revolt. The present pamphlet discusses several commanders of warships, including the Zeeland captains Jacob Pense, Gerrit Verhagen, Jan Evertsen de Jonge and Jacob Verhelle, who captured no fewer than 30 Dunkirk ships in just one year. Jan Evertsen de Jonge was the son of the famous admiral Jan Evertsen, who had captured the infamous Duinkerker privateer Jacques Colaert in 1636 and later fought several battles in the first and second Anglo-Dutch war. The pamphlet concludes with a list of captured ships mentioned in the text. It seems to have been written to advocate the fitting out of more warships to protect Dutch (or more particularly Zeeland) trade.

Spine damaged, otherwise in very good condition.

Rare tale of heroic exploits
by a Dutch pirate of the Caribbean
illustrated by Jan and Caspar Luyken

16. REYNING, Jan Erasmus (as told to David van der STERRE). Zeer aanmerkelijke reysen gedaan door Jan Erasmus Reining, meest in de West-Indien en ook in veel andere deelen des werelds. &c.
Amsterdam, Jan ten Hoorn, 1691. 4º. With an engraved frontispiece signed by Caspar Luyken and 6 engraved plates (including 2 folding) one by Jan Luyken (unsigned). 18th-century marbled wrappers. In a modern black cloth clamshell box.

Rare first and only edition of the heroic exploits of the famous Dutch pirate, privateer and naval officer Jan Erasmus Reyning (1640–1697). His close friend, a Curacao doctor, wrote down his stories and published them. Reyning’s adventurous career began at age ten when he went to sea with his father, who was killed in battle when they served on a privateering ship a couple years later. Jan Erasmus was taken prisoner during the Second Anglo-Dutch War (1665–1667), and went into the service of a French plantation on the island of Hispaniola. Around 1667 he became a buccaneer in the jungles around Santo Domingo, and between 1669 and 1672 he appears to have fought as a privateer captain with French or English letters of marque. He and his partner Jelle Lecat worked with such notorious pirates as Roche Brazilian and Henry Morgan. In 1672, with the Netherlands at war with England and France, he left Spanish service to protect the Dutch colony of Curacao, earning him a reputation as a sort of Robin Hood and the gratitude of the Dutch West India Company. After returning to the Netherlands he served as an officer in the Dutch marine, dying in a storm in the Bay of Biscay in 1697.
An object apparently once placed between C1 and C2 left some rust-coloured stains in the text near the gutter margin and there are occasional marginal stains or chips, but the book is still in good condition and only slightly trimmed. A vivid picture of the pleasures and violence of life among pirates of the Caribbean: it would make a good movie.

[6], “134” [= 136], [6] pp. Klaversma & Hannema 1381; Sabino 69419; STCN (5 copies); Tiele, Bibl. 1052.
More on our website
Fantastic (partly true?) adventures in Ottoman Africa,
by an English merchant captured by Barbary pirates in 1648

17. ROBERTS, A. The adventures of (Mr T. S.) an English merchant, taken prisoner by the Turks of Argiers, and carried into the inland countries of Africa.


First edition of an extraordinary account of an English merchant mariner’s capture by Barbary pirates in or soon after 1648 and his subsequent adventures as a slave in Algeria. It is presented as an authentic journal of T[thomas?], posthumously prepared for the press by his friend A. Roberts. The author is certainly well-informed on the Ottomans in Africa and his story may be partly based on true events, but many of the details are clearly fantasy, with monstrous beasts and people turned to stone, in addition to tall tales of his own adventures. In the story he sets off from the Thames in the Hamburg merchant ship Sancta Maria in July 1648 and the ship is captured by Barbary pirates soon after. As a slave under numerous masters the author tricks his way into employment as cook to the King of Algiers, is then demoted to keeper of the King’s bath and secretly fathers a daughter with one of the King’s wives. After an unsuccessful stint as a gardener’s assistant he journeys in the service of an Ottoman officer, collecting tribute money with the Algerian army, and offers his services as an advisor to the Ottoman governor of Tlemcen (northwest Algeria).

With an owner’s initials, manuscript bookplates and library stamps. In good condition, very slightly browned and with a small chip at the head of two leaves, affecting only the page numbers. First edition of an English merchant’s marvellous adventures in Ottoman Africa.

[8], “252” [= 254], [2] pp. Cox I, p. 362; Playfair, Algeria 155; Playfair, Morocco 244; Wing S552. ☞ More on our website
Unique printed records of ships, shipwrecks and shipping in 1735, covering several hundred voyages

18. [SHIPS & SHIPPING]. Lyst van scheepen, welke volgens tydinge (ingekomen in de maanden January en February, 1735.) zouden gebleven, gestrant ofte waar elders beschadigd binnen gelopen zyn. ... daar by ... gevoegt zyn, de Lyst van scheepen, welke ... in Texel, ... geraffireert of ... van daar in zee gegaan zyn. Voor de maanden January en February, 1735.

With:

(2) Lyst van scheepen, ... in Texel ofte de Maas ... Voor de maand Maart, 1735.
(3) Lyst van scheepen, ... in Texel ofte de Maas ... Voor de maand April, 1735.

Amsterdam, widow of J. van Egmont, [1735]. 3 works in 1 volume. 4º. With the same small woodcut vignette on the title-page of each of the 3 works (a winged putto with foliage and fruits). Modern white sheepskin(?), blue paper sides. € 2750

Only copies located of the first three issues covering four months (all known to have been published) of lists ships lost, stranded or returned damaged, giving the name of the ship and captain, the port of origin and/or destination, and the final location (with some information about the circumstances). They also include some information about ships wrecked earlier when news of their fate has only recently been received. They also include lists of all ships going to and from the Island Texel (and for March and April also out of and into the Maas River), again giving the names of the ships and captains, and their port of departure or destination. Texel and the Maas were among the most important centres of the international shipping trade. Besides the many European points of origin and destination (from Ireland and Spain to Estonia and Saint Petersburg, and from Norway to Italy), the lists include ships going to or coming from Smyrna (Izmir), Guinea, Ceylon, Batavia (Jakarta), Greenland, Strait Davis, Surinam, Curacao, New York and elsewhere. Altogether they cover several hundred voyages.

The books themselves make it clear that they were the first three issues of what was supposed to be a continuing serial publication, and the issue for April 1735 still explicitly says it is to be continued monthly, but the present copies of the first three issues covering January to April 1735 (January and February in a single issue) are the only ones known to survive. It seems likely no more were published and that the short life of the publication and ephemeral nature of its contents led people to discard issues when they became out of date. Fortunately the present copies survived.

In very good condition. An essential source for any study of the shipping trade ca. 1735.

17. [1 blank]; 12; 12 pp. Not in Cat. NHSM; Knuttel; Picarta; STCN; WorldCat. ☞ More on our website
A raunchy satire of country life in Holland ca. 1700 with appendices on the Cape, East Indies and fictitious Isle of Pines

19. **SPAAN, Gerrit van.** Het koddig en vermakelyk leven van Louwtje van Zevenhuizen, of het schermschool der huislieden, vervat in twee deelen. Waar agter gevoegt is de Afrikaansche en Aziaansche weg-wijzer, ...

Rotterdam, Pieter de Vries, 1752. 4 parts in 2 volumes, bound as 1. 8º. With engraved allegorical frontispiece, a letterpress general title-page, 4 part-titles. Contemporary mottled calf, richly gold-tooled spine. € 4500

Second edition, by the printer-publisher of the 1704 first edition, of a rare coarse satire whose title can be translated as, “The comical and entertaining life of Louwtje Zevenhuizen, or the family fencing school.” The two volumes of the “fencing school” are followed by the African and Asiatic guide, which Spaan had published separately in 1694 and 1695. The former includes a chapter on the fictitious Isle of Pines.

The first two parts, volumes one and two of the “fencing school” satirize the rough morals, customs and traditions of Dutch country people, with lively, convincingly realistic and sometimes coarse descriptions. The *Afrikaanse weg-wijzer* says it is for the benefit of those who can’t earn a living in their native country. Chapter VII describes the fictitious Isle of Pines, where Joris Pines was supposedly shipwrecked in 1589 and lived a life of luxury and pleasure with his four wives and 1789 children and grandchildren. The last part describes a voyage to and in the East Indies and the unknown Australia, with information on Java, Ceylon, Formosa, Ambon, Ternate, Celebes and Borneo.

With the bookplates of J. W. Six and Jan Steenks. In very good condition. The binding shows some chips and cracks, mainly in the spine, but is structurally sound.

[20], 483 pp. Buisman 2147; De Vries 242; Landwehr, VOC 1542 note & 1543 note (parts 3–4); Mendelssohn II, pp. 413–14; Muller 504; Scheepers I, 432 (this copy); STCN (4 copies); Tiele, Bibl. 1015; not in: Ford, Isle of Pines. ☞ More on our website
The capturing of the royalist privateer “Mayflower”

20. THOMAS, William, Captain. Good newes from sea, being a true relation of the late sea-fight, betwene Captain William Thomas, captain of the 8th Whelp, now imployed for the service of the King and Parliament, against Captaine Polhill, captaine of the ship call’d the May flower Admirall of Falmouth, with the taking of the said ship.

London, Lawrence Blaiklock, 26 June 1643. Small 4º (19 × 14 cm). Dark blue half morocco (ca. 1870), gold-tooled spine, gilt edges, marbled boards with gold fillets, bound by Riviere, with the binder’s stamp on flyleaf. € 3500

First and only edition of an account of the taking of the Mayflower, a royalist privateer vessel belonging to Captain Polhill, Admiral of Falmouth, by the parliamentarian Captain William Thomas of the 8th Whelp. This happened during the English Civil War, a conflict over the manner of England’s government, in which the supporters of King Charles I stood against the supporters of Oliver Cromwell and the Long Parliament.

Thomas was ordered to escort some trading vessels to Morlaix in Brittany. When he learned that the prize ship Mayflower, recently taken from Yarmouth, was lying at that harbour, he disguised his vessel as a merchant ship to lure Polhill out. Polhill was fooled, and made haste to capture the reported merchantman “laden with wool and iron”. Thomas chased the Mayflower and forced it to run aground. Eventually the captain escaped and remaining crew surrendered and came over to Thomas’s side.

Robert Riviere (1808–1882) established his famous bindery in Bath and moved it to London in 1840, gaining a reputation as one of England’s best binders for the quality of his materials and workmanship. He signed his bindings “Bound by Riviere” from 1860 to 1880.

With the pencilled initials “W.H. C-M.” and the date “12 Oct. 1882”, that is Wakefield Christie-Miller (1835–1898), who later inherited the Britwell Library. Some minor spots and smudges along the extremities, but otherwise in very good condition. Binding fine.

Imaginary Dutch travels in Australia, with illustrated frontispiece and 16 plates

21. VAIRASSE D’ALAIS, Denis. Historie der Sevarambes, volkeren die een gedeelte van het darde vast-land bewoonen, gemeenlyk Zuid-land genaamd, ...

Amsterdam, Willem de Coup, Willem Lamsvelt, Philip Verbeek, and Joannes Lamsvelt, 1701. Small 4º (20 × 16 cm). With engraved frontispiece drawn and engraved by Joannes Lamsvelt and 16 plates engraved for this edition, at least mostly by Lamsvelt, after those of the first Dutch edition. Recased in contemporary (?) vellum, new endpapers. € 8250

Rare second Dutch edition of an extensively illustrated account of an imaginary voyage based on the story of the VOC ship *Vergulde Draeck* that wrecked on the coast of western Australia on 28 April 1656. It was anonymously published by the French writer Denis Vairasse (ca. 1635–1700). Europeans still knew almost nothing about Australia when Vairasse first published his account and his wild stories caught the imagination of the public and went through many editions. They give a good picture of what was then known and/or surmised about these little-explored regions and may have generated more enthusiasm for voyages of exploration than the more sober factual accounts.

“In Vairasse’s story, one of the boats sent out to seek help, returns with news of the discovery of a civilized country where its crew were imprisoned and then released by an armed force from Sporunde, a vassal state of the great kingdom called Sevarambia in the interior. The sporundians, who speak Dutch and Spanish as a result of prior European encounter, take the crew to their city where they are welcomed in friendship. On the return of the boat, the survivors of the Dragon d’Or are then taken to Sporunde, from where [Captain] Siden and his companions proceed on a journey to Severambia” (Howgego). “With its emphasis on Deism, Reason, and the full dignity of man, the novel rejects most of what France had stood for from the Huguenot Wars to Louis XIV, and announces instead the dawn of eighteenth-century Enlightenment and nineteenth-century Liberalism” (Friederich).

As the title-page indicates, the present edition of the *Historie* was published together with two shorter works concerning Dutch experiences in Australia. These shorter works added Gabriel Foigny’s equally imaginary account of Jacques Sadeur, shipwrecked in the same region, and Willem Vlamingh’s journal of a real voyage to Australia in 1696 and 1697, but only Vairasse’s account included illustrations.

With the margins of a dozen leaves and the frontispiece tattered and restored, two leaves with a couple tears into the text repaired and another with the corner torn off affecting 3 words of a shoulder note. The other leaves and plates are in good condition, with only an occasional minor spot or stain. With the boards slightly bowed and dirty, but the binding still good

Imaginary voyage criticizing imposed religion, with an eye-witness account of slavery in Africa

22. [VAIRASSE D’ALLAIS, Denis and Thomas SMITH]. Geographisches Kleinod, aus zweyen sehr ungemeinen Edelgesteinen bestehend; darunter der Erster eine Historie der New-gefundenen Völcker Sevarambes genannt, ... Der Ander aber vorstellet die seltzamen begebenheiten herren T.S. eines englischen Kauff-Herrens... [Sulzbach], printed by Abraham Lichtenthaler, 1689. 4º. With engraved frontispiece, 16 engraved plates and some woodcut initials. Contemporary vellum. € 8500

First edition of the German translation of the utopian novel *Histoire des Sevarambes* (History of the sevarambians) by the French writer Denis Vairasse (ca. 1635–1700). It describes an imaginary journey to Australia and gives the history of the people living there, in the style of Thomas Moore’s *Utopia*. It tells the story from the perspective of one Captain Siden [Denis], whose ship discovers the great kingdom Sevambria. Presented in the manner of the contemporary geographical and anthropological works, the book provides a direct criticism of imposed religions, in particular attacking 17th-century Catholicism (Vairasse himself was a Protestant). Remarkably, this edition also includes the first German translation of Thomas Smith’s account of slavery in Africa, in the original English entitled *The adventures of an English merchant, taken prisoner by the Turks of Algiers, and carried into the inland countries of Africa.*

Title-page and last two pages frayed along the margins and partly torn, 5 leaves (2B2–4 and 2C1–2) sophistication from another copy of the same edition, with smaller margins, and some minor foxing. Binding stained, worn and slightly damaged along the extremities. Overall in good condition.


More on our website
Shipwreck of the Dutch East India Company frigate “Woestduin”

23. [WATER, Jona Willem te]. Bericht wegens het verongelukte Oost-Indische schip Woestduin; en de reddinge der schepelingen door de gebroeders Naerebout. Middelburg, Pieter and Jan Gillissen, 1780. 8º. With engraved double portrait on title-page, showing the Naerebout brothers. 19th-century paperboard wrappers. € 2250

First and only edition of an account of the shipwreck of the Dutch East India Company (VOC) frigate Woestduin. It gives a detailed account of the events of that day. The ship wrecked near the coast of the island Walcheren (now joined to the mainland) in the Netherlands on 23 July 1779, on its way back from Batavia (Jakarta). Some fishermen, among them the brothers Frans and Jacob Naerebout, sailed out to rescue crew and passengers. With their fishing boats they managed to save 87 of the 100 passengers on board. The preliminaries note that the impetus for the publication was a set of four engraved views of the events by Engel Hoogerheide (published in 1779). The STCN indicates that some copies of the book include a non-integral frontispiece before the title-page At. Landwehr & Van der Krogt mention no frontispiece and none appears in digitized copies. Perhaps the title-page with the engraved double portrait has been mistakenly recorded as two leaves or perhaps some copies have one of the previously published engravings bound in. Slightly browned, title-page and some margins thumbed, and a minor water stain in upper margin. A corner torn off the “agathe” paper, reveals the “maroquin” paper underneath. A good copy.

52 pp. Landwehr & Vd. Krogt, VOC 445 (1 copy); STCN (8 copies, 3 described as lacking frontispiece); not in Huntress. More on our website
Raising the Embuscade

24. WHIDBEY, Joseph. An account of the sinking of the Dutch frigate Ambuscade, of 32 guns, near the Great Nore; with the mode used in recovering her… Communicated by the Right. Hon. Sir Joseph Banks, Bart. …

[London, William Bulmer & Co], 1803. Large 4º (27.5 × 21.5 cm). With a folding engraved plate illustrating the account. Disbound. € 350

Extract from the Philosophical transactions of the Royal Society, relating the manner in which a sunken frigate was salvaged from the Nore near Sheerness. The 32-gun Dutch frigate *Embuscade* originally formed part of the Batavian squadron that surrendered to the British Navy during the Vlieter Incident of 1799. *Embuscade* was integrated into an Orangist Dutch squadron in British service and in 1801 converted into a floating battery. “In the morning of the 9th day of July, 1801, the Dutch frigate … left the moorings in Sheerness harbour … In about thirty minutes, she went down by the head, … not giving the crew time to take in the sails, nor the pilot or officers more than four minutes notice, before she sunk; by which unfortunate event, twenty-two of the crew were drowned”. In order to raise the ship, the Master Attendant at Sheeryard Docks, John Whidbey, cut away the masts to lighten the ship and get her upright. At low water, lines were laid through the ports and attached to the hulk *Broederschap*—a Dutch ship taken by the British at the Nieuwe Diep, two days before *Embuscade*—and four smaller ships. The lines were tightened at the next lower water and “at half-flood she floated”. Although Whidbey stated that there wasn’t “any thing new in the mode … excepting the idea of removing the effect of cohesion”, he was quickly promoted to the prestigious office of Master attendant at Woolwich after his paper was read out at the Royal Society by his friend Joseph Banks.

Joseph Whidbey was a British naval officer and engineer who served on the Vancouver Expedition (1791–1795), notably aboard HMS Discovery. He became a fellow of the Royal Society in 1805 and later submitted a paper on fossils found during construction of the Plymouth Breakwater, of which he was Acting Superintending Engineer.

Plate with a few spots, otherwise a very good copy.

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