RICHARD C. RAMER

Special List 236
Paleography, Calligraphy & Diplomatics
Special List 236

Paleography, Calligraphy & Diplomatics

Items marked with an asterisk (*) will be shipped from Lisbon.

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED:
All items are understood to be on approval, and may be returned within a reasonable time for any reason whatsoever.

VISITORS BY APPOINTMENT
Special List 236

Paleography,
Calligraphy & Diplomatics

Important Book by One of the Best Spanish Calligraphers of the Time

1. AZNAR DE POLANCO, Juan Claudio. *Arte nuevo de escribir por preceptos geometricos, y reglas mathematicas* …. [Colophon] Madrid: En la Imprenta de los Herederos de Manuel Ruiz de Murga, 1719. Folio (30.7 x 22 cm.), contemporary vellum (worn and stained, lower hinge gone), horizontal manuscript short author and title on spine. Woodcut and typographical headpieces, woodcut tailpieces, some large and elaborate. Elegant woodcut initials. Total of 42 engraved plates with calligraphic examples and a few portraits. Lower edges frayed, with fraying sometimes touching the plate; fore-edges nicked, not affecting text; some foxing and soiling, marginal dampstains. Overall in good condition, if just barely so. Engraved title-page, (10 ll.), 2 engraved plates, 165 ll. [i.e. 169, including 39 engraved plates (1 folding) foliated with the text: details below]. $2,500.00

FIRST and ONLY EDITION of “uno de los libros más importantes de su tiempo sobre el difícil arte de la escritura” (Rico y Sinobas). Aznar de Polanco, one of the best Spanish calligraphers of his time, attempted to transform the art of calligraphy into a geometrical science, resulting in a book that is not only heavily illustrated, but has much more text than is common for this sort of book. This is the first Spanish writing manual listed in the Hofer catalogue; Harvard has 2 copies, both defective. Taking into consideration the rarity of this work on the market, and the fact that many copies are incomplete and / or in very poor condition, the present volume is in a relatively good state.

The engravings (by Juan Bernabe Palomino) include illustrations of Aznar’s method applied to *letra bastarda, letra grifa, letra romanilla, letra de pancilla, letra redonda, letra gotica* and various types of initials, as well as full-page calligraphic designs. This copy is complete with the maximum number of plates: the engraved title page, 2 engravings in the prelins, and 39 foliated with the text. Palau suggests that earlier issues may have fewer plates. The numbering is erratic, and was presumably added in a later state, since at least one known copy (at Harvard) has no numbering.

Palomino (Córdoba, 1692-Madrid, 1777), perhaps the most important Spanish engraver of his day, was the nephew of Antonio Palomino, and father of Juan Fernando
Palomino, both important artists. He had worked for and learned from his uncle, while his son was his disciple.

Aznar de Polanco, born in 1663 at Mostoles, was orphaned very young and raised by the local schoolmaster. Aside from calligraphy, he was well versed in mathematics, architecture and fencing. He died in 1736.

The collation is very complicated, but this copy appears to be complete. Except for some differences in the order of the leaves, it conforms to that in the Biblioteca Nacional de España, except that the Biblioteca Nacional de España copy contains an extra plate, presumably added, which is dated 1736. Preliminary matter includes the engraved title-page, a plate with medallions of S. Casiano and 3 other saints in a calligraphic frame, a portrait of the author in a calligraphic frame, and 10 printed leaves. The 39 engraved plates within the text are foliated continuously with it, but are not included in the quire signatures. The plates, including the engraved title page and the two plates included in the unnumbered preliminaries, are also numbered continuously from 1 to 42 at the bottom, with the exception of the third, which is completely unnumbered, and the seventh, which is leaf 24 in the foliation of the main text, but which has no plate number. The foliation often repeats (46-47, 57, 112, 120, 128, 138) and sometimes skips (no 59 or 116), but the collation by quires (in-4) is continuous.

* Palau 21133: calling (apparently in error) for a leaf with 4 medallions as well as a folding portrait of S. Casiano, and uncertain whether there were 37 or 39 plates in the text. Aguilar Piñal I, 3217: calling for only 11 preliminary leaves (without mention of any plates there) and only 37 plates in the text. Rico y Sinobas, *Diccionario de calígrafos españoles* p. 139: calling for 165 ll., portrait, and 40 plates foliated with the text. BL, *Eighteenth-Century Spanish STC A267*, Salvá 2203. Heredia 595. Cotarelo y Mori, *Diccionario biográfico y bibliográfico de calígrafos españoles* 106. Whalley & Kaden, *Universal Penman* 117. Maggs, *Spanish Books* 68A: listing it at £21 in 1927, and describing it as “a much-sought work.” NUC: DLC, MA, ICN, MIU, N, AzU. OCLC: 778665466 (Biblioteca Nacional de España); 630638091 (Houghton Library, Universidad de Salamanca, Biblioteca Nacional de España, Universidad de Valladolid); 557607309 (British Library); 723962592 (Deutsche Nationalbibliothek); 23638246 (20 locations). CCPBE locates twenty copies, many incomplete and / or in poor condition. Rebiun locates nine copies, giving several of the same locations as CCPBE. Copac locates copies at British Library, University College of London, Victoria & Albert Libraries, plus two copies at University of London.

**With an Overview of Portuguese Arts, including Architecture**

2. BALBI, Adrien. *Essai statistique sur le royaume de Portugal et d’Algarve, comparé aux autres états de l’Europe, et suivi d’un coup d’oeil sur l’état actuel des sciences, des lettres et des beaux-arts parmi les portugais des deux hémispheres ....* 2 volumes. Paris: Chez Rey et Gravier, Libraires, 1822. 8°, contemporary plain wrappers reinforced with printer’s waste (much insect damage to covers, three of which are detached, and rear cover to volume II missing; spines defective and printed spine labels severely chipped). Woodcut-engraved vignette on each title page of a dock with a barrel, bundle, anchor, Hermes’s caduceus (symbol of commerce), and distant ship. Some worming, mostly marginal but with loss of 3-4 letters per page in a few quires of volume I. Uncut and partly
unopened. Overall in good condition. lii, 480 pp., 8 folding tables; (2 ll.), 272, ccclxviii pp.  

FIRST EDITION of this detailed account (heavily documented, and with statistical tables) of Portugal’s geography, climate, population, government, military, trade, manufacturing, foreign exchange, transportation, ecclesiastical divisions, educational and literary institutions, and topography: an invaluable resource for the study of Portuguese history and economics at this period. Trade with Africa, Brazil, India, Asia, the Azores and Madeira is described at I:413-431, with tables giving a breakdown of imports and exports and their value. On II:235-72, in a series of tables, Balbi evaluates the strength of Portugal vs. other European countries.

The nearly 400-page appendix to volume II is a fascinating overview of Portuguese literature, architecture, painting, sculpture, engraving, lithography, music, drama, dance, calligraphy, typography, fencing and equitation (II:clxxiii-ccxxxvii). It includes biographies of important literary figures (in itself no mean feat, thirty years before Innocêncio; many of those listed are Brazilians; II:i-clxxiii)) and a summary of works published in Portugal, by year, from 1801 to 1819 (II:ccxli-ccclxii).

Balbi also published *Variétés politico-statistiques sur la monarchie portugaise*, Paris 1822.


FIRST and ONLY EDITION. Beautifully illustrated description of the treasures in the Biblioteca Municipal, Porto; it includes fine color photographs of manuscripts from the twelfth through the twentieth centuries. *Tesouros* illustrates stunning illuminated manuscripts from the monastery of Santa Cruz de Coimbra, dating to the twelfth through fourteenth centuries, manuscripts from the thirteenth to twentieth centuries on history, heraldry and genealogy, discovery and exploration, military, science, literature, religion and music. The work also illustrates many printed maps, and numerous printed books of the fifteenth through nineteenth centuries.
ESSAI STATISTIQUE
SUR
LE ROYAUME DE PORTUGAL
ET D'ALGARVE,
COMPARE AUX AUTRES ETATS DE L'EUROPE,
ET SUIVI
D'UN Coup D'Oeil Sur L'Etat Actuel Des Sciences, Des
Lettres Et Des Beaux-Arts Parmi Les Portugais Des
Deux Hemispheres.
Dedic.
A SA MAJESTE TRES-FIDELE,
Par ADRIEN BALBI,
Ancien Professeur de Geographie, de Physique et de Mathematique,
Membre Correspondant de L'Institut de France, etc., etc.
TOME PREMIER.
PARIS,
Chez REYM ET GRAVIER, LIBRAIRES,
Quai des Augustins, n° 55.
1823.

FIRST and ONLY EDITION, a COMPLETE RUN. Ano I, Número 1 is subtitled O Templo e a Ordem Templária de Portugal. Ano I, Número 2 is subtitled Siglas e marcas lapidárias, subsídio para o Corpus Lusitânico. Ano II, Número 3/4 is subtitled Ecos portugueses da Atlântida.

*6. CASTRO, E.[rnesto M.[anuel] de Melo e. Queda livre. Covilhã: Livraria Nacional (printed in Fundão: Tipografia do Jornal do Fundão), 1961. Colecção Pedras Brancas, 2. 8°, original illustrated wrappers. Printed on bluish paper. Occasional light browning around edges of paper. Overall in very good to fine condition. Black-on-white printed paper ticket (bottom edge perforated) of Livraria Silva, Faro, in upper outer corner of inside front cover (with two-digit telephone number!). 64 pp., (2 ll.), folding plate on darker blue, heavier paper. $35.00

FIRST EDITION. The front cover and the plate are by Manuel Baptista. E[rnesto] M[anuel Geraldes] de Melo e Castro (b. Covilhã, 1932), textile engineer, poet, essayist and critic, was one of the leaders of the literary vanguard in Portugal during the second half of the twentieth century.

* On Melo e Castro see Fernando J.B. Martins in Machado, ed., Dicionário de literatura portuguesa, p. 118; Ana Hatherly in Biblos, I, 1062-3; Dicionário cronológico de autores portugueses, VI, 121-4; also Pamplona, Dicionário de pintores e escultores portugueses (2nd ed.), II, 74. OCLC: 14362679 (online version); 463510162 (Bibliothèque Nationale de France). Porbase locates four copies, two in the Biblioteca Nacional de Portugal, one at the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian-Lisboa, and one at the Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian-Centro Cultural Paris. Copac locates a single copy, at British Library.

*7. COSTA, Avelino de Jesus da. Álbum de paleografia e diplomática portuguesas. Volume I: Estampas [all published to date]. Coimbra: Faculdade de Letras da Universidade, 1990. Large folio (35 x 24.5 cm.), original printed wrappers. As new. 312 illustrations. $125.00

Fifth edition of this handbook for students of Portuguese diplomatics and paleography, “muito melhorada”. It has been augmented with 8 more documents in Portuguese;
also, the photographs of 10 of the specimens have been enlarged, and 43 other photog-
graphs have been retaken and cleaned up for greater legibility. There are 290 specimens
from 189 B.C. to A.D. 1792, as well as 7 from the papal chancery (A.D. 1179-1741) and 22
royal seals from ca. A.D. 1100-1815.

The earlier editions were apparently printed in very limited numbers and with very
poor reproductions. We have never seen a copy of an earlier edition. Since the work first
appeared in 1942 a volume of transcriptions has been promised, but never published.
According to the preface of this edition, the transcription is now “quase concluída,” and
will be published as volume II of this set.

original printed wrappers. As new. 49 pp., (4 ll.), illustrations. $25.00

Second edition of this introduction to Latin epigraphy; it first appeared in 1979. The
annotated bibliography on pp. 37-46 concentrates on inscriptions found in the
Iberian Peninsula.

First Portuguese Calligraphy Manual

*9. FIGUEIREDO, Manoel de Andrade de. Nova escola para aprender
a ler, escrever, e contar…. Lisbon: Livraria Sam Carlos, 1973. Folio (32.1
x 23.5 cm.), publisher’s leatherette in slipcase. As new. Frontispiece
portrait, (10 ll.), 156 pp., (1 l.), (1, 44 ll. plates). $150.00

Facsimile reprint edition of the first Portuguese calligraphy manual and Portugal’s
first exercise book, originally published in 1722. Its fame rests on the style of writing
invented by Andrade de Figueiredo, which was based on that of the Spanish master
Morante and became widely taught in Portuguese schools during the reign of D. José
I. The 44 plates illustrate various scripts and initial letters, many with elaborate and
beautiful arabesque borders incorporating soldiers, birds, animals, etc. Andrade de
Figueiredo (ca. 1670-1735) was a native of Brazil, son of the Governor of the Captaincy
of Espírito Santo.

* Regarding the first edition, see: Borba de Moraes (1983) I, 311; Período colonial
y Sinobas p. 6. Vasconcelos, Arte decorativa portuguesa II, 204. Cotarelo y Mori, 100-1.
Soares, Historia da gravura artística em Portugal II, 426-7. Soares & Campos Ferreira Lima,
Diccionário de iconografia portuguesa 1182. Berlin Catalogue 5246. Bonacini 66: calling the
calligraphy magnificent. Brunet I, 264 and The Universal Penman list the plates only. Palha
484. Azevedo-Samodães 151.
10. **HOLANDA, António de, possible author.** *Instituição de Capela e Morgado do Cronista Rui de Pina. Códice quinhentista iluminado .... Introdução e notas de Carmen M. Radulet e António Vasconcellos de Saldanha. Leitura paleográfica por Eduardo Borges Nunes.* Lisbon: INAPA, 1989. Folio (28.5 x 41 cm.), publisher’s gilt-stamped blue cloth, with large illustration of an illuminated painting tipped on to front cover. As new. 17 pp., (1, 1, 17, 1 blank, 2, 1 blank ll.). $165.00

FIRST and ONLY EDITION. One of 450 copies; an additional 50 copies were bound in leather, numbered and signed. Beautiful full-color facsimile of this important, privately owned manuscript, with transcription and scholarly introduction. Produced under the auspices of the Academia Portuguesa de História.


Advertising flyer for a shop located at Travessa da Victoria, 18 in Lisbon. Two new kinds of ink for writing are offered. One is called “Noir Bleu” or “Preto Azul”; it is implied but not specifically stated that this comes from France. This ink is said to have an excellent color, and despite being manufactured with chemicals, does not cause corrosion to pens. The other ink is called “English Ink Patent” or “Tinta de Escrever—Patente Ingleza”, said to have been adopted exclusively by all government offices in England. These two types of ink are offered to the public, to all entities of the state, court clerks, official recorders, military secretaries, commercial firms, lawyers, schools, etc. Anyone wishing to use the inks is welcome to a free trial.

**Magnificent Facsimile**

12. **Livro de Lisuarte de Abreu.** Lisbon: Comissão Nacional para as Comemorações dos Descobrimentos Portugueses, 1992. Folio (30.5 x 21.3 cm.), publisher’s leatherette, spine and front cover gilt. Profusely illustrated in color. As new. 55 pp., (1), 19, 92, 1 blank, (1) ll. ISBN: none. $350.00

FIRST and ONLY EDITION. Magnificently produced full-color facsimile of the original manuscript in the Pierpont Morgan Library. Besides much other data, it includes an illustrated relation of the India fleets, from that of Vasco da Gama (1497-1499) until the voyage of D. Jorge de Sousa (1563). Only two manuscripts with this sort of illustration are known to exist: the other one, the “Livro das Armadas” in the Academia de Ciências, Lisbon, covers the period 1497 to 1567, but lacks the fleet of 1517.

The Morgan manuscript consists, effectively, of three parts. Part I contains a group of texts, copied no doubt by order of Lisuarte de Abreu, including a diary of the voyage
of the nau Rainha from Lisbon to Goa in the fleet commanded by D. Constantino de Bragança in 1558. D. Constantino paused for 18 days in Mozambique, during which time he sent a messenger-ship to Sofala, mainly to obtain information about Turkish movements. Lisuarte de Abreu was a member of this mission. In the same part of the manuscript is another description of the same voyage, this time in the form of a “relation.” There are also copies of various letters and documents of the period.

Part II is a list of the governors and viceroys of India to 1558, with unusually bold and striking full-page color portraits of these officials.

Part III, perhaps the best-known part, contains color representations of the ships that made up the various fleets, with the names of the captains in almost every case. There are also illustrations of naval battles. This part of the manuscript was made by order of the governor Jorge Cabral, in 1550, but the illustrator continued his work up to the 1563 fleet, and included naval engagements, especially those led by D. Fernando de Monroy and D. Diogo de Noronha against Turkish galleys. Several of the fleets stopped in Brazil on the outward voyage, beginning with that of Pedro Álvares Cabral in 1500, making this a crucial document for the early history of that country.

The late Professor Luís de Albuquerque provided an introduction (pp. 11-31), which is followed by Maria Luisa Esteves’ transcription of the text (pp. 33-35).


FIRST and ONLY EDITION of this manual for university students and scholars learning to read early documents in Portuguese. The authors concentrate on scripts of the more difficult periods, so that while there are only 8 examples from the thirteenth century and 18 from the fourteenth, there are 30 from the fifteenth century, 49 from the sixteenth, and 43 from the seventeenth. The remaining 10 are from the eighteenth century. The documents were chosen with regard to the interest of their content as well as their script. Each is reproduced in a good photograph, with the transcription on the facing page (preceded by the date and place, a brief summary of the content, and its current location). This book is an invaluable aid for those who want to learn not only how to tell whether a document in horrible cursive script is right side up, but how to read it once it is pointing in the right direction.

Oliveira Marques was one of the most respected historians and medievalists in Portugal. His introduction explains the symbols and methods used in the transcriptions, and the rationale behind them. Alves Dias is also a leading and highly respected historian.

This essential reference tool and teaching manual has been out-of-print for a number of years.

Item 15 (greatly reduced)
Fundamental Work on Spanish, Catalan, Valencian, Portuguese and New World Paleography, Lavishly Illustrated

15. RODRIGUEZ, Christoval. *Bibliotheca universal de la polygraphia española* .... Madrid: por Antonio Marin, 1738. Large folio (41 x 28 cm.), contemporary Spanish mottled calf (spine chipped and joints cracking at head and foot, hinges weak, rubbed), spine richly gilt in seven compartments with red morocco lettering piece in second compartment from head, gilt border on each cover; marbled endleaves, text block edges rouged. Lavishly illustrated with engraved plates, vignettes, and initials; woodcut headpieces, illustrations, and initials. Greek type on several pages. Occasional light offsetting from plates and text; 2 folding plates with short tears repaired, without loss; a few small stains and occasional minor soiling. Old purple stamp of the Dukes of Palmela (a ducal coronet over the monogram) in blank portion of letterpress title; unidentified armorial label (chipped) at spine foot. Engraved title (numbered 1), (3), xxvii ll., 6 ll. engraved plates (numbered 11, 33-4, 36-8), engraved title (numbered 53, dated 1729), engraved portrait (numbered 54), (36 ll.), 4 engraved calligraphic titles (general title plus section titles introducing plates of fourteenth-, fifteenth- and sixteenth-century scripts) and 123 plates (numbered 55-181; including 3 folding, 1 double-page, and 34 printed on both sides of 17 ll.). Large engraved headpiece, 2 engraved initials, 3 engraved and 35 woodcut illustrations (several full-page) in text. A very good copy in an attractive contemporary binding. $12,000.00

FIRST EDITION of this fundamental work on Spanish and Portuguese paleography. When Rodriguez began this study in 1708 he thought he would be the first to write about the script of early documents for the general public. While the work was in progress, however, he came across Mabillon’s *De re diplomatica* (1681-1704), which covered only scripts through the tenth century; Rodriguez incorporated about 15 of Mabillon’s plates into this study. Because Rodriguez covers scripts through the sixteenth century, his work is a significant extension of the study of scripts. *Bibliotheca universal* is also the first study of Spanish scripts after Mabillon.

In the prologue (pp. i-xxvii) the editor, D. Blas Antonio Nassarre y Ferriz (the King’s chief librarian) explains Rodriguez’s theories about script. This section includes 13 engravings and woodcuts showing more than 30 coins from ancient and medieval times. It also includes engraved and woodcut representations on 15 leaves of medieval monuments, among them several in Arabic. The prologue is followed by a number of lengthy censuras and aprobaciones that evaluate the usefulness of the work, describe the state of paleographical studies in the early eighteenth century, discuss the various scripts used in Spain and its New World colonies over the centuries, and explain the value of being able to read ancient documents and inscriptions.

The main text, which begins with its own engraved title page, has expertly prepared plates, many of which were not only drawn but engraved by Rodriguez himself. The examples are arranged in chronological order with separate section titles for each century, beginning with antiguo (Roman and medieval), then progressing through
the fourteenth through sixteenth centuries. There are separate plates for Catalan, Valencian, and Portuguese paleography. Many plates are enhanced by an interlinear transcription in italic script and include an alphabet at the foot of the plate.

The plate facing the printed title page shows a library with coffered ceiling whose shelves recede far into the distance. At the left and right, Minerva and Mercury look toward the reader and gesture toward the library. Minerva, crowned and wearing period dress, holds a shield and spear. Mercury, modestly draped, wears a winged hat and holds a caduceus. The library and its patron deities are set within an elaborate architectural frame. Crowning it are the royal arms of Spain. At the foot, a partially unrolled sheet bears the book’s title and the name of D. Blas Antonio Nassarre, who saw the work through the press. The engraving is signed by Christus a Sto. Ioanne as artist and Paulus Minguet as engraver.

On f. A2r, an allegorical vignette signed by Manuel de Chozas (as artist and engraver) represents a man and a woman in armor supporting a bust-length portrait of the King of Spain in a round frame; below are the accoutrements of war and art (helmet, palette, cannon, etc.). The motto above the portrait is “Non solus armis” (“Not with arms alone”).

A second engraved title page (following quire P) is set within an elaborate architectural frame, with a monogram at the head, a male nude on either side, and a banner below giving information on the author. This one is signed by D. Christ. Rodrig. as artist and Vidal as engraver. The engraved portrait of Rodriguez on the leaf following is signed by Ioannes Perez as engraver; it has an askance look that suggests a self portrait. Many of the plates with scripts are signed by Christoval Rodriguez as artist and Vidal as engraver.

Rodriguez (1677-1735) was archivist at the Cathedral of Ávila and later archivist to the Excelentísima Casa y Estados del Infantado. The Bibliotheca universal was completed in 1730, and was published after Rodriguez’s death by order of King Philip V.

Provenance: The extensive library of the Dukes of Palmela, formed mainly in the nineteenth century, was dispersed, for the most part, during the second quarter of the twentieth century through the 1960s. The first to hold the title was D. Pedro de Sousa Holstein (1781-1850), a Portuguese diplomat who served as prime minister at various times in the 1830s and 1840s. He wrote profusely on politics and economics. (See Grande enciclopédia XX, 123-8.)


FIRST and ONLY EDITION. Transcriptions of 28 Portuguese documents, primarily ecclesiastical, in the collection of the Faculdade de Letras, Universidade de Coimbra.
PALEOGRAFÍA ESPAÑOLA,

Que contiene

TODOS LOS MODOS CONOCIDOS,
que ha habido de escribir en España, desde su principio, y fundación, hasta el presente, á
fin de facilitar el registro de los Archivos, y
lectura de los manuscritos, y pertenencias de
cada particular; juntamente con una historia
sucinta del idioma común de Castilla, y demás
lenguas, ó dialectos, que se conocen como
proprios en estos Reynos;

SUBSTITUIDA EN LA OBRA
DEL ESPECTACULO
DE LA NATURALEZA,
EN VEZ DE LA PALEOGRAFÍA FRANCESA,
Por el P. Esteban de Terreros y Pando, Maestro de
Matemáticas en el Colegio Imperial de la Compa-
nía de Jesús de esta Corte.

Y LA DEDICA
A LA REYNA NUESTRA SEÑORA
DOÑA MARÍA BARBARA.

EN MADRID: En la Oficina de Joaquin Barió, calle de las
Uroles. Año de 1758.
TERREROS Y PANDO, Esteban de. *Paleografía española: que contiene todos los modos conocidos, que ha habido de escribir en España, desde su principio, y fundacion, hasta el presente, a fin de facilitar el registro de los Archivos, y lectura de los manuscritos, y pertenencias de cada particular; juntamente con una historia sucinta del idioma común de Castilla, y demás lenguas, ó dialectos, que se conocen como propios en estos Reynos: substituida en la obra del Espectaculo de la naturaleza, en vez de la paleografía Francesa …. Madrid: En la Oficina de Joachin Ibarra, 1758. 4°, contemporary limp vellum (lower cover slightly chewed at outer and upper edges; some soiling and other minor wear; lacking rear pastedown endleaf), horizontal manuscript title on spine. Eighteen engraved plates (one folding). Occasional foxing, mostly very light, a few leaves with soiling and minor stains. Very small repairs at lower blank margin of title page and following leaf. On the whole in good, perhaps slightly better than good, sound condition. Bookplate of Luis Bardon. Armorial Bookplate of Clado Ribeiro de Lessa. (2 ll.), 160 pp., 18 engraved plates. $1,200.00

FIRST EDITION. Paleografía española opens with a brief history of the languages spoken and written in Spain before the Roman occupation, then Latin, and then Castilian Spanish, focusing on orthographic changes that occurred under Moorish domination. Subsequent chapters are organized in reverse chronological order, mostly by century; each is accompanied by plates that contain numerous examples of the different scripts. For example, the plate for the fifteenth century illustrates a letter written in letra cortesana by the Catholic Queen D. Isabel to D. Gomez Manrique, Corregidor de Toledo; a transcription is given on pp. 36-37. In the chapter on the thirteenth century, Plate 8 illustrates the beginning of the prologue to the Cantigas de Santa María by D. Alfonso X el Sabio, including music written in neume notation (transcription pp. 71-73). The chapter on the twelfth and thirteenth centuries illustrates letra Galicana or letra Francesa, which Terreros y Pando describes as a “universal” script of this time period (p. 103 and Plate 13). He notes that letra Longobardica or Lombarda was used frequently in Italy, and that gothic script was incorrectly believed to be the same as Longobardicos (p. 104). This argument is supported with examples of papal bulls Pope Urban II, written in Letra Francesa and Lombarda (p. 104).

The final section of the work (pp. 142-158) is on the writing of the Arab and Jewish peoples in Spain. Plate 18 illustrates examples of thirteenth-century Arabic writing, with transcription and Spanish translation. Styles include caracteres Asiaticos and caracteres Cuphicos (or Africanos), which are frequently found in Spain, at buildings such as the older sections of the Patio Principal del Colegio, antes Casa Profesa, de la Compañía de Jesús de Toledo. The Hebrew writing is limited to two examples on Plate 18 (see also pp. 155-6) - Rabbinical cursive and quadrado - which can be found inscribed on buildings such as the Synagogue of Toledo.

Basics for Study of Historical Documents and Scripts

18. VAINES, François Jean de. *Dictionnaire raisonné de diplomatique, contenant les règles principales & essentielles pour servir à déchiffrer les anciens Titres, Diplomes & Monuments, ainsi qu’à justifier de leur date & de leur authenticité. On y a joint des Planches rédigées aussi par ordre alphabétique & revues avec le plus grand soin, avec des explications à chacune, pour aider également à connaître les caractères & écritures des différents âges & de différentes nations*. 2 volumes. Paris: Chez Lacombe, 1774. Large 8°, contemporary mottled calf (some wear), spine richly gilt in six compartments with raised bands, crimson morocco lettering and numbering pieces, marbled endleaves, text block edges rouged, two green silk ribbon place markers in each volume. Woodcut vignettes on title pages, woodcut and typographical headpieces and tailpieces, engraved calligraphic plates. Occasional light spotting. A very good set overall. Oval stamps of B.M. Tavares de Proença / J. de Saldanha Oliveira e Souza on rectos of half titles with “374” in ink manuscript at center; octagonal paper labels with blue borders and same number in ink manuscript on spines. xxiv, 547 pp., 25 plates (1 folding); (2 ll.), 482 pp., (1 l.), 26 plates (1 folding).

FIRST EDITION, later issue: the same as the original 1773 edition except for the new title pages and half titles. This comprehensive dictionary for those studying historical documents or paleography includes 51 engraved plates with facsimiles of ancient and national scripts—one or two plates for each letter of the alphabet, plus other subjects such as Latin abbreviations. The entries in the dictionary include lengthy discussions of dates, abbreviations, scripts, seals, and a host of official documents (secular and clerical). In the preface, the author describes the difficulties of studying this field and what he hopes to accomplish by compiling a dictionary such as this.

Jean-François de Vaines (1733-1803) is identified on the title page as a Benedictine from the Congregation of St. Maur, whose members were known for their high level of scholarship.

Provenance: D. José de Saldanha Oliveira e Souza, who also used the name José Luiz de Saldanha (1839-1912), was a son of D. João de Saldanha Oliveira Juzarte Figueira e Sousa, 3º conde de Rio Maior, and brother of António José Luís de Saldanha Oliveira Juzarte Figueira e Sousa, 4º conde and 1º marquês de Rio Maior. A chemist and mineralogist, parliamentary deputy, and high government official, he studied mathematics and philosophy at Coimbra University, wrote on subjects as varied as agriculture, finance, and engravings, and amassed an important library. He was a devoted proponent of progress in the national agricultural sector, which he considered one of the primary sources of public wealth. See Grande enciclopédia XIX, 402; Inocêncio XIII, 66-7; Aditamentos, pp. 254-5. The Casa da Anunciada library of the counts of Rio Maior was one of the best private libraries ever formed in Portugal. It was dispersed for the most part not long after the April 1974 Portuguese revolution.

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