Firsts Online
Virtual Rare Book Fair
Winter Edition - 2021
18th - 23rd February 2021
First Edition of Winston Churchill’s First Book - 1898
The Story of the Malakand Field Force
A Unusually Fine And Fresh Copy in Original Cloth

2  Churchill, Winston. THE STORY OF THE MALAKAND FIELD FORCE: An Episode of Frontier War (London: Longmans, Green and Co, 1898) First edition, first issue of the book, no other printings were issued of the first edition but one. This copy with the printed errata slip tipped in. A complete and perfect copy. With a photographic portrait frontispiece, 2 folding maps in colour and 4 sketches and plans. 8vo, publisher’s original pale green cloth lettered in gilt on spine and cover. Now housed in a very fine light-red morocco fold-over case, the spine panel of the case with raised bands stopped in gilt, the compartments with gilt ruled frames, lettered and numbered in 3 compartments in gilt. xv, 336, 32 ads. An extremely fine copy, all tissue guards present, maps and sketches all in especially fine condition, the cloth as pristine and about as fine and clean as one could hope to find.

THE FIRST EDITION, AND AN EXTREMELY FINE AND CLEAN COPY OF THIS INCREASINGLY HARD TO FIND WORK. The first book written by Winston Churchill who would one day be not only a prolific and prize winning author but one of the greatest figures in modern history. After an education at Harrow and Sandhurst he entered the army in 1895 and embarked on one of the most varied and distinguished careers
of the 20th century. He acted as a correspondent for The Daily Telegraph from India and for the Morning Post during the Boer War. His dramatic escape from prison in Pretoria brought him to public attention. He embarked on his political career in 1900 by entering Parliament. While there he held many major offices of state: Home Secretary, Secretary of State for War, First Lord of the Admiralty in which he oversaw naval operations for the First World War, Colonial Secretary, Chancellor of the Exchequer and eventually in 1940, Prime Minister. The latter office he would hold throughout World War Two and again from 1951 to 1955.

Early in this illustrious life, in 1897, the Daily Telegraph paid Churchill £5 per column for his dispatches from the Northwest Frontier in India, where he first saw action as a soldier, and after his return he fashioned these articles into the book here offered. It was the author’s first book and only 2000 copies were printed; it is of course now very difficult to find, especially in such fine condition.

$10,500.

Oliver Twist - One of Charles Dickens’ Greatest Works
The Scarce Lea & Blanchard Issue Printed in America
In the Original Linen-Backed Boards - 1839 - First Edition

3 Dickens, Charles. OLIVER TWIST by Charles Dickens (Boz,) Author of ‘Pickwick Papers,’ ‘Nicholas Nickleby,’ ‘Sketches of Every-Day Life,’ &c. &c. &c. (Philadelphia: Lea & Blanchard, 1839) A very early issue of the first American edition, being only the second version of Lea & Blanchard’s edition. Also the first one volume edition, printed double-column complete in one volume and with two plates as called for in the first issue of the one volume edition. Gimbel/Podeschi A31. With the two engraved plates required for the first issue of the one volume edition, drawn by George Cruikshank and redrawn by Yeager, these bound in as a double-page frontispiece. Tall 12mo, in fours and sixes, in the publisher’s original rose linen over pale brown boards, the spine with paper label printed in black, plain end-leaves. [iv marked as] xii, 13-212 pp. Complete. A very good copy, especially for an American imprint of the period, the text-block a bit shaken but the sewing holding firm, some of the usual foxing mostly minor and light, the boards with some expected age or evidence of use, some mellowing to the colour of the cloth at the spine panel, the label a bit chipped and darkened.

A RARE AND EARLY IMPRINT OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHICALLY IMPORTANT PHILADELPHIA EDITION. Found with numerous variants, this copy conforms with the Gimbel Collection plate count of two while still retaining the “List of Illustrations” showing all 24 of the Cruikshank plates found in the Bentley edition of London; the plates being “Oliver Asking for More”, and “Oliver Escapes Being Bound Apprentice...” This was also issued without ads in either front or rear yet is still paginated as if they were present.

The Philadelphia imprints are important as they were partially set from Bentley proofs, and do not reflect the final versions and thus give insight into Dickens’ latest revisions. Lea & Blanchard’s first issue of Oliver Twist was in two volumes, and that was followed almost immediately by this one volume issue with only two of the promised twenty-four plates. A third issue, in the same one volume format but with the promised 24 plates followed. Any of these early issues are considered scarce, especially so in collectible condition. Gimbel A31; Smith American 3, pp 96 - 97.

$750.
Charles Dickens’ Own Copy With his Plate and Library Label
Nicholas Nickleby - The First Edition in French
An Important Translation Much Admired by the Author

4 Dickens, Charles. VIE ET AVENTURES DE NICOLAS NICKLEBY Roman Anglais Traduit Avec l’Autorisation de l’Auteur par P. Lorain Edition de Ch. Lahure (Paris: Chez L. Hachette et Co., [1857]) 2 volumes. CHARLES DICKENS’ OWN COPY, and the First Edition in French of Dickens’ great novel, Nicholas Nickleby. 8vo, handsomely bound in fine contemporary red morocco over red marbled boards, the spines with girt stippled raised bands ruled with double gilt fillet lines, two compartments gilt lettered, marbled page edges and end-leaves. Now housed in a handsome protective clamshell box of red cloth with a black label gilt lettered. [1v], 449, [2]; 450, [2] pp. Quite a fine set with extraordinary provenance, a touch of very occasional foxing, the contemporary bindings, bound for Dickens’ own library. A very pleasing and important set.

FIRST EDITION AND CHARLES DICKENS’ OWN COPY! COPIES OF BOOKS WRITTEN BY DICKENS AND OWNED BY HIM WITH THE APPROPRIATE OWNERSHIP PLATES, KNOWN AS COMING FROM HIS OWN LIBRARY ARE VERY RARE IN THE MARKETPLACE. This set of NICHOLAS NICKLEBY, Dickens’ copy, has his bookplate on the front pastedown and just below his bookplate is the library bookplate used for the sale of Dickens’ books, this plate noting: “From the library of Charles Dickens, Gadshill Place, June, 1870.”

The first French edition of NICHOLAS NICKLEBY is an important edition in its own right as it marks a new level of prominence for Dickens on the grand stage of world literature. His preface is printed twice, once in French and again in English. This was because he wanted to insure there would be no misunderstandings as to his opinion of the translation. Dickens wanted very much to be popular and respected in France as it was a nation he greatly admired. He first notes that he was known to the French reading public only through occasional, fragmentary and unauthorized translations over which he had no control. He says: “The present translation of my writings was proposed to me by Messrs. L. Hachette and Co. and Ch. Lahure in a manner equally spirited, liberal, and generous. It has been made with the greatest care, and its many difficulties have been combated with unusual skill, intelligence and perseverance. It has been superintended, above all, by an accomplished gentleman, perfectly acquainted with both languages and able, with a rare felicity, to be perfectly faithful to the English text, while rendering it in elegant and expressive French... This is the only edition of my writings that has my sanction. I humbly and respectfully, but with full confidence, recommend it to my French readers. -Charles Dickens”.

$12,500.

The Life of Charles M. Doughty - The Great Explorer of Arabia
An Inscribed Presentation Copy With Fine Provenance
Of Interest to Both T.E. Lawrence and Doughty Collectors

5 [Doughty, Charles; Arabia]; Hogarth, D. G. THE LIFE OF CHARLES M. DOUGHTY (Garden City: Doubleday, Doran & Company, Inc., 1929) First edition, issue for America printed in England at the Oxford University Press. PRESENTATION COPY, inscribed by the late author’s son William D. Hogarth (who authored the introductory
A SCARCE WORK OF INTEREST TO BOTH DOUGHTY AND T. E. LAWRENCE COLLECTORS. The author David G. Hogarth (who died before the book came to publication) was a noted archaeologist and scholar associated with both Lawrence and Doughty. Hogarth was close with T. E. Lawrence and worked with Lawrence to plan the Arab Revolt. He introduced Lawrence to Doughty, and Lawrence wrote the famous introduction to the 1921 edition of Doughty’s TRAVELS IN ARABIA DESERTA.

Hogarth’s son William, who has penned the presentation inscription in this copy, made the final revisions needed to his father’s long-compiled manuscripts after the elder Hogarth passed in 1927. With the help of Mrs. Doughty, Edward Garnett and Sydney Cockerell he was finally able to finish his father’s labor of love and bring the work to publication.

$1000.

A BEAUTIFUL SET, THE ORIGINAL CLOTH EXCEPTIONALLY FRESH, CLEAN AND UNWORN. FELIX HOLT was one of Eliot’s later novels, written after she had attained great popularity and was earning a considerable income from her writing. Shortly after her death critics such as Leslie Stephen disparaged her work (although, interestingly enough, Virginia Woolf was one of her defenders), but in recent years her reputation has been upheld. F. R. Leavis in particular introduced a new understanding of and respect for her mature works. He considered her ‘not as transcendentally great as Tolstoy, but she is great, and great in the same way’. Sadleir 814; Tinker 1010; Wolff 2058.

$2500.
Very Rare Africana - H. Rider Haggard’s First Book
Cetywayo and His White Neighbors - London - 1882
Original Green Cloth Gilt - A Fine Copy

7 Haggard, H. Rider. CETYWAYO AND HIS WHITE NEIGHBOURS; or, Remarks on the Recent Events in Zululand, Natal and the Transvaal. (London: Trubner & Co., 1882) First Edition of Haggard’s First Published Book. It consisted of only 750 copies that were printed at the author’s family’s expense. 8vo, publishers original green cloth with gilt decorative device and black lined borders on the upper cover and with gilt lettering and black lined bordering on the spine panel. Housed in a morocco backed foldover case. [xx], [2], 294 pp. A bright, clean and attractive copy with only the merest hint of shelfwear, in especially pleasing condition. Very light cracking at the endleaves.

THE VERY SCARCE FIRST EDITION OF HAGGARD’S FIRST PUBLISHED BOOK preceding KING SOLOMON’S MINES by fully two years. The book is a critique of the situation in South Africa, where the English colonists had recently (1878-79) quelled an uprising of the Zulus (who were led by their king Cetywayo). Haggard’s father had pressured him into a job with the colonial staff there, largely to put some distance between Haggard and the girl in England he wanted to marry. Scott1, McKay 1, Whatmore NF1; Allen 11 $2250.

Thomas Hardy - First Edition of Tess of the D’urbervilles
Triple-Decker in Original Decorated Cloth
A Very Fine Copy - Beautifully Preserved

8 Hardy, Thomas. TESS OF THE D’URBERVILLES (London: Osgood, McIlvaine and Co, 1891) 3 volumes. First edition, first issue of Vols. I and III and First edition, second state of Vol. II with the chapter heading “XXXV” correct on page 199. 8vo, publisher’s original mustard cloth decorated in gilt on covers after a design by Charles Ricketts, decoratively lettered in gilt on spines. Now housed in a fine custom slipcase with triple-rounded morocco back gilt lettered and with each volume in a custom chemise. 264; 278; 277. A very fine and very attractive set, the cloth clean and fresh with bright gilt, the hinges solid and sturdy, the text very fine as well.

FIRST EDITION AND A BEAUTIFUL SET OF ONE OF HARDY’S GREATEST NOVELS, and also one of his last. Publication of the novel created a violent sensation, and the critical reception of TESS, and later JUDE THE OBSCURE,
convinced Hardy to give up novels in favor of poetry (which he had always considered superior to fiction). Only 1000 copies were printed, and as was the case with many Victorian novels, copies were snapped up by the lending libraries of the period and were subject to the repeated hard wear of enthralled readers. It is now a very scarce work, and is very difficult to find in the original cloth bindings. Laid into the first volume is a one-page autograph note signed by Hardy. Purdy 67.

$9500.

A Superb Copy of this Highly Esteemed Work
H. Harrisse - The Discovery of North America - First Edition
Beautifully Bound - A Very Handsome Copy - 1 of 40 Only
Replete with Maps and Engravings Throughout

9 Harrisse, Henry. THE DISCOVERY OF NORTH AMERICA. A critical, documentary, and historic investigation. With an Essay on the Early Cartography of the New World, Including Description of Two Hundred and Fifty Maps or Globes Existing or Lost, Constructed Before the Year 1536. (Paris and London: H. Welter and Henry Stevens and Son, 1892) First Edition, Very Limited Issue, One of 40 copies only, printed on Dutch hand-made paper out of a total edition of 380. Illustrated profusely throughout with full page and double page maps with tissue guards. 4to, very handsomely bound in beautiful three-quarter dark-honey morocco, the spine with raised bands gilt stopped, the compartments with gilt panel designs, lettered and numbered in gilt in three compartments, top edge gilt, others untrimmed, gilt borders to the corners and turnover. xii, 862, [4] pp. a beautifully bound and very fine example of the first edition of this important work, the, binding, the text-block and the engravings are all in fine condition.

FIRST EDITION, VERY LIMITED ISSUE ON DUTCH HANDMADE PAPER, ONE OF 40 COPIES ONLY, EXQUISITELY BOUND AND IN SUPERB CONDITION. A Beautiful Copy of an important book, one of Harrisse’s best, and a great tour de force.

This great work covers the span of year from the Cabot voyages beginning in 1497 through the many Spanish and Portuguese voyages of the 1500’s. Fundamental to the work are the essays on the early cartography of the New World. There are descriptions of 250 maps or globes including examples existing or lost, constructed before 1536. There is a fine chronology including one hundred voyages westward, projected, attempted or accomplished beween 1431 and 1504. The book also includes biographical accounts of three hundred pilots who first crossed the Atlantic and a copious list of the original names of American regions, mountains, islands, capes, gulf’s, rivers, towns and harbours. A superb work containing prodigious scholarship and excellent presentation of both text and illustration.

$3500.

First Printing of the Inclusive Edition - Handsomely Bound
Rudyard Kipling’s Verse 1885-1918 - A Very Fine Set
Three Volumes in Fine Riviere Bindings of the Period

10 Kipling, Rudyard. RUDYARD KIPLING’S VERSE. Inclusive Edition 1885-1918 (London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1919) 3 volumes. First Edition, First Impression of the fine Inclusive Edition. Title-page printed in red and black. 8vo, in very fine and handsome contemporary bindings signed by Riviere and Son of fine three-quarter dark blue crushed morocco over cloth covered boards, the spine with six compartments separated by
gilt stopped raised bands, the compartments of the spine with elaborate gilt ruled panels enclosing a gilt tooled inner device, two compartments lettered in gilt, double gilt fillet rules at the joins of the morocco and the cloth, marbled end-leaves, top edge gilt. ix, [318]; ix, [324]; x, [292] pp. A very handsome set of Kipling’s wonderful verse poems, the bindings beautifully preserved and in excellent condition, bright and clean, the text-blocks equally well preserved. A fine set indeed.

FIRST EDITION, FIRST IMPRESSION OF THE FINE INCLUSIVE EDITION, THIS COPY IN FINE BINDINGS BY RIVIERE AND SON. In all nearly 500 of the author’s verses indexed both by title and by first line. $1250.

A Superb Copy of Sale’s Great Translation of the Koran
The Best of the Early Translations - Finely Bound

11 [Koran]; Sale, George. THE KORAN, Commonly Called The Alcoran of Mohammed, Translated into English immediately from the Original Arabic; with Explanatory Notes, taken from the most Approved Commentators. To which is prefixed a Preliminary Discourse. By George Sale (Bath: Printed by S. Hazard for J. Johnson, Vernor and Hood, Ogilvy and Speare et al, 1795) 2 volumes. An early and very scarce printing of George Sale’s great English translation. With three engraved genealogical tables (two folding), a map and a folding plate featuring a view and the plan of the Temple of Mecca, all as in the first edition. 8vo, very handsome full contemporary speckled calf, compartments of the spines elegantly decorated in elaborate panel designs with gilt decorated bands and fine central gilt ornamental devices, gilt rolled border designs, two compartments with contrasting red and green morocco labels ruled and lettered in gilt, board edges gilt stippled, covers with roll tooled borders gilt, marbled endleaves. Vol. I: xii, (2), 266, Table 14 pp.; Vol. II: (8), 519, Table 12 pp. An especially fine and exceptionally handsome set in beautiful contemporary bindings. The bindings are in excellent condition, the text blocks and paper remain fresh, clean, unpressed and in beautiful condition, near as pristine.

VERY RARE IN THIS CONDITION. Sale’s version, originally published some years earlier, is the best early translation of the Islamic holy book, and the first English translation taken directly from the original Arabic. The only translation published previous to Sale’s was “the despicable French version” of André Du Ryer, issued in 1649, and Alexander Ross published
an English version derived from Du Ryer’s in the same year.

Sale’s intent in translating the Koran was seemingly to educate English readers (and perhaps those in power) about Islam in an atmosphere of what he perceived to be ignorance and intolerance: “...it seems as if there was something more than what is vulgarly imagined, in a religion which has made so surprising a progress.” He states, “...as Mohammed gave his Arabs the best religion he could, as well as the best laws, preferable, at least, to those of the ancient pagan lawgivers, I confess I cannot see why he deserves not equal respect, though not with Moses or Jesus Christ, whose laws came really from heaven, yet with Minos or Numa, notwithstanding the distinction of a learned writer, who seems to think it a greater crime to make use of an imposture to set up a new religion, founded on the acknowledgment of one true God, and to destroy idolatry, than to use the same means to gain reception to rules and regulations for the more orderly practice of heathenism already established.” He goes on to argue that “...if the religious and civil Institutions of foreign nations are worth our knowledge, those of Mohammed, the lawgiver of the Arabians, and founder of an empire, which, in less than a century, spread itself over a greater part of the world than the Romans were ever masters of, must needs be so.”

$2950.

Hindostan: Its Landscapes, Palaces, Temples, Etc. 
A Beautifully Bound Copy of this Important Early Work With Nearly 100 Fine Engraved Views of the Himalayas

12 Roberts, Emma. HINDOSTAN: Its Landscapes, Palaces, Temples, Tombs; the Shores of the Red Sea, and the Sublime and Romantic Scenery of the Himalaya Mountains (London: Fisher, Son, and Co, [ca. 1845-1847]) 2 volumes bound as one. First Edition. Two engraved vignette title-pages, two engraved frontispieces and 95 other fine steel engraved plates with tissue guards. The engravings drawn by William (J.M.W) Turner, Stanfield, J. S. Prout, Charles Cattermold, David Roberts, Thomas Allom, etc., from original sketches by Commander Robert Eliiot and Lieutenant George Francis White. 4to, in an especially handsome period Bickers & Son binding of full navy-blue morocco, the covers elaborately paneled and decorated in gilt featuring tooled botanical decorations bordering the panels both inside and outside of the triple gilt filleted lines and additionally, with large gilt tools at the corners, the spine with raised bands gilt ruled separate the compartments, panels richly gilt and featuring royal crowns decorate the compartments, one compartment with a tan morocco lettering label gilt tooled, fine marbled endpapers, all edges gilt. 128; 104 pp. A very fine and very handsome copy impressively bound, the text is especially clean and fresh and all but completely free of the common foxing, the plates with some occasional spotting, typically at the edges and much less than is normally encountered, the impressive antique binding very strong and secure and very well preserved..

AN ESPECIALLY HANDSOME AND BEAUTIFULLY BOUND FIRST EDITION COPY OF THIS FINE EARLY WORK ON INDIA AND THE HIMALAYAN MOUNTAINS, it includes engravings by some of the leading illustrators of the period, including David Roberts, Charles Cattermold and J.M.W. Turner.

An early woman traveler and writer, Emma Roberts was best known for her memoirs about India. In her own time William Jerdan considered her “a very successful cultivator of the belles lettres”. Her sister married an officer stationed in Bengal; when the couple left for India, Roberts accompanied them. In 1831 Roberts moved to Calcutta, where she edited a periodical named the Oriental Observer, and published stories, essays, and poetry about her experiences there. It was from these that much of this publication was sourced.

While many travel narratives of this era are notably dated, a current assessment is that “[h]er compassion for the people of India, her prodigious memory, and her straightforward style make Roberts rather accessible to the twenty-first century reader.” -Speake, Jennifer (2003). Literature of Travel and Exploration (Vol. 3).

$1750.
Letters from T.E. Shaw to Bruce Rogers with More Letters
First and Only Edition - One of a Very Limited Number
Never Offered for Sale Upon Publication

13 [Lawrence, T. E.] Shaw T. E. LETTERS FROM T. E. SHAW TO BRUCE ROGERS [and] MORE LETTERS FROM T. E. SHAW TO BRUCE ROGERS (N.P. [Mount Vernon, NY.]: Privately Printed at the Press of William Edwin Rudge, 1933, 1936) 2 volumes. LIMITED FIRST AND ONLY EDITIONS. One of only 200 copies printed of the first volume and one of only 300 copies printed of the second. The first volume with the laid-in slip printed “Complements of Bruce Rogers”. Printed in Italic on fine cream paper in light brown ink. The type of the first volume set by Bertha M. Goudy; that of the second set by Rogers himself. 8vo, in the bindings of brown polished buckram over flexible boards, the spines lettered in gilt. Unpaginated, 44ff to the first volume and 18ff to the second. Both volumes in fine condition, just a hint of mellowing to the gilt of the second volume.

FIRST EDITION OF BOTH VOLUMES OF THESE VERY ELUSIVE INCLUSIONS IN THE LAWRENCE/SHAW OEUVRE, Privately printed by Bruce Rogers. These were letters to Rogers from Lawrence written primarily during the time that Lawrence was working on his translations of Homer. The books were never offered for sale, but were instead distributed by Rogers personally and in most cases as gifts. The majority of the letters were printed in the volume of 1933, the second volume was printed adding a few more after Lawrence’s death in 1935. $1500.

A Work of Genius - A Masterpiece of Printing
T.E Lawrence’s Translation - The Odyssey of Homer - 1932
Created by Emery Walker, Wilfred Merton and Bruce Rogers

14 [Lawrence, T. E., translator] Homer. THE ODYSSEY (London: Emery Walker, Wilfred Merton and Bruce Rogers, 1932) First Edition, One of 530 copies only specially printed and bound. This copy with the Original Prospectus including the Announcement For the Book and an Example of a Page of the printing, and with a Copy of the Prospectus for the trade edition published by Oxford University Press in 1935, the first unlimited issuance of the book. Illustrated with 26 decorations of Homeric figures in black on roundels of gold, printed in Rogers’ beautiful Centaur type. 4to, publisher’s original black morocco, titled in gilt on the spine panel between raised bands. A lovely copy of an extraordinary work.

FIRST EDITION, LIMITED ISSUE, WITH A COPY OF THE ORIGINAL PROSPECTUS AND ANNOUNCEMENT, AN EXAMPLE OF A PAGE TO BE PRINTED, AND A PROSPECTUS FOR THE TRADE EDITION PUBLISHED BY OXFORD.

The edition was 530 copies and sold at publication price for $60.00. The cordial relations between Bruce Rogers and T. E. Lawrence were documented in LETTERS FROM T. E. SHAW TO BRUCE ROGERS and its companion, MORE LETTERS.... Rogers was responsible for suggesting
the translation to Lawrence, as well as for the design of the book, so one of the copies given by him to Rogers is a remarkably pertinent association. It was said of the book, that it was a work of genius, that in its design, Rogers had created a masterpiece and that the book ranks “among the most beautiful ever produced.”

$6850.

A Superb Illuminated Renaissance Manuscript Leaf
Painted by Antonio da Monza - 1480-1505
Featuring an Important Pentecostal Scene
Spiritually Significant to Both Christians and Jews

15  [Miniature Painting, Illuminated Manuscript] Monza, Antonio da. A FINE MINIATURE PAINTING ON AN ILLUMINATED GRADUAL LEAF ON VELLUM, From the End of the 15th or Early 16th Century (Near Milan: Antonio da Monza, Illuminator, ca. 1480-1505) With a very fine miniature painting of a Pentecostal scene featuring the Virgin and a dove, set within a large “S” (Spiritus Domini): A notable element is the variety of the faces of the Apostles. The miniature is framed within the elaborate initial. The left side is enriched by two quadrilobated compartments that include a splendid half-length image of God at the top and a dove symbolizing the Holy Spirit at the bottom. The entire grandiose sheet is framed by an elaborate border on four sides with candelabras, cherubs and plant elements. All with bright colours and burnished in vivid gold. The verso bears musical notation and large initials with a brush in blue and red ink with filigree motifs in contrasting colours that mark the incipits of the various parts sung by the Mass, rubricated in red. 660x460mm, on vellum. A beautiful survivor, bright and fresh and vivid.

AN ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPT LEAF OF EXCEPTIONAL BEAUTY. WITH VERY FINE AND LARGE MINIATURE PAINTING AND EXTENSIVE OTHER DECORATIVE ELEMENTS.

“The illuminator, Antonio da Monza (active ca. 1480/1505), brought a Renaissance fascination with antiquity to the art of manuscript illumination at the end of the 15th and early 16th century. Identified through his signature on a miniature from a liturgical book made for Pope Alexander VI and now in Vienna, he was a native of Monza, outside of Milan, and a member of the Franciscan Order.

Antonio’s artistic style was influenced by Leonardo. Scholars have attributed to him several liturgical books, as well as some miniatures in the Sforza Hours and in Antonio Minuti’s ‘Life of Muzio Attendolo’. The recent discovery of villa of the Golden House of Nero and its Fourth Style wall paintings influenced Antonio’s work, supplying him with a rich visual vocabulary of ancient motifs.” - Getty Museum.


$31,500.

David Roberts’s “Holy Land, Egypt and Nubia”
Illustrated with Hundreds of Fine Tinted Lithographs
First Edition in the Quarto Format - London - 1855

16 Roberts, David. THE HOLY LAND, SYRIA, IDUMEA, ARABIA, EGYPT, & NUBIA. After Lithographs by Louis Haghe From Drawings Made on the Spot by David Roberts, R.A. With Historical Descriptions by The Rev. George Croly (London: Day and Son, 1855) 3 volumes. First edition in this format. Illustrated with 250 tinted lithographed plates including a portrait of Roberts, several maps, and title-page vignettes, all six lithographed title-pages and lists of illustrations. 4to, bound in three-quarter red morocco, gilt extra, the spines with raised bands, the compartments beautifully decorated with elaborate gilt tooling and designs. Internally, a very well preserved and clean set, the plates all in quite excellent condition, the text-blocks clean and bright as well, bindings show a bit of age but remain quite handsome, Vol.II with evidence of an old water stain to a portion of the cloth only on the upper cover, a bit of offsetting to the endleaves. Still a well preserved and pleasing set.

FIRST QUARTO EDITION OF THIS REVERED WORK. In the course of two and a half months in 1838, travelling some 800 miles south from Cairo, Roberts recorded the monumental temple sites along the Nile in more than a hundred sketches. As he says in his preface, “I may not have done them justice, but few artists of my standing could afford more time, and I daresay few could have produced more in the same number of days.” As the first British artist to sketch the monuments of Ancient Egypt, set on “Plains so vast...that, until you come near them, you have no idea of their magnificence,” Roberts was well aware of the stir his drawings would create in London. According to John Ruskin, writing in PRAETERITA, Roberts’s drawings “were the first studies ever made conscientiously by an English painter, not to exhibit his own skill, but to give true portraiture of scenes of historical and religious interest.” Roberts was trained in theatrical scene-painting, and along with Abbey, one feels that “the colossal subjects and broad vistas were ideally suited to Roberts’s talent.”

One of the most desirable of all travel and plate books, this first edition set is a cornerstone work of English illustration and travel into the Middle East and the Holy Land in the 19th Century. See Blackmer 1432; Abbey, Travel 385, 272.

$6850.

1938 - François-Louis Schmied - Le Tapis de Priéres
An Art Deco Masterpiece - One of Only 125 Copies Only
Brilliant Coloured Illustrations and a Very Fine Copy

17 Schmied, F. -L. [Illus.] and Lucien-Graux, Docteur. LE TAPIS DE PRIÈRES (Paris: Pour les Amis du Docteur Lucien-Graux, 1938) FIRST AND LIMITED EDITION, ONE OF ONLY 125 COPIES. This copy being Number
14. Printed on Fine Arches paper. Illustrated with ten very fine art deco colour illustrations by F.-L. Schmied and a large colour engraved cover vignette, all engraved on wood and printed by Theo Schmied, each page of text ruled and numbered in red. Folio, as issued in unbound sheets contained within printed paper portfolio wrapper in original glassine, housed in brown textured paper chemise and brown paper-board slipcase, chemise with morocco label gilt lettered and with silk ties. 76, [1] pp. A pristine and perfect copy of the portfolio of sheets and engravings, the wrappers with a very light touch of the toning to which they are prone and a bit of minor age to the slipcase.

FIRST EDITION AND AN ART DECO MASTERPIECE, beautifully produced and published. F.-L. Schmied’s beautiful illustrations were all engraved and printed, as was the text, in the premises of his son, Theo Schmied, on October 1st of 1938. At that time Schmied was living in Morocco. This is one of the fine series of works produced by French doctor, entrepreneur, collector, bibliophile, writer, publisher and Nazi-resister Dr. Lucien Désiré Prosper Graux. He had created one of the largest and most beautiful private collections of manuscripts and books of his time. He also created the small publishing house called “The Friends of the Doctor” which produced these high-bibliophile press books, typically printed in less than 150 copies.

François-Louis Schmied is considered one of the most important of the Art Deco artists, particularly in the area of book illustration, design and publishing. Schmied’s books were very expensive to produce and were always printed in a very limited number, usually consisting of no more than 100 - 200 copies. An experienced wood engraver, he practiced the delicate technique of multiple monochrome overprints in order to obtain color illustrations.

$5500.

The Grapes of Wrath - 1939 - A Handsome Copy
First Edition in the Original Dustjacket
John Steinbeck’s Pulitzer Prize Winning Novel

18 Steinbeck, John. THE GRAPES OF WRATH (New York: The Viking Press, 1939) First Edition. 8vo, publisher’s original pictorially decorated tan cloth in original first issue dustjacket, with price and “First Edition” statement both present. (vi), 619 pp. A handsome, bright and clean copy, the dustjacket whole and without tears, light evidence of shelving over time, the backstrip of the dustjacket just a touch mellowed by age, clean and bright internally, solid and very well preserved.

AN IMPORTANT FIRST EDITION AND PERHAPS THE GREATEST BOOK WRITTEN BY THIS NOBEL PRIZE WINNING AUTHOR. John Steinbeck won the Pulitzer Prize for this novel of migrant workers in America. The story of the Joad family, simple people living close to nature, whose lives are disrupted by the malevolent forces of drought, market conditions and human creed. The novel graphically demonstrates the dangers to society when the vital link between rural man and the Earth is broken.

The condition of this copy, in the pictorial jacket, is quite pleasing indeed.

$6850.
A Scarce Anthony Trollope - *The Claverings* - First Edition
In the Best and Most Rare of the Binding States

19  Trollope, Anthony.
THE CLAVERINGS (London: Smith, Elder and Co., 1867) 2 volumes. First edition and first printing other than when serialized in Cornhill Magazine. Illustrated with sixteen wood-engraved plates after M. Ellen Edwards, two of which are frontispieces. Tall 8vos, in the publisher’s original handsome Victorian decorated cloth, this is scarcer of the two variants noted by Sadleir, with the decoration in gilt and black as opposed to gilt and blind. Sadleir notes, “I do not know which style is earlier, but would, on general principles, incline to favour that with the additional black-blocking...” The volumes are gilt and black decorated and elaborately lettered on the upper covers and spines in a stylized arabesque motif, the rear covers decorated in blind only, both volumes with original brown endpapers. The volumes now housed in two matching slipcases, each with a morocco labeled chemise gilt lettered. [ii], 313, [2 ads]; [ii], 309, [2 ads] pp. An exceptional set, very beautifully preserved, the paper fresh and bright with just a meager hint of spotting at the prelims only, the cloth vivid and clean with bright gilt and black decoration on dark unfaded green, only a touch of bumping to the extremities nearly not worth mentioning.

A VERY SCARCE TROLLOPE OFFERING, IN THE BEST AND RARER BINDING AND IN UNMATCHED CONDITION. The Sadleir-Martin copy was also in this rarer binding and may well be the last copy comparable with ours to have appeared in auction, and that sale was nearly thirty years ago.

THE CLAVERINGS is one of what Sadleir described as one of Trollope’s five technically faultless books, “there is not a loose end, not a patch of drowsiness, not a moment of false proportion.” More recent critics regard the book even more highly, such as David Skilton, who wrote that “it has been usual to pronounce it among the most perfect and attractive productions of the novelist’s pen.”

The novel is the story of a young man starting out in life, who must find himself a profession and a wife; and of a young woman who made a marriage of convenience and must abide the consequences. It was very popular upon publication but then went through a period of being nearly forgotten prior to being rediscovered in the later 20th century. The sheer volume of Trollope’s productions in the years shortly after may have simply overwhelmed his readers.

$8500.

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Twain’s Masterpiece of American Literature
*Huckleberry Finn* - First Edition in the Original Cloth
A Handsome and Pleasing Copy - Very Early Issue Points

20  Twain, Mark.
THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN (New York: Charles L. Webster and Company, 1885) FIRST AMERICAN EDITION, FIRST PRINTING with BAL’s first state frontispiece with the cloth visible, and very early issue points: “was” for “saw” on p.57; and the Illustrations list p.[13] shows “Him and another Man” plate as appearing on p.88; p. 155 with the final “S” restored. With 174 black and white illustrations by E.W. Kemble. Square 8vo, publisher’s original green cloth elaborately decorated in gilt and black on the covers and spine, now housed in a custom slipcase with wrapparound chemise. 366 pp. An excellent, handsome,
well preserved and pleasing copy of this enduring classic. The cloth still nice and dark green with the gilt and black still strong on the upper cover, the giltwork on the spine well preserved, only very minor evidence of age or use to the tips and edges, the text-block very clean and the binding tight and firm. A fine survival of a cornerstone work, in collector’s condition.

THE FIRST EDITION OF ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT AND GREATEST BOOKS IN AMERICAN LITERATURE. “ALL MODERN AMERICAN LITERATURE COMES FROM ONE BOOK BY MARK TWAIN CALLED HUCKLEBERRY FINN”—Ernest Hemingway.

Along with TOM SAWYER, HUCKLEBERRY FINN is considered the stepping stone to modern American literature. And along with Tom Sawyer, for the first time, the hero of the novel was a boy. These books are landmarks and Hemingway often offered his opinion that the modern novel would have been impossible without them. With Whitman’s LEAVES OF GRASS and Melville’s MOBY DICK, they provide us with a view of America transcending its past and beginning its future. BAL 3415; Grolier American 87; Johnson, pp. 43-50; Peter Parley to Penrod, pp. 75-6

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Rare First French Editions

Les Aventures de Tom Sawyer and Les Aventures de Huck Finn
Each Beautifully Presented in the Original Decorated Cloth

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RARE. Very lovely copies of the first French editions of both Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn. These editions were beautifully illustrated and bound quiet differently from their American counterparts, only two copies of Tom Sawyer have are noted to have appeared at auction for over 30 years and there are no records at all for Huck Finn.

$8500.
22 Yeats, William Butler. THE POEMS OF W. B. YEATS (London: Macmillan and Co. LTD, 1949) 2 volumes. FIRST SIGNED LIMITED EDITION, one of only 375 numbered sets SIGNED by William Butler Yeats, and THE DEFINITIVE EDITION of Yeats’ collected poetic writings. Large paper 8vo, publisher’s original polished green buckram, the upper covers with the WBY monogram in gilt, the spines gilt lettered, t.e.g., and in the original brown paper-covered stiff board slipcase. ix, 275; xii, 307 pp. A very fine set, the books are unopened and completely free of any evidence of use or handling, the cloth pristine but for the most minute mellowing of colour to the spines, essentially unnoticeable, a pristine set. The slipcase is strong and complete and shows a bit of wear to the paper primarily at the edges.

FIRST DEFINITIVE AND FIRST LIMITED EDITION SIGNED BY WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS, ONE OF ONLY 375 COPIES. The edition was actually finished in 1939 and the limitation leaves were all signed by the author just prior to his death. Because of the Second World War, publication of the books was delayed until 1949.


$3850.

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