HONG KONG INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUARIAN BOOK FAIR

Selected highlights from our display

Hong Kong Island • December 3 - 5  2010
1. STEIN, Gertrude. **Paris France.** London : B.T. Batsford, 1940 (first edition). Octavo, boards in dustjacket, 120pp (mildly foxed), 8 colour plates. A rare presentation copy inscribed in ink by the author on flyleaf: ‘My dear Enid - I feel that this is probably my last book possibly. The way I feel now the way I feel, I have asked Leon to pass it on to you with my affection my constancy. Please see that he does this. You know what he is. Hoping that you are as charming as when we first met. Gertrude Stein.’

As Stein published three other works before her death in 1946, it is safe to assume that she inscribed this book sometime in 1940 (her next book, *Ida*, was published in 1941). At this time Stein was living with her lover Alice B. Toklas in a country house at Bilignin in the Rhone-Alpes region of France, where they managed to escape the Nazi persecution of Jews. The identity of ‘Enid’ is unknown (possibly Enid Bagnold, the English writer?). The inscription is a wonderful slice of Stein’s highly idiosyncratic writing style, its strange rhythms and repetitions echoing in words the form of a Cubist painting.

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2. REMBRANDT VAN RIJN (1606 – 1669)

*The Hundred Guilder Print (Christ Healing the Sick)*

Drypoint and Etching

280 x 400mm

Printed in Amsterdam, c. 1649

Rembrandt’s greatest etching, and one of the most important prints in the world, is rare, with only 125 – 225 known impressions (Nowell-Usticke). The Hundred Guilder Print was worked on by Rembrandt over a number of years, and printed circa 1649. It is known in two seventeenth century states (this is the second), the difference between them being minor variations of shading. In the eighteenth century the plate was acquired by Captain William Baillie who extensively reworked it in mezzotint, removing much of Rembrandt’s own work, and then cut the plate into four, printing and selling the fragments.

The print shows a composite scene taken from Chapter 19 of the Gospel of St Matthew. In it, Christ is ministering over the sick and poor, while Pharisees look on disapprovingly to the left. Other elements from the text are woven in to produce a scene of complexity united by Rembrandt’s technical strengths. His ability to use drypoint and etching to their full effect are displayed in his use of chiaroscuro as a dramatic highlight to the divinity of Christ as narrated in the Gospel.

This has long been one of the most sought after etchings of Rembrandt, and was selling for 100 guilders as early as 1654. It has been commonly known by this title since the eighteenth century.

A later impression of the second state on laid paper, the blacks retouched with bodycolour at a later date, close margins with no tears or creases, old collection stamp and inscription verso (unidentified).

Extensively discussed in all the relevant literature.

Provenance: Dr. Konrad Liebmann, Germany

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3. 19th Century Chinese manuscript (southern provincial) heavily illustrated with scenes of local legends and folktales, acquired in northern Vietnam.

AUD $1250
HKD $9,500
4. **ONE OF ONLY 12 COPIES BY THE AUTHOR OF ‘PETER PAN’**


Royal 8vo. Original light green card covers printed in black, tied with a cream silk cord at spine fold, untrimmed, preserved in a fine custom-made case covered in dark blue cloth lettered in gilt; pp. [ii] + 31; with 3 illustrations after engravings, signed L.W.; a very nice copy indeed, with some mild discoloration to card covers; internally near fine; rare. First edition: privately printed in an edition of just 12 copies, as stated.

A handful of copies located in international libraries suggest that very few copies remain in private hands. Copies are listed at the British Library and National Library of Scotland and on OCLC/WorldCat at Harvard; Indiana; Yale and Stanford. This is an interesting autobiographical short story described “as intimate as it is unknown” by Andrew Birkin in his excellent biography “J.M. Barrie and the Lost Boys” (Constable, 1979). It sheds light on the author’s relationship with Michael Llewellyn Davies (renamed Neil in the story) and is written from the standpoint of his godfather, who represents Barrie himself. It begins, for example, with the narrator chaperoning Neil on his first day at school, just as Barrie had accompanied Michael many years earlier.

AUD $5,000  
HKD $35,000

Dutch translation of three early Portuguese accounts (1526 / 1528 /1536) by two visitors to the East Indies. The first volume is the work of Vaz de Sampayo and includes two maps which show the southwest, west, northwest and northeast coastlines of Australia. The second and third volumes form the narrative of Nuno da Cunha (1487-1539), son of the navigator Tristao da Cunha, who served as governor of Portuguese possessions in India.

AUD $3750
HKD $28,000

AUD $3,300
HKD $25,000
7. DARWIN, Charles (1809-1882)

Collection of material including a manuscript letter, photographs, and first edition of *On the Origin of Species*.

*On the origin of species, by means of natural selection, or the preservation of favoured races in the struggle for life.* London: John Murray, 1859. First edition. Octavo, near-contemporary half-calf over marbled boards, endpapers renewed at a later date, bookplate removed from front pastedown, occasional foxing, bound without half-title or endpapers. Loosely enclosed, a cut signature (60 x 85mm) inscribed ‘faithfully, Charles Darwin’.

With a four page manuscript letter, fully signed C. Darwin, to William Carpenter, naturalist, written from Down near Bromley, Kent, December 25th 1844. The letter concerns recent specimens of shells and fossils Carpenter sent Darwin from Patagonia, and the two scientists’ research into their nature.

With, four photographic portraits of Darwin, and a photograph of Huxley.

Huxley, a largely self-taught yet brilliant comparative anatomist, was a staunch public advocate of Darwin’s theory of evolution, and for this reason became known as Darwin’s Bulldog. A keen supporter of scientific education and opponent of extreme religious tradition, he coined the term agnostic to describe his own religious views.

Provenance: Private collection, Melbourne

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8. THE BEATLES. Autographs of John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr, with a pen and ink sketch by John Lennon. Australian Tour, Brisbane, June 1964. Single sheet of souvenir notepaper (210 x 140 mm) with Brisbane, Queensland letterhead, bearing a handwritten message in pencil: 28 June, 1964. Dear Robert, Paul said to say “Hello” to your Mum and he remembers her fondly. He said to write to him c/o the studio. Best wishes John. PS on orbit!! Signed by the four band members – John Lennon and George Harrison (black ink, possibly signed with the same pen), Paul McCartney (blue ink) and Ringo Starr (brown ink). Lennon has embellished his autograph with a sketch of a bird on a perch. The sketch is reminiscent of Lennon’s drawings in In His Own Write (1964), although Spaniard in the Works (1965) actually contains a drawing with the title Bird on a Perch. The pencil message is not in John Lennon’s hand: it was possibly written by John St. John (born John Gillard), guitarist with The Beatles’ opening act on their world tour, the British instrumental band Sounds Incorporated, who had befriended The Beatles in Hamburg and were signed to Brian Epstein’s label. (The only other “John” in the Beatles’ Australian touring party was the stage manager John Clapson, but the handwriting appears too naïve to be his). The note relays a friendly message from Paul McCartney to a young fan’s mother.

Probably signed sometime in the early hours of June 29. After playing in Christchurch, New Zealand on June 27, the group flew the next day to Brisbane, via Auckland and Sydney. The band arrived in Brisbane just after midnight of June 29 where 8,000 fans were waiting. The band played two sell-out shows at the Festival Hall, Brisbane, with crowds of 5,500 each.

AUD $11,000
HKD $82,500
9. BRETON, André. *Yves Tanguy*. New York: Pierre Matisse Editions (1946). Quarto, 94 pp., original boards, extensively illustrated. Limited to 1200 numbered copies. An attractive presentation of Tanguy’s work, the book was designed by Marcel Duchamp and translated by Bravig Imbs. This copy affectionately inscribed by Tanguy, along with an original drawing in Tanguy’s typical surrealist hand, to the notable American collector and socialite George Gallowhur.

AUD $12,500
HKD $95,000

A unique insight into Chinese mission life from an Australian perspective, with over one hundred items.

WILSON, Reverend Andrew Gordon b. 1885 at Bendigo, Victoria, Australia; d. 1965, Melbourne; m. 1910 at Canton; ordained Woomelang (Presbyterian Church of Victoria) 1934.

A Wesleyan from Victoria, Australia, Wilson was a qualified architect who left a lucrative position in Australia to enter missionary work. He held the position of General Manager of the Medical Missionary Society’s Hospital in Canton from approximately 1908 until 1913 when the position ended. After furlough in Australia in 1913-14, he arrived back in Canton on 31.8.1914, and was then employed by the Canton Villages Mission as Architect and Building Supervisor to oversee the design, construction and maintenance of the new Mission Hospital, residences and School at Kong Chuen. He proved of very great service to the Mission. His contract was extended twice and then he was put on the permanent staff in 1919 as Treasurer and Building Supervisor. After 11 years he resigned on 31.12.1925 and returned to Australia with his wife and children. He again assisted the South China Mission in 1938 by drawing up plans for a Nurse’s Home at Kong Chuen. He trained for the Presbyterian Ministry in Australia (presumably at Ormond College, Melbourne).

AUD $6,600
HKD $50,000
11. BARNETT, P. Neville. *Figure Prints of Japan*. Sydney: Beacon Press, 1948. Large quarto (450mm tall), white vellum over gilt-lettered white silk covered boards, decorated endpapers, 54pp. On hand-made paper with numerous tipped-in Japanese woodcuts. Limited to 100 copies, this one of the 40 Standard Deluxe Editions, signed by the author, this copy out of series.

Sydney based private press publisher P. Neville Barnett’s legacy is defined by his two great passions – Australian bookplates and the woodblock prints of Japan. In this large volume, the rarest title out of the handful Barnett published on the subject, he discusses the aesthetic of the Japanese figurative woodblock, a bold topic in the wake of Australia’s involvement in the war. Barnett typically issued his books in three versions – Author’s Presentation, Special Deluxe and Standard Deluxe, however the last phrase is always more deluxe than standard in its quality. Six copies recorded in Australian institutions.

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13. Nineteenth century gouache paintings from *The Punishments of China*

AUD          $500 each
HKD          $3,750 each
14. Apothecary trade card. Canton 1877
*Illustrated back cover*

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CANTON.

SIX YEARS AGO, THE FATHERS PETITROW AND LAUOTTE, FRENCH PRIESTS, WERE SENT TO TRAVEL THROUGH THE CELESTIAL EMPIRE FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAKING KNOWN THE MARVELLOUS PROPERTIES OF THESE MEDICINES.