Travel & voyages

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Travelling in Russia in 1835: Russia through the eyes of an Utrecht professor


Rare travel account of a voyage to Russia by Jan Ackersdijck (1790–1861), a famous professor at the University of Utrecht who travelled all over Europe to collect data on the geography, population, society, trade, etc., paving the way and laying the foundation for the disciplines that later in the 19th century would be called economics and sociology.

Ackersdijck left Utrecht in June 1835 and travelled via Hamburg, Kiel and Lübeck to Saint Petersburg, and from there to Novgorod, Moscow, Nizhniy Novgorod, Kazan and Simbirsk, then back to Moscow, St. Petersburg and Hamburg, returning to Utrecht in October of the same year. The places visited are extensively described, including all important buildings and monuments, as well as many aspects of Russian society: daily life, pubs, restaurants, government, culture, religion, education, etc.

In very good condition.

[6], xiv, 302; [4], vi, [2], 363 pp. Muller, Bibl. Neerlando-Russe 13; Tiele, Bibl. 24; WorldCat (2 copies). ☞ More on our website
Dutch tourist journal of a bourgeois woman’s visit to Paris

2. ALBERDINGK THIJM, Catharina & Josephus Albertus ALBERDINGK THIJM. Notice de mes souvenirs d’un voyage à Paris, écrite pour mes chers enfans.
Amsterdam, 1838. Small 8vo. Manuscript in French, written in ink in a regular and readable hand on 7 quires of writing-paper, some with a slight green cast.
With: (2) ALBERDINGK THIJM, Josephus Albertus. Decemberliedtjen op tantes feest, in 1878. Manuscript poem, signed J.A.Th. 4to. Folded.
Loose quires in a contemporary red morocco portfolio with gold-tooled title and ornamental frames on covers, richly gold-tooled turn-ins and silk paste-downs. With 3 pairs of green silk ties.

Album with manuscripts in French and Dutch from the notable Amsterdam literary family Alberdingk Thijm. More than half gives a full account, in French, of a tourist trip to Paris in 1838 by Mrs. Catharina Alberdingk Thijm (1793–1864) and her friends. Without their children they enjoyed the amusement and culture of fashionable Paris. It starts with their departure from Amsterdam, on Monday, 25 June 1838, with a Van Gendt & Loos diligence (stage coach). They changed coaches in Rotterdam at five o’clock in the morning, and at Zwijndrecht boarded a steamer for Paris, still quite a novelty, as the author notes. She makes many interesting comments, for instance quoting epitaphs of tombstones, and at one point noting that the beautiful promenades of the Boulevard d’Italiens and the Rue Richelieu offer no shade, because the trees had been cut down to serve as barricades in the Revolution of July 1830. The account ends with the author returning home after a stay of about six weeks in Paris, and with notes about her intention to present her children with her journal, hoping they will kindly overlook any faults in construction or otherwise.
Extra inserted is a manuscript poem in Dutch by Josephus Albertus Alberdingk Thijm (1820–1889), Catharina’s son, written at the occasion of a party given in honour of an old aunt, dated December 1878, and signed with the initials J.A.Th. The Alberdingk Thijm family produced some of the foremost Dutch writers of the 19th-century. The author of the present poem, Josephus Albertus was a Romantic poet and must have been one of the children for whom Catharina wrote her travel account. He was the father of the writers Catharina and Karel (pseudonym Lodewijk van Deyssel).
In very good condition.

135, [4 blank]: 4 pp. ☞ More on our website
Report by the Portuguese admiral and second governor of Portuguese India on the conquest of Hormuz and the important commercial pearl fishery in the Indian Ocean and the Gulf

3. ALBUQUERQUE, Bráz de. Commentarios do grande Afonso d'Alboquerque capitão geral que foi das Indias Orientaes em tempo do muito poderoso Rey D. Manuel o primeiro deste nome. Lisbon, Regia Officina Typografica, 1774. 4 volumes. 8°. With 4 title-pages, each with Albuquerque's woodcut coat of arms, an engraved portrait, engraved illustration above the dedication, large engraved folding map, covering the regions from the Arabian Peninsula to southern China, including the east coast of Africa, India, the Indian Ocean and most of the East Indies, and 2 woodcut illustrations in text. Contemporary tanned sheepskin, richly gold-tooled spines, marbled edges. € 6500

Third edition of the commentaries of the Portuguese admiral and second governor of Portuguese India, Afonso de Albuquerque (ca. 1453–1515), who was appointed head of the “fleet of the Arabian and Persian Sea” in 1506. His eye-witness commentaries give us an insight in the exploration of the East, especially the Indian Ocean and the Gulf, by the Portuguese colonialists. By conquering the island of Hormoz, which was a great internal market, would give the Portuguese control of an important commercial route. Due to Hormuz’s treasure and the economic prosperity it supported, they could maintain the Portuguese forces in the Indian Ocean to travel and explore the area.

The first volume covers Albuquerque’s first and second visits to India and the successful attack on Hormuz. “In AD 1507, the balance of power and the ancient trading patterns of the Indian Ocean and the Gulf were permanently altered by the dramatic arrival of the Portuguese, under the ruthless command of Alfonso de Albuquerque. … The famously wealthy kingdom of Hormuz, which controlled all the shipping lanes of the Gulf and also a significant slice of the Indian Ocean trade, was along with Aden and Malacca, a key target. … The pearls of the region, and in particularly those of Bahrain, were already recognized as a chief objective. Prior to the conquest of Hormuz, Albuquerque sent a letter to his sovereign, King Manuel I: “Bahrain is rich and profitable; its fishery of pearls is easy to take over and improve. Once Hormuz is captured, Bahrain would be acquired and what is in the Sea of Persia” (Carter). By capturing Hormuz, the first main target, they could take over the pearl fishery and expand the wealth and extent of Portuguese colonialism.

The present book, a report with commentaries by Albuquerque himself, first appeared posthumously in 1557, compiled by the Captain’s son Bráz de Albuquerque (who, after the death of his father, assumed the name Afonso) from his father’s dispatches forwarded to King Dom Emmanuel, reporting on his travels and conquests. Internally in very good condition, with only a couple minor smudges and some spots on the map. Spines chipped and boards slightly rubbed along the extremities, but otherwise good.
Great history of the Portuguese colonial empire in South America, India, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa

4. ANDRADA, Francisco d’. Chronica do muyto alto e muyto poderoso Rey destes reynos de Portugal Dom Joao o III deste nome, ...

Coimbra, Real officina da universidade, 1796. 4 volumes. 4°. With a woodcut royal Portuguese coat of arms on title-page of each volume. Contemporary plain paper wrappers. € 2500

Second edition of an extensive history of the reign of King João (John) III of Portugal (1502–1557), written by Francisco d’Andrada (1540–1614). During his rule, Portuguese possessions were extended in Asia, and in the New World through the Portuguese colonization of Brazil. The majority of the 419 chapters deal with Portugal’s overseas possessions and trading posts in India (Diu, Goa, Chaul, Calicut), China, Ceylon, the Moluccas, the Middle East (Ormuz, Suez), Africa (Zanzibar, Ethiopia, Mozambique), Brazil, etc. The chapters discuss newly acquired lands, the governors of the regions, voyages and travels, wars and sieges, and trade, Portugal being one of the first countries with trading posts in China and Japan. Though João III’s reign was marked by the introduction of the inquisition in Portugal from 1536 onwards, the present publication only briefly deals with the subject. Some other chapters deal with Jesuit missions to the east.

With a few occasional small spots, otherwise in good condition, wholly untrimmed and most of the bolts in the third and fourth volumes unopened. Paper wrappers soiled and worn.

viii, 1-xv, [1 blank], 385, [1 blank]; [4], xix, [1 blank], 565 [=465], [1 blank]; [4], xx, 452; Howgego, to 1800, A 90; cf. Bosch 52; Maggs, Bibl. Brasiliensis 104; not in Borba de Moraes. More on our website
Important notes on Russia, Persia and the Middle East

5. AVRIL, Philippe. Travels into divers parts of Europe and Asia, undertaken by the French king’s order to discover a new way by land into China.


First edition in English of this missionary guide by the French Jesuit missionary Philippe Avril, relating his travels in search of an overland route to China and the Far East. It is particularly strong on the Russian side (Book IV) and the fringe regions of north and northwest China. Avril embarked in 1685 in Livorno and travelled through Syria, Kurdistan, Armenia and Persia. He was turned back when he reached the northern shores of the Caspian Sea. His return to France was via Constantinople, Russia, Moldavia and Poland, arriving home in 1690.

Owner’s entry on title-page. Some minor browning; tear in A2; annotated in pencil. Good copy of a travel account with (geographical) information on Russia, Poland and China.

[12], 191, [1 blank]; 178, [2 with publisher’s ad] pp. De Backer & Sommervogel I, col. 706; Cordier, Sinica, cols. 2088–2089; Löwendahl 207; Lust 311; Morrison I, 311. ☞ More on our website
An important surveying voyage to the Pacific

6. **BELCHER, Edward.** Narrative of a voyage round the world, performed in Her Majesty’s ship Sulphur, during the years 1836–1842, including details of the naval operations in China, from Dec. 1840 to Nov. 1841.

London, Henry Colburn, 1843. 2 volumes. 8°. With a folding map of the Canton river, folding map with the routes of the H.M.S. Sulphur, large world chart also showing the route of the Sulphur, 19 steel-engraved views and several illustrations in text. Gold-tooled blue sheepskin, shell-marbled sides. Rebacked. In modern slipcase. € 2950

First edition of an account of the voyage around the world by Captain Sir Edward Belcher (1799–1877), commander of the Sulphur, during the years 1836–1842. Belcher was ordered to follow the trans-Pacific route from South America to England. During the voyage Belcher visited several islands, including the Solomon Islands, the Hawaiian Islands, the Society Islands, the Tonga Islands, the New Hebrides and New Guinea. His party also surveyed various harbours along the coast of California and northwest to Alaska. The book shows several pictures of natives in the Indonesian Archipel and their customs. The steel engravings show Panama (2), Honolulu, Mount Elias, Sitka at New Archangel, the volcano of Consequina, Fort George at Astoria, Port Anna Maria, attack on the war junk, Thoka-nauta or Phillips, natives of Port Victoria, native of New Guinea, bow of a state canoe, Prahu of Geby, native of Celebes, native women of Celebes, attacks on first bar battery, Chinese soldiers with gingals and Chinese soldiers at great guns.

One map frayed, otherwise a nice set in good condition.

xxii, 387; vi, 474 pp. Ferguson 3564; Forbes 1377; Howes B 318; Lada-Mocarski 117; Sabin 4390. ☞ More on our website
Two journals kept by the Dutch Lieutenant Colonel Volkier Rudolph Bentinck (1738–1820), in the Dutch and British army, who had earlier fought alongside George Washington in the British army in America. They give an intimate and very personal view of daily life in the army, especially social life. It does show Bentinck inspecting fortifications (at least once climbing to the top) and mines in Maastricht, Den Bosch, Bergen op Zoom, Namur and elsewhere. It shows his enthusiasm for Captain Schoester’s collection of battle plans and he later views fortification plans with Colonel Carel Diederik du Moulin (1727–1793), a well-known Dutch fortifications engineer. Rudolph Bentinck had served as a Lieutenant in the British Royal American Army from 1756 to 1762, during the Seven Years’ War, when he fought side by side with Colonel George Washington, the future first president of the United States. On his return he served as a Lieutenant Colonel in Jersey and Guernsey from 1769 to 1771. The present journals fill part of a gap in his biography: that of 1771 begins in The Hague, where he took a Dutch commission for two years in July 1771 to inspect the fortifications in Venlo, Maastricht and Namur, but the 1774 journal shows he was in British service on Menorca by May 1774, when the journal begins with his departure. He left British service in 1776 and returned to the Dutch army.

Although neither these journals nor an earlier American one (formerly kept with this one and written in a similar hand) names its author, the events in the American journal clearly identify him as Lieutenant Rudolph Bentinck, who visited William Bentinck, 2nd Duke of Portland, on his way to America.

In very good condition, with only the wrapper showing some wear and tear at the extremities.
8. **BODE, Clement Augustus de.** Travels in Luristan and Arabistan.

Including: **BODE, Clement Augustus de.** Observations on the march of Timur ... and on the probable course pursued by Alexander the Great, on his expedition from Susa to Persepolis.


First edition of an important travelogue on Persia, giving detailed accounts of its history, antiquities and archaeological sites. It was written by Clement August de Bode, member of the Russian legislation at Tehran.

“The author travelled in 1841 from Tehran to Esfahan, Persepolis, Shiraz, Kazeroun, Shushtar, Dezful, Susa, Khorramabad, Borujerd and back to Tehran. It [this work] is mostly a travel book, however, the author gives a good picture of tribal life and especially the political situation in Fars; principally the hostility between the Qashqai tribe which controlled the countryside and the Qavam ol Molk family which controlled Shiraz. There are also descriptions of historical sites and monuments along the way” (Ghani). “It is with the view of rescuing from a second oblivion this once classical ground that the author has endeavoured to draw aside a corner of the veil which still covers this mysterious region” (preface).

With views showing the interior of an Arab tent near the tomb of Cyrus, a mosque at Natens, the ruins of a bridge over the Tâb near Arreján, the pavilion of Finn near Kashan, bas-reliefs, a Sasaian toll-gate in the Bakhtiyari mountains, Iliyats milking their sheep and churning butter, the tomb of the prophet Daniel at Súsa, Cufic inscriptions at Khorremabád and much more. The maps illustrate de Bode’s routes from Kazeroun to Shushtar and from Shushtar to Búrújird.

In a supplement, he published his observations on the routes of Timur and Alexander the Great, who crossed southwestern Persia during their conquering marches.

A very good set.
First edition of a sumptuous account of a voyage to Russia, Persia and the East Indies, with large folding views of Moscow and Isfahan (194 × 42 cm)

9. **BRUYN (LE BRUN), Cornelis de.** Reizen over Moskovie, door Persie en Indie: verrykt met driehondert konstplaten, vertoonende de beroemste lantschappen en steden, ook de byzondere dragten, beesten, gewassen en platen, die daer gevonden worden ...

Amsterdam, Willem and David Goeree for the author, 1711. Folio in 4s (40 × 25.5 cm). With full-page engraved frontispiece by Bernard Picart, title-page printed in red and black with woodcut vignette, full-page engraved author’s portrait, 2 folding engraved maps, 109 engraved plates (13 folding, 55 double-page, 41 full-page) and 36 engraved illustrations in text. Contemporary gold-tooled mottled calf, gilt edges. Rebacked, with the original backstrip laid down.

Large-paper copy of the first edition of one of the most richly illustrated accounts of a voyage to Russia, Persia and adjacent countries and territories by the Dutch artist and traveller Cornelis de Bruijn (1652–1726/7). De Bruijn sailed for Archangel in 1701, proceeding to Moscow, where he stayed for over a year. In 1703 he left Moscow, traveling by way of Asia Minor (Turkey) to Persia, where he remained until 1705. After nearly a year in Isfahan, he headed for Persepolis, the ancient Achaemenid palace complex, the ruins of which had his special interest. He spent three months there, carefully drawing the ruins of the palace, the remaining reliefs and cuneiform inscriptions. His drawings of these ruins are the first reliable pictures of this palace to be accessible for Western scholars. Leaving Persia in 1705 he proceeded to India, Ceylon and the East Indies. He returned by much the same route, residing in Persia between 1706 and 1707, visiting, amongst other things, the ruins of Pasaragades. The plates include large folding views of Moscow and Isfahan (194 × 40.5 cm!), portraits of Samoyeds, as well as many illustrations of local flora and fauna.

Browned, some spotting, one plate with some paper torn off (ca. 9 × 2 cm), not affecting the image, some trails of wormholes in the last quires. Binding rebacked (as noted) with the original backstrip laid down and with new headbands. Overall a good copy on large paper.

[8], 472, [12] pp. *Howgego*, to 1800, B-177; *Klaversma & Hannema* 310; *Tiele, Bibl.* 209. ☞ More on our website
Magnificent engraving of the 1661 mosaic floor map of the world in 2 hemispheres, incorporating Tasman’s discoveries not otherwise published for decades

10. [PLAN – AMSTERDAM CITY HALL]. [CAMPEN, Jacob van]. Le pavé de la grand’ sale des bourgeois. [Amsterdam, Gerard Valk, 1719]. Very large engraved folding plan comprising 1 1/2 sheets (measuring 46 × 83 cm as assembled), engraved by Danckert Danckertsz. and his father after drawings by Jacob Vennekool, including the two hemispheres of the world map and a celestial map of the constellations of the northern hemisphere (each 10 cm in diameter).

Very large engraved plan showing the extraordinary cartographic mosaic floor of the Burgerzaal of the Amsterdam City Hall, designed by Jacob van Campen, with a celestial map in the centre and the magnificent map of the world in 2 hemispheres on either side. The engraving was first published in 1661, and the map shows Tasman’s recent discoveries in Australia and Tasmania, and depicts California as an island. Many discoveries from his second voyage remained otherwise unpublished until the end of the 17th-century. This engraved representation is all that is left of this cartographical work of art. Wear caused by people walking on the mosaic meant it had to be restored about a hundred years later. When in turn this restoration was damaged the two hemispheres were filled in with plain marble slabs without pictorial representation. The drawing of the floor was made by Jacob Vennekool who worked closely with Van Campen, and since his drawings were first published even before the building was completed, they may reflect Van Campen’s plan more closely than the finished building itself. They also, of course, show it before the alterations made at various times in later years. Slightly wrinkled in the right margin, one fold reinforced and a few tiny spots, otherwise in very good condition.

Cf. BAL 533 (1st Dutch ed.); Fowler 77 & 274 (1st Dutch ed.); Berlin Kat. 2235 (1st French ed.). More on our website
Large paper copy of a collection of travelogues on Russia, Poland, Scandinavia and the British Isles


Including: William COXE (Paul Henri MALLET, transl.). Voyage en Pologne, Russie, Suède, Dannemarc, &c.

Paris, Paul Barde, Moutard, Mérigot (vol. 1), Barde, Manget & Buisson (vol. 2 & 3), 1785–1786. 3 volumes. 4to. Vol. 1 with 1 hand-coloured folding map, 1 folding engraved plate and 8 full-page engravings. Vol. 2 with 2 hand-coloured folding maps, 2 folding city plans, 3 full-page engraved portraits. Extra added: a loosely inserted engraved portrait of Empress and 2 further engravings. Vol. 3 with 2 hand-coloured folding maps, 1 hand-coloured full-page engraved map, 3 engraved folding plans of canals, 2 folding city plans, 1 full-page engraved portrait and 1 full-page engraving. Contemporary half red morocco. € 8500

Large paper copy of the 4to-edition of a set of travel descriptions of the northern parts of Europe, including the description of Russia, Poland, Denmark, Sweden and Norway by the English historian William Coxe (1748–1828). The three volumes of the Nouveau recueill consist of several travel works on different areas, edited by an anonymous editor.

The first volume contains 9 travelogues, including descriptions of Scotland and the Outer Hebrides, Anglesey Island, Saint Kilda, the Scilly Islands and Wale, and a dissertation on the Scottish Highlanders. This volume also contains a description of a voyage to Staffa, by the English naturalist, explorer and botanist Joseph Banks (1743–1820).

The second and third volume contain the travelogue by William Coxe which was translated into French by Paul Henri Mallet (1730–1807). Mallet also added a description of Norway. Coxe and Mallet’s travelogues include not only plans of important waterways and cities in each land, but also portraits of leading figures. The beautifully hand-coloured large folding maps of Russia, Poland, Sweden and Denmark by Thomas Kitchin (1718–1784), are especially notable. Altogether the Nouveau receuil provides a large collection of travelogues for parts of Europe that were not covered well in the existing literature.

Loosely inserted in vol. 3 are the half-title and the title-page of the first volume of the Voyages from the 8vo edition, published in 6 volumes at the same time as the present 4to edition. Bindings very slightly rubbed along the edges, corners bumped. With some small stains throughout, not affecting the text, and some small tears in the large folding maps, not affecting the map images. Otherwise a very good, uniformly bound and untrimmed large-paper copy (with 1 bolt in vol. 1 unopened), of travels in Russia, Poland and Scandinavia.

[6]: 355, [4]: [1 blank]; [2], vii, [2], 422, [6]; [4], 352 pp. Barbier III, 511; Brunet IV, col. 114, & II, col. 400 (vols. 2 & 3); Catalogica de la section des Russica 1326 (vols. 2 & 3); not in Hourgego. ☞ More on our website
12. **CRUZ, Gaspar da.** Tractado em que se contenham muito por este[n]so as cousas da China, com suas particularidades, e assim o reyno d[‘]Ormuz.

Evora, André de Burgos, 1569 (colophon: 1570). Small 4° in 8°s (18.0 × 14 cm). Title-page with woodcut Portuguese royal coat of arms and a 4-piece woodcut border, and further with some woodcut initials. Modern richly gold-tooled red morocco, boards gold-tooled in a panel design, with earlier brass clasps and catchplates.

Very rare first edition of “the first European book devoted exclusively to China” (Lach). A highly important work, the first printed book published in the West on the subject, serving as the primary source on China for European authors and their readers — most of whom never set foot in the East — for many decades following its publication. Including an account of a chronicle of the kings of Hormuz, based on a Persian or Arabic manuscript now lost, and thus “an irreplaceable source for the early history of the kingdom of Hormuz” (Loureiro), and a chapter on the Chinese Islamic communities in China.

In 1548 Gaspar da Cruz, along with ten fellow Dominican friars, departed for Portuguese India with the purpose of establishing a mission in the East. Cruz visited Goa, Chaul, Kochi, and Portuguese Ceylon. In 1554 Cruz was in Malacca and then left for Cambodia in a (failed) attempt to found a mission there. In 1556 he was in Canton bay on the island of Lampacao and later went to Canton itself to preach. Cruz left China in 1560, sailed to Hormuz and stayed there for three years. In 1565 he sailed back to Goa and returned home to Lisbon in the next year. His *Tractado* provides a highly unusual and remarkable eyewitness account of ming China, including many details never before published in the West. Comparing the work to the more renown account of Marco Polo’s travels to Asia, Boxer remarks: “there can be no doubt that the Portuguese friar [Cruz] gives us a better and clearer account of China as he saw it than did the more famous Italian traveler” (Boxer).

With a couple manuscript annotations and underscoring (one shaved). Some restorations (to title-page, leaves a2, d3, e4, e5 and f8, quires a, b and k, and a few tiny corners), faint water stains in the head margins and washed. Still a good copy.

[88] Il. Cordier, Sinica, col. 2065; Lach, Asia and the making of Europe I, p. 330 & 748; Forbase (5 copies, incl. 1 incomplete); R. Loureiro, “ in: Christian-Muslim relations: a bibliographical history VI, pp. 369–375; USTC 346100 (5 copies); WorldCat (3 copies); cf. Boxer, South China in the sixteenth century. ☞ More on our website
One of the rarest works on Argentina

13. DENIS, Ferdinand. Buenos Ayrès et le Paraguay; ou histoire, moeurs, usages et costumes des habitans de cette partie de l’Amérique.
Paris, Nepveu, 1823. 2 volumes. 12°. With 9 engraved plates, 2 double page in the first volume, and 9 engraved plates, 4 double-page in the second volume, all plates finely coloured by hand. Contemporary half calf, gold-tooled spine. € 9500

Rare first edition of this nicely illustrated work on the history, customs, traditions and costumes of Buenos Aires and Paraguay. Ferdinand Denis (1798–1890) was a French consul who decided to seek his fortune in South America. He left Le Havre in 1816, traveled for several years through, amongst others, Brasil, Argentina, Paraguay and Chile, but was just as poor when he returned to France in 1819. In the years that followed he wrote many books on his experiences in South America, the present work being one the more rare ones today.
In 1861 he was appointed librarian of the Sainte-Geneviève library in Paris, a post he held until near the time of his death. Nepveu published a series of books with similar descriptions of different countries and regions of the world. In total 25 regions and countries were dealt with, starting with La Chine en miniature by Breton de la Martinière in 1811 and ending with the present work in 1823.
Slightly foxed. Corners slightly bumped, some minor wear along the extremities. Otherwise in very good condition.

199, [1]; 211, [1] pp. Numa Broc, Amérique, p. 113; Quérard II, 477; Sabin 19545; not in Chadenat. ☞ More on our website

First edition of a travel account by the Irish-born adventurer in Russian service, Peter Dobell (1772–1852). “Dobell arrived in Kamtchatka by sea in 1812, … This journal records his personal observations of the manners, customs, population, religion, and resources during his fifteen years of traveling in China and Siberia. Much of his time, approximately seven years, he operated as a trader based in China; the second half of volume two describes his experiences and residence there (which had begun in 1798). Dobell indicates that his observations concentrate on the “wonderful works of nature” in order that the reader may learn “how rich and interesting a region is Siberia, heretofore only represented to the imagination in the most gloomy and unattractive colors”. The two excellent frontispieces illustrate this Siberian life, French and Russian translations followed this English edition” (Hill).

Spines chipped, otherwise in very good condition and wholly untrimmed.

ix, [1 blank], 351, [1]; x, 341, [1 blank], [2] pp. *Abbey, Travel* 352; *Cat. Russica* 645; *Georg Fischer lib.* 157; *Hill* 484. ☞ More on our website
Imaginary voyage around the world, nicely bound copy from the Huth library

15. DRALSE DE GRANDPIERRE. Relation de divers voyages faits dans l'Afrique, dans l'Amérique, & aux Indes Occidentales. La description du Royaume de Juda, & quelques particularitez touchant la vie du roy reignant. La relation d'une isle nouvellement habitée dans le détroit de Malaca en Asie, & l'histoire de deux princes de Golconde.


First edition of Dralsé de Grandpierre's imaginary voyages to Brazil, Argentina, Mexico, the Western African lands of Guinea, Ouidah (Benin), Martinique, Indonesia and Ile de la Pierre Blanche. The first part of the account presents a description of the voyage to Buenos Aires and Argentina. The second part is dedicated to his imprisonment by the English, during which he came to visit certain parts of Africa. After his liberation, he travelled back to Martinique. When the author arrived in Martinique he joined a group of buccaneers that brought him back to France.

In the third part he describes his journey back to Africa, where he visited the Kingdom of Ouidah or Benin. After that, he returned to Mexico, a city that he describes as rich, lively and almost European. The fourth part is devoted to a newly inhabited island in the strait of Malacca and to Ile de la Pierre-Blanche. Dralsé de Grandpierre devotes large parts of his account to the religion, customs and trades of the inhabitants and describes in detail the cities and countries visited. Later editions appeared in 1726 and 1728 and a German translation in 1746.

From the renowned library of the English banker and bibliophile Henry Huth (1815–1878), with its bookplate on the front paste-down and a folding library description tipped in on the first free endpaper. In very good condition in a nice binding.

[12], 352 pp. Alden & Landis 718/48; Cioranescu 25362; Duviols, L'Amérique Espagnole vue et rêvée, p. 444; Gay, Bibl. de l'Afrique et de l'Arabie 222; Gove, p. 222; Huth Library, p. 446 (this copy); Huth sale cat. 2464; Sabin 20885 & 28273 (under Grand-Pierre). € 9500

More on our website
"The prime source of information for pirate activities"

16. EXQUEMELIN, Alexandre Olivier. Histoire des avanturiers qui se sont signalez dans les Indes, contenant ce qu’ils ont fait de plus remarquable depuis vingtanneé.

Paris, Jacques le Febvre, 1688. 4 parts in 2 volumes, bound as 1. 12°. With an engraved title-page in vol. 1, 3 engraved folding maps of the Carribean (depicting Honduras, Cuba, Florida and Jamaica), of the Bay of Maracay in Venezuela and of the Isthmus of Panama and also with 4 engravings (3 full-page) and woodcut head – and tailpieces and initials. Contemporary calf, gold-tooled spine. € 2950

Second French edition of a best-selling illustrated adventure story written by Alexandre Olivier Exquemelin (ca. 1645–1700), a French Huguenot who served as buccaneer from 1666 to 1672. Its detailed account of piracy in the West Indies is the most important primary source and “almost the only comprehensive source of information for pirate activities in the seventeenth century” (Howgego). It was first published in Dutch in 1678 as De Americaensche zee-roovers and was soon translated into French, German and English “There is certainly no other book of that time which experienced a popularity similar to that of the Bucaneers of America which was in the ten years following its publication translated into most of the European languages” (Sabin).

Spine cracked, front hinge weak and partly cracked, some foxing and staining throughout the book and on the plates, not affecting the text or images. Otherwise in good condition: a rare classic on buccaneering.

"one of the most renowned nineteenth-century photobooks"

17. **FRITH, Francis.** Egypt and Palestine. Photographed and described. London, James S. Virtue, [1858–1859]. 2 volumes. Folio (44.5 × 32.5 cm). With 76 photographs on plates by Francis Frith (sizes ca. 145–165 × 215–230 mm), each with a separate leaf of text. Contemporary red morocco, spines and covers gilt. Marbled endpapers; all edges gilt. € 40 000

First edition of this important and early photobook on the Near East. During the years 1856–59, Frith (1822–98) made three visits to Egypt and the Holy Land; this selection of his photographs, from wet-collodion 9 × 7 negatives taken with an 8-by-10 inch camera, was published in 25 fascicles of 3 prints each, a work hailed as “one of the most renowned nineteenth-century photobooks” (The Photobook). Most of these images are dated 1857 either in the plate or the printed caption. They include a portrait of the artist in oriental costume folgen and views of Abu Simbel, Aswan, Baalbek, Bethlehem, Damascus, Giza, Hebron, Jerusalem, Karnak, Luxor, Nazareth, Philae, Tiberias, Wadi Kardassy etc. The preliminaries of vol. 1 include title, introduction, table of contents, and subscribers, those of vol. 2 encompass title and contents. Each plate is accompanied by a full-page letterpress description. “Francis Frith is undoubtedly one of the best-known photographers to work in the Near East. His trips to the Levant were a brilliant commercial success as well as an artistic one” (Perez 163). Some foxing to blank margins, as well as to a few photographs. Modern bookplate of the German anthropologist Jasper Köcke. Bindings very slightly rubbed, but hinges somewhat brittle; unobtrusive chafe-mark to upper cover of vol. 2. Overall a fine, appealingly bound copy.

The first ethnographic survey of the Russian Empire

18. GEORGI, Johann Gottlieb. Russland. Beschreibung aller Nationen des russischen Reiches, ihrer Lebensart, Religion, Gebräuche, Wohnungen, Kleidungen und übrigen Merkwürdigkeiten. Leipzig, Dyk, 1783. 2 volumes. 4°. With 2 etched hand-coloured frontispieces by Schoenberg (coloured by Capieux), and several delicate engraved head – and tailpieces in the text by C.M. Roth. Contemporary half calf, sprinkled boards. € 4500

Second German edition of “the first ethnographic survey of the Russian Empire” (Wortman). Georgi was part of an ambitious scientific expedition prompted by Catherine the Great to study the economic, cultural and geographical characteristics of the various regions in the Russian Empire. Georgi based his work on his own observations and the important works of Müller, Gmelin, Krasheninnikov and Pallas. He applied the Linnaean taxonomy to classify the great diversity of nationalities inhabiting the vast empire. The 2 frontispieces show 39 different peoples in their respective dress. The last page shows 2 lines of engraved polyphonic music (2-line staff with round-head notes).

An additional set of 95 plates could be ordered from the publisher, as he explains in the preface. The first German edition appeared in 4 volumes between 1776 and 1780. Other editions appeared in English, French and Russian. Occasional spotting. Fine set of an important work.


☞ More on our website
Rare, important and beautifully illustrated account of the Dutch embassy to Russia, 1615–1616

19. GOETEERIS, Anthonis. Journael vande legatie ghedaen in de jaren 1615. ende 1616. by de ... heer Reynhout van Brederode, ..., Dirck Bas, ..., ende Aelbrecht Joachimi, ... Te samen by de ... Heeren Staten Generael der Vereenigde Nederlanden, af-gesonden aen de ... Koningen van Sweden ende Denemarcken; mitsgaders aen den Groot-vorst van Moscovien, Keyser van Rusch-landt: ... Tweede druck vermeerdert en verbeterd. Op nieuw uytgegeven, ...

The Hague, Henricus Hondius, 1640. Small oblong 4° (14 × 19 cm). With an engraved title-page dated 1639, letterpress title-page dated 1640, and 23 etched views (4 numbered double-page plates, and 19 full-page illustrations on integral leaves), all drawn from life by Goeteeris himself and said to have been etched by Simon Frisius. Early 18th-century sprinkled tanned sheepskin, gold-tooled spine. € 12 500

Last and rarest (1640) issue of the first (and only early) edition of a richly illustrated and extremely interesting and important account of a Dutch embassy to Russia in the years 1615 to 1616: an essential primary source for any study of 17th-century Russia (and Scandinavia). The 23 etched views are among the earliest of northwest Russia and its border areas. It was first published in 1619 by Aert Meuris and both the text and the illustrations are here still in the 1619 printing, with only the two title-pages newly printed (in spite of the title-page’s “second printing, enlarged and improved!”), so that the beautifully drawn and finely etched illustrations remain crisp and clear. The embassy travelled first by ship to Reval (now Tallin, Estonia) then overland via Narva (Estonia) to the regions around Pskov, Novgorod and Staraja Russa. On their return Goeteeris wrote the present account of the voyage and embassy, one of the most accurate accounts of 17th-century Russia, with not only historical and statistical information, but also descriptions of the Russian cities, villages and countryside, as well as the customs and habits of the people. He illustrated the whole with the drawings he made during the voyage and embassy.

With a small tear into the text of 1 leaf (repaired), a small stain in the margin of the engraved title-page and an occasional faint water stain, but still in good condition. The hinges are cracked, the head of the spine chipped and some corners slightly damaged (with a couple small repairs), but the binding is otherwise good. Rare first and only early edition of an important account of northwest Russia in 1615 and 1616, with 23 excellent etched views.

[1], [1 blank], [1], [1 blank], [2], 157 [1 blank] pp., including the engraved title-page, but not the 4 double-page plates. Tiele, Bibl. 301 note; WorldCat (2 copies); cf. Adelung II, pp. 258–271 (1619 issue); Muller, Bibl. Neerlando-Russ. 118 (1619 issue); STCN (1619 & 1639 issues). ☞ More on our website
Important work on the natural history of Palastine


First edition of the German translation of a travelogue and zoological work, originally written in Latin by the Swedish zoologist and botanist Friedrich Hasselquist (1722–1752) and published posthumously by the celebrated naturalist Carl Linnaeus (1707–1778). “In 1749 Hasselquist set off on a botanical expedition to the Middle East. Sailing from Stockholm ... he arrived at Izmir (= Smyrna, in Turkey) where he spent the winter of 1749–1750 exploring the hinterland. In March 1750 he took a trip into the interior of Turkey, and afterwards sailed for Egypt ... he proceeded through Palestine and Syria, visited Cyprus, Rhodes and Chios, and then returned to Izmir” (Howgego). The work can be divided into two parts. The first part consists of a chronological journal, followed by 14 letters from Hasselquist to his tutor Linnaeus. The second part contains a zoological, botanical and mineralogical description of the area, starting with the four-footed animals, followed by birds, amphibians, fish, insects, plants and stones. Especially his descriptions of fishes in the Nile are very valuable. The work concludes with the materia medica of the Middle East. Hasselquist was already sick when he wrote and died during his travels in 1752, near Izmir. In 1757 the work was posthumously published by Linnaeus, entitled Iter Palaestinum, “who described it as being full of fresh, genuine and precise observations: “So admirable a travel journal has never before appeared...”.” (Blackmer).

With an inscription on flyleaf from E. Atkinsons(?), dated Jerusalem 1858, and slip with manuscript inscription pasted down on flyleaf from John R. Ruth. Slightly browned, title-page foxed, a few notations and underlining in pencil, and a small waterstain on page 259. Binding rubbed along the extremities, sides rubbed. Overall a very good copy.

[18], 606 pp. Bibl. Palaestinensis 472; Howgego, to 1800, H35; cf. Atabey 564 (English edition); Blackmer 668 (French edition); Hage Chabine, 2154 (French edition); not in VD18. ☞ More on our website
Post-incunable edition of the travels of “the Dutch Sir John Mandeville”, visiting Egypt and the lands of Prester John

21. HESE, Johannes Witte de. Itinerarius Joannis de Hese presbyteri a Hierusalem describens dispositiones terrarum insularum montium et aquirum. Ac etiam quedia mirabilia et pericula per diversas partes mundi contingentia lucidissime enarrans. (Colophon: Deventer, Jacobus de Breda, 1504). Small 4° (20.5 × 14.5 cm). Rubricated throughout with the blank spaces for initials left open. Including the last blank leaf. Modern calf in period style. € 45 000

Rare third Deventer edition, in the original Latin, of a popular account of the fictitious travels supposedly made by one Johannes Witte de Hese, a cleric from the diocese of Utrecht in the Netherlands, often compared to the classic account of the travels of Sir John Mandeville. It was first published at Cologne ca. 1490, but Jacobus de Breda published the second edition at Deventer in 1497. Witte de Hese’s travels start in Jerusalem in 1389 (in this edition updated to 1489) when he departs for Egypt, observing many curiosities, including monstrous flying fish in the Red Sea, a hermit feeding on manna, and a unicorn detoxifying a stream poisoned by desert serpents. From Damietta, Egypt, he boards a ship to Ethiopia (“interior India”), meanwhile observing pygmies fighting against storks, one-eyed cannibals and a sea of sand, and he is briefly taken captive. Six weeks later he and his entourage arrive in Prester John’s capital of Edissa, and marvel at his enormous palace. During their stay they visit the city of Hulna, with the Church of Saint Thomas, which is a four-day walk from Edissa. Before returning to Jerusalem, Witte de Hese spends more than a year roaming the remotest parts of the seas, during which he visits Purgatory and even catches a glimpse of Eden.

The main text is followed by a treatise on the ten nations of Christianity, a letter from the putative sultan of Babylon “Joannes” – here addressed to Pope Pius II (1458–1464) but actually written at least a century earlier –, a brief papal response to that letter, the popular 12th-century letter of Prester John and an account of his visit to Rome, and two geographical treatises on “India”.

Some spots on title-page and minor thumbing in the foot and right margins throughout, otherwise in very good condition.

[19], [1 blank]. Nijhoff & Kronenberg 1217 (5 copies, incl. 2 lacking final blank); Tiele, Bibl. 480 note; USTC (9 copies, incl. the 5 in N & K); S.D. Westrem, Broader horizons: a study of Johannes Witte de Hese’s Itinerarius and medieval travel narratives (2001).

☞ More on our website
22. **HEUDE, William.** Reis op de Perzische golf, en verder over land, van Indie naar Engeland, in 1817. Amsterdam, G.J.A. Beijerinck, 1820. 8°. With 4 aquatint plates, including a frontispiece by W.H. Hoogkamp. Original publisher’s boards. € 2500

Rare Dutch translation of William Heude’s *A voyage up the Persian Gulf*, first published in London in 1819. Little is known about Heude and the present narrative seems to be his only known work. Via Malabar and Bombay, he travelled to the Persian Gulf, proceeding to Babylon, Bagdad, Mosul, Mardin and Istanbul. He includes an account of pearl fishery and a noteworthy description of a journey through the mountains of Kurdistan, which is illustrated with 3 of the 4 fine aquatint plates. Typical for British Romantic travel writing, Heude appreciatively describes Bedouin life and the various religious sects he encounters. The last 4 pages contain a note to the binder and Beijerinck’s 3-page stock list, including formats and prices.

Binding restored. Good copy.

Celebrating the Chinese New Year in Manado, in an Owen’s School prize binding

23. HICKSON, Sydney John. A naturalist in North Celebes. A narrative of travels in Minahassa, the Sangir and Talaut Islands, with notices of the fauna, flora and ethnology of the districts visited. London, John Murray, 1889. 8°. With a chromolithographed frontispiece, 2 folding maps, 6 full-page lithographed plates, and 29 views and plates of natural history and artefacts of the native peoples in text, including an image of the author’s dog: “Tommy Kwack, a Menado dog, my friend and companion in many of the adventures recorded in this volume”. Contemporary gold-tooled brown morocco prize binding, with a vignette of Owen’s School (in Islington, London) and “Cambridge local examination honours. First class” on the front board. € 650

First edition, in an Owen’s School prize binding, of an account by Sidney John Hickson (1859–1940) of his journey to the Malay Archipelago in 1885 to investigate the anthropology and natural history of these islands, mainly focussing on the northern coast of the island Celebes. The account contains extensive descriptions of the Minahasa, the towns of Tondano and Manado. It also includes a description of the Chinese New Year celebrations in Manado, economic conditions, migrations and the history of the Minahasa, in particular the contacts with Europeans and the influence of Christianity. Hickson’s original object was to investigate certain corals. In the book he describes in some detail the marine biology, animals and plants but also the customs of the native peoples, their beliefs, culture, etc. Hickson was a member of the Zoological Society. He travelled through areas that had been visited earlier by Wallace, Forbes and Guilemard but he also describes islands that had barely been studied at that time.

With the certificate of F.C. Taylor dating 15 July 1897 pasted on the first fly-leaf; some foxing in text. Otherwise a fine copy in a prize binding of a travel account giving many details of the flora and fauna and natives of the Malay Archipelago.

xv, 392 pp. Cat. KITLV p. 32; Casey Wood p. 386; not in Hill; Leclerc. ☞ More on our website
Shipwrecked in the Davis Strait


Harlingen, M. van der Plaats, 1828. 8°. With a large (54 × 38 cm) folding lithographed chart. Contemporary half calf, marbled boards. € 1950

Rare first and only edition of an interesting narrative detailing the ill-fated voyage of the Dutch whaling ship Harlingen, wrecked in the Davis Strait in August 1826. The crew was rescued by David Duncan, Captain of the Dundee. Unfortunately, there wasn’t enough food for a double crew, and the Dutchmen, in despair, decided to leave the ship. In several open boats they made for the coast of Greenland, arriving in Sukkertoppen on 12 October. From there they sailed to Upernavik, but bad weather and the severe cold made any further progress impossible. Part of the crew wintered in Upernavik, another part in and near Uummannaq (Greenland). The next spring, they sailed from Egedesminde for Holland, arriving in Harlingen on 24 August.

Bookplate on front paste-down, minor foxing, a small hole in the alst text-page. Head of spine chipped off, corners slightly bumped. Otherwise in good condition.

[2], vi, 114, [2 blank] pp. Chavanne 4914; Jenkins, Bibl. of whaling, p. 109; Tiele, Bibl. 488; Saalmink, p. 856; not in Huntress; Lande, Canadiana. ☞ More on our website
25. HORSBURGH, James, Gerrit KUIJPER and D. BOES LUTJENS. Zeemans-gids, naar, in en uit Oost-Indië, China, Japan, Australië, de Kaap de Goede Hoop, Brazilië en tusschenliggende havens, volgens de vierde Engelsche uitgave van James Horsburgh, ... Amsterdam, C.F. Stemler, (back of half-title: printed in Haarlem by H. Bakels), 1841. 4°. Contemporary half calf, spine lettered in gold, marbled sides. € 3750

First edition of the Dutch translation, based on the fourth English edition, of a massive navigational directory, with exhaustive information on the Arabian Sea, the Red Sea, and the Arabian (Persian) Gulf, including detailed entries on Sharjah, Dubai (“Debay”), Abu Dhabi (“Abozhubbie”) and Bahrain, not only covering navigational details, but also the inhabitants, pearl fishery, geography, commerce etc. It was compiled by James Horsburgh (1762–1836), hydrographer and chart maker to the British East India Company, chiefly from recent journals of ships employed by the Company. The present edition was not only translated but also expanded by the engineer Gerrit Kuijper and merchant D. Boes Lutjens. The rest of the text contains sailing routes to different parts of the world, mostly India, Southeast Asia and the East Indies, but also covering the African coasts, China, Japan, Australia and Brazil.

This copy has an extra leaf after the index, containing a list of subscribers. Large bookplate on the front paste-down and the Antwerp Maritime museum's blind stamp on the half-title. Owner's inscription at head of half-title. Binding worn along the extremities, small label on front board. Otherwise in very good condition.

Ibn Batuta’s travels through the Islamic world and beyond, with the rare second volume

26. IBN BATUTA and José de Santo António MOURA. Viagens extensas e dilatadas do celebre Arabe Abu-Abdallah, mais conhecido pelo nome de Ben-Batuta. ... Tomo I[–II]. Lisbon, Typografia da academia, 1840–1855. Small 4° (21 × 15.5 cm). Non matching brown paper wrappers.

First and only edition of the Portuguese translation (from an Arabic manuscript) of the travel account of Abu Abdullah Mohammed ibn Batuta (1304–1368/69), known in the West as the Islamic Marco Polo. Once little-known, his account of his travels was discovered in the 19th century and has now become a classic of travel literature. At the time of publication, Moura’s translation was the most complete edition in any language.

“While on a pilgrimage to Mecca he [Ibn Batuta] made a decision to extend his travels throughout the whole of the Islamic world. Possibly the most remarkable of the Arab travellers, he is estimated to have covered 75,000 miles in forty years” (Howgego). His account, known as the Rihla, is esteemed for its lively descriptions of his travels, giving notable information on the history, geography and botany of the countries and cities Ibn Batuta visited.

The wrapper of volume 2 has some damage to the spine, otherwise good. With only a few spots in one leaf of volume 1 and an occasional spot in volume 2. A very good copy, wholly untrimmed and unopened.
27. JAMES, Silas. A narrative of a voyage to Arabia, India; &c; ...; with remarks on the genius and disposition of the natives of Arabia Felix; ...

First edition, second issue (with a cancel title-page and an added list of about 160 subscribers) of a young man's detailed account of his adventures as a teenage member of the crew of a British transport ship in the years 1780 to 1784. He gives accounts of people, customs, food, animals and events in the places he visits, first the Cape, then up the African coast to the Arabian peninsula and on to Bombay (Mumbai) where he found his father, deserted his ship and lived royally for more than a year before he was captured and returned to his ship. On the return voyage he gives an account of Madagascar. He also gives a lively view of the rough and tumble day to day life on board the ship and of the cruelties of some captains.

With an 1801 owner's inscription on a flyleaf. A couple sheets were under-inked on one side, but remain easily legible. With a small puncture hole through the first few leaves and occasional minor browning or foxing, but still in very good condition and only slightly trimmed. A very intimate view of a teenager's life and adventures sailing to Arabia and India.

"vi" [= vii], 7, [1 blank], [1], 10–232 pp. ESTC T139719 (8 copies); Mendelssohn I, 765; not in Blackmer; Gay, Bibl. de l'Afrique et l'Arabie. ☞ More on our website
Illustrated eye-witness accounts and tall tales: sixty years of a sailor’s world travels

28. LE BLANC, Vincent. De vermaarde reizen van de heer Vincent Le Blanc van Marsilien, die hy sedert d’ouderdom van veertien jaren, tot aan die van zestig, in de vier delen des werrels gedaan heeft ...
Amsterdam, Jan Hendricksz. Boom, Jan Rieuwertsz., 1654. 2 parts in 1 volume. 4°. With engraved title-page and 7 engraved plates. 19th-century boards. € 4500

First Dutch edition and first illustrated edition in any language of a colourful account of the author’s travels through Persia (Iran), Arabia, Burma (Myanmar), the East Indies, and in the second part Morocco, Guinea, the African interior, the Cape, Constantinople (Istanbul), the Middle East, North and South America and even China. It was first published in French as Les voyages fameux (Paris, 1648) and here translated by Jan Hendrik Glazemaker (1620–1682). Le Blanc (ca. 1553–ca. 1633), born in Marseille, took to sea for the Middle East at age fourteen and sailed all over the world for 64 years. His stories, a mixture of his genuine experiences with fantasy, were revised for the press by Pierre Bergeron. He and the author present them in an entertaining manner.
With two bookplates. An occasional very faint spot or slight browning, but otherwise in fine condition. A feast for the armchair traveller.

[1], [1 blank], 152, 116 pp. Borba de Moraes I, p. 466; Sabin 39592; STCN (9 copies); Tiele, Bibl. 647. ☞
More on our website
Discovery of the Canary Islands in classical Greek and Roman, Arabic and Portuguese sources


A detailed scholarly study of ancient sources for the history and geography of the Canary Islands, attempting to prove that the Portuguese discovered them before Islamic explorers, and that Islamic geographers knew them only through classical Greek and Roman sources. The main text is followed by extensive notes from a wide variety of sources and transcriptions of numerous primary sources, some in Greek or Arabic. In passing it also provides a wealth of information about navigation in the Mediterranean and Atlantic by classical Greek and Roman and by Islamic explorers. While Macedo’s claim for Malocello’s discovery of the Canaries in 1336 is no longer accepted, the Islamic geographer Idrisi noted a Portuguese voyage to the Canaries already before 1154. In fine condition and wholly untrimmed, giving very large margins. The modern wrapper is slightly tattered.

[4]. 232 pp. Porbase (1 copy); cf. Innocência IV, 96 and XII, 80 (issue in proceedings); for the author: Protáio, “MACEDO, JOAQUIM JOSÉ DA COSTA DE (1777–1867)” in: Dicionário de Historiadores Portugueses. ☞ More on our website
With 122 original pen and ink drawings by Arthur Layard for his 1895 Mandeville


With: (2) LAYARD, Arthur. [121 (of 128) original pen and black ink drawings to illustrate the 1895 Mandeville plus the drawing for the spine of the binding]. [London, 1894–1895]. Original pen drawings in black ink on fine wove paper, mostly twice the size of the illustrations as printed: 22 (ca. 31 × 18 cm) for the full-page illustrations and 99 smaller, plus the drawing for the gold-blocked spine of the publisher's binding. 8° leaves (printed book) & various sizes (drawings) in a 1° album (54 × 43.5 cm) in 2 volumes. Uniform half green goatskin morocco album (ca. 1913), gold-tooled spine. € 22 500

A large album in two volumes containing not only all leaves of Arthur Layard's 1895 edition of Mandeville's travels, a bibliophile edition of one of the greatest travel books of all time with 128 beautiful illustrations, but also the gold-blocked cloth from the publisher's binding, 121 of Layard's original pen and ink line drawings for its illustrations (nearly all twice the size of the illustrations as printed) and his drawing for the gold blocking on the spine, with its heraldic and other decoration. Alongside Aubrey Beardsley and William Rotherstein, Layard was one of the leading decorative symbolists, but his present drawings for his Mandeville edition proved his crowning achievement. The book's mediaeval subject matter suited it perfectly to the spirit of the time, under the influence of John Ruskin and the gothic revival. It appeared one year before William Morris's Kelmscott Chaucer, but while the Socialist Morris's private press produced luxury books for the wealthy, the more pragmatic Layard worked with a commercial publisher to bring his illustration and decoration to a larger audience. Cecil Sebag-Montefiore (1873–1923) purchased Layard's Mandeville drawings from the publisher. In 1900 they were hanging in his house, where Layard had designed his wood-panelled smoking room. He apparently had Riviere & son bind them with the leaves of the book in the present album around 1913.

The leaves of the printed book and one drawing are very slightly browned and the drawings have occasionally left a faint offset of the facing pages, but the whole album and its contents remain in very good condition, most of the drawings fine.

Highly detailed maritime atlas


Rare maritime atlas with 12 charts of the Indian Ocean that provide information on currents for each month of the year. The data was gathered from a great number of sources going back to the year 1830. Each chart covers the same area, from Cape Town to Sydney and including the Arabian peninsula, India and China. The currents and explanatory remarks vary per chart depending on the meteorological circumstances, such as seasons and monsoons. The twelve charts form part of a long series by the Great Britain Meteorological Office publications, numbered 2939–2950. With an 1896 “Advertisement” by the Admiralty tipped in on the front paste-down, providing a lengthy explanation for the charts.

From the library of the British Natural History Museum, with 3 cancelled library stamps and a large lithographed presentation bookplate with name in manuscript: “Captain W.H. Milner, R.M.S. ‘Para’”, all neatly on the first blank page. Corners slightly curled, vertical fold in the front cover. Some discolouring at the head of the first blank page. Otherwise in good condition.

Radcliffe Library (Oxford) copy of an account of the Danish Royal Expedition to India in a luxurious contemporary morocco binding


First French edition, here in a deluxe contemporary binding and in fine condition, of an account of an expedition to Arabia and India, translated from the German Reisebeschreibung nach Arabien und anderen umliegenden Ländern (1774), by F.L. Mourier. The title-pages are dated 1776–1780; the colophons 1775–1779. The famous Royal Danish Expedition to India by way of Arabia (1761–1767) was the first scientific expedition to this area and proved fatally dangerous. Niebuhr “amassed a vast quantity of factual information which he relates in a simple unrhetorical fashion, distinguishing clearly between things observed personally and things learned from others” (Sotheby’s, 13 Oct 1998, lot 1010). The expedition, which lasted 6 years, was sponsored by King Frederick V of Denmark and included the brilliant Swedish scientist, Peter Forsskal, who died while in Yemen. Of the 5 scientists, Carsten Niebuhr (1733–1815) was the sole survivor and the only one to reach India, having travelled there from Mecca. He travelled back via Persia without scientific companions. His work represents an important contribution to the study of India and the Middle East. His map of the Yemen, the first accurate map of the region, remained the standard for the next 200 years. While Niebuhr’s travel account has always been noted for its description of Arabia, the part on India has been completely overlooked, though at least equally important. The second volume is largely devoted to the description of the cities of Mumbai and Surat, including scientific surveys such as atmospheric measurements, and a description of the activities of the East India Company. This is illustrated with 14 plates, including a map of Bombay Island, transcriptions of different scripts, several plates depicting Indian art and architecture and a folding map of the city and palace of Surat. From the Radcliffe Library of the University of Oxford, with its bookplate on the front pastedown and the cancelled library stamp on the head of the title-page of both volumes. With some minor professional restorations, but otherwise in fine condition, with the paper bright and spotless and the maps are crisp. A fine copy of an important work in a beautiful contemporary deluxe binding.

☞ More on our website
Two voyages to China described by two pupils of Linnaeus

33. OSBECK, Peter, Olof TORÉN and Charles Gustavus ECKEBERG (John REINHOLD FORSTER, transl.). A voyage to China and the East Indies, by Peter Osbeck ... Together with a voyage to Suratte by Olof Toreen ... and an account of the Chinese husbandry by Captain Charles Gustavus Eckeberg. Translated from the German, by John Reinhold Forster ... To which are added, a faunula and flora Senensis. London, Benjamin White, 1771. 2 volumes. 8°. With 14 full-page engraved plates. Contemporary gold-tooled calf. € 3500

First edition of Johann Reinhold Forster’s English translation of Osbeck’s *Dagbok öfwer en Ostindisk resa*, first published in Sweden in 1757. Osbeck’s narrative includes observations on China’s languages and customs, but is particularly rich in detail about its natural history. Toreen’s account of his voyage to India and China, in the form of letters, is followed by Eckeberg’s *Short account of the Chinese husbandry*, and a catalogue of Chinese animals and plants with their Linnaean nomenclature. The fine plates primarily depict plants. Neatly re-backed with the original spine laid down. Very good set.

Beautifully bound set of Pallas’ famous description of Russia

34. PALLAS, Peter Simon (M. GAUTHIER DE LA PEYRONIE, transl.). Voyages de M. P.S. Pallas en differentes provinces de l’Empire de Russie, et dans l’Asie septentrionale.

Paris, Lagrange (vol. 1), Maradan (vol. 2–5; colophon of vol. 5; printed by Demonville), 1788–1793. 5 text volumes (4to) and 1 atlas volume (Imperial 4to: 33.5 × 25 cm). With 123 engraved plates and maps (27 folding), including a large folding map of the Russian Empire. Uniform gold-tooled tree calf, gilt edges.

First edition of the French translation of Peter Simon Pallas’s (1741–1811) famous account of his first expedition to Russia and Siberia, one of the “academic expeditions” undertaken by the Academy of Sciences in St Petersburg (1768–1774). One of Pallas’s chief geological contributions from the expedition was “the recognition of temporal sequence of rocks from the centre to the flanks of a range” (DSB), mainly based on his study of the Ural and Altai Mountains. He describes numerous Russian plants, many depicted in the 123 plates, along with some birds and other animals living in the Russian areas he visited.

Pallas also describes his journey through the less-visited regions of the Russian Empire, depicted in 11 maps (including a large folding map of the Russian Empire) and he describes the population (depicted with their costumes in several plates) and the economy of each area. Although a large amount of the 5 text volumes are, because of Pallas’s background, on geology, geography, climate and flora and fauna and were of great importance for the natural science of Russia, the volumes are more than that: they contain a sketch of the Russian Empire in the years 1768–1774 and are a beautiful witness of the first “academic expedition”.

Bindings a little worn, corners bumped, heads and feet of the spines a little worn, those of volume 1 and the atlas volumes a little cracked. The endpapers of some volumes are browned, in vols. 2 and 5 also the half-title and the title-page. Only some very small stains and slight foxing, not affecting the text or images. With a tear in the first endpaper of vol. 5, some larger stains on the endpapers of vol. 3 and on rare occasions the foot margin of a text page is cut a little bit short. The edges of the folding plates in the atlas volume are sometimes a little frayed. Otherwise a beautiful set, uniformly bound and in good condition.

[3], [1 blank], xxxii, 773, [3]; [4], 550, [1], [1 blank]; [3], [1 blank], 492; [3], [1 blank], 722, [2]; [3], [1 blank], 559, [1] pp; atlas volume with 123 plates on 108 leaves. Brunet IV, col. 325; Catalogue de la section des Russica, P35; Hougggo Py; Hunt 672 note; Nissen ZBI 3076; Stafleu & Cowan 7224; for the author: DSB X, pp. 283–285. ☞ More on our website
Very rare French translation of Pallas’ second expedition to South Russia, the Black Sea and the Crimea in 1793 and 1794

35. PALLAS, Peter Simon. Observations faites dans un voyage entrepris dans les gouvernements méridionaux de l’Empire de Russie dans les années 1793 et 1794 [title of vol. 2: Nouveau voyage dans les gouvernemens méridionaux de l’Empire de Russie dans les années 1793 et 1794]. Paris, Strasbourg, Amand Koening; Leipzig, Godefroi Martini, 1799–1802. 2 text volumes and 1 atlas volume. 4° (text) and oblong 2° (atlas: 24 x 40 cm). With 28 engravings in the text and 1 woodcut in each text volumes (23 hand-coloured), and 55 engraved plates and maps (43 hand-coloured) in the atlas volume. Text volumes in contemporary and uniform gold-tooled mottled calf. Atlas in matching contemporary mottled half calf. € 8500

Very rare account by Peter Simon Pallas (1741–1811) of his second expedition to Russia in 1793–1794. This time he studied the southern provinces of Russia, especially the steppes near the Caspian Sea, the northern Caucasus, the Crimea and the Black Sea.
Pallas not only describes his route through the Russian Empire, he also – as a geologist and naturalist – gives an excellent physical and topographical description of the landscape. He notes the differences in the landscapes he faces along his way, not only differences in nature, but also how these Crimean landscapes have historically changed over years. He describes their historical geological changes based on fossils and antiquities he finds. He also discusses the flora, fauna and climatology of the area. Next to this, he gives a more cultural and anthropological description of South Russia and the Crimea. He gives his own remarks on the Crimean peoples, economy and trade.

The atlas volume contains three maps showing the route of Pallas’s second expedition and another showing the Taman Peninsula, the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov. Besides the cultural-anthropological plates of the inhabitants and the landscape views, the atlas volume also contains three plates of animals that live in the Crimea, namely a camel, a ram and a sheep.
With a bookplate on the front paste-downs of all volumes. Annotation on second endpaper of the atlas volume, some of the 55 plates with manuscript captions in French, in ink. With a library stamp on the title-page of both text volumes, some of the 55 plates with manuscript captions in French, in ink. With a library stamp on the title-page of both text volumes. Bindings of the two volumes very slightly worn, corners of the atlas volume bumped. Some browning and foxing, not affecting the text or images. “Avertissement” in vol. 2 erroneously bound in before the “Supplement de la liste des souscripteurs du premier tome”. A very rare beautiful set, complete with all its volumes, in very good condition.

xxxii, 438; xvi, 452 pp. ; 55 ll. Catalogue de la section des Russica P59; Howgego P77; Schuh 3613; cf. Abbey Travel 222 (English edition, London 1802–1803); WorldCat (3? complete & a few incompl. copies of the 1799–1801 issue); for the author: DSB X, pp. 283–285; Wendland, Peter Simon Pallas I, pp. 479–481. More on our website
36. PORTER, Robert Ker. Travelling sketches in Russia and Sweden, during the years 1805, 1806, 1807, 1808.

London, for John Stockdale (back of title-page: Strahan and Preston), 1813. 2 volumes bound as 1. 4°. With 41 etched plates (12 sepia washed views, 1 uncoloured portrait, and 28 aquatint costume-plates) by J.C. Stadler after drawings by the author. Contemporary half cloth. €1950

Second edition of a richly illustrated account of Russia and Scandinavia at the beginning of the 19th century by Sir Robert Ker Porter (1777–1842). Porter, a traveller, diplomat and painter, went to Russia in 1805, but had to leave in 1806 due to an unhappy love affair with a Russian princess. During the next two years he travelled through Scandinavia and other European countries. The present work reflects his experiences, discussing his journey to Russia, life in St Petersburg, the Russian nobility, peasantry and trades class, the Russian Orthodox Church, military events in Europe, the countryside in Finland and Sweden, King Gustavus Vasa of whom he etched a portrait, and more. The illustrations include buildings in St Petersburg and Stockholm, Russian tradesmen and their wives, cossacks, officers, soldiers, peasants, Bashkirs, Kirgizians, Swedish and Finnish peasants and country scenes, and the highly characteristic illustrations of the inside of a Russian postal office and Swedish women doing laundry in an ice-hole in a frozen river.

One tear along the fold of one plate. Binding slightly rubbed, hinges tender. A very good copy.

xii, 303, [1 blank]; viii, 296 pp. Abbey, Travel 13; Cat. Russica P 1036; Colas 2407; Lipperheide 1346; Tooley, Coloured Plates 383. ☞ More on our website
A picturesque journey through Switzerland

37. [REICHARD, Heinrich August O.]. Malerische Reise durch einen großen Theil der Schweiz vor und nach der Revolution.
Jena, H.W.Ch. Seidler, 1805. 8°. With engraved frontispiece with 4 medallion portraits, engraved title-page with the title on a rock in an alpine scene, 54 numbered engraved plates (1 folding) and 2 folding leaves with built-up letterpress music. With the 4 costume plates hand-coloured. Later 19th-century half cloth. € 1750

First edition of an attractively illustrated account of a journey through Switzerland. The work includes 4 costume plates (2 showing military uniforms, with flags), a description of Balmat and Paccard’s first ascent of Mont Blanc, as well as many fine views by J.A. Darnstedt, including the engraved title-page. One of the alpine views also serves as a 5th costume plate, but in black and white.
Bookplate on front pastedown. In very good condition, with only some slight foxing.

One of the most popular Dutch accounts of a journey to the East Indies


Amsterdam, Jacob Meurs & Johannes van Someren, 1676. 2 parts in 1 volume. 4°. With an engraved frontispiece, full-page engraved portrait of the author, 22 full-page engraved plates, 19 double-page engraved views. Some of the plates are by C. Decker and Johannes Kip, all after the original drawings by Schouten, made on the spot. Contemporary sprinkled calf.

€ 4500

Rare first edition of the beautifully illustrated and extraordinarily famous account of Wouter Schouten’s (1638–1704) journey to the East Indies. From 1658 to 1665 Schouten spent seven years in the East Indies as a physician in the service of the VOC. The burgomasters of Haarlem commissioned the book, which is dedicated to them. It is a key account for the (military) history and contemporary perception of the Dutch East Indies as it contains many lively descriptions by an eye-witness of everyday life in the Dutch colony. Schouten describes trade, customs of the inhabitants, expeditions, sea battles, fights etc., during his stay in the Dutch East Indies, as well as during his journey to the East and on his way home. It is even more important because of its skilfully engraved plates by C. Decker and Johannes Kip, all after the drawings made by Schouten himself on the spot. Further editions appeared in 1708, 1775 and 1780; a German edition appeared in 1676 and French ones in 1707 and 1725.

Edges very slightly rubbed. In very good condition.

[14], 328, 253, [23] pp. Landwehr, VOC, 283; Tiele 990. ☞ More on our website
The most famous work on Dutch Surinam: a classic plea for the abolition of slavery

39. STEDMAN, John Gabriel. Reize naar Surinamen, en door de binnenste gedeelten van Guiana; naar het Engelsch. Amsterdam, J. Allart, 1799–1800. 4 volumes. With 4 folding engraved maps, a folding engraved plan, and 37 engraved views and other illustrations, one large folding, by R. Vinkeles, J. Wijsman and A. Zurcher, translated from the original English. Contemporary half calf, spines gold-tooled in 6 compartments, 4 ornamented with flowers, 1 with the volume number and 1 with the title on an orange morocco label. € 2250

First Dutch edition of John Gabriel Stedman's famous narrative, detailing the abuse of slaves in Dutch Surinam and arguing for the abolition of slavery, translated from the original English edition published at London in 1796. Stedman (1744–1797), who took part in the punitive expedition sent by the Dutch Republic to subdue the revolt of African-American slaves in Surinam, travelled through the country from 1772 to 1777. He possessed not only a keen mind and eye for the geography, politics and natural history of the country, but also for its economic and social conditions. Most impressive, however, and very modern are his vivid descriptions of the brutal treatment of the slaves and his enlightened reflections on the moral perversions of the slave owners, leading him to pronounce the strongest possible indictment against slavery. Good set of a rare edition. Corners bumped.

xvi, 339; vii, 327 [i]; viii, 351 [i]; viii, 308 pp. Tiele 1046; cf. Muller 1489 (ed. of 1801); Sabin 91078 (citing Muller without having seen a copy). ☞ More on our website
Convolute containing 23 rare Portuguese works on exploration and travel, 2 famous shipwrecks and the 1783/84 bombardment of Algiers

40. [EXPLORATION & TRAVEL]. TRINDADE, Joseph da. Relaçam sumaria e noticiosa dos lugares santos de Jerusalem, e dos mais, de que na Terra Santa, & Pallestina, está de posse, … resumindoa (de muytos livros, que tratam desta materia, & de outras novas noticias, …) …

Lisbon, Miguel Manescal, 1709. With woodcut coat-of-arms of the Kingdom of Jerusalem and woodcut headpieces in the text.

With: [22 other works].

[Lisbon, 1744–1811]. 23 works bound as 1. 4° and 8°. Contemporary (ca. 1811) sheepskin, gold-tooled spine, red morocco spine label with title in gold, marbled endpapers.

€ 11 750

Convolute of 23 Portuguese works, all printed in Lisbon from 1709 to 1811 (mostly 1759–1791) by different printers and all quite rare. Most of the works contain accounts of exploration and travel of hitherto unconquered areas around the world by the Spanish, Portuguese, British and even the French. The most interesting works are however on sea battles and shipwrecks.

One of the interesting works is is Relaçao da viagem, e naufragio do navio da companhia Britanica das Indias Orientaes denominado a Halsewell, …. (1786) on the tragic shipwreck of the East Indiaman Halsewell in 1786, but also on the shipwreck of the Spanish warship San Pedro de Alcantra in the same year. The Halsewell was an East Indiaman of the British East India Company. At the start of a voyage from London to Madras, on 6 January 1786, the ship lost its masts in a violent storm and the ship was shattered on the rocks below a cliff at Portland in Dorset, England. Only 74 of the 240 people aboard survived and this shipwreck shocked the English nation.

With the bookplate of Manuel Carlos Neves (motto: “subir pela cultura”) on the front pastedown and an inscription on the first endleaf. With a handwritten index listing all 23 titles in the convolute, including their year of publication. Binding slightly worn, the quality and the condition of the 23 works varies. Otherwise an exceptional convolute with two very interesting works on naval battles and famous shipwrecks and generally in good condition.

A complete list of contents is available upon request.

☞ More on our website
Richly illustrated journey of Nicholas II of Russia through Asia

41. UKHTOMSKY, Esper Esperovich and Hermann BRUNNHOFER (translator). Orientreise seiner kaiserlichen Hoheit des Grossfürsten-Thronfolgers Nikolaus Alexandrowitsch von Russland, 1890–1891. Leipzig, F.A. Brockhaus, 1894–1899. 2 volumes. 4°. With engraved portrait of Nicholas, 7 photogravures, 541 wood engravings after drawings and photographs and 5 chromolithographed maps. Publisher’s cloth, richly blocked in black, gold and grey, gilt edges. € 8500

First and only edition in German of a richly illustrated travelogue of a journey around the Eurasian continent, made by the future Russian Czar Nicholas II. The journey was planned as a Grand Tour through Europe and Asia with the opening ceremony of the Trans-Siberian Railway as the final destination. After visiting Austria, Italy and Greece, Nicholas travelled to Egypt and through the Suez Canal to India. Subsequently Nicholas and his entourage visited the Dutch-East Indies, Siam and China. In Japan the future emperor had a fire breathing dragon tattooed on his arm and received a facial scar due to an assassination attempt. After the opening of the railway in Siberia, the travellers boarded the train back to St. Petersburg.

After the return home, Nicholas and his fellow traveller Prince Esper Ukhtomsky began working on an account of their grand tour. After the publication of the Russian edition in 1893–1897, this very popular work was translated into English, French, German and Chinese.

In very good condition with the bindings somewhat rubbed at the edges. A richly illustrated account of Asia in the late 19th century and Russia’s relations with its neighbours.

[4], 476; [4], 482 pp. Wenckstern I, p. 42 & II, p. 35 ☞ More on our website
Della Valle’s travels in the Near East, Persia and Arabia: “one of the finest works of travel literature” (Howgego)

42. VALLE, Pietro della. Reiss-Beschreibung in unterschiedliche Theile der Welt, nemlich in Türckey, Egypten, Palestina, Persien, Ost-Indien, und andere weit entlegene Landschaften ...

Geneva, Johann Hermann Widerholds, 1674. 4 volumes bound as 1. Folio. With 31 engraved plates (1 folding), including frontispiece and portraits of the author and his wife, by Jean Jacques Thourneyser. Contemporary vellum. € 15 000

First edition in German of Pietro della Valle’s deservedly famous narrative of his travels in the Middle East, with an excellent account of Muscat and the Arabian Gulf and reference to Dibba. Della Valle arrived in Istanbul in August 1614, spending a year to explore the city. He continued to Rhodes, Alexandria, Rosetta, Cairo, crossing the Sinai desert to Jerusalem, Damascus and Aleppo. From there he proceeded to Isfahan (Iran) to meet the Safavid ruler Shah Abbas I. He sojourned in Persia until early 1623, witnessing and commenting on the escalating conflict between Shah Abbas and the Portuguese empire. By way of India he sailed for Muscat in January 1623, from where crossed the Arabian Gulf to Basra, continuing overland to Aleppo, arriving in Europe in 1626. “Della Valle displayed excellent narrative and descriptive skills, powers of acute observation, and a genuinely scholarly breadth of learning.” (Gurney).

Engraved armorial bookplate on paste-down. Evenly browned throughout, some spotting, few quires in volume 3 with wormholes in gutter margin, not affecting the text, otherwise in very good condition. 

[20], 218, [12], [2 blank]; [4], 236, [12]; [4], 244, [13], [1 blank]; [6], 231, [17] pp. VD17 39:135561Q; cf. Atabey 1269–1271; Blackmer 1712; Gurney, “Della Valle, Pietro”, in: Encyclopaedia Iranica (online ed.). ☞ More on our website
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