The Islamic World 10

Books, Maps, Photographs, Drawings and Manuscripts
Celebrating Islamic Culture and the History and Geography of the Arab World
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Aramco World

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The Islamic World 10

BOOKS, MAPS, PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS AND MANUSCRIPTS
CELEBRATING ISLAMIC CULTURE AND THE HISTORY
AND GEOGRAPHY OF THE ARAB WORLD

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Of lasting value for the history of Arabic literature

   Berlin, A. W. Schade (I) and A. Asher & Co. (II–X), 1887–1899. 10+1 volumes. 4º. With 12 photographic halftone plates
   of 62 manuscript specimens in vol. X. Added: separate atlas issue of the 12 plates. Altogether 11 vols. in publisher's light
   blue printed boards. € 8500

A complete set of the scarce original edition, published as volumes 7–9 and
16–22 of the giant general catalogue of the Berlin manuscript collections ("Die
Handschriften-Verzeichnisse der Königlichen Bibliothek zu Berlin"). Ahlwardt
(1828–1909) was engaged in 1863 as cataloguer of the Arabian manuscripts. Until
1887 he classified, collated, described and excerpted some 12,000 works in ca 6,000
volumes, including current accessions. The important collection was based on
the precious library bequeathed by Heinrich Friedrich von Diez. It was gradually
enlarged by the manuscript treasures purchased from leading German scholars
such as Glaser, Landberg, Minutoli and Brugsch, Petermann, Sachau, Sprenger and
Wetzstein. Ahlwardt’s monumental catalogue is renowned for an unprecedented
wealth of details both in physical and textual respect. It formed a pattern for a
complete history of Arabic literature—theological, juridical, philosophical, scientific,
linguistic, historical and poetical. Ahlwardt expanded on the customary manuscript
catalogue entries by providing an exact outline of contents for each work catalogued.
"When all ten volumes had been printed in 1899, Ahlwardt had created a work
which by virtue of its scope and precision would remain of lasting value for the
Bindings a little bumped, dust-soiled and faded in places, some edges foxed. A clean
and very good set.


First Arabic edition
of an important eyewitness account of the life of Tamerlane

2. AHMAD IBN MUHAMMAD (IBN ‘ARABSHAH). [Kitab 'Aja'ib al-maqdur fi aghbar Timur] Vitae & rerum gestarum
Timuri.
   Leiden, Elsevier, 1636. 4º. With half-title printed in dark blue and red,
title-page printed in red and black within woodcut borders and and leaf
*3 printed in red, dark blue, and black. Later stiff paper wrappers, man-
uscript title on spine. € 25,000

First Arabic edition of an important eyewitness account of the life of Tamerlane
(Timur), the successful and barbaric 14th-century Turkish conqueror, printed
entirely in Arabic. "An interesting feature of the book is the use of blue ink for the
printing of the word 'Tamerlanis' (between two red lines) on the half-title, as well
as for one typographical ornament on leaf 3 recto" (Smitskamp).
The text is based on the original Arabic manuscript, completed in 1437–1438, by
the Syrian author Ahmad Ibn ‘Arabshah, secretary of Sultan Ahmad of Baghdad.
Edited and prefaced by Jacob Golius; the Arabic manuscript used by him is still
preserved at Leiden University library and contains many notes in his hand. A
French translation by Pierre Vattier appeared in 1658.
With an unidentified library stamp on the title-page. Some leaves heavily foxed
and a few small spots. Overall a good copy.

De Naze 90. Fück 81f. Lambrecht 1774. Schnurrer 166. Smitskamp 315. STCN (8 copies). Willems
434. Not in Atabey or Blackmer.
Arabian astrology, printed in 1482: the art of foretelling the destinies of newborns


Second edition of the author’s principal work, originally published at Mantua in 1473. Al-Qabisi flourished in Aleppo, Syria, in the middle of the 10th century. Although his education was primarily in geometry and astronomy, his principal surviving treatise, “Madkhal” (here in the Latin translation of Joanis Hispanis prepared in 1144), is an introductory exposition of some of the fundamental principles of genethlialogy (the astrological science of casting nativities, or divination as to the destinies of newborns). The “Madkhal” in its Latin version was published many times in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.

Bookplate of joint collectors Rudolf Hugo Driessen (1873–1957) and Caroline E. F. Kley (1883–1933). Outer margin of first leaf slightly frayed; marginal annotation in red ink on its verso (slightly trimmed by binder’s knife). Very rare; last sold at an international auction in 1996.


Al Madkhal

4. AL-QABISI, Abu Al-Saqr Abd al-Aziz Bin Othman Bin Ali (Alchabitius). [Libellus Isagogicus – Al-madkhal]. Preclarum su[m]mi in astroru[m] scientia principis Alchabitii opus ad scrutanda stellaru[m] [...]. Venice, Petrus Liechtenstein, 1521. 4°. With several diagrams and woodcut initials in the text and the printer’s full-page woodcut device on the final page, printed in red and black. Modern limp vellum with ties. € 28 000

“Early edition of Alchabitius’s ‘Introduction to the Mystery of Judgments from the Stars’, with the ‘modern’ version by Antonius de Fantis. Sessa issued the same work at the same time, but Liechtenstein’s edition is superior and especially esteemed for the fine woodcut in black and red (printer’s mark) at the end” (Weil). “Although al-Qabisi’s education was primarily in geometry and astronomy, his principal surviving treatise, ‘Al-madkhal ila sina’at ahkam al-nujum’ (‘Introduction into the Art of Astrology’) in five sections […], is on astrology. The book, as the title indicates, is an introductory exposition of some of the fundamental principles of genethlialogy; its present usefulness lies primarily in its quotations from the Sassanian Andarzghar literature and from al-Kindi, the Indians, Ptolemy, Dorotheus of Sidon, Masha’allah, Hermes Trismegistus, and Valens. Although completely lacking in originality, it was highly valued as a textbook” (DSB).

Title slightly smudged; occasional waterstaining. From the library of Curt Wallin with his armorial bookplate on the pastedown. Rare; a single copy in auction records since 1975.

Surgical instruments illustrated

5. AL-RAZI, Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariyya (Rhazes) / ARCOLANO, Giovanni (ed.). Omnes, qui proximis seculis scripsierunt, medicos longe excellentis opera [...]. In quibus sunt & commentarii in Razis Arabis nonum Lib. ad regem Almansorem [...]. Basel, Heinrich Petri, 1540. 2º (225 x 331 mm). With 2 (repeated) woodcut printer’s devices to title page and final page as well as a half-page woodcut of surgical instruments at the end of the preliminaries. Modern blind-stamped brown calf on four raised double bands. € 9500

Rare edition of this commentary on the ninth book of the treatise dedicated by ar-Razi (Rhazes; 850–923 or 932) to Almansor, the Prince of Chorosan (with the text). “The manual, known as ‘Nonus Almansoris’, was popular among mediaeval physicians” (cf. GAL S I, p. 419). The work discusses special pathology but excluding pyrology and was one of the most popular textbooks at medical schools and faculties well into the Middle Ages (cf. Hirsch/H. I, 171). Rhazes is considered the greatest mediaeval physician next to Avicenna; he also conducted alchemical experiments. According to his biographer al-Gildaki, he was blinded for refusing to share his secrets of chemistry. A woodcut on the final page of the preliminaries depicts ten different surgical instruments, including a tongue depressor, a forceps, and various instruments for cauterization. Several minor waterstains throughout, but generally a fine copy. Provenance: Handwritten ownership of the Jesuit College of Louvain, dated 1637, on the title page.


The first European to enter the Arabian Gulf: the only documents actually originating from Albuquerque


The letters of Afonso d’Albuquerque (1453–1515), the Great, published from 1884 onwards under the direction of the Academia Real das Sciencias de Lisboa, and edited by Raymundo Antonio de Bulhão Pato. While Albuquerque’s famous “Commentaries”, which ran to a large number of editions, were collected from his papers by his son Afonso (d. 1580), who published them posthumously in 1557, “the only documents actually originating from the father are in the form of letters” (Howgego). This definitive collection includes a large number of despatches to the King.

Albuquerque was one of the most striking personalities in the history of Portuguese discovery and colonialism and is the founder of the Portuguese Empire in the East Indies. He was the first European to enter the Gulf; led the first voyage by a European fleet into the Red Sea, and was also the first westerner to reach the coast of South-Eastern Arabia. Occasional foxing and browning as common, due to paper. Howgego I, 21. Henze I, 36. OCLC 5150888.
London, W. Bulmer & Co. for William Miller, 1802. 8°. 5 vols. With 24 engr. plates after Robert Smirke. Contemp. full straight-grained blue morocco, Greek key patterned boards, spine gilt in compartments, all edges gilt. € 3500

First edition of this early translation by Edward Forster (1769–1828), based on the French version of Antoine Galland, which had first appeared between 1704 and 1717. "Galland’s translation [...] was quickly translated into English and German. It enjoyed a most remarkable success throughout Europe, perceptible even in children’s literature, and contributed significantly to the new image which enlightened Europeans entertained of the Islamic East: after Galland, this was no longer the home of the Antichrist and of accursed heresy, but rather the ever-constant Orient beneath an eternally fair sky, boasting splendid colours and unheard-of wealth, Caliphs, Viziers, and Kados, harems, fairy-tale princes, fairies and genies, sorcerers and sages, a world of fantastic adventure and outrageous incidents” (cf. Fück, p. 101).

Forster’s “Arabian Nights” were frequently reprinted, seeing five editions by 1854. The present set is distinguished by the beautiful illustrations after Smirke, “whom every person of correct taste will acknowledge to be second to none in this range of art” (I, vii), as well as by the elegantly gilt navy blue morocco bindings. Some occasional spotting due to paper, some slight wear and scuffing, but a beautiful set altogether.


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Breslau, Josef Max, 1825. Small 8°. 15 vols., uniformly bound in near-contemporary half calf with gilt spine and red spine labels. € 2800

First printing of this German edition, based on a complete translation prepared by Antoine Galland. The so-called "Galland ms." which he had bought in 1701 is the oldest Arabic text extant (daring from 1450 or later). Maximilian Habicht (1775–1839) lived in Paris for a decade as a member of the Prussian delegation. He knew vernacular Arabic well and separately published an edition of the Arabic text of the “Nights” (cf. Fück).

Slightly browned; bookplates of the Viennese collector Rudolf Jelinek on pastedowns; collector’s stamps to titles.


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[Rennes, Julian Herbert], 1654–[1655]. 2º (235 x 360 mm). With 1 engraved disc in the text of the first count (a repeat of disc 2 of the first volvelle), 3 volvelles in the first section, composed of 11 parts; and 2 volvelles in the second section, composed of 6 parts (all but two stitched together, but inserted loosely, never sewn into the book). Contemporary full vellum. € 15 000

Rare second, expurged edition of this remarkable treatise offering predictions for the destiny of European nations, issued without place or printer in the year of the almost unobtainable first edition, most copies of which were burned by the hangman at Nantes and Rennes shortly after publication. The first edition was deemed offensive due to the predictions of five volvelles in the second section which offered horoscopes for Islam, Christianity, France, Spain, and England. A "Figura Sectae Mahometanae" dared to give a horoscope of the...
Prophet Muhammad and a list of significant events in the history of Islam; this was followed by predictions which included the suggestion that a quarter of the world would be Islamic by 1703.

The book's authorship remains a mystery. It is attributed on the title-page to a certain Francisco Allaolo, “Christian Arab”, but this is probably a pseudonym for Yves de Paris, a Capuchin monk known for his anti-establishment views. The third section of the work offers a religious justification for the relevance of astrological prediction, in which the author defends himself as an “innocent Arab proposing the destiny of the universe” (p. 3).

Endpapers not pasted to covers; some browning, fingerstaining and edge defects, but still a good, wide-margined copy. Uncommonly, none of the volvelles are sewn into the book, as they seem intended to be removable; two volvelles are not stitched together, though the discs are cut out. A 13-page typewritten German translation of the preliminary matter (“The Fate of the Author” and “The Principles of Astrology”), apparently the work of a German scholar of the 1930s with an attractive hand–drawn title page in red, yellow and black ink, is inserted at the end.

Provenance: 1) Heinrich Xaver Baron Wiser, minister of Palatinate-Neuburg at the court of Madrid in the 1690s and at Naples from 1709 to 1713 (his handwritten ownership to title); 2) Johann Oeler, legal advisor to the Barons Sturmfeder (his handwritten shelfmark and ownership, dated Mannheim, 24 Nov. 1806, on front endpaper); 3) Moritz (Carl August) Axt (1801–62), German classicist and educator (his handwritten ownership on flyleaf).


Inscribed by the author to Nobel


With:


(4) Collection of publisher’s promotional leaflets on “The Philosophy of Oriental Music” in French and English. € 2800

First edition in Arabic, inscribed by the author to an unidentified member of the Swedish Nobel family: “Présenté par l’auteur à Mr. le Maître Gunar Nobel avec les meilleures salutations [...] Damas 10.5.1952”. The Syrian musicologist Allawerdi held that there were two basic forms of music: the oriental, natural one, based on the harmonic series, and the western, mechanical one, based on the tempered scale of 18th century instruments. While he associated the former with serenity and peace, he viewed the latter as artificial and complex, ultimately leading to restlessness, chaos, and war. Allawerdi strove to unify the “language of music” as a first step towards achieving world peace. He was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1951. A good copy, including several of the author’s further writings on the subject, one as an original authorial typescript.
Introduction to the Arabic language

11. [ALPHABETUM ARABICUM]. Alphabetum Arabicum una cum Oratione Dominicali, Salutatione Angelica et Symbolo Fidei.
Rome, Sac. Congreg. de Propaganda Fide, 1797. 8º. With printer’s device to title page. Modern half calf. € 1500

Brief introduction to the Arabic language for Catholic missionaries, “an exact reproduction of the 1715 edition” (Smitskamp). Includes a table of the alphabet and the Lord’s Prayer and Ave Maria in Arabic. “The best known products of the Propaganda Press, apart from its missals, grammars, and dictionaries, are the Alphabeta” (Smitskamp 193). This is, perhaps, little surprise, for the missionaries sent forth to all parts of the globe by the Roman see through the Sacra Congregatio de Propaganda Fide, founded by Pope Gregory xv in 1622 for the purpose of spreading the Catholic interpretation of the Gospel, depended on language study textbooks such as these. The production of such alphabets was taken up as early as 1630 and was not discontinued until the early years of the 19th century; in 1812 the Congregation’s in-house printing office was dissolved. A good copy with deckle edges intact.

Single-volume collection

Rome, typis Sacrae Congregationis de Propaganda Fide, 1771–1799. 8º. 14 volumes bound in one. 19th century half calf over marbled sides with giltstamped spine title “Alphabeta Linguarum Orientalium”. € 8500

A fine single-volume collection of the rare “Alphabeta” books issued by the Propaganda Fide press in the 18th century for the use of missionaries, including Ethiopian, Arabic, Armenian, Burmese, Sanskrit (Hindustani), Coptic, Greek, Tamil and Malayalam, Persian, Chaldean, and Tibetan. Comprises:
1) Alphabetum Aethiopicum sive Gheez et Amhharicum (1789).
2) Alphabetum Arabicum (1797).
3) Alphabetum Armenum (1784).
4) Alphabetum barmanum seu bomanum regni avae finitimarumque regionum (1776).
5) Alphabetum Barmanorum seu regni avensis. Editio altera emendator (1787). With a folding engraved plate.
6) Alphabetum Bramhhanicum seu Indostanum universitatis Kasi. (1771).
7) Alphabetum Cophutum sive Aegyptiacum [1799].
8) Alphabetum Gracccum (1771).
9) Alphabetum Hebraicum addito Samaritano et Rabbinico (1771).
10) Alphabeta Indica id est Granthamicum seu Samsrdamico-Malabaricum Indostanum sive Vanarense Nagaricum Volgare et Talinganicum (1791).
12) Alphabetum Persicum (1785).
13) Alphabetum Syro Chaldaeum cum oratione (1797). Quires transposed; one leaf oversized as a plate and folded.
14) Alphabetum Tangutanum sive Tibetanum (1773). With a folding plate.

These publications were important achievements both linguistically and typographically; they were prepared by able linguists such as Cassiano Beligatti, Giovanni Cristoforo Amaduzzi and Gaetano Mantegazza who had lived in the countries whose languages they set down. Many include as specimens the Lord’s prayer, the Ave Maria, the Apostle’s creed, an antiphony of the Virgin Mary, or the Ten Commandments in the foreign language and type. Occasional light edge or corner defects (without loss to text), but altogether very clean. In two works, pages or quires are transposed, likely due to the 19th century bookbinder’s confusion over the arrangement of the oriental-language text. Old stamps of the École Sainte Genevieve and of the Jesuit college of St. Aloysius, Jersey; old handwritten table of contents on flyleaf.
13. **ALPHONSUS DE SPINA.** Fortalicium fidei contra iudeos saracenos aliosque christiane fidei inimicos.

[Lyon], Guillaume Balsarin, 22 May 1487. Small 2º (209 × 291 mm). Gothic type, 2 cols., 51 lines. With a woodcut in the text on fol. a2r and printer’s device at the end. A single ink initial on p. a2 supplied by the owner. 18th century full calf with panelled boards and gilt-stamped spine label. Marbled endpapers. All edges red. € 18 000

Rare edition; a single copy in Great Britain. The “Fortalitatium fidei”, the principal work of the baptized Spanish Jew de Spina, is considered the “methodical and ideological foundation of the Inquisition. The book, divided into five chapters, targets chiefly Jews and Muslims” (cf. LMA I, 408f.). Of the five books, “the first [is] directed against those who deny the Divinity of Christ, the second against heretics, the third against the Jews, and the fourth against Islam and the Muslims, while the fifth book treats of the battle to be waged against the Gates of Hell” (Cath. Encyclopaedia).

Part 3, on the iniquities of the Jews, is a veritable encyclopedia of mediaeval antisemitic libel, containing numbered lists of Jewish “cruelties” and refutations of the Jews’ supposed anti-Christian arguments. The section on Islam lists the numerous Saracen wars, while the fifth book is devoted to the battle to be waged against the Gates of Hell and its resident demons, whose population the author calculates at over 133 million; this is one of the earliest printed discussions of witchcraft and a precursor to the “Malleus maleficarum”, the first edition of which appeared in the same year as this present edition.

Occasional contemporary ink marginalia (some touched by the binder’s knife); some slight worming, confined to blank margins. Some even browning and a weak waterstain, but a very good, wide-margined copy with an 18th century noble collection stamp (crowned Gothic letter G; not in Lugt) on the first leaf.


**A famous tract against Islam**

14. **ALPHONSUS DE SPINA.** Fortalitium fidei in universos christiane religionis hostes Judaeorum et saracenorum [...].

[Lyon, Jean Moylin for] Etienne Gueynard, (11 Oct. 1525). Large 8º. Title printed in red and black with woodcut illustration and numerous woodcut initials and marginal illustrations repeated throughout the volume. Contemporary full calf over wooden boards with blind-tooled ornaments and remains of clasps, rebacked in the 19th century with new spine and marbled endpapers. € 9500

Block loosened in places. Clasps missing; binding rubbed but original blind-tooling of boards remains recognizable, even though partly obscured by the 19th century leather that replaced the spine. A fine post-incunabular edition, the final one to appear, embellished with numerous woodcut illustrations.

The first important work on the history of Egyptian medicine


Somewhat later edition of the first important work on the history of Egyptian medicine. Alpini (1553–1617) was an Italian physician and botanist who spent three years in Egypt studying botany and hygiene as a companion to the Venetian Consul Giorgio Emo. This work is considered “one of the earliest European studies of non-western medicine. Alpini’s work dealt primarily with contemporary (i.e. Arabic) practices observed during his sojourn in Egypt. These included moxibustion—the production of counter-irritation by placing burning or heated material on the skin—which Alpini introduced into European medicine [...] Alpini also mentioned coffee for the first time in this work” (Norman).

Jacobus Bontius (Jacques de Bondt, 1592–1631), whose work on Indian medicine is included, was a Dutch physician and botanist. He travelled to Persia and Indonesia to study the botany of the area. He was the first to study cholera on the island of Batavia in 1689, before it was known in Europe, and died on Java. His botanic and medical works were published after his death by Pisonius. He “was probably the first to regard tropical medicine as an independent branch of medical science. He spent the last four years of his life in the Dutch East Indies, and his book incorporates the experience he gained there. It is the first Dutch work on tropical medicine and includes the first modern descriptions of beri-beri and cholera” (Garrison/M. 2263, citing the 1642 first edition).

Binding slightly brownstained in places. Small tear to 3rd leaf, not affecting text; occasional browning.


Great history of the Portuguese colonial empire in South America, India, the Middle East, Asia, and Africa

16. ANDRADA, Francisco d’. Chronica do muito alto e muito poderoso Rey destes reynos de Portugal Dom João o III deste nome, ... Coimbra, Real officina da universidade, 1796. 4 volumes. 4º. 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.

Howgego, to 1800, A 90; cf. Bouch 52; Maggi, Bibl. Braziliensis 104; not in Borba de Moraes.
Important biography of the fourth viceroy of Portuguese India

17.  ANDRADE, Jacinto Freire de. Vida de D. João de Castro, quarto viso-rei da India; ... Nova edição.
Lisbon, Typ. Rollandiana, 1861. 8º. Modern orange paper wrappers. € 600

Important biography of the Portuguese nobleman and fourth viceroy of Portuguese India D. João de Castro (1500-1548), written by the Portuguese Catholic priest and historian Jacinto Freire de Andrade (1597-1657). The work was first published in Lisbon in 1651 and was the first biography in the Portuguese language. “Cette biographie est un des livres classiques de la langue portugaise” (Brunet)
De Castro fought the Ottoman Empire at the Siege of Tunis (1535), where he refused knighthood offered by emperor Charles V. A few years later, probably around 1538, he left for India where he settled at Goa. He joined Estêvão de Gama (son of Vasco da Gama) on an expedition to Suez and played a major role in the defeat of the Gujarat Sultanate during their siege of Diu in 1546. In 1547 he was appointed viceroy of Portuguese India by the Portuguese King John III. The work also includes accounts of the battles between the Arabs and the Turks at Ormuz. Impressum partly illegible, possibly because of a library stamp removal, occasionally some minor foxing. Overall in good condition, wholly untrimmed, with most of the bolts unopened.

Porbase (4 copies); WorldCat (8 other copies); cf. Brunet I, 263 (first edition).

Early Life of the Prophet

18.  ANDRÉS, Juan. Confusione della setta macomettana.
Venice, Gio. Battista Ugolino, 1597. 8º. All edges sprinkled in red. Contemporary limp blue boards. € 6500

Last Italian edition of the 16th century: a famous account of Islam (with a life of the Prophet Muhammad) given by a Muslim convert to Christianity, first published in Spanish in 1535 and frequently reprinted and translated. The author gives his former name only as Alfaqui ibn Abdallah from Játiva near Valencia in Spain; he flourished 1487–1515.
Some browning and brownstaining throughout due to paper; a few pages waterstained; old ink notes to title page (some ink corrosion). Rare; only two copies in WorldCat (Paris-BnF and Mazarine); four in Italy (Venice, Prato, Modena, Messina); none in the U.S.


Rare Petroleum Periodical

Brentford, Walter Pearce & Co. for the Anglo-Persian Oil Company Ltd., 1926–1929. 4º. 8 issues, each ca. 48–52 pp. in the original pictorial wrappers. € 950

A collection of eight issues of the rare company journal ‘A.P.O.C. Magazine” published by the Anglo-Persian Oil Company, one of the antecedents of today’s BP. Articles include “Through Persia to a New Oil-Field” by Percival Landon (vol. II no. 1), “Some Extracts From the Log of a Tanker Superunumberary” (vol. II, no. 3), “The Closing of a Great Well” (oil well F7 in Persia, vol. II, no. 4), “Distribution. A Survey of its Developments in the Anglo-Persian Oil Company” (vol. III, no. 1), and “Primitive Oil Industries in Northern Iraq” (vol. V, no. 2). The articles are usually illustrated, and the covers mainly feature sketches of refineries, tankers, and the like. Comprises the following issues: January 1926 vol. II no. 1; March 1926 vol. II no. 2; May 1926 vol. II no. 3; July 1926 vol. II no. 4 (Coronation Number, and renamed “The NAFT A.P.O.C. Magazine”); January 1927 vol. III no. 1; May 1927 vol. III no. 3; September 1927 vol. III no. 5; March 1929 vol. V no. 2.
Handwritten ownership “W. F. Dunn” to covers, but very well preserved. Rare.

Leiden, Samuel and Johannes Luchtmans, 1816. 4º. With text in Arabic and roman types. Contemporary boards, covered with grey paste-paper. € 4500

Early bilingual (Arabic-Latin) edition of the *Mu‘allaqat* of Antarah ibn Shaddad (525–608), an Arab warrior poet, famous for both his poetry and his adventurous life. His chief poem forms part of the *Mu‘allaqat*, a group of seven long Arabic poems that are considered the best work of the pre-Islamic era, which are legendarily said to have hung on or in the Kaaba at Mecca. The edition is edited by Vincent Elias Menil and contains notes by Joannes Willmet.

With the owner’s inscription of the German orientalist Johann Heinrich Kalthoff (1803‒1839). Some marginal waterstaining and the boards a bit rubbed, otherwise in good condition.

Lambrecht 1390; Marsden, p. 164; NCC (5 copies).


Dhahran, Jeddah, London, New York, Oxford, Paris, Washington, D.C. and other places, 1755‒1988. A collection of specialist literature including maps and charts, geological surveys, technical records, and mineral resource reports, all detailing the geological exploration of the Arabian Peninsula from the early modern period to recent times, with a focus on post-war developments. Altogether 11 items, comprising a total of 69 volumes. € 15 000

The earliest item included is a 1755 study of the geology of Egypt by the French mineralogist Jean Guettard, the “father of geological surveys”. His disciples would continue his work on the Arabian Peninsula nearly two centuries later: the systematic geologic exploration of the Saudi Kingdom that followed the discovery of the largest source of crude oil in the world at a depth of 1440 metres under the desert sand was mainly carried out under the joint sponsorship of the House of Saud, the petroleum industry, and the U.S. State Department. The collaboration yielded not only groundbreaking scientific maps, but also important research papers. These include the 1960s Mineral Resources Bulletins, Professional Papers, and volumes of Mineral Resources Research and Activities, the detailed study of the Peninsula’s sedimentary geology, the Mineral Resources Report of Investigations, the 1970s Saudi Arabian Mission Project reports of the U.S. Geological Survey, and the publications of the Jeddah Faculty of Earth Sciences, all of extreme rarity.

The uppermost layer of Arabian soil is closely studied, as well, in the investigation of agricultural as well as marine developments and agricultural/water resources in the Great Nafud Basin. Ongoing developments in the petroleum industry between the 1940s and 1970s may be inferred more immediately from the scarce corporate publications such as Bechtel-McCone’s journal on recent and planned work by ARAMCO/BAPCO and Schlumberger’s Well Evaluation Conference records, reaching as far as 1975, but also unique survivals of ephemera like BAPCO’s 1963 Guide Book of Rules, Regulations and Procedures for Contractors.

A wide-ranging, well-preserved ensemble.

*Detailed list upon request.*
Aramco's rare preliminary geographic map of the Peninsula


Washington, D.C., The Survey (U.S. Geological Society), 1958. 1380 × 1216 mm. Lambert conformal conic projection, constant ratio linear horizontal scale 1:2 000 000. Relief shown by hachures and spot heights. € 15 000

A highly detailed map of the complete Peninsula, the first modern map in 1 : 2 000 000 scale: the rare preliminary edition, issued five years before the official release.

Based on the groundbreaking series prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Arabian American Oil Company under the joint sponsorship of Saudi Arabia and the U.S. State Department, “a unique experiment in geological cooperation among several governments, petroleum companies, and individuals” (Seager/Johnston). Also includes the territories of today’s Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Yemen.

“The plan for a cooperative mapping project was originally conceived in July 1953 [...] By 1955 there was established a cooperative agreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the U.S. Department of State, and the Arabian-American Oil Co. to make available the basic areal geology as mapped by Aramco and the U.S. Geological Survey” (ibid.). The plan provided for 21 maps on a 1:500 000 scale in both geologic and geographic versions: “a peninsular geologic map on a scale of 1 : 2 000 000 was to conclude the project [...] The first geographic quadrangle was published in July 1956 and the last in September 1962. While preparation of the geographic sheets was in progress, a need arose for early publication of a 1 : 2 000 000-scale peninsular geographic map. Consequently, a preliminary edition was compiled and published in both English and Arabic in 1958” (ibid.). While the revised, final version that appeared in 1963 (“I-270 B-2”) would incorporate some additional photographic, topographic and cultural data, the exceedingly uncommon present, preliminary edition is surprisingly complete in virtually all respects – a testament to the precision with which Aramco’s cartographers proceeded from the very first. Includes a key with symbols for water pipelines, desert watering points, oil fields, pumping stations, refineries, and a glossary of Arabic names.

Some insignificant browning; a few slight edge defects professionally repaired. Altogether in fine condition.


Extensively hand-annotated

23. ARABIAN PENINSULA—OMAN. [Map of the Eastern Arabian Peninsula].

No place or date (but probably 1970s). 32 photocopies in polypouch binder (ca. 23 × 34 cm). € 750

Highly detailed and extensively hand-annotated map of the eastern end of the Peninsula, photocopied from the one-million scale pilots’ ONC maps (Operational Navigation Chart) as a set of 32 sheets and self-assembled by a traveller to the region. Covers Oman, including the eastern portion of the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia. The repeated notations, “maximum elevation believed not to exceed 200 feet” and “limits of reliable relief information” bear witness to the measure in which the inner Peninsula still constituted frontier country in the later 20th century.
The photo album of an Aramco pioneer

24. [ARAMCO]. Original photographs from the estate of Lester M. Snyder (1905–2000), vice president and member of the board of Aramco.

Saudi Arabia, 1950–1960s. An album of 66 black-and-white photographs (gelatin silver prints), measurements between 7.6 × 7.6 cm and 35 × 28 cm. Includes additional memorabilia.

€ 7 500

Unique photo album from the estate of Aramco pioneer Les Synder, memorializing his more than three decades with Aramco and Socal upon his retirement in 1963. The photographs focus on his final decade in Dhafran, including images of HRH King Abdulaziz and HRH King Saud, desert scenes, Badawin life, falconry, but also life at the Aramco compound at Dhafran, impressive aerial shots as well as details of the oil wells and the city, the Ras Tanura oil terminal, and even a few images of Mekka and the Kaaba. Four pages of signatures by Aramco team members bear witness to the high regard in which Snyder was held by his colleagues and employees, as do the included letters, telegrams and miscellaneous items regarding his farewell. A special “Sun and Flare” edition (June 1963), also included, honours Snyder and his wife Betty for their lifelong service and dedication to Aramco.

During his nearly three decades in Saudi Arabia, Snyder played a key role in the development of the kingdom’s vast oil reserves. He joined Standard Oil of California as early as 1931 and transferred to the California Arabian Standard Oil Company (Casoc, later Aramco) in 1939, arriving in Dhafran in April, only a year after the discovery of what soon would be recognized as the largest source of crude oil in the world. He was present on May 1st when the tanker “D. G. Scofield” took on the first shipment of Saudi Arab oil ever to be loaded at Ras Tanura, an event also attended by HRH King Adulaziz. Snyder returned to San Francisco in 1943 to work on plans for the Ras Tanura refinery, but was back in Dhafran in 1952 when the site was made Aramco’s executive headquarters, soon rising to the position of vice president and general manager for Operations.

A fine collection of photographs in excellent tonal quality throughout, wonderfully preserved in a somewhat worn album.

Photographs contrasting traditional and modern Saudi Arabia


Washington, D.C., Shoreham House, [1955]. With 7 (of 8) collotype plates (33.5 × 26 cm) and 5 duplicates in a portfolio which contains extensive captions on the inside.

€ 1 500

First and only edition of a rare set of photographs, contrasting traditional and modern Saudi Arabia. The photographs show both a rig and fractionating columns near Abqaiq (“one of the three desert communities where Aramco people live”), an old irrigation well driven by a donkey, an oasis in the Al Kharj Governorate, the pump station at Badanah, Jabrin oasis, and the “new Persian Gulf port” engineered by Aramco at “the once tiny Persian Gulf town of Damman”.

Lacking the plate of the “Family dwelling at Jiddah”. Portfolio lightly worn and with occasionally a small smudge in the margin of a plate; in very good condition.

WorldCat (1 copy).

18 early issues of the monthly magazine Aramco World

26. [ARAMCO]. [18 issues of the magazine Aramco World].


€ 4 800
Eighteen early issues of the monthly (later bi-monthly) magazine *Aramco World*, a publication of the Arabian American Oil Company. The magazines contain articles dealing with a wide variety of subjects, but always including something on the Arabian oil industry. Included here are issues published between November 1956 and March/April 1946. The first issue of the magazine appeared in November 1949. Each magazine is richly illustrated, with many photographs. Back wrapper of the 1956 issue stained with paint, some wrappers slightly creased. Internally in very good condition.

**Report on oil installations along the Saudi Arabian coast**

27. [ARAMCO]. History and description of Saudi Arabian government and Arabian American Oil Company shore and marine installations in the Persian Gulf.

Dhahran, November 1956 (binding: 1 January 1951, revised Nov. 1956). 2º (28 × 21.5 cm). Contemporary black binder, with label on the front. € 3500

Report on the oil installations around the coast of Saudi Arabia and the “activities of the Saudi Arabian Government and Arabian American Oil Company in the Persian Gulf. It covers the period from the beginning of Aramco’s marine operations in January 1935 up to approximately June 1956” (introduction). The report is based on the findings of a marine superintendent and on Aramco’s archives. It opens with an introduction, followed by four chapters each dealing with a different area (the Saffaniyah area, Tarout Bay area, Khobar area and offshore islands) and closing with an appendix. Described are various piers, ports, pipelines and platforms of each area, often accompanied by navigation instructions. The appendix consists of a list of relevant hydrographic charts.

With a “withdrawn” stamp on the title-page. Otherwise in very good condition.

**Year report of the Arabian American Oil Company for 1960**


[Dhahran, 1961]. 4º. With tables, maps and reproductions of photographs in text, including a portrait of King Saud bin Abdulaziz Al Saud. Original publisher’s printed paper wrappers. € 1500

Yearly report of the Arabian American Oil Company (now Aramco), covering the year 1960, “one of the most successful years in the operations of the Arabian American Oil Company” (p.1). It contains a list of the year’s highlights, tables showing the company’s produce, maps depicting the oil fields and drilling stations, sections on transportation, personnel, marketing, safety, the local economy, etc., and images of drillings rigs, tankers and employees. The text is included in both English and Arabic.

Paper wrappers slightly thumbed, internally in very good condition.

*B. Shwadran, The Middle East, oil and the great powers, p. 555.*

**Large folding road map of Saudi Arabia**

29. [ARAMCO]. Saudi Arabian road map.

Dammam, Al-Mutawa press company, 1973. Large folding map (60 × 90.5 cm), printed in light orange with darker purple, depicting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its main roads. With on the right the title in both Arabic and English and a table with the distances from one city to another. € 1800
Large folding map, published by the Arabian American Oil Company, depicting the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It depicts the country’s roads, trails, railroads, roads that are still under construction and proposed roads, as well as cities, villages, airports and deserts. The table on the right shows the distance in kilometres from several towns and cities to some of the major cities: Buraidah, Dhahran, Dammam, Hofuf, Jeddah, Mecca, Medina, Riyadh and Ta’if.

Slightly discoloured along the folds, with only some very minor tears along the folds. Otherwise in very good condition.

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**Cookbook by and for women whose husbands worked for Aramco**

30. [ARAMCO]. Al Hasa: Saudi Arabia cookbook. [Iowa Falls, 1976]. 22 × 17.5 cm. With a few illustrations in text and with an illustration on each tab (10 in total). Original ring binder with printed pink wrappers, with an image of Saudi Arabia, locating five cities, on the front. € 425

Reprint of a cookbook compiled mostly by women whose husbands worked for Aramco (Arabian American Oil Company) in Saudi Arabia. It includes recipes by 340 women and an occasional man, mentioning for each recipe its contributor and Aramco station. Included are numerous recipes, divided into 10 categories, from canapes to casserole and from sandwiches to pastries, each category opening with an index. Among them is a recipe for Dutch doughnuts, so-called Oliebollen, which literally means oil-balls. The cookbook was named after the former geographical region Al-Hasa (now Al-Ahsa) in the east of Saudi Arabia, where many of Aramco’s oil fields are located.

Wrappers and tabs slightly frayed, otherwise in very good condition.

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**First edition and printed only for use by Aramco, signed by the Pulitzer- winning author**


First edition of a history of Aramco and the first discoveries of oil in the Arabian Gulf region. After introducing the discovery of oil in the Gulf and King Saud’s efforts to instigate exploration for oil in Saudi Arabia, the main part of the book describes the earliest explorations for oil and the lives of several of the men who were part of the early history of Aramco. “From the point of view of the men who made the beachhead, what they came to do was a job like other jobs. From the perspective of history and with the map in mind, it was an assignment to challenge the most rash; seen in retrospect it has the nostalgic, almost mythic quality of an action from the age of giants” (p. 23).

To research the book, Wallace Stegner (1909–1993), a respected author who in 1972 would win the Pulitzer Prize, spent time in Saudi Arabia to research letters, diaries and company documents and interview many of the pioneers. *Discovery!* was serialized in the company magazine Aramco World in 1968–1970 before it was privately published by the company in 1971. These paperback copies were intended to be given away as presents. The first public edition only appeared in 2007.

With the signature of the author on the title-page. Wrappers lightly worn and soiled; in very good condition.

New housing for Aramco employees


Rome, 1952–1954. 2 albums: “Jeddah Housing” (38 photostats) and “Aramco Housing” (7 photos and 75 photostats), each bound in blue half-cloth measuring 405 × 270 mm.

Two highly detailed studies for new housing (single residences, family housing, duplex and fourplex units) to be provided to Aramco personnel at Jeddah, Dhahran, and Ras Tanura. Both albums include site plans, floor plans, elevations, perspectives, and views, along with extremely detailed construction plans for staircases, drainage, air conditioning, gates, driveways, etc. The plans were commissioned in 1952 when Dhahran became Aramco’s executive headquarters. D. W. B. Warner, a former lieutenant in the US Army Corps of Engineers, established his first architectural practice in Auburn, New York, in 1946, but relocated to California in the later 1940s. In 1951 he moved to Rome, where he worked for the main European office of Aramco’s Overseas Company (AOC), a branch which not only supplied purchasing and recruiting services to its parent in Saudi Arabia but also included engineering services. He returned to San Francisco in 1955. Both albums captioned and dated on the flyleaf in the architect’s own hand. In excellent state of preservation.

Kufic coinage

33. ARRI, Giovanni Antonio. Novas observationes in quosdam numos Abbasidarum aliosque Cuficos.

Turin, ex Regio Typographeo, 1835. Large 4º. With 3 engraved plates (one folding). Contemporary orange wrappers.


Some duststaining; plates foxed, still a good, wide-margined copy.

Not in Leitzmann.

Portuguese discoveries in the East

34. ASSOCIAÇÃO MARITIMA E COLONIAL. Annaes maritimos e coloniaes.

Lisbon, na Imprensa Nacional, 1840–1846. 8º. 10 parts (6 series) bound in 7 volumes. With numerous lithographic plates (many folding, some coloured). Bound in uniform modern faux-vellum boards with giltstamped spine labels.

Extremely rare: the complete run of this highly interesting periodical published by Portugal’s Colonial Maritime Association. Created by Royal Charter in November 1839, the Association was a product of the 1836 “Setembrismo” Revolution. Headed by a group of naval officers, it was supposed to investigate the state of overseas possessions and the causes of the rapid decline of the merchant navy, to highlight the need for naval training, and to investigate new commercial relations.

The “Annaes”, the Association’s house journal, concentrates on the history of Portuguese discoveries in the East, but also voyages to North America, and offers several previously unpublished documents concerning the Portuguese presence in overseas regions, including Portuguese navigators’ reports to monarchs. A
A separate section discusses pearl fishing on the “costa d’Arabia, especialmente na ilha Baharem” (Bahrein, vol. 2, p. 313f.), while the loss of Ormuz is treated in an investigation into the decline of Portuguese possessions in Asia (p. 60). The narrative of a land journey from India to Portugal in 1565 (vol. 5, p. 214f.), here published for the first time, also mentions the Fortress of Ormuz, which had given the Portuguese full control of the trade between India and Europe passing through the Arabian Gulf since Afonso de Albuquerque’s conquest of the island in the early 16th century. In 1622, an Anglo-Persian force wrested the garrison from Portugal, thus opening up the Gulf trade with England.

Some occasional light browning and foxing, but generally in fine condition.


Graphically stunning 3-volume historical manuscript atlas

[Montpellier?], [date on spine of vol. 1:] 1851. 3 volumes. 2º (vol. 1) and large 4º (vols. 2–3). Neatly written manuscripts on paper with 23 graphically vibrant maps, coloured in outline with subtly shaded washes in grey (for the coasts) and numerous bright colours (for political boundaries), and with calligraphic headings. Contemporary bindings: vol. 1 red half goatskin; vol. 2 black half goatskin; vol. 3 black sheepskin.

A 3-volume historical manuscript atlas with beautiful manuscript maps, the volumes titled: Atlas historique, Souvenirs historiques and Tableaux et cartes. The Atlas historique contains finely calligraphed chronological tables displaying events in ecclesiastical history, the history of the Roman Empire and France, from the first century to 1850, followed by coloured double-page maps of France, the Ottoman Empire, Europe and the Roman Empire. The Souvenir historiques has the same structure, but is solely devoted to the history of England, Spain, Germany and Italy, covering the period from the fifth century to 1850, with coloured double-page maps of the British Isles, the Iberian Peninsula, the German states, and Italy. The Cartes et tableaux is the most ambitious volume, containing no fewer than 14 coloured double-page maps, including two world maps, maps of Africa, Asia, America, Oceania, Europe, etc., and numerous chronological tables. The ink has sometimes left a browned shadow on the back of the leaves or facing leaves and occasionally eaten a small hole in the paper, but the atlas is otherwise in very good condition. Bindings slightly chafed. A graphically vibrant French historical manuscript atlas.

Standard biography of Saladin

36. BAHÀ’ AL-DIN IBN SHADDÀD and Albert SCHULTENS (translator). Vita et res gestae sultani, almalichi alnasiri, Saladini ... nec non excerpta ex historia universali Abulfedae.
Leiden, Johannes le Mair, 1755. 2º. With the title-page printed in red and black and with a woodcut device. Text in Arabic with parallel Latin translation. 19th-century boards covered with brown pastepaper.

Reissue of the first edition of the standard biography of Saladin (1138–1193), the first Ayyubid sultan of Egypt and Syria, written by his secretary, Baha’-Al-Din ibn Shaddad (1145–1234). Saladin (or more properly, Salah al-Din) is renowned in the East as the great Mohammedan ruler who united the lands of Egypt, Syria, Palestine and Mesopotamia into a single Muslim empire. In 1187 he launched a “jihad” against the Christian invaders of the Holy Land and captured Jerusalem, showing clemency to the Christian inhabitants. He went on to drive the crusaders from every fortification in the land, except Acre, which he besieged unsuccessfully for two years. This volume also contains selections from the universal history of Abu al-Fida, a descendant of Saladin, who took part in the campaigns against the crusaders and later became sultan (1320). His history covers the period from creation to 1329. The editor and translator Albert Schultens (1686–1750) was a Dutch Orientalist, and regarded as the chief Arabist of his time.

Title-page browned, some minor foxing and some damp stains, mostly marginal, otherwise in good condition. Binding worn along the extremities, top and bottom of spine damaged.

Gay 2258; Schnurrer 175; not in Blackmer.
First Arabic edition of Persian stories often added to the Arabian Nights


First Arabic edition of a series of Persian tales known as “Bakhtiyar-namah”, a frame story deriving partly from the ancient Sanskrit Panchatantra (known in Arabic as Bidpai) and often added as a supplement to the Arabian Nights. It was published in French as “Nouveaux contes Arabes, ou Supplement aux Mille et une nuits” (Paris 1788), and William Owseley produced an English and Persian edition as “The Bakhtiyar Nameh, or, Story of Prince Bakhtiyar and the Ten Viziers” (London 1801). The present edition is based on an Arabic manuscript discovered in Cairo: a Latin translation with annotations followed (in dissertation form) in 1814. It is an elegant little book, well-printed on excellent laid paper with a very slight greenish cast. The Swedish scholar Gustaf Knös (1773–1828) studied in Göttingen and (under Silvestre de Sacy) in Paris. He held the Uppsala chair of oriental languages from 1814 until 1828. He is best known for his large Syriac chrestomathy and his present edition of the Bakhtiyar-namah. Later, following a spiritual crisis, Knös lost all interest in philology and produced no more publications. Binding insignificantly rubbed; some unobtrusive browning throughout. Pencil notes in Arabic to Arabic title. A lovely and elegant first Arabic edition of a famous set of Persian tales.


First printed record of Abu Dhabi and Dubai: the first Latin edition

38. (BALBI, Gasparo). DE BRY, Johann Theodor. Indiae Orientalis pars septima [...]. Frankfurt, Wolfgang Richter, 1606. 2° (210 × 319 mm). Title within engraved figurative border. With an engraved vignette, 22 engraved plates (2 of which are double-page-sized). Contemp. brown calf with gilt borders and decoration on middle of covers; blindtooled spine rebacked. Traces of ties. € 18 500

Book seven of Théodore de Bry’s “Petits Voyages”, the greatest single collection of material on early voyages to the East Indies, which is considered unique in its extraordinary wealth of cartographical and visual material. Crucially, this much-sought volume includes Gasparo Balbi’s groundbreaking account of the Middle East, first published in 1590 as “Viaggio dell’ Indie Orientali”—a mere 16 years before this present issue, making this the second appearance in print altogether and the first Latin translation. Balbi, a Venetian jewel merchant, travelled extensively in the Arabian Peninsula in search of precious stones. From Venice he sailed for Aleppo, proceeding to Bir and from there overland to Baghdad, descending the Tigris to Basra, where he embarked for India. While in the Persian Gulf, he studied the pearl industry, noting that the best pearls were to be found at Bahrain and Julfar. He refers to islands in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi (including Sir Bani Yas and Das) and to several coastal settlements that were to become permanently established, such as Dubai and Ras al Khaima. Balbi was the first to record the place names along the coast of modern Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Oman. Practically “none of the names of places on the coast between Qatar and Ras al Khaima occur in other sources before the end of the eighteenth century” (Slot). The volume also comprises the account of Joris von Spilbergen’s voyage to Ceylon in 1601–04 (with excellent plates). Calf slightly worn, some browning due to paper. Title browned in the margins; some foxing to plates. Contemporary ownership inscription of Thomas Knyvett in upper margin of title (partly obliterated by a later owner), dated 27 June 1680; also inscribed “perlegi (I finished reading) 20 Octob. 1608 Tho. Kny.” near lower edge of the title. Armorial bookplate and later ownership of “T. Norcliffe” on inside of upper cover. Thomas Knyvett, 1st Baron Knyvett (also Knevytt, Knyvett, Knevett, Knevitt; 1545–1622) was an English courtier and Member of Parliament who played a part in foiling the Gunpowder Plot. Latterly the library of Swedish antiquarian bookseller Björn Löwendahl (1941–2013).
Albuquerque’s expedition to the Arabian Gulf


Lisbon, Jorge Rodriguez for Antonio Gonsalvez, 1628. Large 4º. 3 vols. Title vignettes (royal arms of Portugal). Without the folding plan present in some copies. Uniform contemporary limp vellum with Iberian handwritten spine titles and traces of ties. All edges red.

Second edition of the first three “Decades” on Portugal’s Middle Eastern enterprises, all that was published during the lifetime of the author (a fourth volume was produced posthumously in 1615, and the set was continued by other hands). “This is considered by Du Fresnoy as being a good edition of the three first decades” (Clarke, The Progress of Maritime Discovery, p. 132). Books 2 and 3 of the “Decada Segunda” (fols. 21 ff.) offer a detailed narrative of Afonso de Albuquerque’s expedition to the Arabian Gulf and his conquest of Ormuz in 1507; the island remained under Portuguese occupation from 1515 to 1622. As vassals of the Portuguese state, the Kingdom of Ormuz jointly participated in the 1521 invasion of Bahrain that ended Jazirid rule of the Arabian archipelago. From the library of the Spanish Dukes of Medinaceli y Santisteban; old shelfmark on flyleaves. Occasional slight browning, but a very good set.

€ 12 500


Kitab at-targuman fi ta’lim lugat as-suryan

40. BARSINAeus, Elias (Elija bar Shinaja) of Nisbis / OBIcINI, Tommaso (transl.) / Dominus Germanus de Silesia (ed.). Thesaurus Arabico-Syro-Latinus.

Rome, typis Sac. Congregationis de Propaganda Fide, 1636. 8º. Title with woodcut device. Contemp. reversed sheep, blank spine in five compartments. € 4 500

An Arabic-Syriac-Latin glossary arranged by subject, originally compiled in the 11th century by the Nestorian Elias bar Shinaja of Syria (known as Barsinaeus in the Latin tradition) as “Kitab at-targuman fi ta’lim lugat as-suryan”. The present text and translation, prepared by the Franciscan Obicini, was posthumously published by the monk’s student and successor Dominicus Germanus de Silesia, “himself also the author of an Arabic grammar, and an Italian-Arabic dictionary” (Smitskamp). “Not actually a thesaurus, but rather a nomenclator, arranged not by alphabet, but by subject” (cf. Schnurrer). The French punchcutter Robert Granjon cut the Arabic type used for the glossary. Binding somewhat worn; minor foxing. Ownership stamp (Germain: Jacobins P.B.S.) and signature of De la Roche (marquis) on title, last page with another owner’s inscription. From the library of Swiss antiquarian bookdealer Björn Löwendahl (1941–2013).

Schnurrer p. 58 f. Smitskamp 223. Fück 77. NUC 425, p. 564. ICCU VEAE\003127.

Large coloured map of the Middle East, including roads and oil pipe lines

41. BARTHOLOMEW, John. Map of the Middle East: Iran, Iraq, Palestine, Syria, Turkey and Arabia. In contour colouring with roads and aerodromes.

Edinburgh & London, John Bartholomew & son, [ca. 1940]. 8º. Large folding map (measuring 77 × 99 cm. in total) on a scale of 1: 4 000 000, backed by linnen. With relief shown by contours, hachures and gradient tints and depths shown by soundings. Folded, with title-wrapper.

€ 850

Large map of the Middle East by Bartholomew, a Scottish firm known for their maps of the area. It shows physical and topographic features, political boundaries, main motor roads, secondary roads, caravan routes and tracks, oil pipe lines. Some tears along the folds, otherwise good.

For the Bartholomew firm: Foliard, Dislocating the Orient: British Maps and the Making of the Middle East (2017).
42. BÉCHARD, Henri. Égypte et Nubie. [ca. 1880]. 60 photographs on albumen paper, measuring 28 × 22 cm each, signed and captioned in the plate, numbered 1 through 68. Contemporary green half calf with gilt spine and title “Égypte & Nubie”, initialed “B.C.D.” on first plate. € 45 000

Large and beautiful photographs by Bechard: excellent vintage prints, mostly in superior condition. They represent the popular Egyptian and Nubian types, frequently in close-ups. Nissan N. Perez states that this part of the work of a photographer specializing in views of sites and monuments “has escaped general attention” (cf. Focus East, p. 123, reproducing the photograph of water carriers resting). Includes: a scribe; a sheikh reading the Qur’an, merchants and grocers, a group of ulemas (religious scholars) reading the Qur’an, an Arab drawing water, whirling dervishes, Arab peasants (a fellah carrying water), a sheikh going to the mosque, a game of Mangala, water carriers, mat manufacturers, Sheikh Sadad, a descendant of Mohammed, a falconer, washerwomen, an Arabic singer, a young fellah, a Darabouka player, labourers, a public fountain, a beggar, Arabs at prayer, Arabic coffee, etc. Béchard was active between 1869 and ca. 1890. “His work is distinguished by the superb quality of his prints and the generally spectacular presentation of even the most common sites, such as the pyramids. His studies of people and costumes are even more interesting and point to a very personal involvement of the photographer in the life and customs of the country. His cityscapes and urban scenes were mostly taken from unusual angles in an attempt to cope with the narrow and confined spaces” (Nissan N. Perez).

Binding repaired in places.


Rare report on the construction of a new highway connecting the Arabian Peninsula, proposed by the American engineering and construction company the Bechtel Corporation. “Resulting from many discussions, the thought has been developed that a system of highways between the capitals and centres of population would be exceedingly important to the Arab nations ... Thus, this preliminary study was conceived and is humbly presented to those who share the desire to further Arab unity” (preface). The text contains an introduction, a chapter on past routes and infrastructure in the Middle East, and a larger chapter on the proposed highway, estimating the costs and construction time and stating the highway’s significance. The maps depict the different highways, from Jeddah and Mecca in the southwest to Riyadh and Dhahran in the southwest, to Baghdad, Damascus, Amman and Cairo in the north.

In very good condition.

WorldCat (1 copy).

A German translation of a Hebrew text written on the occasion of the 1764 coronation of Roman King Joseph II, discussing the most important qualities of a ruler, namely wisdom and a fear of God, and reflecting the reigns of Kings Solomon and David. Praising the wise government of Austrian rulers in general, it invites the Jewish people living in the Habsburg empire to embrace Joseph’s coronation along with the Christians.

Margins trimmed with loss of place and publisher from the title-page. Paper evenly browned. Two words on the title-page transcribed from Hebrew with pencil; place, publisher and date supplied to final blank page.


Letters from Hormuz Island and the East Indies

45. [BERSE, Gaspar, Francis XAVIER et al.]. Epistolae Indicae et Iapanicae de multarum gentium ad Christi fidem, per Societatem Iesu conversione. Item de Tartarorum potentia, moribus, & totius penè Asiae religione. Tertia editio cum indice castigatior & auctior.

Louvain, Rutger Velpius, 1570. With the title-page in a frame built up from fleurons and a woodcut publisher’s device on last blank.

With: (2) GARETIUS, Johannes (Jan GARET). De sanctorum invocatione liber: in quo orthodoxorum patrum testimoniiis assertitur, apostolica[m] esse traditio[nem], sanctorum animas post mortem in caelesti gloria angelis esse similis.

Ghent, Gislenus Manilius, 1570. With the title-page in a frame built up from fleurons, the woodcut coat-of-arms of Cunerus Petri (bishop of Leeuwarden) on the back of the title-page and on the last leaf a woodcut printer’s device within a frame built up from fleurons. 2 works in 1 volume. 8º. Contemporary limp vellum. € 19 500

Ad 1: Third edition of a collection of 19 letters from missionaries in the East, mostly the East Indies but also including letters from Gaspar Berse from Hormuz Island, mentioning the island’s religion, customs, its relation with Arabia etc., and noting that the island is especially known for its trade—during the trading season you could find people from all over the world. Beside Gaspar Berse (4), the volume also includes letters from: Franciscus Xavier (1), Henricus Henriquez (2), Antonius Quadrus (2), Michael Barulus (1), Arius Bandonius (1), Ludovicus Fröis (3), Emanuel Teseira (1), Joannes Meschita (2), Jacobus Navarchus (1) and Joannes Berra (1). They mainly concern India and the mission on the Indian coasts, containing invaluable information on the activities of the Jesuits in the region. A second part containing the letters on Japan was separately published in the same year, but is not included here.

Ad 2: First and only edition of a theological work by Johannes Garetus (1499–1571) on the invocation of the saints in heaven, written in a period of growing Protestantism.

With an owner’s inscription on flyleaf dated 1571 and a library stamp on title-page (“Asien’s Gesch”). A very good copy.


Arabic Psalter


Rome, typographia Savariana, 1619. 4º. Title page printed in red and black. Contemp. vellum with ms. title to spine. Edges sprinkled in red. € 4500
Second edition of Savary’s Arabic Psalter; more precisely, a re-issue of the 1614 original edition, with only the title changed and the remaining pages re-used from the first. Prepared by two Maronite scholars, Nasrallah Salaq al-’Aquri, better known as Victorius Scialac Accurensis, and Gabriel Sionita. “Scialac was one of the first Oriental Christian scholars who by his publications furthered the causes of both European Orientalism and Oriental Christianity. He taught Arabic and Syriac in the Roman University from 1610 to 1651” (Smitskamp, p. 161).

The publication is famous for the clarity and elegance of its typeface created by Savary de Brèves: the extensive vocalisation helped this handy quarto volume achieve immense popularity among oriental scholars throughout Europe. The Psalms’ text is based on a manuscript Savary de Brèves had bought in Jerusalem (cf. Balagna, L’imprimerie arabe en occident, p. 55f.); as it occasionally departs from the Vulgate (as does the translation by the Maronites Sionita and Scialac), an extensive imprimatur was necessary. The Arabic-Latin Psalter (1614/19) and Bellarmin’s Arabic catechism (1613) would remain the only works to leave the Typographia Savariana in Rome; the types have survived and are now in the archives of the Imprimerie Nationale in Paris.

Occasional paper flaws professionally restored; insignificant brownstaining in places. A good copy.


The first Gospel printed in interlinear Arabic and Latin

Rome, Typographia Medicea, (1591)–1619. 2º (260 × 366 mm). Title page printed in red and black, with the Medici arms. With 149 text woodcuts by L. N. Parassole after Antonio Tempesta. Contemporary Italian flexible boards with ms. title to spine.

The rare first re-issue, with new preliminary matter only, of the first Gospel printing in the interlinear Arabic and Latin version, prepared at the same time and printed by the same press as the first Arabic-only Gospel. These were the first works ever produced by Ferdinando de’ Medici’s “Medicea” press, founded by Pope Gregory XIII to spread the word of Christ in the Orient. Supervised by the able scholar Giovambattista Raimondi (1536–1614), its strength lay in oriental, especially Arabic, printing. After Raimondi’s death, the press relocated to Florence. The Arabic text is printed in Robert Granjon’s famous large fount, generally considered the first satisfactory Arabic printing type; as all early printed editions of the Arabic Gospels, it is based on the Alexandrian Vulgate (cf. Darlow/M., 1636). The Latin version is by Leonardo Sionita. As issued in 1591, the work began with page 9, without a title page or any preliminary matter at all: “the intended prefatory matter was apparently never published” (Darlow/M.). The 1619 re-issue contains 4 pages of preliminary matter (title page and a note “typographus lectori”); there exist copies with two additional leaves of dedications not present here. Another re-issue, much more common, was released in 1774.

Occasional browning; a good, untrimmed and hence wide-margined copy in its original temporary binding.

Darlow/Moule 1643. Mortimer 64 (note). Streis XVI, p. 866, no. 5438.

A foundation stone of modern Hebrew studies

With: (2) [Melekhet ha-dikkuk]. Institutiones grammaticae in Hebraeam linguam [...].
[Basel, Johann Froben, 1524]. 8º. With 2 different woodcut devices.

With several musical notes and two woodcut devices. Modern vellum, in custom-made cloth case.

25

II: Only edition of Münster’s second publication, a foundation stone of modern Hebrew studies. Includes (fol. r1 ff.) the so-called Jonas polyglot in Hebrew, Chaldaic, Greek, and Latin, with other matter. Contemp. ownership obliterated from t. p.; lower corner defective (remargined professionally; losses supplied in pencil). Numerous contemp. marginalia, mostly in Latin. Both works are very rare; the former has not been seen at auctions since 1950.

On Gothic and Arabic manuscripts in Spanish libraries

49. BLANCO, Pedro Luis. Noticia de las antiguas y genuinas colecciones canónicas inéditas de la iglesia Española, que de órden del rey nuestro señor se publicarán por su real bibliotheca de Madrid, ...

Madrid, Imprenta Real, 1798. 8°. With some lines printed in Arabic type. Later brown half morocco, gold-tooled spine. € 1500

First and only edition of a work offering new details on Gothic and Arabic manuscripts in the collections of the Spanish Church, compiled by the librarian Pedro Luis Blanco. In part Blanco continued the work of his predecessor, the orientalist Miguel Casiri (1710-1791), who published the Bibliotheca Arabico-Hispana Escurialensis, a catalogue in two volumes containing more than 1800 Arabic manuscripts in the library of the Monasterio del Escorial in Madrid. The present work is divided into two parts, the first dealing with Gothic manuscripts, the second with Arabic manuscripts. The latter contains corrections and additions to Casiri’s work, as well as some Latin translations of Arabic inscriptions or passages found in these manuscripts.

With a stamp of “Montserrat” on the last page. Internally in very good condition.

Catalogue of plants of the Arabian Peninsula, with scientific names in Latin, Arabic and Persian


Calcutta (no. 5: Delhi), Superintendent government printing, 1919–1933. 5 parts (of 6). With folding map of the Arabian Peninsula (in no. 2). Later cloth, original wrappers of separate parts bound in. € 1500

First five parts of a description of the plants of the Arabian Peninsula; here with the preliminaries and original wrappers of each part, written by Ethelbert Blatter (1877–1934). The scientific plant names are given in Latin, Arabic, Persian as well as in regional dialects. The aim was to give a history of the botanical exploration of Arabia and a general sketch of the vegetation. A sixth part appeared posthumously.

Extract from the Records of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), vol. v111; the organisation established in 1890 for the purpose of identifying plant species India, and of establishing their economic value. Flora Arabica was a key work of reference on Arabian vegetation well into the 20th century.

With owner’s inscription on flyleaves. A few marginal tears (some repaired), a couple of leaves loosely inserted and some small stains on the first title-page. A good copy.
51. **BLUNT, Anne.** A pilgrimage to Nejd. London, John Murray, 1881. 2 volumes. 8º. With frontispiece to each volume, folding map of northern Arabia (38 × 42 cm), 13 full-page plates, woodengravings, musical scores and tables in text. Original publisher’s gold- and black-blocked green cloth. € 1250

Second edition of an account of Anne Blunt’s pilgrimage to Nejd, including a visit to the court of the Arab Emir. All illustrations are after the author’s own drawings and show the author and her husband in Arab costume, a sand storm in the Wady er-Rajel, Ibn Rashid’s stables at Hail, an evening with the Emir, the Meccam pilgrimage leaving Hail, Persian pilgrims in front of the Haj, Ibn Rashid’s mares, rock inscriptions and drawings in Jebel Shammar and many more. Together with her husband, the poet Wilfrid Scawen Blunt, Anne Blunt (1837–1917) was the founder of the Crabbet Arabian stud. To this day, the vast majority of purebred Arabian horses trace their lineage to at least one Crabbet ancestor. Some foxing, bindings shows some wear, each volume with library label on pastedown (partly removed), otherwise in good condition.

*Macro, Bibl. of the Arabian Peninsula 555.*

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52. **BONFILS, G. LEKEGGIAN & CO, Brothers ZANGAKI, Collection MERLIN and Carlo NAYA.** [Souvenir album with photographs of the Holy Land, Cairo, Athens and Venice]. [Palestine, Cairo, Athens, Venice, ca. 1890]. Oblong album (41.5 × 31 cm) containing 62 albumen prints, mostly 23 × 28 cm, with 2 smaller prints of ca. 16 × 28 and 5 large prints of 35.5 × 27 cm. Most of the photographs are numbered and captioned in French, and sometimes also in English, on the negative. Contemporary brown half morocco. € 9500

Interesting photo album, probably compiled as a souvenir of a journey through the Holy Land, Egypt, Athens and Venice in the 1890s. Complete souvenir albums were sold by photographer’s studios and dealers alike. However, the fact that the current album has several blank pages at the end, lacks a binding title and contains photographs showing several different countries, suggests that it was compiled by an individual traveller. Among the photographs of Athens, is an image of the statue of Themis, excavated in 1890 in Rhamnous and subsequently transported to Athens. The inclusion of this photograph suggests the album was compiled in or soon after 1890.

The largest part of the album contains photographs of Egypt and Jerusalem. After a view with numerous watermelons at the market of Jaffa, it shows views of Ramlah, Bethany (al-Azariya), Khan al-Ahmar (“scene of the ‘good Samaritan’ episode”) and the convent Mar Saba. Before the views of Bethlehem on Christmas day, are two photographs showing local inhabitants: a single rider with his horse before the river Jordan and a Bedouin camp near Jericho. All the major sites of Jerusalem are present, including the Mount of Olives, Wailing Wall, Solomon’s Stables and the Jaffa Gate with more watermelons. A misplaced image of the coppersmiths of Cairo appears before images of the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. The images of Egypt mostly show the river Nile and the Pyramids, but also a busy market in the garden of Gezireh, the interior of the Mosque of Muhammad Ali and a mummy. Typical images of Athens and Venice follow, with the final image showing a gentleman and two ladies feeding the pigeons on the Piazza San Marco.

With the captions of several of the photographs transcribed in pencil or ink. Binding worn at the extremities. Paperboard album leaves with a few spots and several tears, most of the header corners damaged and several repaired. Photographs in excellent condition, a few with some spots and light damage at the sides.
The first printed travel report of the Middle East

53. Breydenbach, Bernhard von. Peregrinatio in terram sanctam. Mainz, Erhard Reuwich (with types of Peter Schöffer), 11 Feb. 1486. 2º (230 × 332 mm). 134 (out of 148) leaves. Rubricated throughout, red lombardic initials. With woodcut frontispiece (trimmed and mounted on later paper) in contemp. colour, two printed coloured initials, 3 (out of 7) folding views (one coloured, two supplied from other copies), 5 (out of 7) half-page coloured woodcuts, and several woodcut alphabet tables in the text. Contemp. brown calf, spine on four raised bands, covers preserving 8 (out of 10) brass bosses. Remains of clasps. In custom cloth clam shell box. € 45 000

Editio princeps of the first illustrated travel report ever, considered the first authentic western source for the Near and Middle East, as the illustrations were prepared from actual observation of the lands and people described. A fragment, but in contemporary colour. Breydenbach travelled to the Holy Land in 1483/84 with a large company including the Utrecht artist Erhard Reuwich, who drew the maps and views from his observations on the journey and then printed the text and illustrations at his own house. He is not known to have published any other works. The entourage travelled from Venice to Corfu, Modon, Crete, Rhodes and Jaffa before arriving in Jerusalem, and then through the Sinai desert to Mt. Sinai, Cairo, and Alexandria on the return journey. The present first edition contains three large woodcuts, the first ever seen in the West, including panoramas of Modon, Rhodes, and Parenzo (omitted from most of the later editions and translations). Also includes studies of Middle Eastern costume and pictures of animals encountered on the journey (including a crocodile, a camel, and even a unicorn). Wants four of the folding maps and views, as well as the woodcut of Bedouin costume and the Arabic script specimens. Binding somewhat rubbed and scuffed; some browning and water-staining to edges; several edge tears. Several contemporary marginalia. Contemporary ink dedication above beginning of text: inscribed to the Charterhouse of St. John the Baptist at Eppenberg (Hesse), in memory of the theologian Gottfried Bischoff; followed by a slightly later ms. ownership by Caspar Coryli from Hasselbach (received, via his uncle, from an endowment of the Carthusian Daniel Priscitius). Later ms. ownership of John Josias Conybeare (1779–1824), Professor of Poetry at Oxford, and armorial bookplates of Robert Blagden Hale (1807–83) of Alderley House, Gloucestershire.

HC 3956. Goff B-1189. GW 5075. BMC I, 43 (IB. 331).

Unknown manuscript copy of the first authentic Western source for the Near and Middle East

54. Breydenbach, Bernhard von. Die fart oder reyz über mere zu dem heyligen grab vnser herren Jhesu cristi gen Jherusalem. Mühlhausen (Thuringia), 1527. 4º (138 × 198 mm). German manuscript on paper (black ink bastarda, rubricated with red underlinings and chapter headings, half-pages marked by letters in the margins). 248 closely written pages, including index. 37 lines per extensum (written space ca. 12 × 17 cm). Bound in contemporary full vellum using a 14th century liturgical manuscript with red Lombardic initials. € 25 000

Previously unknown textual witness of Bernhard von Breydenbach’s famous travel report, which had appeared in print in February 1486 (in Latin) and then again, in June of the same year, in German. This meticulously written redaction of the German text is the work of the Dominican friar Mathias Sartor (Schneider), “ordinis predicatium conventus Hallensis predicatur in Mulhausen” (fol. t.xxirt). The Dominicans had had to leave their Halle convent in 1520, which may explain why Sartor by 1527 was installed in Mühlhausen, a few days’ travel distant.
Breydenbach’s book is hailed as the first authentic western source for the Near and Middle East, as it was prepared from actual observation of the lands and people described. The present manuscript copy omits the illustrations, as did most of the later editions and translations, though it is not clear upon which printed version, if any, the ms. is based, and although it contains the same appendices as the first edition (a discussion of oriental religion, in particular of the Muslim religion, a lament over the Holy Land, and an invocation to reconquer it), the present text appears quite original in its paraphrases and redactions of Breydenbach’s famous travelogue.

Written in Sartor’s close, neat and well-legible hand throughout. Some insignificant browning, occasional light ink- and waterstaining. Lower cover has a large brownstain, with a few binding cracks and flaws (especially to hinges) repaired, but extremely well preserved in general. Provenance: formerly in the collection of Baron Hans Carl Ow von Wartendorf (1814–82) with his handwritten table of contents on an inserted bifolium, confirmed after his death on a separate sheet by the Swabian librarian and historian Wilhelm von Heyd (1823–1906). Acquired from a private German collection.

Two rare Heidelberg-printed works on the Middle East

55. BRISSON, Barnabé. De regio Persarum principatu libri tres. Editio altera [ed. Sylburg]. [Heidelberg], Hieronymus Commelinus, 1595. 8º.

With: (2) SYLBURG, Friedrich. Saracenica, sive Moamethica. Ibid., 1595.

Both works have printer’s woodcut device to title page. Contemp. blindstamped vellum. € 4500

An uncommon edition. Essentially the sources drawn on are purely those of ancient writers, from whom there is extensive quotation. Book I is concerned with the Persian rulers and their history, book II with religious and social life, and book III with military organisation and prowess, both ancient and modern. Brisson (1531–91) was a distinguished jurist and author of important works, notably the legal code of Henri III. Sylburg, who acted as editor and proof-reader for the Commelin atelier, has added just a few notes at the end, the preface to these claiming that the original Paris edition of 1590 had been full of errors of transcription and editing.

Bound with this is the first edition of Sylburg’s “Saracenica”, a “theological compilation with many magical deliberations” (cf. Gollner 1878) providing a German Protestant apology against Islam based on works of the Oriental church. Contains extracts from the Panoplia of Zigabenus, a treatise against the “false prophet” Muhammad, the catechism for Saracene converts to Christianity, as well as extracts from Eutychius, Theophanes and Anastasius, printed in Greek and Latin parallel text. Binding stained; interior somewhat browned as common due to paper. Provenance: 1) Collection of the German historian Franz Dominikus Häberlin (1720–87) with his engr. bookplate on pastedown and monogrammed stamp on t. p. 2) Wilhelm Gesenius (1786–1842), German orientalist (his lithogr. bookplate on pastedown, with his acquisition note: “bought from D. Katsch (?) for 7 Silbergroschen”). 3) Franz Karl Movers (1806–56), German orientalist (his stamp on t. p.). 4) Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums, Berlin (stamp on reverse of t. p.; dispersed in 1942). 5) Swedish trade. Two additional 18th and 19th century ownerships (“C.S.” and “Dr. Levin”).

Islamic religious orders in Algeria, “a work of great learning and value”, presentation copy

56. BROSELARD, Charles. Les khouan. De la constitution des ordres religieux musulmans en Algérie. Algiers, A. Bourget, August 1859. 8º. Contemporary red half sheepskin. € 3750

First edition of a work on the khouan, the brothers of Islamic “religious orders” in Algeria, written by Charles Brosselard (1816–89). He describes the origin, hierarchy, organization and (initiation) rituals of seven influential Sufi brotherhoods. “A work of great learning and value” (Playfair). With author’s presentation inscription to the French general Charles Cousin-Montauban, Comte de Palikao (1796–1878), who served as a cavalry officer in Algeria, on half-title. With an armorial bookplate on paste-down. Overall in very good condition, binding only very slightly rubbed along the extremities.

Levtzion & Pouwels, The history of Islam in Africa, pp. 170, 184; Playfair, Bibliography of Algeria, 2099.
Oil operations between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait


A history of the creation of the Neutral Zone between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, discussing the historical and legal background of both countries, a comparison with the Trucial Sheikdoms, the establishment of the Neutral Zone, and the ongoing oil operations in the Zone, with an appendix of legal documents. Based on an unfinished manuscript left by the author upon his death in 1959, the volume was completed posthumously by staff of the Middle East Research and Publishing Center. Dedicated to John Paul Getty.

The Neutral Zone, a 5770 km² area between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, had been left undefined when the border was established by in 1922. Partitioning negotiations finally commenced when the rulers of both countries met and decided, in October 1960, that the Neutral Zone should be divided. On 7 July 1965, the two governments signed an agreement, which took effect on 25 July 1966, to partition the Zone adjoining their respective territories. Ratification followed on 18 January 1970.

Quite rare; traced to 19 institutions including 6 on COPAC. OCLC 32070547.

782 Arabic proverbs collected before 1817, with explanatory notes

58. BURCKHARDT, Johann Ludwig. Arabic proverbs, or the manners and customs of the modern Egyptians, illustrated from their proverbial sayings current at Cairo, translated and explained ... London, John Murray (colophon: printed by C. Roworth), 1830. Large 4º (28 × 22 cm). With a large folding engraved map of the Sinai, the Holy Land and parts of Egypt and Syria, showing Burckhardt's travels, and a few small woodcut illustrations in the text. Set in roman and italic type with the proverbs also in the original Arabic. Mid-19th-century half tan calf, spine with gold-tooled bands. € 8000

First edition of a ground-breaking trove of 782 Arabic proverbs, published here in the original Arabic with English translations and (sometimes extensive) explanations of their meaning. Burckhardt took some from a collection assembled by the Egyptian scholar Shered ad-Din Ibn Assad, adding others "as he heard them quoted in general society or in the bazár ... Several Scriptural sayings and maxims of ancient sages will be found here naturalized among Arabs; as well as some Proverbs which have generally been supposed of European origin" (preface). This makes the present publication an essential primary source for Islamic, Egyptian and Arabic oral history, preserving popular proverbs collected before 1817.

The Swiss explorer, orientalist and archaeologist Burckhardt (1784–1817) travelled through Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Nubia and the Arabian Peninsula, and rediscovered the ancient city of Petra. Disguised as an Arab, he crossed the Red Sea to Jeddah under the name “Sheikh Ibrahim”, passed an examination in Muslim law and participated in a pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina. With bookplate. Endpapers browned, slightly affecting the title-page, last page and folding map, but otherwise in very good condition. Binding somewhat worn and scuffed, but structurally sound. An expert Arabist’s annotated collection of Arabic sayings, giving insights into Arabic culture.

Gay 1965; Howgego, 1800–1850, B76.

The Burmah Oil Company in early photographs

59. BURMAH OIL CO. Photograph album. Burma, ca. 1904. Oblong 2º (420 × 312 mm). Contemporary half leather album of 56 large format photographs, ca. 27 × 20 cm. € 9500

A photograph album containing views of Burma, including images of the staff and works of the Burmah Oil Company, the majority uncaptioned, though several are
captioned in the negative and a couple are identified by hand. The Burmah Oil Company was formed in Scotland in 1886 and by the early 20th century owned the largest oil fields in the British Empire, producing 90% of Burma's oil output.

The first eight images show group portraits of staff, the following 48 are topographical or portrait photographs, including views of oil fields, Rangoon, the countryside, an oil blaze and elephants at work.

Album slightly worn; 5 additional large format and 2 small photos (group portraits, a brass band, oil fields enveloped in smoke) loosely inserted. Overall in good condition.

Across the Eastern Mediterranean


Mainly Eastern Mediterranean, but including South America, the Caribbean, London and other places, chiefly 1835/36–1838, with a few later entries to 1844. Small 8° (100 × 155 mm). English manuscript on paper. 80 pp. (five days to a page, hand-ruled on blank sheets), with 8 pp. of printed matter (“a list of stamps, London bankers, interest tables, and other useful commercial information”) bound first. Signed on the flyleaf (dated 1835) and on the title page. Original 1830s green roan.

€ 8500

A remarkable naval logbook and diary kept by the young naval surgeon John Burns, documenting the voyages of four Royal Navy vessels, the HMS Harrier, the North Star, the Carysfort and the Sappho, to Ottoman ports throughout the Eastern Mediterranean during the final years of the reign of William IV and the early reign of Queen Victoria.

Burns’s ships frequently called at Constantinople, Pera and Tarabya, but also anchored at Tunis and Algier, as well as Alexandria (on Christmas Day 1840). Several of his brief entries tell of encounters and relations with local governors and dignitaries: “[3 Aug. 1837] Received the Persian Ambassador on board”; “[8 Aug. 1837] Received French Ambassador on board”; “[14 April 1838] On board. Turkish frigate and brig arrived with the Pasha of Tunis”. When passing the castles on the Dardanelles on 18 Nov. 1837, the ship “fired 19 guns”, and upon entering Constantinople on 7 June 1837, the vessel pays its respects to Sultan Mahmud II: “Sailed from Therapia to Constantinople, manned yards and fired a Royal salute on passing the Sultans’ Palace [...]”. Upon their return to Tarabya a few months later, Burns makes a remark on the celebration of the Sultan’s birthday: “[11 Dec. 1837] Sultans Birthday, lett [?] off rockets in the evening”. When news of the Sultan’s death reaches the ship less than two years later, Burns notes: “[29 June 1839] Uncertain reports of the death of the Sultan”, and “[2 July 1839] Reports confirmed of Sultan Mahmouds death aged 69 reighned [!] 31 years.” Burns also provides accounts of several military events, mentioning an “Insurrection at Pera, lying off it” on 10 August 1837, or the Battle of Nezib on 24 June 1839.

Yet the diary also gives evidence of many less sensational episodes of everyday life aboard ship, containing remarks about dinner, lesser illnesses, and weather conditions. Other entries cover leisure activities such as walks ashore (“[21 July 1837] On shore of Sultan’s Valley, had a Turkish bath”; “[5 Dec. 1837] Went to Stamboul Bazaars, Galata, Pera”) and visiting such sights as coastal castles or the ruins of Pompeii. Burns’s allegiance to the British crown is always evident: “[14 July 1837] Fired 72 minute guns in the afternoon on the news of the death of the King which happ. on the 19th June”, “[28 June 1838] Entered Toulon and celebrated the Queen’s coronation”, and “[15 July 1837] fired a royal salute in honour of the accession of Queen Victoriala”.

Burns joined the HMS North Star on 1 Sep. 1836, sailing from Rio de Janeiro to England. Other voyages took the keeper of this diary further into the western Mediterranean, including the ports of Naples, Malta, and Barcelona.

Later notes and calculations on the final leaves and the insides of the covers; newspaper clippings on the lower paste-down announce the death of Burns’s infant son in 1859 as well as the birth of his daughter in 1857 and of another son in 1860. A newspaper clipping announcing Burns’s passing on March 10 [1894] is pasted on the flyleaf. Upper cover creased, occasional very minor paper flaws to edges, but in all a charming survival.

Dedication copy, printed in Arabic throughout


Paris, (typographie Arbieu), 1856. Large 8°. With 12 portraits and 5 engraved plates as well as several maps and plans in the text. Title page in French and Arabic. Green half calf with gilt crowned “N” to spine and lower board, upper board with gilt dedication “Offert a Mr le Comte de Breteuil”. Moirée endpapers. All edges gilt.

€ 7500
First edition, rare. – Historical work on Emperor Napoleon I by Colonel Louis (Luigi) Calligaris (1808–70). Apart from his work as orientalist, Calligaris is remembered for founding the military academy at Tunis and for serving as aide-de-camp to the monarch of Tunisia. In 1861 he was appointed professor of Arab studies at the University of Turin, a position he held until his death. The 12 portrait plates include Napoléon, Joséphine, Napoléon III, and Louis Philippe; the engravings show the Estates General, the Battle of Arcole, the Battle of the Pyramids, etc. Occasional brownstaining. Binding slightly rubbed, endpapers torn, otherwise in good condition. A remarkable typographic effort of the Second French Empire, this copy a gift for the diplomat and statesman Achille Le Tonnelier de Breteuil (1781–1864), who had already served Napoleon I in various capacities and was made a member of the Senate in 1852.

Camel Racing and Horsemanship in Upper Egypt

62. [CAMEL RACE]. “Minieh, Février 20, 1914”. Photograph album of an important camel racing and horsemanship event.

Minya, Upper Egypt, 1914. Oblong 2º (455 × 365 mm). 28 matte photographs (195 × 280 mm or the reverse), individually mounted on cards, recto only. Contemporary sewn red half morocco gilt, flat spine, upper cover titled in gilt and with the photographer’s name in gilt. Marbled endpapers. € 45 000

Fine album of 28 black/white mounted photographs showing officials and dignitaries, horse and camel trainers, riders, and races at an unknown celebration or festival during the last days of the Khedivate and Ottoman rule in Egypt. A similar album, comprising merely 24 photographs, is kept at the UC Santa Barbara, Special Research Collections (Bernath Mss 185). Several mounts loosened or detached. Binding worn at extremeties, some water-staining to covers.

Napoleon’s Ambitions in the East


Paris, Chanlaire & Mentelle, 1798–1799. Original outline colour. Dissected and laid on linen in two sections, 880 × 940 mm & 660 × 940 mm. € 28 000

A two-sheet wall map showing Prussia, Turkey, Egypt and Abyssinia in the west, and the Aral Sea in Kazakhstan, Persia, Arabia and Somalia in the east. Two inset maps show the routes from Siré to Gondar and from Gondar to the sources of the Nile. According to the inscription, the map is based on that of “the late J. B. Laborde” (Jean-Benjamin de Laborde, 1734–94, traveller and musician), with amendments; however we have been unable to trace a map of the region by him.

The vast map was published to satisfy French interest when their seemingly-unstoppable General Bonaparte turned his attention to the conquest of Egypt in 1798. Napoleon had captured Malta en route to Egypt, and the oval title vignette shows him overseeing the burial of the French dead under Pompey’s Pillar after the capture of the important port city of Alexandria (July 1798). After the defeat of the Mameluk army at the Battle of the Pyramids it was Napoleon’s intention to subdue the rest of the Ottoman Empire before moving to threaten British interests in India. However, as the political situation in Paris was deteriorating, Napoleon decided to leave his army in Egypt in 1799, returning to France to become First Consul. His army was less fortunate, surrendering to the British at Alexandria in 1801. This map is very scarce: the French citizens’ interest in maps of the Orient evaporated as quickly as Napoleon’s.
64. [CHINA—SECRET BRITISH MILITARY REPORT]. Reports on Kwangtung and Fukien Provinces. Hong Kong, British War Office, 1926–1928. 2º (22.5 × 35 cm). Five secret military reconnaissance reports totalling 138 numbered leaves in typescript (some in carbon copies or duplicated) with insertions and manuscript additions, with 47 original photographs (3.5 × 6 to 8 × 13 cm) mounted on the leaves (3 of the 47 are longer panoramas, each built up from 2 to 3 photos) and a folding blueprint plan (26 × 48.5 cm). Contemporary brown half cloth. € 36 000

Five secret British military reconnaissance reports made by the South China Command in Hong Kong for the Under Secretary of State at the War Office in London, giving a very detailed account of sites of military importance in Guangdong and Fujian provinces on the southeast coast of mainland China at a critical moment in Chinese history. It includes a description of the famous Whampoa (Huangpu) Military Academy, established by Sun Yat-sen in 1924 with help from the Soviet Union and commanded by the young Chiang Kai-shek in his first major post, the Guangzhou radio transmitting station, the aerodrome near the academy, arsenals, railways, fortifications, other prospective military targets, the topography of the region and possible landing sites for an invasion. The folding plan shows “The Asiatic Petroleum Co’s wharf Amoy”, with extensive soundings, reproducing a drawing dated 14 September 1919. The British were secretly preparing for military intervention in China during a period of tension between China and the western powers. Although the text gives some background information and a few anecdotes about events in China (some Chinese feared the compiler might be a Russian spy), it mostly leaves political opinions to the politicians and concentrates on the factual information the military would need if England decided to invade China.

The Hong Kong cover letters indicate that these reports were distributed in only three to five copies, all but one going to Asian offices, and we have located no surviving copies besides the present ones. Some worm holes, especially in the first few and last few leaves (slightly affecting 2 photographs), and with occasional minor chips and tears, the folding plan has separated at the folds, a folding photographic panorama assembled from 3 photographs has one part torn through and another photo has a faded patch, but most text leaves and photographs are in good condition. A detailed secret report of British military reconnaissance in southern China as the civil war between Communists and Nationalist broke out.


With thirteen songs, including their original Arabic text and English translation

65. CHURI, Joseph H. Sea Nile, the Desert, and Nigritia. Travels in Company with Captain Peel, R.N. 1851–1852. [...] With Thirteen Arabic Songs, as Sung by the Egyptian Sailors on the Nile. London, published by the author, 1853. Large 8º. With wood-engraved frontispiece of the Homra tree. Original publisher’s brown boards with title in gilt to spine. € 2500

First edition. – The Lebanese Maronite Churi trained at the Congregation of Propaganda in Rome from 1842 to 1849. He later left Rome and made his way to London, where he gave lessons in Arabic, Latin, Italian, and Hebrew. Captain W. Peel was amongst his pupils and persuaded him to accompany him on a tour of the Middle East between October 1850 and February 1851. The present work is an account of a second journey the pair undertook to Egypt and the Sudan between August 1851 and February 1852.

Some wear to spine and boards. Mild occasional foxing, otherwise in very good condition. Nice original, unblemished yellow endpapers. Rare.

Suppressing the East African slave trade in the Gulf region

London, Longmans, Green & Co. (colophon: printed by Spottiswoode & Co.), 1873. 8º. With 8 steel-engraved plates including the frontispiece (the 5 signed ones engraved by Pearson) and a folding map of the Indian Ocean, Red Sea and the Gulf, hand-coloured in outline (lithographed by Edward Weller). Red cloth. € 4500

First edition of a very detailed and well-illustrated account of a British naval campaign to suppress the East African slave trade in the years 1868 to 1870, published only eight years after the end of the United States’ Civil War and the abolition of slavery there. Slavery was not outlawed in the Ottoman Empire (which at the time of publication included Egypt and what is now Iraq) until 1882 and in Iran and most of the Gulf States not until the 20th century. The book was written by Captain Philip Howard Colomb (1831–1899), Commander of the HMS Dryad from 1868 to 1870, who lead the campaign. He operated primarily in and around the Gulf, Oman and Zanzibar, and captured seven slave ships during those two years. The illustrations show the Dryad and some of the slave ships, individual and group portraits of slaves encountered during the campaign and views of ports where slave trading occurred.


Tinnitus, diabetes, manic depression: a medical manual drawing on Avicenna

67. CONCOREGIO, Giovanni. Practica nova medicina [...] de curis febrium.
(Venice, heirs of Ottaviano Scoto, 19 Febr. 1515). 2º (218 × 304 mm). With woodcut printer’s device at the end and numerous woodcut initials. Modern red morocco, blindstamped to style, with gilt spine and inner dentelle. Marbled endpapers. All edges sprinkled in red. In cloth slipcase. € 8500

A rare medical compendium drawing strongly on the Arabic physicians who dominated the medieval medical schools of France and Northern Italy, including the author’s treatise on fevers, based on Avicenna, who is variously quoted. Some of the surprisingly modern ailments discussed include tinnitus, diabetes, and manic depression (an extensive chapter). This is the third edition of the collection first published thus in 1501 (not counting the only incunabular edition of 1485).

Some waterstaining to margins (more pronounced near beginning). Bound in a sumptuous modern morocco binding decorated with rollstamps showing Renaissance heads, likely for the 20th-century physician and collector Piergiorgio Borio (his bookplate on the front pastedown). Only 3 copies in Italy (Biblioteca comunale dell’Archiginnasio Bologna; Biblioteca Angelica Roma; Biblioteca Casanatense Roma).


Confidential reports on trade with the Middle East

68. [CONSULS—SECRET REPORTS]. Reports in Relation to Trade with Turkey in Asia, Persia, and Central Asia.

With:

(2) Reports on Trade with Turkey.

(3) Turkish reforms: The Development of Asia Minor by the “Etappen” System.

(4) [With a report from] Mr R. Thomson to the Marguis of Salisbury.
A bound collection of confidential reports from consular officials primarily regarding trade with the countries of the near and Middle East. The first work contains reports from cities such as Baghdad, Aleppo, Trebizond and Beirut. The second includes numerous short reports from all across the region, including a one and a quarter page report from the Consul at Jeddah describing local trade along with brief descriptions of the state of transport and communications routes. Repairs to the upper ends of both joints, very good.

**Legends of India: including the famous views of the settlements of Hormuz and Aden**

**69. CORREA, Gaspar. Lendas da India.**

Lisbon, Academia Real das Sciencias, 1858–1864. Small 2° (234 × 278 mm). 4 volumes. With 23 lithographed plates showing views and portraits. Contemporary half calf over marbled boards. € 5000

First edition of the “Legends of India”, one of the earliest and most important works about Portuguese rule in Asia: a massive contemporary account of Portuguese exploration in the East during the first half of the 16th century. The plates, reproduced from the author’s own drawings in the manuscript, include the famous views of the settlements of Hormuz and Aden.

The historian Gaspar Correa (1492–1563) was secretary to Afonso de Albuquerque. His “Lendas da Índia” is considered an indispensable contemporary work of reference, owing to the author’s 35 years in the country and his access to privileged sources unknown to Lopes de Castanheda or João de Barros. The 3500-page manuscript was brought back to Portugal shortly after Correa’s death, and copies circulated among a very limited number of persons. His family retained the manuscript of the original, which was published by the Royal Academy of Sciences of Lisbon over a period of six years. A fine copy bound by Antonio Cardoso Henriques, Porto, with his labels to first pastedown. Inscribed to Antonio F. dos Santos on title-page. Latterly in the collection of Dr. João Braga (“Engenheiro Agronomo”) with his bookplate to pastedown.

**70. COUTO, Diego de. Decadas da Asia.**

Lisbon, Domingos Gonsalves, 1736. Small 2° (222 × 302 mm). 3 volumes bound as two. Contemp. full mottled brown calf with giltstamped red labels to finely gilt spines (not uniform). Edges sprinkled red. € 4500

Continuation of João de Barros’s famous work on Portuguese colonial history in the Orient. First published in 1602, this is the first edition to include decade IX. Do Couto (1542–1616), chronicler and custodian of Torre do Tombo, begins with Decada IV, in continuation of de Barros’s Decada III. (When de Barros’s own Decada IV was discovered and posthumously published in 1615, the work effectively acquired another treatment of the same period with a different text, both numbered IV). “The ‘Decades’ contain “the early history of the Portuguese in India and Asia and reveal careful study of Eastern historians and geographers, as well as of the records of [the author’s] own country. They are distinguished by clearness of exposition and orderly arrangement. They are also lively accounts” (Enc. Britannica).

Vols. I and II bound in a single volume. Some worming to spine-ends, with traces of worming to inner margin of the final four leaves of vol. 111. A clean copy.

An Italian farmer turned into a Turkish satirist for a Croatian audience

71. CROCE, Giulio Cesare and Nikola PALIKUCA (translator). Himbenost pritankogh Veleznanstva Nasradinova. Ancona, Pietro Paolo Ferri, 1771. 12º. With a woodcut of the main character on the title-page. Contemporary plain wrappers. € 5800

Very rare first edition of a Croatian translation of the popular comic novel *Le sottilissime astuzie di Bertoldo* by Giulio Cesare Croce, first published in 1606. Based on oral traditions, this highly popular novel told the story of the farmer Bertoldo, who is sometimes cunning and at other times stupid. In this Croatian version the translator “localized” the name of the main character to Nasreddin, thereby establishing a link with the famous 13th-century Turkish satirist Nasreddin Hodja, whose stories were well known in the Balkan region. The translator, Nikola Palikuca from Prokljan (near Šibenik) was probably the pseudonym of a friar or nun. A second edition of the book was published in 1799 in Venice. With owner’s inscriptions on the final blank and interior of the wrapper and some pencil crossing on the back of the title-page. Brownd and with waterstains throughout, nevertheless a structurally good edition of a very rare book.

Deželjin, “Bertoldi di Giulio Cesare Croce e il riflesso di quest’opera nell’altra sponda dell’Adriatico” in: Capasso, L’Italia altrove, atti del III convegno internazionale di studi dell’AIBA, pp. 135–144; not in WorldCat; ICCU.

First Italian edition of first overland journey from Spain to the East Indies, by way of Iran

72. CUBERO SEBASTIAN, Pedro. Peregrinazione del mondo. Naples, Giuseppe Criscolo, 1683. 4º (15.7 × 20 cm). With additional engraved title and 2 portraits. Original papered boards with handwritten lettering to spine. € 18 000

First Italian edition of an interesting and detailed account of the first overland journey from Spain to the East Indies (1671–80) made by the Spanish missionary Sebastian Pedro Cubero. Interestingly, Cubero covered most of his route by land, as would later Careri, thus constantly being able to observe the customs, religions, ceremonies and costumes of the peoples he visited, describing them in considerable detail. After spending time in Italy, where he was appointed as a missionary to Asia and the East Indies, Cubero travelled by way of Istanbul and Moscow to Iran, visiting Isfahan (“Hisbaham”) and Bandar Abbas, after which he finally arrived in India. After crossing to Malacca he was imprisoned by the Dutch and later banished from the city. He then proceeded to the Philippines and ultimately, by way of Mexico, back to Europe. “After a stint as confessor in the imperial army in Hungary, Cubero became one of the notable travellers of the seventeenth century. What set him apart was the variety of his traveller’s hats. Most obviously a missionary [...], he also became [...] a representative figure of the whole exploratory enterprise. By circumnavigating the globe in his travels, he was recognized in his own time to be another Magellan, Drake, or Cavendish” (Noonan). Included are three very three very detailed chapters of devoted to China, Tartary and the Chinese-Tartarian wars. Additionally, there are important discussion of Persia, India, Malacca, the Philippines, and Mexico; chapter xx (pp. 156–156) contains an extensive discussion on Islam, the birth and death of Mohamed and Mecca and Medina. Chapter xxxiii (p. 225–229) contains a discussion of the Kingdom of Ormuz and Bandar Abbas, the city on the Straits of Hormuz at the mouth of the Persian Gulf. Bookplate of the New York “Explorers Club” (James B. Ford Library) to pastedown. Old inscriptions to front flyleaf; occasional stains. Lacks lower flyleaf; small tear to corner with loss of some text to fol. O4. This is the only copy of this edition that appears in the auction records over 30 years, no copy in the trade.

73. **DAPPER, Olfert.** Naukeurige beschryving van Asie: behelsende de gewesten van Mesopotamie, Babylonia, Assyrie, Anatolie, of Klein Asie: benefens eene volkome beschrijving van gantsch gelukkigh, woest, en petreesch of steenigh Arabie [...].

Amsterdam, Jacob Meurs, 1680. 2 parts in 1 volume. 2º. With engraved frontispiece, title-page printed in red and black, 16 engraved views and maps (2 folding, 14 double-page; 4 drawn by Charles Vasteau), and 22 engraved illustrations in the text (3 signed by Johannes Kip), further with 5 woodcut decorated initials (3 series) plus repeats and a woodcut headpiece and tailpiece. Contemporary blind-tooled vellum, manuscript spine title, red sprinkled edges. € 8500

First edition of Olfert Dapper’s important description of the Middle East. The first part is devoted to Mesopotamia or Algizira, Babylonia, Assyria and Anatolia, while the second is entirely devoted to Arabia. The work is especially important for the original and new information on Islam, Arabic science, astronomy, philosophy and historiography. Besides a map of Arabia, the fine plates include views of Mount Sinai, Bagdad, Basra, Nineveh, Abydos, Smyrna, Aden, Muscat, Mocha the Tower of Babel. The second part includes a description of coffee: “In Arabia Felix alone, and in no other place of the whole world, there grows a seed or corn or bean shrub which the Arabs call ‘Bon’ or ‘Ban’, of which they prepare a drink by cooking it in water over the fire ...” (part 2, pp. 61–62). The present copy includes a plate showing the plants “Abelmosch”, “Semsen” and “Sambak”, not called for in the binder’s instructions, but included in some copies.

Front hinge cracked, otherwise in very good condition.

Atabey 322; Hage Chahine 1206; Hünersdorff, Coffee, p. 386; Tiele, Bibl. 300; cf. Blackmer 450 (German ed.); Slot. The Arabs of the Gulf, p. 412.

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London, Hydrographic Department, Admiralty / Lowe & Brydone, 1955. 8º. With several maps and plates. Original cloth. € 2800

“The Persian Gulf Pilot contains sailing directions for the Persian gulf and the approaches thereto, from Ras al Hadd, in the south-west, to Cape Monze, in the East”.

Also includes copious information on politics, population, languages, trade, currencies, pearl fishery, meteorological information (climate, winds, weather, temperature, humidity), as well as currents, tides, communications and other miscellaneous information.

Binding rubbed and faded. Only two copies in auction records of the past decades (Peter Hopkirk’s copy fetching £1300 at Sotheby’s, Oct 14, 1998, lot 1043).

Hydrographic Office Publication 158. OCLC 709448977.

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75. **[DESNOS, Louis Charles]**. De l’Arabie.

[Paris, ca. 1760]. Engraved map (plate size: 31.5 × 54.5), coloured by a contemporary hand, with 6 scale bars at the foot left, and the map with engraved text on the left and right containing a description of Arabia. On laid paper (37.5 × 56.5). € 950

French map of the Arabian peninsula, flanked by a description
Engraved map of the Arabian peninsula, coloured by hand and flanked by a description. The book is attributed in Al Qassimi to the Parisian map publisher Louis Charles Desnos, Al Ankary however attributes it to Jean-Baptiste Louis Claudette, who appears to be solely known from this attribution. The map was likely published for an atlas as indicated by the number “56” at the head right (the copy in Al Ankary has the number “52”). Some minor foxing, mostly affecting the text and margins, but otherwise in good condition.

Al Ankary, p. 367; Al Qassimi (1999), p. 204.

Traditional Arabia just before the changes due to oil-wealth


London, George Allen & Unwin, 1951. 8º. With a portrait of Sheikh Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah as frontispiece, numerous wood-engravings in text, including some maps, 46 pages with mostly reproductions of photographs, 9 colour plates (including 1 map), 12 maps (of which 8 folding and loosely inserted in the rear pocket), and 6 folding genealogical tables, also inserted in the rear pocket. Publisher’s cloth.

Second edition of a classic account of Bedouin life in Arabia, before World War II. In this almost encyclopaedic account, the author describes virtually every aspect of life in Arabia before the changes due to the oil-wealth. The writing is very personal and the author expresses his deep admiration for Sheikh Salim Al-Mubarak Al-Sabah of Kuwait (“pre-eminent among Arabia’s rulers”) and the Saudi King Abdulaziz ibn Saud (“one of the most remarkable personalities living today”). Most of Dickson’s descriptions are based on his own observations: “I would watch their doings for days at a time, and supplement my observations by perpetually asking questions. I used to find that a good opportunity for questioning was round our camp fire at night. On these occasions while coffee went the round, men, women and children of the camp would foregather in our tent,… and answer questions on a hundred subjects”. Several of these subjects can be found in the 33 appendices, including tribal names, elite camels, sailing boats and Himyarite inscriptions. Lacking the dustjacket. Spine discoloured at the head and foot and back paste-down lightly foxed. Otherwise in very good condition and complete with all maps and tables.

Cf. Macro, Bibliography of the Arabian Peninsula 840 (1st ed.).

First edition of a history of the Ottoman Empire and Egypt with a collection of Turkish and Egyptian tales


Paris, Dupuis, 1781. 2 volumes. 12º. Contemporary calf, richly gold-tooled spines, gold-tooled board edges and turn-ins.

First edition of both an historical work describing the Ottoman and Egyptian rulers from the founder of the Ottoman empire, Sultan Osman I (1258–1326), to the year 1745, and a collection of Turkish and Arabic tales, gathered, translated and annotated by the French orientalist J.M. Digeon (ca. 1730–1812). The first volume contains a chronological survey of the Ottoman and Egyptian emperors. In the second volume some Turkish and Arabic tales and extracts of poetry and prose by Turkish and Egyptian writers are recorded. The margins of the title-pages of each volume a bit browned and some minor damage to the extremities, but otherwise a very good and attractive set.

Cioranescu 24979; Gay 2004; NBG XIV, col. 169; not in Atabey; Blackmer.
143 photographs of archaeological sites in the Middle East

78. DJEMAL PASCHA, Ahmed and Theodore WIEGAND. Alte Denkmäler aus Syrien, Palästina und Westarabien. 100 Tafeln mit beschreibendem Text. Berlin, Georg Reimer, 1918. 2º (34.5 × 24 cm). With 100 plates with 143 reproductions of photographs. Original pink publisher’s cloth.

First and only edition of a bilingual work with 143 photographs of archaeology in the Middle East, compiled by the well-known German archaeologist Theodore Wiegand (1864–1936). The publication was ordered by Ahmed Djemal Pasha (or Jamal Basha, 1872–1922), the Ottoman military leader and Minister of the Navy, who also wrote the foreword. The 100 plates show a total of 143 photographs, showing archaeological excavation sites in Aleppo, Amman, Baalbek, Damascus, Gerasa, Jerusalem, Palmyra, Petra and others. Each plate is accompanied by a leaf explaining the photographs, with the text in both Arabic and German. Some of the photographs are by the Swedish photographer Lewis Larsson (1881–1958). Others were taken during the expedition by Otto Puchstein (1856–1911) to the capital of the ancient Hittite Empire, Hattusa, in present-day Turkey. Only slightly browned. Spine somewhat discoloured. A very good copy.


The first scientific contribution to the study of Arabic dialects


First edition. Franz von Dombay (1758–1810), an Austrian orientalist born in Vienna, studied oriental languages at Maria Theresa’s academy before being sent as an interpreter to Morocco in 1783, then to Madrid and Agram. In 1792 he was appointed adviser to the secret chancery and interpreter at the Imperial court. He is the author of several esteemed works. This grammar of the “vernacular of the inhabitants of the empire of Morocco”, including a Latin-Moorish-Arabic vocabulary, is hailed by Fück as “the first monograph on the Maghreb dialect and the first scientific contribution to the study of Arab dialects”.

Slight spine defects, otherwise a good copy.

Gay 3396. Brunet, II 800. Fück 151f. Schnurrer 95, 139.

Muslim and Christian Doctrine Compared


Very rare polemical work, printed throughout in Arabic and Latin, that aims to compare and contrast Christian and Muslim scripture and doctrines. Dedicated to Cardinal Barberini. The editor Dominicus (1585–1670) taught Arabic at the Congregatio de Propaganda Fide since 1636 and collaborated on their Bible project. His magnum opus, one of the first literal Quran translations, was not rediscovered and published until 1883. In 1636 he published an Arabic grammar (the first publication of the Congregatio de Propaganda Fide press to use Arabic type); in 1639 he would produce a dictionary of vernacular Arabic. Four years in
the Middle East had convinced him that a missionary must before everything else know the vernacular language (cf. Fück, p. 78). The present work was considered lost quite recently by Antonio García Masegosa in his study “Germán de Silesia, Interpretatio Alcorani Litteralis, Parte I: La traducción latina” (Madrid, 2009).

Marked brownstaining throughout with waterstain to upper corner. Still an appealing copy.

Schnurrer 248. Encyclopaedia of the Qur'an IV, 237. OCLC 491545005, 54909800.

First edition of a unique classic

81. DOUGHTY, Charles M[ontagu]. Travels in Arabia Deserta.

Cambridge, University Press, 1888. 8º. 2 vols. With a large, cloth-mounted folding map in full colour and numerous folding plates; illustrations and plans etc. within text. Modern green full library cloth with blindstamped covers and giltstamped spines.

First edition. Doughty’s journey, undertaken between 1875 and 1878, “did much to advance knowledge of north-western and central Arabia” (cf. Henze). He was the first European to see the city of Mada’in Salih, near the northern border of Hijaz, crossed the expanse of Arabia to Jeddah, and returned via Bombay. Doughty’s “unique style of English, which [he] vehemently refused to have edited”, led to four commercial presses turning down his manuscript before the Cambridge University Press agreed to publish it in 1888. “The result was one of the great classics of travel literature which, although exceptionally demanding for the reader, passed through numerous reprints” (Howgego III, p. 246). The geological and geographical descriptions are of such accuracy and detail that it became a military textbook for the British Army in the final phases of the Arab revolt. The sensitive observation of Bedouin life is unsurpassed, whether describing how scarlet dye is made from toadstools and camels’ urine or the construction of tent ropes.

Some occasional edge chipping and paper flaws. Removed from the Metropolitan Borough of Holborn Public Library (Reference Library) with their bindings, bookplates, shelfmarks, and stamps.


Eye-witness account of Istanbul in 1597, with Turkish in Arabic type and displaying Greek inscriptions

82. DOUSA, Georgius. De itinere suo Constantinopolitano, epistola.

Leiden, Officina Plantiniana (Christophorus Raphelengius), 1599. Small 8º (17 × 11 cm). With the Officina Plantiniana’s woodcut compasses device on the title-page. Set in roman, italic and Greek types, with occasional words and lines in Arabic type. Mid 19th-century mottled, tanned sheepskin (cat’s paw pattern), richly gold-tooled spine.

First edition of Georgius Dousa’s (1574–1599) own account of his visit to Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1597 and 1598, the main text in the form of a letter he wrote soon after to his father Janus Dousa, rector of Leiden University, supplemented with a few earlier letters (for example, from Meletius Pegas (1549–1601), then Eastern Orthodox patriarch of Constantinople) and Dousa’s renditions of 25 Greek and Latin inscriptions that he saw there. He frequently gives the Turkish names of things or people he saw, or quotes what Turkish speakers said to him, rendering the Turkish in both Arabic type and transcribed with the Latin alphabet. The Italian presses concentrated on missionary printing and other publications spreading the Roman Catholic faith, but the Leiden Arabists, though devote Protestant Christians, appreciated Arabic scholarship and wished to learn from it. The elder Franciscus Raphelengius, who married one of Christoffel Plantin’s daughters and took charge of his Leiden printing office when Plantin returned to Antwerp in 1585, became one of the leading European Arabic
scholars of his day. His naskh Arabic type became the staple of early scholarly printing in Arabic and the only Arabic type cut outside Italy to see extensive use before Erpenius introduced new types influenced by it twenty years later. The present book is the fourth publication to use Raphelengius’s Arabic type and the second book.

With underlining in brown ink. With a few small marginal worm holes mostly at the head and foot of the first two and last two leaves, but otherwise in very good condition. The worming is somewhat more extensive in the endleaves and the inside of the boards, slightly affecting the sheepskin at the corners and spine, but the binding remains good.

Blackmer 496; Göllner, Turcica 2398; Lane, The Arabic type specimen of Franciscus Raphelengius’s Plantinian Printing Office, p. xxvi; De Nave, Philologia Arabica 23; Philologia Orientalis 284.

**Introduction to Islam by an important Dutch orientalist**

**83. DOZY, Reinhart. Het Islamisme. Tweede, herziene druk.**

Second edition of a survey of Islam for a general public, mostly from a historical point of view. In 24 chapters, the book describes the life of Muhammad, the Qur’an, the fundamentals of Islam, Islam after the death of Muhammad, the spread of Islam outside of the Arab world and “the current situation”. The author concludes that as long as religions will remain, Islam will exist.

Reinhart Dozy (1820–1883) was a Dutch historian and scholar of Arabic. As a professor at Leiden University he was instrumental in the university’s rebirth as a centre of Oriental studies.

With an owner’s inscription on the front fly-leaf and a stamp on the title-page. Spine worn. With a tear in the front fly-leaf and a waterstain on the frontispiece; a good copy.


**Photo album of a study trip to Libya, with 42 photographs**

**84. DUEMLEIN, Ludwig. 2200 Kilometer durch Libyen. [back of title-page:] Bildbericht über die Libia-Studienreise 1938.**

[Libya, 1938]. Album (18 × 14 cm) with 42 original photographs (ca. 14 × 9 cm), including a portrait of the author, a manuscript title-page with a drawing, two drawings of animals, a manuscript map, and 5 manuscript divisional titles (all written and drawn in white on the black album leaves), and 13 leaves with typewritten text. Contemporary half sheepskin.

Photo album of a study trip to Libya, containing 42 photographs, compiled by Ludwig Duemlein, who was accompanied on his travels by Wilhelm Völcker and Harald Froese. It also contains some leaves with descriptive text. The goal of the journey was to collect some zoological material and to bring some animals back to Germany alive where they could be observed in captivity. The album opens with a portrait of Duemlein himself, a manuscript title-page, two leaves containing a preface, a photograph of Tripoli, and a manuscript map showing Duemlein’s route. The album is divided into five sections, each preceded by a manuscript divisional title-page. One section contains photographs of animals spotted during the journey, including a chameleon, agamid, gecko, camel and some dolphins. Other photographs contain portraits of locals, views of mountains, forests, trees and deserts, local merchandise and archaeological remains. The majority of the photographs are captioned, mentioning the photographer as well. The two drawings show animals Duemlein spotted on some Libyan silverware. With a small note pasted on the back of the title-page. Binding only very slightly rubbed. Internally in very good condition.
85. [EAST INDIA COMPANY]. The Law, Relating to India, and the East-India Company; With Notes and an Appendix.
London, Wm. H. Allen & Co., 1855. Small 2º (240 × 296 mm). Modern half calf over marbled boards with giltstamped red label to spine. € 4500

The most comprehensive and relevant edition of “a work which may almost be regarded as the standard one on the subject to which it is devoted” (Preface), i.e., the legal code in force within the provinces ruled by the British East India Company – a rule which would last until 1858, when, following the Indian Rebellion of 1857, the British Crown would assume direct control. Numerous statutes concern the slave trade in the Arabian Gulf or regulate relationships with the local Arab Sheikhdoms, such as 12 & 13 Victoriæ, Cap. lxxxiv: “An Act for carrying into effect Engagements between her Majesty and certain Arabian Chiefs in the Persian Gulf”, citing the chiefs “Sultan Bin Sugger, Shaik of Ras-el-Khyma and Shargah in the Persian Gulf, the chief of the Joasmee Arabs”, “Muktoom Bin Buttye, Shaik of Debaye”, “Abdool Azeez Bin Rashid, Shaik of Eginan”, “Shaik Abdullah Bin Rashid, Shaik of Amulgavine”, and “Saeed Bin Tahnoon, Shaik of the Beni Yas, chief of Aboothabee”, as well as “Shaik Mahomed Bin Khuleefa Bin Subman, chief of Bahrain”, and the engagements they concluded with the British crown (pp. 414ff.). Other acts relate to engagements with “Syed Syf bin Hamood, the Chief of Sohar, in Arabia” (p. 437), with Seid Saeed bin Sultan, the Imaum of Muscat (pp. 220, 383), etc.
Very well preserved, in a modern binding in contemporary style.
OCLC 3062490.

86. [EDWARD STANFORD LTD.]. Bandar Abbas.
London, Edward Stanford Limited, 1945. Large colour-printed map (865 × 1555 mm) in 72 sections (each section measuring 110 × 180 mm). Scale 1 : 1 000 000. Printed on paper and mounted on linen. Printed label of publisher’s name on a panel of marbled paper. € 2300

Third edition, showing parts of Southern Iran to the north of the Gulf, including the Strait of Hormuz and the Gulf of Oman. On account of its date it calls to mind the opening of Jan Morris’s Sultan in Oman [1957]: “Good morning Mr Morris, said his Highness the Sultan Said bin Taimur. I wonder how familiar you are with the map of south-east Arabia? I was not familiar with it at all, if only because that distant corner of the Arabian Peninsular remained the least known of all the Arab lands. In the atlas it was shown vaguely, a big brown sandy triangle, bounded by the gulf of Oman on one side and the Arabian Sea on the other, a smudge of mountains in the centre, a howling desert around its perimeters.” This Royal Engineers survey map, though a little earlier than Morris’s book, is needless to say infinitely more informative than the atlas he had consulted.
Small chip on the edge of the panel of marbled paper, and a split in the first fold of linen. A very good copy.


Gift From the King of Sweden, Hand-Coloured in 1797
A truly royal copy of Eisenberg’s famous riding school, which boasts beautiful illustrations of horses and horsemen (repeated from the 1727 first edition), engraved by B. Picart. Arabian horses in particular are lauded as “the most beautiful produced by the Orient. They are exceptionally fine animals, especially those from the hills of Mokha [...] Arabian horses are full of fire and vigour in general and are possessed of a great natural agility [...] Their start is like lightning, and so they are incomparable for racing and tournaments, for they are skillful as well as swift”.

Wants a single plate (no. 37, “Le Superbe”) and explanatory text (passage in a straight line after the German fashion), otherwise an excellent copy in full near-contemporary colour. Provenance: gift from Prince Gustaf of Sweden (1736–92, later King Gustav III) to Claes Julius Ekeblad (1742–1808), son of the agronomist countess Eva Ekeblad, the first female member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and of Claes Claesson Ekeblad, with autograph ownership to engraved title: “j’ai eu ce livre de S. A. R. Monseigneur le Prince Gustave, Prince Hereditaire de Suede, Le 23 Novembr. 1764 Claes Julius Ekeblad”; additional note “illuminerad 1797 med färgor af ayaren / Claes Ekeblad” (“coloured with egg tempera in 1797”). Later in the collection of the Swedish statesman and diplomat Lars von Engeström (1751–1826) with his engraved armorial bookplate (motto “speravit infestis”, “hopeful in adversity”) to pastedown.


**Very rare first edition of this account of a journey to a relatively unknown region**

88. **EL-TOUNSY (SHEIKH MOHAMMED IBN-OMAR)**. Voyage au Ouaday, traduit de l’Arabe par le Dr Perron, directeur de l’Ecole de médecine du Kaire [...]. Ouvrage accompagné de cartes et de planches et du portrait du Cheykh, publié par le Dr Perron et M. Jomard, membre de l’Institut [...]. Ouvrage précédé d’une préface de ce dernier, contenant des remarques historiques et géographiques, et faisant suite au Voyage au Dârfour.

Paris, Benjamin Duprat, Arthus Bertrand, Franck, Renouard, Gide, 1851. Large 8º. With portrait of El-Tounsy and 9 lithographed plates of portraits, costumes, arms, instruments and maps. Contemporary half garnet-red roan, smooth spine with gilt fillets, green title labels. € 8500

Very rare first edition. Valued account of a journey made by an Ulema from Cairo, Sheikh Mohammed El-Tounsy, to a relatively unknown region of North Africa: Ouaday or Seleih Dar, located south of the Libyan desert and to the west of Darfur. In addition to the relation, this includes chapters on Egypt and the Maghreb as well as significant explanatory notes followed by seven vocabularies: Ouadayen, Forien, Ferry, Barnaouyen, Baguirmien, Toubou and Fezzanais. This volume is much rarer than the Voyage au Dârfour by the same author, published by Dr. Perron in 1846. Slight dampstains to plates 2, 3 and 4. Good copy.

Gay 2786. Brunet VI, 20821.
Exquisitely produced work on falconry and horse riding, with many coloured illustrations

89. ES, N.J.A.P.H. van. De hippische sport en het korps rijdende artillerie 1793–1908 ... te gedeelte [valkerij]. 2e gedeelte [hippische sport].

Arnhem, Coers & Roest and G.J. Thieme, [1913]. 2 volumes. Large 4º (37.5 × 31 cm). With ca. 80 lithographed plates and numerous illustrations and decorations in text, many beautifully coloured by hand and some highlighted with silver and/or gold. Original publisher’s gold-blocked blue cloth, with a coloured hooded hawk on front boards, upper edges gilt, other edges untrimmed.

Very rare, limited first and only edition of an exquisitely produced work on falconry and equestrian sports, a showpiece of Dutch art nouveau book illustration. The first volume on falconry, contains reproductions of the plates from Schlegel and Wulvenhorst’s Traité de fauconnerie (1844–1853), “the finest work on falconry which has ever been produced” (Harting). The second volume treats the equestrian sports in the Netherlands, England, France, Germany, Belgium, and contains illustrations of races and hunts.

It is a separately published follow-up to the ten volume set Het historisch museum van het Korps Rijdende Artillerie (1898–1904), that was published to celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the Dutch Horse Artillery Corps (The Yellow Riders). The complete series ranks “among the most beautiful military publications in the world” (Sloos).

With a presentation inscription of the author to Colonel Harhoff dated 1913, in both volumes, and with library stamps of the Royal Garrison Library Copenhagen. Bindings only slightly scuffed at the foot of the spine, otherwise in very good condition.

NCC (4 copies); Sloos, Gewapend met kennis, pp. 376–379; cf. Harting, Bibliotheca accipitraria 194.

Esso after the Great War

90. [ESSO]. Anglo-American Journal.


Published monthly by the Anglo-American Oil Co., Ltd., Queen Anne’s Gate, London, S.W. for the information of Employees and Shareholders. Anglo-American Oil was an affiliate of Standard Oil, founded by John D. Rockefeller. In the 1930s it rebranded itself, and took as its name the phonetic abbreviation of its parent company, so i.e. ESSO. The journal published news about the company’s ships and their captains, both during the recent war and on normal service, portraits and information about director and managers, announcements of general meetings, in-house information relating to the establishment of new branches, contributions of the company to e.g. the war effort, articles on a range of subjects (‘The Constitution of Petroleum’, ‘Production of Crude Oil in 1920’, ‘The Making of British Roads’, etc.; John D. Rockefeller contributes a article in the second issue on ‘Reconstruction in Industry’).

The Anglo-American journal is rare, with few institutional holdings; copies in such well-preserved original condition are scarce.

Introduction to Hebrew, showing alphabets of Estienne’s best meruba and rabbinical types

91. ESTIENNE, Robert. Alphabetum Hebraicum. Cum privilegio regis.

Paris, Robert Estienne, 1550. 8º. With Estienne’s woodcut tree device on title-page. Set in Hebrew (meruba and rabbinical), roman and Greek types. Early sheepskin parchment wrappers.

€ 7500
Third edition, showing the beautiful Hebrew types introduced in the second edition (1543), of Robert Estienne's handy little guide to Hebrew, intended mainly as a primer for scholars learning the language but especially valuable today as a specimen of his types. The book’s pages progress from right to left, as in a Hebrew book. It includes complete alphabets of the meruba Hebrew and the smaller rabbinical Hebrew.

Robert Estienne (ca. 1503–1559), the greatest scholarly printer and publisher of the French golden age, worked at Paris from 1526 to 1550 and at Geneva from 1550 to 1559. He published a combined guide to Greek and Hebrew in 1528, but expanded both parts for separate publication in 1539.

The 1539 *Alphabetum Hebraicum* introduced the present rabbinical Hebrew type, but its meruba Hebrew was a rather poor type that he abandoned in the second edition (1543), where he introduced three new meruba Hebrews, all used again in the present edition. All three were cut in-house for Estienne ca. 1539–1542 by Jean Arnoul, also known as Picard le jeune (ca. 1510/15?-ca. 1545). Although Picard’s name is little known today, no doubt due in part to his premature death, Le Bè’s son described him as “homme le plus adroit a la proportion & grace des caracteres quil fut en ce temppla”. The present Hebrew types, some of the best ever made, show he deserved this praise. They form a link between the more famous types of Bomberg in Venice and those later cut by Le Bè and used by many printers, including Plantin.

In very good condition and nearly untrimmed, retaining some deckles, with the fold of the outer bifolium of the first quire reinforced.

Buisson p. 2; Renouard 3; WorldCat (4 copies); cf. Updike, I, p. 294, note (not specifying an ed.); for the types: Vervliet, Conspectus 377, 378, 396, 399 (Hebrew, illustrating the 1543 ed.), 352 (Greek); 1, 106, 145 (roman); Vervliet, Palaeotypography, pp. 195–206, types 1, 2, 4, 15, 23, 25, 26, 27 (illustrating the 1543 ed.); not in Adams; Audin, Livrets typographiques; Birrell & Garnett, BMC STC French; Philologia orientalis; Schreiber.

**Arabic translation of catechetical doctrines**


Rome, Sac. Congreg. de Propaganda Fide, 1680. 12º. 18th century vellum. € 9500

Sole edition. – Arabic translation of the catechetical doctrines of differentiation which were published in Latin the previous year (as “Praecipuae obiectiones quae vulgo solent fieri per modum interrogationis a Mahumeticae legis sectatoribus, Iudaicis, & haereticis orientalibus adversus Catholicos, earumque solutiones”), also printed by the Congregation Press. Written by the Capuchine monk Michel Fébure (Fève; here rendered in Arabic as “Mikhail al-Faburi”), who had worked as a missionary in Armenia. Old ms. shelfmarks to first and last leaf. Extremely rare: no copy in Italian public collections; not in OCLC.

Hoefer XVII, 146 (without citing the title). Cf. Schnurrer 261 (1681 Latin ed.). Not in STC.

**Including the famous views of Mecca and Medina**


Leipzig, 1725. Royal 2º (540 x 410 mm). 5 volumes in 1. With engr. title page, engr. dedication, 5 engr. half-titles and 86 engr. plates (3 folded, 1 map). Contemp. full calf with gilt-stamped red morocco label to richly gilt spine. All edges red.

€ 35 000

First edition of this splendid work, which was reprinted five times until 1742 (including an English
The first three volumes deal with historical and legendary monuments (among them the seven wonders of the ancient world as well as monuments of the “Arabs and the Turks”). The fourth volume is dedicated to buildings of Fischer von Erlach himself; the fifth volume shows vases and sarcophagi.

Binding slightly rubbed, some dampstaining near end, otherwise a fine, wide-margined and complete copy.

**Medals issued under the reign of Louis XV**

**94. FLEURIMONT, G.R.** Médailles du règne de Louis xv. [Paris, 1736?]. 2º (254 × 342 mm). Engraved frontispiece (by Cars, after F. le Moyne), title, dedication and 54 numbered plates. Contemporary red full morocco gilt, leading edges gilt, gilt inner dentelle. Gilt patterned endpapers. All edges gilt.

Early edition of this elegant documentation of the medals issued under the reign of Louis xv between 1715 (celebrating his accession) and 1736 (“L’Éducation de Monsieur le Dauphin”). The medals are shown with descriptive letterpress, within ornamental borders. Engraved throughout. The dedication to this work sometimes bears the name of Nicolaus Godonnesche and sometimes that of Fleurimont (as in this copy) and, according to Cohen/de Ricci, the number of plates varies: earlier issues are usually attributed to Godonnesche and have fewer plates, dated no later than 1736, while later ones contain up to 78 plates and bear the name of the series’ continuator, Fleurimont (undated by Cohen/de Ricci). This copy would appear to fall between the two: an early, unexpanded issue by Fleurimont.

Provenance: from the library of the stationer Risley (Brewer) Risley (d. 1759), of Chetwood, Buckinghamshire, with his armorial bookplate on pastedown. Later in the collection of Patricia Milne-Henderson, wife of the art historian Michael Jaffé, the director of the Fitzwilliam Museum (her bookplate).

Spine slightly worn, with traces of repairs at head and foot; hinges weakened. A beautifully bound set.

**OCLC 83442862 (as here). Cohen/de Ricci 441 & 397. Kat. der Ornamentstichslg. Berlin, 4264 (33 plates, to 1727, signed by Godonnesche) & 4265 (70 plates, to 1746, signed by Fleurimont).**

**Manuscript criticizing contemporary France in a dialogue between Muhammad and Colbert**

**95. [FRANCE—PAMPHLET].** Colloquio su’gli affari presenti del 1683 fatto nell’Inferno, tra Maometto, e monsieur Colbert, già ministro di Francia. [Italy, ca. 1684?]. Small 2º (29 × 20.5 cm). Manuscript in brown in on laid paper in a legible hand. Sewn.

Italian manuscript translation of a French pamphlet criticizing contemporary France in the form of a dialogue between Muhammad and the recently deceased French Minister of Finance Jean-Baptiste Colbert. The pamphlet refers to the aftermath of the Battle of Vienna in 1683, in which the Ottoman Empire was defeated by the Holy Roman Empire and its allies. Since France was also at war with the Holy Roman Empire, Muhammad thanks Colbert for his help against their mutual enemy and, to the Frenchman’s surprise, proclaims victory for the Christians. Colbert responds that the goal has nevertheless been achieved: inflicting on France a regime comparable to that of the Ottoman Sultans, in which all the French live in a state of slavery. The pamphlet was originally published in French as Entretien dans le royaume des tenebres sur les affaires du temps entre Mahomet et monsieur Colbert with a fake imprint (Cologne, Pierre du Marteau) and probably printed in the Netherands. It was subsequently published in Dutch and Spanish. No printed editions of an Italian translation could be located, but several manuscripts of at least two different translations are known to exist in Italian libraries.

The sewing has come loose, but the manuscript is otherwise in very good condition.

Tolerant comparison of world religions

96. FRANCK, Sebastian. Werelt-boeck, spieghel ende beeltenisse des gheheelen aerdtbodems, ...

The Hague, Albrecht Heyndricxz., 1595. 2º. 17th-century parchment, new endpapers. € 8500

Fourth Dutch edition of a description of all lands and peoples of the world and particularly their customs and religious beliefs, with chapter 4 devoted to America and chapter 3 on Asia giving extensive coverage to Syria, Arabia and the Middle East, including a description of Mecca and the Kaaba. Franck (1499–1542/43) studied at Heidelberg, became a priest and in 1527 a Lutheran minister, but was critical of Catholics, Lutherans, Zwinglians and Anabaptists, and found common ground with heretics such as Michael Servetus. His Weltbuch, first published in German in 1534, a remarkable early example of comparative religious studies, came under attack from the established church and he was accused of Anabaptism. It was translated into Dutch in 1560 and proved very popular among Dutch Lutherans and especially Anabaptists, forming a keystone in the thought and writings of Menno Simons and the Mennonites.

With some mostly marginal worm holes in the first few pages, occasional browning and water stains (one sheet rather severely browned) and an occasional marginal tear. Binding slightly dirty and wrinkled. A seminal work with a wealth of information about world religions that still speaks to our time.

Kaczerowsky, Franck A607; STCN (3 copies); cf. Alden & Landis 59529; Sabin 25470.

The rarest treatise on falconry

97. FRIEDRICH II von Hohenstaufen. Reliqua librorum Friderici II. Imperatoris, de arte venandi cum avibus, cum Manfredi Regis additionibus.

Augsburg, Johannes Praetorius (Hans Schultes), 1596. 8º. With magnificent double-page woodcut illustration and woodcut printer’s device on title page (repeated on recto of final leaf). 17th century mottled calf, spine gilt. € 25 000

First edition, extremely rare. “The first edition of a classic on hawking, held to be the best and most comprehensive treatise, which, with original Italian and Latin manuscripts, has been the study and research by many writers” (Schwerdt). This classic treatise on ornithology and falconry was written by Frederick II (1194–1250), Holy Roman Emperor. Frederick’s original manuscript is lost, but his work exists in two book versions, by his two sons Manfredi and Enzo. The most famous copy of this treatise is the manuscript commissioned by Manfredi, between 1258 and 1266, and contains twelve short additions made by himself. The present publication is the editio princeps of that version; the “1560 Venice” and “1578 Basel” editions mentioned by Lallemant, Souhart, etc. are spurious. The woodcut faithfully reproduces one of the miniatures in Manfredi’s version (in the Vatican library): an expressive image of the Emperor with two falconers at his side. Also includes the treatise “De Falconibus Asturibus, & Accipitribus” (p. 357 ff.) by a German dominican philosopher and theologian Alberto Magno, written in Cologne between 1262 and 1280 and first time printed in Rome in 1478.

Syrian land and water molluscs

98. GERMAIN, Louis. Mollusques terrestres et fluviatiles de Syrie. Paris, Baillière and son (colophon: Rouen, Lecerf), 1921–1922. 2 volumes. 8º. With 118 figures on 23 plates and some smaller illustrations in text. Later blue cloth. € 500

First edition of an extensive work on both land- and water molluscs that can be found in Syria, by the French malacologist Louis Germain (1878–1942). It describes numerous families and species of molluscs, the first volume containing an introduction and the sections on Syrian gastropods (snails and slugs), the second volume dealing with pelecypods (bivalvia) and closing with an index.

In very good condition.

Junk, Thes. libr. conchyliorum 145.

The gastropods of Anatolia, with 17 plates


First edition of an extensive work on the land- and water molluscs, especially gastropods, of Asia Minor (Anatolia) by the French malacologist Louis Germain (1878–1942). The extensive introduction deals with the different families to which the molluscs of Anatolia belong, how to classify them and how to distinguish between land- and water molluscs. The main text contains descriptions of numerous snails, slugs, mussels, oysters, etc., divided into Gastropoda Pulmonata and Gastropoda Prosobranchia. Many of the shells are illustrated on the plates. Included at the end is a bibliography and an index.

In very good condition.

Junk, Thes. libr. conchyliorum 146.

Three works on falconry and the care of birds

100. GIORGI, Federico. Libro [...] del modo di conoscere i buoni falconi, astori, e sparavieri, di farli, di governarli, & medicarli [...]. Milan, Filippo Ghisolfi, 1645. 12º. With woodcut title vignette and 10 woodcuts in the text. With:

(2) Carcano, Francesco. Dell’arte del strucciero con il modo di conoscere, e medicare falconi, astori, et sparavieri, e tutti gli uccelli di rapina. Ibid., 1645. With woodcut title vignette and 7 woodcuts in the text (2 full-page).

(3) Manzini, Romano. Ammaestramenti per allevare, pascere, & curare gli uccelli. Ibid., 1645. With woodcut title vignette and 8 woodcuts in the text.

Contemp. vellum, ms. title to spine. € 9500
Fine sammelband containing three classic Italian works on hawking, falconry, and the care of birds in their final edition. I: “Well-known book” (Schwerdt), first published in 1547. The English author Turberville drew heavily on this work for his famous “Booke of Faulconrie or Hauking”.

II: “A small book on hawking, by a practical falconer” (Schwerdt).

III: The third edition of a book “on bird catching and the care of birds. The first edition was published at Milan by Pacifico Pontio in 1575 and must be rare” (Schwerdt). “This little book relates solely to cage-birds [...] It is usually bound up with the books on Falconry by Francesco Carcano and Federico Giorgi, and might be supposed to relate to that subject” (Harting).

Bookplate of Hans Dedi von front pastedown. A good copy of this collection of rare works in a contemporary binding, in excellent state of preservation.


### Classified


Headquarters, Ninth army, February 1942. 8º. With large folding map and two folding tables. Bound in modern navy cloth, lacking original wrappers and four preliminary bank leaves but retaining errata slip (on other, reddish paper). € 4500

“This document is the property of H.B.M. Government, and is issued for the information of officers and responsible officials”.

Very rare. COPAC lists three holdings in the UK, at SOAS, the British Museum and Oxford. OCLC adds five holdings, at the American University in Beirut, Princeton, Duke University, Monash University and Keio University. Interior very browned throughout, some marginal chipping to final pages and with a typescript insert (updating the information therein). One of the folding tables is split along the fold. 1947 Aleppo ownership and later inscription on flyleaf.

### On the expediency of British rule in the East Indies

102. GRANT, Robert. The expediency maintained of continuing the system by which the trade and government of India are now regulated.

London, printed for Black, Parry and J. Hatchard (back of title-page: printed by Cox and Baylis), 1813. 8º. With 2 letterpress folding tables (1 printed in red and black). Contemporary calf, gold-tooled. € 3500

First and only edition of a history of the relation between Great Britain and their possessions in the East Indies, written by the British lawyer and politician Robert Grant (1779–1838), son of Charles Grant, chairman of the board of directors of the British East India Company. “The projected work was intended to exhibit, first, a historical sketch, derived from authentic sources, of the past proceedings of the East-India Company: in the next place, a correct view of the actual nature and effects of their present system, both political and commercial ... and lastly, an investigation of the objections adduced or adducible against the present system...” (p. 11).

The main text consists of four extensive chapters, followed by 15 appendices, mostly tables listing officers, troops and commercial details. The work is mostly written in defence on the East India Company’s conduct, believing in “the Company’s ability to improve conditions in India” (Tuck).

Slightly foxed and binding slightly rubbed, otherwise in very good condition.

The Cambridge history of India: British India, 1497–1858, p. 651; Tuck, The East India Company 1600–1858, pp. 44–45.
Luxurious Arabic grammar, intended for native speakers

103. GUADAGNOLI, Filippo. Breves arabicae lingva institutiones. Rome, Propaganda Fide, Joseph David Luna, 1642. 2º (220 × 316 mm). With the Propaganda Fide’s woodcut rectangular Jesus and Apostles device on the title-page, their round Jesus and Apostles device above the colophon. Contemporary limp vellum with ms. spine title. € 12 500

First and only edition of Guadagnoli’s Latin grammar of the Arabic language, in a luxurious folio format. In 1632 the Propaganda Fide had begun work on an Arabic Bible that was not to be completed until 1671. Guadagnoli was one of the correctors for the Bible and in the present grammar, set in the same type, he notes that they have taken special care with their Arabic setting and with the metre to suit them to the desires of native Arabic speakers. The texts used as examples include the first printing of two poems taken from manuscripts in the oriental library collected by Pietro della Valle in Rome: the “Carmen Chazregiacum” and the “Carmen de invocationibus”. The Arabic type may have been cut by the Propaganda Fide’s in-house punchcutters for their Arabic folio Bible. The book also provides a synopsis of the Propaganda Fide’s large Hebrew type. Some browning throughout; a few old ink markings to the margins; contemp. ownership “J. Venturi” on t. p. An important Arabic grammar intended for native speakers. Schnurrer 72. Smitskamp 220. Amaduzzi 11.

Original receipt for letters taken over “at Bushire Roads”

104. [GULF—TRANSFER OF PACKET LETTERS]. Original receipt for letters to be conveyed to Bombay from the Arabian Gulf. At Sea, 11 Sept. 1847. 2º. 1 page (watermark: TTHSaunders & Co. 1845). € 2500

Original receipt for letters taken over “at Bushire Roads” from captain William Lowe of the Indian Navy on H.C. Sloop of War “Elphinstone”, “commanding in the Gulf of Persia”: correspondence to the Superintendent, Indian Navy and to the Postmaster General, as well as “one Native Letter for the British Agent at Muscat”, all to be conveyed to Bombay on H.M. Sloop “Cruizer”. Signed in blue ink by Lt. Rosbury, Royal Navy. Before the advent of airmail all British mail going abroad, and coming from abroad, had to travel by sea. Mail transported to and from Britain by ships owned by the British Post Office were termed “Packet Letters” (while mail conveyed by privately owned ships not under Post Office control were termed “Ship Letters”). The present receipt bears witness to a transfer of such mail from one ship to another in the midst of the Arabian Gulf in the mid-19th century. Traces of original folds; well preserved.

Sumptuously annotated catalogue of oriental manuscripts


Only edition. – Pioneering specimen of a catalogue of oriental manuscripts in the Leiden library, with extensive extracts in Arabic. “The descriptions of a mere twelve items on 238 pages illustrate the diligence with which the author attends to each and every title. Indeed, the final MS, the ‘Qamus al-Muhit’ of Firuzabadi, is discussed on no fewer than 60 pages. Each author is provided with extensive biographical excerpts with Latin translations, to which are added extremely detailed discussions of scholarly literature. Had Hamaker kept up this method for all the oriental mss in
Leiden, estimated at a number of some ten thousand, he should have wanted about 25,000 pages, not to mention hundreds of pages of indices. It is thus questionable whether Hamaker intended more with his ‘Specimen’ than to provide an example of an ideality which was to promote his planned catalogue [...] And yet, had he been able to realize this ideal with the help of other scholars, this would have given to the world a source-based work of reference which would have preserved its value to this day, not superseded either by Brockelmann’s ‘Geschichte der arabischen Litteratur’ nor by Sezgin’s ‘Geschichte des arabischen Schrifttums’ (Liebrenz).


Arabic, Persian and Turkish scholars and explorers on Russia


Second edition of a collection of Arabic, Persian and Turkish texts mentioning Russia and/or its inhabitants, compiled by the prominent Austrian orientalist Joseph von Hammer-Purgstall (1774–1856). The texts, transcribed from oriental manuscripts and here translated into French, derive from various sources: Al-Idrisi, Al-Mutanabbi, Abu’l-Fida, Ibn Khaldun, Haji Khalifa and others, as well as the Quran. Von Hammer-Purgstall was one of the most prominent orientalists of the early 19th-century. In 1799 he was offered a position at the Austrian Embassy in Istanbul, staying there till 1807. His best known work is his Geschichte des osmanischen Reiches (1827–1835), which is considered the first genuine study of the Ottoman Empire based on the principles of critical scholarship. With a few minor spots and some marginal water stains. Binding only slightly rubbed along the extremities. Overall a very good copy, with wide margins. Brunet III, p. 35.

Arabic poetry


First printing of the famous “Maqamat” (“Assemblies” or “Sessions”) of al-Hariri of Basra (1054–1122): a virtuoso display of Arabic poetry, consisting of fifty anecdotes written in stylized prose which used to be memorized by scholars. Hariri’s masterpiece had continued to captivate European Arabists since the 17th century (cf. Fück, 148): the first part only was published in Arabic and Latin by Fabricius in 1658, followed by Golius in 1666. Schultens published the first three chapters in Arabic and Latin in 1731, with parts 4 through 6 following in 1740. Caussin de Perceval published the full Arabic text in 1819 (following an 1809–14 Calcutta edition), but it was de Sacy’s edition that made the text well-known among orientalists. A fresh, clean copy, appealingly bound, with handwritten ownership “Alfes” on endpapers. GAL I, 276. Brunet III, 44. Graesse III, 211.
Important work on the natural history of Palestine


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 Palæstinum, "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, titlepage 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.

Bibl. Palaestinensis 472; Howgego, in 1800, H31; cf. Arabiyah 964 (English edition); Blackmer 668 (French edition); Hage Chahine, 2234 (French edition); not in VD18.

Supporting the Arab cause in Palestine


Very rare official compilation of evidence supporting the Arab cause in Palestine. With the failure of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry in 1946, the British government requested the General Assembly of the United Nations to form a special committee to investigate the Palestine problem. The United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) arrived in Palestine on 25 June 1947. The Arab Higher Committee believed UNSCOP to be pro-Zionist, and so boycotted proceedings. While UNSCOP was in Palestine, the ss 'Exodus' arrived in Haifa with Jewish Displaced Persons seeking illegally to immigrate to Palestine, and some have stated that it was this that changed the UN’s outlook to support the creation of the state of Israel. UNSCOP’s final recommendations, delivered on 3 Sept. 1947 at Geneva, supported the termination of the Mandate, with a majority of committee members recommending the partition of Palestine into two separate states. Having originally boycotted UNSCOP, the Arab Higher Committee must have realised that there would have been only a very small window of opportunity between the Geneva meeting and the General Assembly vote to present their case, and so compiled the present volume. Published on 1 October 1947, it contains 46 different documents, “includ[ing] the texts of correspondence, memoranda and notes submitted to British and international authorities by Palestinian Arab organisations between 1921 and 1947” (Khalidi/K.). It was likely distributed to members of the UN General Assembly prior to the vote on Partition;
this occurred on 29 November 1947, with the General Assembly adopting Resolution 181, based on the UNSCOP majority plan (with only slight modifications to the proposed recommendations). Quite rare.

Covers somewhat brittle with marginal tears; upper corner of front cover chipped. Extremely well preserved altogether.

Khalidi/Khadduri 780. OCLC 22556446.

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**With a beautiful hand-coloured Arabic miniature on parchment**

110. **HEINE, Maurice.** L’Islam sous la cendre.

Paris, (colophon: Frazier-Soye), (19 February) 1918. Square 4° (25 × 26 cm). With the frontispiece in three states: a lithographed plate, a hand-coloured miniature painting on vellum, highlighted with gold, and an engraved plate; and with the half-title printed in blue and several words in the text printed in green and blue. Original green cloth. € 8500

One of six copies (numbered 4) of a sumptuous publication of poems on Islam by the French poet, writer and publisher Maurice Heine (1884–1940). The entire edition consists of 77 copies, of which only the first six (numbered 1–6) were printed on dyed Japanese paper and included the frontispiece in three states, of which one painted and highlighted with gold on parchment. The frontispiece, an Arabic text surrounded by flowers, was designed and drawn by the Algerian miniature painter Mohammed Racim (1896–1975), founder of the Algerian school of miniature painting that still exists. The included poems are: *La demeure harmonieuse; Dans la maison moresque; Palais d’Islam; Le voyage en faïence; Le cyprès; Alger-aux-barbares;* and *La mort d’Alger.*

The work opens with a half-title printed in blue, followed by a blank leaf, a leaf with the privilege, another half-title, three frontispieces, the title-page, and a dedication, followed by the prologue and the seven poems. It closes with a colophon, mentioning the different copies of the book. Below the colophon is the print number: “Exemplaire no. 4. Imprimé pour le docteur Pierre Astruc”.

With a presentation inscription to Pierre Astruc: “à Pierre Astruc, avec toute l’affection de ton ami dévoué, Maurice Heine”. In very good condition.

C. Tailliart, *L’Algérie dans la littérature française* 123; WorldCat (3 copies).

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**The Sultan’s Mosque**

111. **HERZ, Max / Lajnat Hifz al-Athar al-`Arabiyyah.** La mosquée du Sultan Hassan au Caire.

Cairo, Imprimerie de l’Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale, 1899. 2º (422 × 522 mm). With 20 tables (3 double-sided, 1 coloured) and 9 illustrations within the text. Leaves and plates stored loosely in original decorated dark green cloth portfolio. € 8500

First edition of this fundamental work on the Sultan Hassan mosque in Cairo, built in 1356/59 during the Mamluk era. One of the largest mosques in the world, it is famous not only for its sheer size, but also for its monumental portal, itself a work of art.

Herz (1856–1919), born a Hungarian in Arad County and trained as an architect in Budapest and Vienna, joined the Technical Office of the Egyptian Ministry of Culture in 1882. In 188 he was made head architect of the Cairo “Comité de conservation des monuments de l’art arabe” and head conservator of Arabic monuments at the Egyptian ministry for religious foundations (waqf). His hopes that the publication of the monograph would lead to a commission for restoring the mosque were not to be fulfilled.

Occasional minor edge flaws, but well preserved. Rare: a single copy on the market since 1975.

OCLC 7658886.
1472 incunable of an encyclopedia of the world, containing references to Arabia, Syria, Palestine, and the Saracens

112. HONORIUS OF AUTUN. De imagine mundi. [Nuremberg, Anton Koberger, 1472]. 2º (310 × 220 mm). Rubricated in red throughout and about half of the spaces left for initials filled in red by hand. 19th century red sheepskin, marbled sides. € 45 000

First edition of Honorius Augustodunensis’s (1080–1154) popular Imago mundi, an encyclopaedia of popular cosmology and geography combined with a chronicle of world history. He takes the river Nile as the boundary between Africa and Asia and calles the whole latter continent “India”. This places Arabia, found in the subsection on Mesopotamia, under “India”. Mesopotamia, found along the Tigris and the Euphrates, also includes the Kingdom of Sheba, home of the Queen of Sheba, and is inhabited by the Moabites, Syrians, Saracens and others. After Mesopotamia we find Syria, including Phoenicia, which is followed by sections on Palestine and Egypt. Augustodunensis’s “Imago mundi” exemplified the picture of Africa and the Orient prevalent in the West ca. 1100 as lands full of marvels. It is one of the five earliest books printed by the great and prolific Nuremberg printer Anton Koberger.

With bookplate on pastedown and some early manuscript annotations in the margins. Lacking the second of the two last blank leaves. With a few wormholes, a couple of leaves attached to stubs, but otherwise in very good condition. Binding slightly rubbed.


Jewish immigration displacing the Arab population


London, His Majesty’s Stationery Office, 1930. Large 8º (245 × 155 mm). 2 vols., comprising text volume and appendix of maps: 5 folding maps, all but one colour-printed, folding graph at end of text volume. Original blue-green wrappers.

€ 15 000

Complete with the very rare appendix of maps. In reaction to the 1929 violent unrest in Palestine, the British government in 1930 sent the Shaw Commission (“Palestine. Statement with regard to British policy”, Cmd. 3582) to report on the situation in the Mandate. This concluded that Jewish immigration pressurized and displaced the Arab population, and rejected the view that the Jewish National Home was the principal feature of the Mandate. The Shaw Commission recommended an investigation into Palestine’s economic absorptive capacity of Jewish immigration, and the present publication, Sir John Hope Simpson’s report, concluded that the increasing number of Jewish land purchases was leading to a growing population of landless Arabs. Hope Simpson’s recommendations of reduced Jewish immigration and restrictions on land transfers were adopted by the Passfield White Paper (“Palestine. Statement of policy by His Majesty’s Government in the United Kingdom”, Cmd. 3692) that same year.

Maps 1 and 6 with very small holes at some creasefolds and a few very short marginal tears and nicks, maps and accompanying text in appendix with light dog-earing. Map 3 apparently never issued. Wrappers to text volume faintly creased, appendix unevenly faded and extremities lightly rubbed. Extremely rare.

1612 Introduction to Kabbala, in Hebrew


First edition of a standard introduction to Kabbala, by the Prague rabbi, Shabbethai Sheftel Horowitz (1565–1619). Although the author was in Prague, the book was printed and published in Hanau. It is an impressive piece of book production, 15 years before Menasseh ben Israël set up the first Jewish printing office in Amsterdam.

With an eye-like owner’s stamp on the title-page. Slightly browned, with an occasional spot, some stains at the head, and an occasional marginal tear, but otherwise in good condition.

Binding worn along the extremities, hinges cracked, front hinge restored with black tape, spine loose. Internally in very good condition, only slightly browned.

115. 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 laatste Engelsche uitgave van Horsburgh’s Directory, ...

Amsterdam, C.F. Stemler (back of half-title: printed by H.F. Bakels), 1853. 2º. Contemporary half calf, gold-tooled spine.

Rare second edition of the Dutch translation, based on the English edition of 1852, 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. The work was compiled chiefly from recent journals of ships employed by the British East India Company, by James Horsburgh (1762–1836), hydrographer and chart maker to the Company. The present work was translated and expanded by the engineer Gerrit Kuijper and merchant D. Boes Lutjens. It opens with a preface, a table of contents, and an introduction on navigation, covering the winds, storms, weather at sea, sea currents, using a compass, and more. The rest of the text contains sailing routes to different parts of the world, mostly the East Indies (India, Southeast Asia and Indonesia), but also covering the African coasts, China, Japan, Australia, and Brazil.

Binding worn along the extremities, hinges cracked, front hinge restored with black tape, spine loose. Internally in very good condition, only slightly browned.

116. HORSBURGH, James. The India directory, or, directions for sailing to and from the East Indies, China, Australia, and the interjacent ports of Africa and South America ... Seventh edition.

Rare revised and expanded penultimate 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, Abu Dhabi (“Abothubbee”) and Bahrain, not only covering navigational details, but also the inhabitants, pearl fishery, geography, commerce etc., and shorter entries on islands such Sir Bani Yas, Zirku etc. For this edition expanded from the “extensive surveys along the N.E. coasts of Africa and Arabia, and into the Gulf of Cutch, compiled from the meritorious labours of Captain Haines, Carless, and Sanders, Commander Campbell, Lieutenant Grieve, and other officers of the East-India Company’s Marine service” (preface).

It was compiled chiefly from recent journals of ships employed by the East India Company, by James Horsburgh (1762–1836) hydrographer and chart maker to the Company. Some brownd corners in the opening leaves and some tiny waterstains in the head margin of volume two, otherwise in very good condition. Bindings rubbed and rebacked.

WorldCat (3 copies); cf. Cat. NHSM, p. 73 (fifth ed.); Sabin 33047 (fifth ed.); for the author: Cook, “Horsburgh, James (1762–1836)”, in: ODNB (online ed.).

Ancient Hebrew & other Middle Eastern, Greek, Roman and Arabic numbers, coins, weights and measures

117. HOST, Matthäus. Historiae rei nummariae veteris scriptores aliquot insigniores ...

Including:
- HOST, Matthäus. Tres libros de veteribus mensuris ... 
- HOST, Matthäus. Quaedam opuscula variae ... 
- [SARDI, Alessandro] (misattributed to John Selden). Liber de nummis ... 
- LABBE, Philippe. Bibliotheca nummaria ... 
- BUDÉ, Guillaume. De asse et partibus ejus libri quinque. 

Leiden, Pieter van der Aa, 1695 (colophon at the end of Host’s works: Jena, Johann Zacharias Niisius, 1692). 15 works in 5 volumes, paginated as 3 and bound as 2. 4º. With 2 engraved portraits (vol. I) and 3 folding tables. Contemporary or near contemporary vellum. € 4500

A collection of works devoted primarily to the ancient Hebrew, Greek, Roman and Arabic number systems, numismatics and mensuration, more than half (nominally 3 volumes) comprising the collected works of Matthäus Host (1509–187), numismatist and professor of Greek philology in Frankfurt an der Oder. After these follow works by Alessandro Sardi (1520–1588) (misattributed to John Selden), Philippe Labbe (1607–1667) and Guillaume Budé (1468–1540). Host published his most important works on the Hebrew and other Middle Eastern, Greek, Roman and Arabic number systems (plus “astronomical” numbers probably taken from Agrippa and Noviomagus), coins and related subjects in the years 1578 to 1582. Budé’s De asse is generally regarded as the best Renaissance attempt to determine the values of ancient coins relative to each other and to contemporary money.

With bookplates. Lacking a divisional title. With some browning and foxing throughout, a small tear into the text of 1 leaf and in the margin of the first folding table. Otherwise in good condition. The binding of the first volume is somewhat dirty and each has one or two of the vellum tapes broken at the hinge, but they are still in good condition.

STCN (6 copies, incl. 2 incompl.); cf. Smith, Rara arithmetica, pp. 372–375; for Host: ADB XIII, p. 197.

Garden Cities

118. HOWARD, Ebenezer. To-Morrow: A Peaceful Path to Real Reform.

London, Swan Sonnenschein & Co., Ltd., 1898. 8º. With 7 chromolithographic plates, of which one folding. Publisher’s red cloth, upper cover lettered in black. Housed in black cloth solander box. € 18 000
First edition, first issue: a very rare and influential landmark work re-issued in 1902 under the title “Garden Cities of To-Morrow”, outlining the concept of the Garden City. Howard, a British nonconformist who in the United States had come under the influence of Emerson and Whitman, aimed to realise the ideas of Edward Bellamy’s utopia “Looking Backward”, building “by private enterprise pervaded by public spirit an entirely new town, industrial, residential and agricultural”. This was the idea upon which he enlarged in the book published in 1898 and which he carried forward nine months later by the formation of a Garden City Association (PMM). The Garden City addressed the over-population of urban centres caused by the industrial revolution, promising inhabitants all the amenities of urban environments with the benefits of rural life. It was first actualized in 1909 with the creation of the Letchworth Garden City and again in 1919 in Welwyn. The seven chromolithographic plates include a depiction of the famous “Three Magnets” diagram, illustrating Howard’s utopian view that the Town and Country magnets “must be made one”. Binding carefully refurbished with colouring to head and tail of spine, spine somewhat faded. Light spotting to first few leaves; 1928 newspaper obituary of Howard tipped onto front free endpaper. Provenance: from the library of the British socialist Archibald Gorrie (1885–1941) with his handwritten ownership on the title page. Gorrie was a founder-member of the Leicester Branch of the Socialist League, which he served as secretary.

PMM 387. Not in Stammhammer (Social-Politik).

Arabic poetry

119. HUMBERT, Jean (ed.). Anthologie arabe, ou choix de poésies arabes inédites. Paris, Treuttel & Würtz, 1839. 8º. Contemporary dark green boards with giltstamped black spine label. Marbled endpapers. € 2800

Rare anthology of Arabic poetry with Arabic text and French translations printed on opposite pages as well as literal Latin translations and notes. Jean Humbert (1792–1851), a Geneva clergyman, learned Arabic in Paris under the auspices of Silvestre de Sacy and later pioneered the Arabic curriculum at the University of Geneva. Extremeties and hinges somewhat bumped; some browning throughout. A good copy.

GAL II, 479 (for the writings of Michel Sabbagh, pp. 291ff. in the Anthology). Cf. Fück 156 (for Humbert).

Advertising the independence of Hejaz from Ottoman rule

120. [HUSAYN IBN ‘ALI, King of Hejaz]. The King of Hedjaz and Arab Independence. With a Facsimile of the Proclamation of June 27, 1916. Together with the Proclamation issued at Baghdad by Lieut.-General Sir Stanley Maude, after the occupation of that city by the British Forces. London, Hayman, Christy & Lilly, Ltd., 1917. 8º. With portrait frontispiece and folding Arabic facsimile. Original printed wrappers. € 1500

Rare British pamphlet advertising the independence of Hejaz from Ottoman rule, following the Arab Revolt in which T. E. Lawrence had played so vital a role. Husayn strove for acknowledgement as “King of Arabia”, though the powers would recognize him only as King of Hejaz. In 1924 Abd al-Aziz ibn Saud conquered Hejaz and proclaimed the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia six years later. A clean, unmarked copy. Rare, the last copy at auction sold in 1999 (Sotheby’s, Oct 14, 1999, lot 439, £800).

OCLC 39495580.
**Arabic syntax: first edition**

121. IBN AL-HAJIB. Kafiyah.  
[Arabic: first edition]. [Rome, Typographia Medicea, 1592]. 4º. Printed in red and black throughout. Contemp. yellow boards with restored calf spine. € 35 000  
First edition. "Editio princeps of this popular short syntax of the Arabic language, written in the 13th century. Two centuries later an Oriental printed edition was published in Istanbul (1786), but in the meantime this edition, printed in Arabic (30 point) throughout, could well have passed for a manuscript [...] To some copies a Latin title page was added bearing the legend: 'Grammatica Arabica dicta Caphia auctore filio Alhagiabi'" (Smitskamp). Composed by the Arabian grammarian Uthman Ibn Umar, known as Ibn al-Hajib (1175–1249), and printed at the Medicean Press, founded in 1584 by Cardinal Ferdinando I de’ Medici and directed by Giambattista Raimondi (1536–1614), an able scholar of Arabic. Some edge faults (professionally repaired), old repairs to title page, with slight loss to letterpress. A wide-margined copy, generously printed in 13 lines per page. An exceptionally appealing typographical achievement.  

**First Arabic edition of an important eyewitness account of the life of Tamerlane**

122. IBN ARABSHAH, Ahmad ibn Muhammad. [Kitab ‘Aja’ib al-maqdur fi aghbar Timur] | ... Vitae & rerum gestarum Timuri, qui vulgo Tamerlanes dicitur, historia.  
Leiden, Bonaventura & Abraham Elsevier, 1636. 4º. With half-title printed in dark blue and red, title-page printed in red and black with a woodcut architectural border containing the letterpress title and (in a heart-shaped cartouche) imprint, and leaf *3 printed in red, dark blue and black. Later stiff paper wrappers. € 25 000  
First Arabic edition of an important eyewitness account of the life of Tamerlane (Timur), the successful and barbaric 14th-century Turkish conqueror, printed entirely in Arabic except for the Arabic and Latin title-page. “An interesting feature of the book is the use of blue ink for the printing of the word ‘Tamerlanis’ (between two red lines) on the half-title, as well as for one typographical ornament on leaf 3 recto” (Smitskamp). The text is based on the original Arabic manuscript, completed in 1437–1438, by the Syrian author Ahmad ibn Arabshah, secretary of Sultan Ahmad of Baghdad. In the 16th century Timur became famous in Europe through Christopher Marlowe’s play Tamburlaine (1590). The present work was edited and prefaced by Jacob Golius. The Arabic manuscript used by him is still preserved at Leiden University Library and contains many notes in his hand. With an unidentified library stamp on title-page. Some leaves heavily foxed and a few small spots, but otherwise a good copy.  
De Nave 90; Smitskamp 315; STCN (8 copies); Willems 434; not in Atabey; Blackmer.

**First substantial English translation of Ibn Batuta’s travels through the Islamic world and beyond**

123. IBN BATUTA and Samuel LEE (EDITOR). The travels of Ibn Batuta; translated from the abridged Arabic manuscript copies, preserved in the public library of Cambridge. With notes, illustrative of the history, geography, botany, antiquities, &c. occurring throughout the work.  
London, printed for the Oriental Translation Committee (colophon: by J.L. Cox). Large 4º (32 × 26). With various passages including the original Arabic text. Later half calf. € 1 7500
First edition of the first substantial English translation of the travel account of Abu Abdullah Mohammed ibn Batuta (1304–1368/69), known in the West as the Arabian Marco Polo, with extensive footnotes. “While on a pilgrimage to Mecca he 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 journeys included trips to North Africa, the Horn of Africa, West Africa and Eastern Europe in the West, and to the Middle East, South Asia, Central Asia, Southeast Asia and China.

The 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. He describes, for example, the city of Aden as follows: "From this place I went to the city of Aden, which is situated on the sea-shore. This is a large city, but without either seed, water, or tree. They have, however, reservoirs, in which they collect the rain-water for drinking. Some rich merchants reside here: and vessels from India occasionally arrive here. The inhabitants are modest and religious” (p. 55).

Endpapers, half-title and subscription leaf foxed, some spots on the title-page, otherwise a very good copy, only slightly trimmed leaving generous margins. Binding very good as well.

Howgego, to 1800, B47.

First publication of the poetical masterpiece “Maqsurah”


First and only edition of a poem by the famous Arab poet, lexicographer and philologist Ibn Duraid (837–933). It is the first publication of his poetical masterpiece Maqsurah, giving the text in Arabic, preceded by an introduction in Latin by Everard Scheidius (1742–1794), professor of oriental languages at Harderwijk. Scheidius published the text after a manuscript now in the collection of the Royal Academy of Arts & Sciences in Amsterdam.

The work is often quoted as being the second publication of the text (after Haitsma 1773 edition), based on an error in the year of publication (“1786”), which has been copied numerous times. Slightly browned, otherwise in very good condition.

Bibl. Marsdeniana, p. 156; Lambrecht 1221; STCN (4 copies); not in Schnurrer; cf. Witkam, inventory of the oriental manuscripts … Acad. 120.

The first publication of any part of Ibn Jubayr's rihla


First publication of any part of Ibn Jubayr’s rihla, both in the original Arabic and in a French translation, in an extract from the Journal asiatique. This extract from a manuscript in Leiden describes the great traveller’s visit to Sicily in 1184–1185. After returning home to Granada from the haji to Mecca, Ibn Jubayr visited Palermo, which only a century before had been captured from the Arabs. Ibn Hubayr describes a hybrid society of Christians and Muslims living peacefully together. However, Ibn Jubayr also contrasts the favourable situation of the Muslims—who had many mosques and Qur’an teachers, practiced as merchants and had their own judges—with the fact that they still depended on royal protection.

Endpapers and title-page foxed, but otherwise in very good condition.

Lambrecht 2849.
The great Arabic historiographer’s autobiography


First separate edition of this translation. The great Arab scholar Ibn Khaldun (1332–1406) distinguished himself as a historiographer; he is also claimed as a forerunner of the modern disciplines of sociology and demography. His autobiography, of which an abridgment is given here, is to be found at the end of his History of the Berbers. The Irish scholar William McGuckin de Slane (1801–78), a disciple of Silvestre de Sacy, served as Principal Interpreter of Arabic of the French Army and Professor of Arabic at the École de langues orientales in Paris.

From the famous library of the orientalist, diplomat and collector Charles Henri Auguste Schefer de Carlwaldt (1820–98) with his bookplate on the front pastedown. Some foxing throughout; numerous annotations in red ballpoint by a later scholar. Rare; no copy in America.


First edition of an abridgement of Ibn Sina’s masterpiece

127. IBN SINA. Flores Avicenne. (Colophon: Lyon, by Claude Davost for Barthélemy Trot, 1508). 8º. With several botanical woodcut initials. Contemporary goatskin, blind-tooled in a panel design. € 18 000

First edition of Michael de Capella’s abbreviation of the greatest work of the esteemed Islamic physician Ibn Sina (ca. 980–1037), known in Europe as Avicenna, his *Canon medicinae* (Canon of medicine, or in Arabic *Kitab al-Qanun fi al-tibb*), completed around 1024. It is a comprehensive medical encyclopedia, mixing a thorough compilation of Greek and Islamic medical knowledge (including the work of Aristotle, Hippocrates, Galen and al-Majusi) with Avicenna’s own original contributions. It revolutionized European medicine long before it first appeared in print in 1472.

“The preface … refers to the importance in medicine of aphoristic works that can readily be committed to memory and to the example of Hippocratic writings. The task of abbreviation was undertaken with such enthusiasm that Avicenna’s chapter on the elements was compressed from about 550 words in the full Gerard of Cremona version into 53 in the *Flores*” (Siraisi).

With the bookplate of Karl and Thilde Wagner. Binding somewhat worn, especially at the spine. Some spots throughout, ink stains on title-page and a couple of minor stains in text; a good copy.

Adams A2598; Durling 421; USTC 145578; cf. N.G. Siraisi, Avicenna in Renaissance Italy (2014), p. 152.

16th-century collection of nine alchemical tracts, including one by Ibn Sina

128. IBN SINA, Raymond LULL and ARISTOTLE. De alchimia opuscula complura veterum philosophorum, quorum catalogum sequens pagella indicabit. (Dedication: Frankfurt, Cyriacus Jacob, 1550). Part 1 (of 2). Small 4º (19.5 × 15 cm). With a large woodcut illustration on title-page, hand coloured by an early hand, and Jacob’s woodcut printer’s device on the last otherwise blank page. 17th-century (?) limp sheepskin parchment. € 18 000

First edition of a collection of nine alchemical tracts, including *De tinctura metallorum* by Ibn Sina, known in Europe as Avicenna. Ibn Sina was one of the most significant thinkers and writers of the Islamic golden age and his bibliography comprises nearly 270 titles. “Ibn Sina studied the philosophical and scientific foundations of this subject
Alchemy and even undertook alchemical experiments. His conclusion regarding its validity, however, is negative” (DSB). It also includes two works by Raymond Lull, one of the most interesting scholars of the Middle Ages, one by Aristotle; and five anonymous ones. A second part was published in the same year containing only one work: the famous Rosarium philosophorum. It can be regarded as a separate publication and is not included here.

With contemporary manuscript annotations in the margins, underscoring throughout, an early owner’s inscription (struck through) and some other notes on the title-page. The annotations slightly shaved, somewhat browned throughout and waterstains in the first half of the book, but otherwise in good condition. Binding very good.


A commentary on Ibn Sina


Venice, Paolo and Antonio Meietti, 1575. 4º. With woodcut device on title-page. Contemporary limp vellum. € 7500

Rare first and only edition of a commentary on book I, fen I of Avicenna’s Canon, including the Latin version of the text by Andrea Alpago and Jacob Mantino. Like most of Oddi’s work it was published posthumously by his son Marco degli Oddi.

“Although in the body of his work much of the time he treated Avicenna with nominal respect, this was apt to be achieved through a procedure of deducing Avicenna’s ‘real’ opinion by consulting Galen. In addition, Oddo Oddi had a long-standing interest in the problem of securing a better Latin text of the Canon (he was on the academic committee that approved Alpago’s work and he encouraged Graziolo many years later); he based his exposition on Alpago’s text, which he claimed to be in general use, and rather frequently compared the latter’s renderings with those of Gerard of Cremona and Jakob Mantino.” (Siraisi).

Before practicing Medicine in Venice, Oddo degli Oddi (1478–1558) taught classics (Greek and Latin) at the University of Padua. Eventually he went back to Padua, where he taught Medicine. He was a committed supporter of Galen’s doctrines.

With owner’s inscription on fly-leaf dated 1586, two owner’s names on title-page (one struck trough) and some manuscript notes in the margins. Binding slightly wrinkled, but internally in very good condition.

Arcadian library 1558; Durling 3588; EDIT 16, 30880; USTC 845237 (4 copies outside Italy); cf. N.G. Siraisi, Avicenna in Renaissance Italy: The Canon and medical teaching in Italian universities after 1500 (1987), p. 193.

Rare Persian grammar by a 17th century Italian missionary

130. IGNATIUS A JESUS. Grammatica linguae persicae.

Rome, typis Sacrae Congregationis de Propaganda Fide, 1661. 4º. Modern contemporary-style ivory vellum, handwritten title on spine. € 8500

Extremely rare first edition of this valuable Persian grammar printed in Rome on the presses of the “Propaganda Fide”. The third work of this kind, preceded only by those of Louis de Dieu (Leiden 1639) and of Greaves (London 1649). Willems notes that G. B. Raimondi, as early as 1614, produced a grammar in Rome for the use of missionaries which remained virtually unknown in the west, but this existed only in manuscript. The grammars of Greaves and of the present author were both “largely based on De Dieu” (Smitskamp).

Ignazio di Gesù (Carlo Leonelli) was a 17th century Italian missionary. He “belonged to the Order of Discalced Carmelites, and preached the Gospel in Turkey, Asia Minor, Armenia, and Persia, where he stayed over a long period. He especially tried to convert to the Catholic faith the so-called sectarians of Saint John (in eastern Mendaï). He returned to Rome in 1650” (cf. Hoefer). An account of his travels was included in the collection of Thevenot. His present small work, though not the work of an orientalist nor indeed a scholar, is still a true grammar based on elements collected during the author’s journeys. Some light foxing and browning as common, slight abrasion on title (vignette very slightly affected), lacks final blank leaf. Old library shelfmark in ink to title. A very good copy.

**The Hammer of Witches**

131. **INSTITORIS, Heinrich.** Malleus maleficarum.  
(Nuremberg, Friedrich Peypus), 1519. 4º. With fine woodcut title border. Modern vellum with giltstamped red spine label. € 12 000

Fourth Nuremberg edition of the notorious “Hammer of Witches”. The fine title borders shows St Peter and St Barbara. Some traces of moisture throughout, with more substantial damage to final leaf (some loss to last two lines of text; rebacked). Last leaf but one remargined, as are the title and second leaf. Bookplate of J. B. Holzinger; ownerships of Baron Per Hierta, Främmestad (dated 1904) and the Tegernsee monastery (17th c.).


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**“Ode to the Persian Gulf”**

132. **IRWIN, Eyles.** A Series of Adventures in the Course of a Voyage up the Red-Sea, on the Coasts of Arabia and Egypt [...]  
London, J. Dodsley, 1780. 4º. With 3 folding maps and 3 plates. Contemporary full calf, spine elaborately gilt, leading edges gilt, red morocco label. € 12 500

Second edition (the earliest mentioned). Irwin relates the series of misadventures which occurred on his journey back from India after his dismissal from the East India Company. Following the near wreck of his ship he was taken prisoner by Arabs who took him to the Nile, whence he travelled to Cairo on his release. The author recounts his imprisonment in Yanbu, Arabia, and further voyage to Jeddah, as well as his adventures in Egypt, his journeys through the Peloponnese and Balkans as well as Persia. He includes an “Ode to the Persian Gulf”, which extols the beauties of Bahrain. In 1802, Irwin was to produce a musical play, “The Bedouins, or Arabs of the Desert: a Comic Opera in Three Acts” (1802), which played in Dublin for three nights. The plates include views of the town of Mocha (al-Mukhah) on the shore of the Red Sea in Yemen, including its early mosques, and of the Straits of Bab al Mandab (“Babelmandel”). Also shown is a detailed view and chart of Yanbu, the port giving access to al Medina. Macclesfield bookplates to front pastedown and free endpaper. Plates somewhat toned and offset, otherwise an excellent copy, sumptuously bound.


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**Hand-annotated blueprint of the “Little Boy” atomic bomb**

No place, probably 1970s. 609 x 456 mm. € 5000

Morris Jeppson hand annotated blueprint of the “Little Boy” atomic bomb. Jeppson designates parts of the bomb and writes in part: “During the flight I removed 3 green electrical plugs and replaced them with red coded plugs. This allowed a detonation voltage to go from fusing to the explosive that fired the projectile of U235 into the target of U235 when the bomb reached about 1500 feet above Hiroshima.” – Signed “Morris Jeppson | Weapon Test Officer | Enola Gay Mission | HIROSHIMA – 6 Aug. 1945.” – Jeppson served as assistant weaponer on the Enola Gay, which dropped the first atomic bomb on the city of Hiroshima, Japan on August 6, 1945.

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First juvenile adaptation of the “Arabian Nights”

134. [JOHNSON, Richard; pseud.:] The Revd. Mr. COOPER. The Oriental Moralist or The Beauties of the Arabian Nights Entertainments. Translated from the original & accompanied with suitable reflections adapted to each story. London, for E. Newbery, [ca. 1790/1791]. 12º. With engraved title-page, frontispiece, and 5 plates. Original full calf (spine rebacked with gilt-stamped title). € 3500

The rare first juvenile adaptation of the "Arabian Nights", in lovely condition. The engraved frontispiece shows "Scheherazade relating her Tales to the Sultan". Most recorded copies lack the advertising leaf. Roscoe has six entries, but they all refer to the same edition. The only other edition of this version is a 1797 American piracy. Complete and in excellent condition. Binding shows minor wear, neatly rebacked with appropriate replacement endpapers in place. Provenance: Early ownership signature of "James Tomkinson" across the top of the title-page and front pastedown. Later in the Selbourne Library with small, discreet stamps.


Animal Fables


First edition. – A scholarly account, and partial German translation, of Ali Vasi Celebi’s “Humayunnama” – a Turkish translation of the Persian “Anvar-i suhayli” (Light of Canopus), completed before 1543, which is in itself an adaptation of “Kalila wa Dimna”, or the “Fables of Bidpai”, a collection of animal fables with didactic overtones designed to illustrate wise conduct. A fine copy, well-preserved throughout.


First complete Arabic publications of the Kalila wa Dimna and of Labid’s Mu‘allaqa

136. [KALILA WA DIMNA]. SILVESTRE DE SACY, Antoine-Isaac (editor). Calila et Dimna, ou fables de Bidpai, en arabe; précédées d’un mémoire sur l’origine de ce livre, et sur les diverses traductions qui en ont été faites dans l’Orient, et suivies de la Moallaka de Lébid, en arabe et en français; ... Paris, Imprimerie royale, 1816. 4º. Contemporary half calf. € 5000

First publication of a complete Arabic text of the Kalîla wa Dimna or Bidpai fables, written by Ibn al-Muqaffa (ca. 721–ca.757) and edited by the famous French orientalist Antoine Isaac Silvestre de Sacy (1758–1838). At its core a translation from the Sanskrit Panchatantra, Ibn al-Muqaffa added an introduction and several moralising sub stories, turning a collection of fables into “an indispensable store-house of political wisdom... But in the end it is unlikely that anyone ever learnt either politics or morals from this book; the supposed pedagogical content is little more than an ostensible justification for what to a Muslim reader would otherwise have seemed a trivial work of entertainment” (Blois). Following the fables, is the complete text of the Mu‘allaqa by Labid (ca. 516–ca. 661), one of the greatest pre-Islamic Arabic poems, also published for the first time. It contains notes in Arabic by Sacy and a French translation.
Silvestre De Sacy was the first professor of Arabic at the École spéciale des langues orientales vivantes in Paris on its establishment in 1795. He produced an 1810 Arabic grammar that finally replaced Erpenius's as the scholarly standard and several carefully edited editions of Arabic and other oriental manuscripts from the collections of the Bibliothèque Royale/Impériale. With minimal (contemporary?) underlining. Binding restored; a good copy.


**The first printing of any work by Katib Chelebi in any language**

137. **KATIB CHELEBI (HAJI KHALIFA/Mustafa IBN ABDALLAH)**. Cronología historică scritta in lingua Turca, Persiana, & Araba [...]. Venice, Andrea Poletti, 1697. 4º. With woodcut printer’s device on title.

With:

(2) **PIRHING, Ehrenreich, SJ**. Facilis, et succincta S.S. canonum doctrina [...]. Venice, Nicolo Pezzana, 1693. Title printed in red and black with two-coloured woodcut vignette. (And):

(3) **MORETTO, Bernardo**. Propugnacolo della cattolica, apostolica, e universale Santa Romana Chiesa alle false obiettioni de scismatici, & heretici [...]. Venice, Andrea Poletti, 1685. With engraved armorial vignette on title.

Contemp. blindstamped leather over wooden boards with 2 clasps. All edges red. € 12 500

First Italian edition of the “Taqwim al-Tawarikh”, an annalistic chronicle from the creation of Man to the year 1648, when it was composed by the famous Turkish polymath Katib Chelebi (1609–57). This is, at the same time, the first printing of any work of Katib Chelebi’s in any language; the chronicle was not published in the original mixture of Persian and Ottoman Turkish until 1733, by Müteferrika. Bound before this are two other rare Venetian works of the late 17th century, namely a single-volume reduction of the “Jus Canonicum” (1674) by the Bavarian Jesuit Pirhing (1606–79), and the second edition of an instructional dialogue between a Catholic and a heretic by the Venetian jeweller Moretto (first published in 1647).

Some brownstaining and waterstaining; a few edge and corner flaws. Last leaves rather wrinkled, lacking lower flyleaf.


**Chronicle of the Kilwa Sultanate**

138. **[KILWA SULTANATE]**. [Anonymous manuscript titled:] The Early History Of Kilwa.

No place, ca. 1870. 8º (ca. 205 × 130 mm). 44 pp. Stitched manuscript written in a legible hand on the recto of the leaves, without a front cover. € 8500

Historically important chronicle of the Kilwa Sultanate, from the third century to the year 908 AH (ca. 10th to 16th centuries AD), drawn from the chronicles collected by the nephew of Fakih Mufalih, a Kilwa dignitary. The chronology of rulers of the Kilwa Sultanate is reported in a chronicle translated into Portuguese in the 16th century, and recorded by the chronicler João de Barros. There is another surviving chronicle by an unknown author, written in the early 16th century, and compiled in 1862 by (or for) sheikh Moheddin (Majid) of Zanzibar. It seems likely that this present chronicle is an early English translation or at least based on the Zanzibar chronicle of 1862.

First page with some toning and a few small ink spots, but overall the manuscript is in very good condition.
139. KINALIZADE, Alaaddin Ali Çelebi. Ahlâk-i alâ’î. Bulaq (Cairo), Matbaa-i Bulak, 1248 AH (1833 AD). Contemporary full leather binding with fore-edge flap, coves blindstamped with borders and central medallions. € 3000

Editio princeps of this important ethical treatise. The 16th-century Anatolian jurist and philosophical author Ala’ al-Din ‘Ali Kinalizade “was a very industrious writer. He wrote glossaries and commentaries on a series of theological works. He became famous by his ethical work ‘Akhlak-i ‘Ala’i’ written in 972 (1564) for the Beylerbey of Syria, ‘Ali Pasha, the original manuscript of which is in the library of Raghib Pasha in Stambul (No. 966). This work [...] was printed in Shawwal 1248 (February 1833) at Bulak [...] and besides translated either in full or in parts” (Brill). Binding scuffed with traces of professional repairs; spine rebacked. Interior shows marked damp-and waterstains, but complete. Near-contemporary notes in Ottoman Turkish to flyleaf.


First edition, self-published by the author in Karlsruhe, with Ebner’s Stuttgart address pasted on the wrapper’s upper cover. All that was published of this splendid and rare work about the principal breeds of horses, issued in what must have been a very small press run by Kuntz (1797–1848), Painter to the Court of Karlsruhe, Baden, who is also known for drawing the full-blooded Arabian horses of the Royal Württemberg Stud, the first Arabian stud in Europe. For the present work Kuntz made extensive travels in Hungary, London and Paris to draw his exquisite portraits of Arabian, Persian, Egyptian, Nubian, English and many other thoroughbred horses from life.

Binding professionally repaired at the edges. Interior somewhat foxed and fingerstained. From the officers’ library of the Württembergian Uhlans (light cavalry) regiment no. 19.


The principal breeds of horses illustrated

141. [LA ROQUE, Jean de]. A voyage to Arabia the happy by the way of the Eastern ocean, and the streights of the Red-Sea. London, printed for G. Strahan and R. Williamson, 1726. 8º. With folding map and 3 plates. Later binding in contemporary panelled style mit red morocco label to gilt spine. € 4500

The rare first English edition of this conflation of reports from French expeditions to Arabia during the years 1708–13, first published in French in 1716. The Atabey copy sold at Sotheby’s in 2002 (lot 1473) commanded £2868. Occasional duststaining, but well-preserved altogether. Provenance: from the library of William Alfred Eddy (1896–1962) with his armorial bookplate (“Crux mihi grata quies” – The Cross is to me a welcome rest) on pastedown. The Sidon-born Eddy, fluent in Arabic and Arabic culture, variously served as US Marine Corps officer, Aramco consultant, US minister to Saudi Arabia.

From the library of Ibn Saud’s translator: Bill Eddy’s “Voyage to Arabia the Happy”
university professor of English Literature and college president, intelligence operative and one of the fathers of the CIA. His Ph.D. in English studies, written on “Gulliver’s Travels” (1922), would seem to befit a traveller so able in the art of reversing perspectives. At the historic meeting between King Abdulaziz al-Saud and President Roosevelt on board the USS Quincy in the Suez Canal on 14 February 1945, it was Eddy who served as interpreter for both the King and the president at Ibn Saud’s personal request.


Highly important author’s manuscript by “the Father of the Arabian horse in Spain”

142. LAIGLESLIA Y DARRAC, Francisco. Memoria sobre la cria caballar de España.


Highly important manuscript, being the author’s autograph copy – possibly for presentation to the dedicatee (the King of Spain). Darrac’s groundbreaking treatise on the admixture of Arabian bloodlines to the Spanish horse was subsequently accepted by the King and printed by Royal decree in the following year, 1831. "Laiglesia might well be called the father of the Arabian horse of Spain, because he was the first to advocate the importation of a large group of desert-bred stallions and mares as the only means of recuperating the lost qualities in Spain’s horses. In the same work he also articulated the first detailed plan for the creation of the Cria Caballar, the Stud Book Español, the National Stud” (Steen).

A horse expert with the Royal Army, Laiglesia’s treatise is wonderfully detailed and shows a thorough knowledge of Arabians and their bloodlines. His main thesis argues that with the introduction of as few as 20 of the best pure-bred Arabians, the entire country’s stock of horses can be ‘regenerated’ in a few generations. Laiglesia also addresses the problems of how to select the best pure-bred Arabians based on proportion, etc., as well as the difficulties in procuring them. He insists that they must be purchased ‘on-site’ in Arabia Felix and then brought to a station in Aleppo for inspection, en route to Spain. Interestingly, one measure for Laiglesia of the superiority of Arabians is their excellence in horse-races: he points out that all the greatest English champions (Flying Childers, High Flyer, Eclipse, etc.) have all been bred from Arabian stock.

The present author’s manuscript and its illustration in fact show significant differences compared to the printed book, which is itself extremely rare (just 3 copies worldwide, according to OCLC).

For the printed book, cf OCLC 66013770 (U Barcelona, British Library, U Penn); Palau 153186; Fairman Rogers Collection on the Horse, 453. Cf also Andrew K. Steen, El Caballo Arab en España, 1831 a 1934 (2007).

Notebook of a pupil of the orientalist Louis-Mathieu Langlès, learning the Persian language


Paris, 1799. 4° (23 × 18.5 cm). Manuscript on paper, also including a leaf with a letterpress table of the Latin and Arabic alphabet, entitled “Alphabetum Arabicum”. Contemporary plain paper wrappers. € 5000

Manuscript notebook of a student learning the Persian language, apparently one of the pupils of the French philologist and orientalist Louis-Mathieu Langlès (1763–1824) as indicated by the note on the wrapper. Most of the leaves contain either longer text passages or lists of cases or glossaries, with text in Latin and Persian script. Langlès had studied Arabic and Persian, and "played a leading part in the foundation of
the Ecole spéciale des langues orientales vivantes, an institution that was unusual in teaching spoken languages ...” (Irwin). He became the first head of the school after its foundation.

With pencil notes on the back of the paper wrappers. Slightly browned and with some occasional spots or ink blotches. Paper wrappers slightly soiled. Overall in good condition.


The Army surgeon of Napoleon’s campaign

144. Larrey, [Dominique-Jean]. Relation historique et chirurgicale de l’expédition de l’armée d’orient, en Égypte et en Syrie. Paris, Demonville & Soeurs, an x1 – 1803. Contemporary full calf with gilt cover borders and gilt spine (rebacked) with green labels; gilt inner dentelle and leading edges; marbled endpapers. All edges gilt. € 4500

First edition. – Baron Dominique-Jean Larrey (1766–1842), the “most famous army surgeon of the modern age” (Hirsch), introduced the revolutionary “ambulances volantes” (“flying field hospitals”), mobile medical units that attended to casualties as part of the immediate avant-garde. In 1798 he was assigned to Napoleon’s Egyptian expedition in the rank of chief medical officer. His present volume offers both an account of the military operations and the medical aspects of the campaign, documenting the wealth of his experience gained in the Middle Eastern theatre. He would expand on the present account in the monumental state-published “Description de l’Égypte” (1809). In a beautiful, contemporary French binding signed by Courteval (active from 1796 to 1836) on the marbled flyleaf (covers somewhat rubbed and chafed; spine and hinges professionally repaired). Old stamps of the Medical Society of Buda and Pest (Societas Medicorum Pestiensis et Budensis); old ownership “Hessel” to half-title. Ibrahim-Hilmy I, 358. Waller 5612. Wellcome III, 411. Hirsch III, 613. OCLC 422338032.

T. E. Lawrence’s anonymous account of the Arab Movement in the Great War


First edition, edited by Harry Pirie-Gordon as a souvenir album: an account of the 1917–19 campaign in the Middle East. Contains two reports written by T. E. Lawrence: “Sherifian Co-Operation in September” and “Story of the Arab Movement”, in which he details the Ashraf contribution to the War effort and narrates his own involvement in a third-person report. A near-flawless copy, beautifully bound in boards of polished olive wood with the Cross of Jerusalem engraved on the upper cover and the word “Jerusalem” calligraphically painted on the lower one. Includes a printed “Programme of the Passion-Week Ceremonies Which Will Be Held at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre” (April 12–20, 1919) with pencilled annotations. O’Brien Aut.
A Swiss jurist’s account of Algeria

146. LOCHER, Friedrich. Nach den Oasen von Laghuat. Bern, Haller, 1864. 8º. With a tinted lithographed frontispiece showing the palace of the khalif in Laghouat and a folding lithographed map of the northern part of Algeria. Contemporary red half cloth. € 800

Rare first and only edition of an account of a journey to Laghouat in the North of Algeria by the Swiss jurist Friedrich Locher (1820–1911). He was sent to Algeria in 1862 to liquidate an inheritance in the country and stayed in the area for three months. As expected from a Swiss jurist he gives a pretty formal account, describing the country and its people, architectural curiosities, etc., but he also includes less formal topics like the drinking of camel’s milk. Some spots, but otherwise in very good condition.

Kainbacher, p. 282; Playfair 2598; for Locher: Historisch-Biographisches Lexikon der Schweiz IV, p. 698.

Unique views of Cairo and Alexandria

147. LONGHI, Gioseffo. Gran Cairo. (And:) Alessandria. Bologna, Longhi, 1670 [and 1670s]. 945 × 620 mm, 1065 × 578 mm.

Engraved views, each on 2 sheets joined; letterpress text pasted below with publisher’s imprint. Both views matted, framed and glazed. € 48 000

Unrecorded in the standard bibliographies and without counterpart in western libraries: unique, large-scale views of Cairo and Alexandria. The Muslim influence may be discerned in the people’s clothing in the foreground as well as in both cities’ architecture. On the river Nile, the views depict numerous trade boats and sailors. The Italian (and, in the case of Cairo, Latin) letterpress text pasted under the engraving provides mostly historical and geographical information.

Under Ottoman rule since 1517 and having expanded south and west from its nucleus around the Citadel, Cairo in the latter half of the 17th century was second only to Constantinople, and the view reflects the economic and cultural effervescence of the second-largest city in the Empire. To the left are soldiers battling as part of a tournament; on the right are the Sphinx (wearing a necklace!) and the famous pyramids of Giza: those of Khufu, Khafre, and Menkaure, as well as the smaller pyramids. The centre of the city shows numerous mosques and gardens.

Formerly the most powerful city of the ancient world after Rome, Alexandria came under Ottoman rule in 1517 and subsequently lost much of its importance to the new port of Rashid (Rosette), 40 miles east, though it would regain some of its former prominence with the construction of the Mahmoudiyah Canal in 1807. Longhi’s engraving shows several mosques within the city; the ancient obelisks are crowned with crescents. The Nile flows through the city and underneath the walls; outside lies Pompey’s Pillar.

According to scholars, Gioseffo (Giuseppe) Longhi (1620–91) issued a series of views of Italian and foreign cities between 1654 and 1674. A publisher, bookseller and archiepiscopal printer, he was active in Bologna from 1650 to the time of his death.

Excellent specimens; some small marginal tears to the Cairo view repaired with slight marginal fraying to upper left.

Cf. Tooley, Mapmakers III, 150 (for Giuseppe Longhi); Schulz, Venice 70 (for Arrigoni/Bertarelli).
The Last Will and Testament of Louis XVI in Arabic


First Arabic edition. “Silvestre de Sacy translated the Last Will and Testament of Louis XVI into Arabic and had the translation printed together with the French original in 1820, in hopes that it might prove a comfort and encouragement to the Christians of the Orient, while giving Muslim readers a demonstration of Christian submission and evangelical meekness” (cf. Fück).

“Sacy never let his Christian convictions hamper his work as a scholar, for he saw religion as a personal matter. Although he revealed his faith at times, it was never to pose it as the strongest model against which to judge other religions. He was nevertheless very pious. There is no other way to explain his translation of the guillotined king, Louis XVI, into Arabic [...]. He apparently wished to show how devout, simple and charitable his beloved monarch had been” (Kamal as-Salibi, The Druze [London 2005], p. 20).

The orientalist de Sacy, a monumental figure in the development of oriental studies in France, began his career as professor of Arabic at the École des Langues Orientales Vivantes in 1796. In 1806 he was offered the chair of Persian at the College of France and in 1824 was appointed director of the school of oriental languages. He also acted as advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, translating political propaganda into Arabic, including the “Bulletins of the Grande Armée” (cf. Atabey 1134).

Occasional slight duststaining near margins, but a good, untrimmed and wide-margin copy, the central bifolium remaining uncut.

Fück 144 (note 577). Bibliothèque de Sacy III, 4781f. OCLC 25217438.

Travelling the Gulf after the sack of Ras al-Khaimah

149. LUMSDEN, Thomas. A Journey From Merut in India, to London, Through Arabia, Persia, Armenia, Georgia, Russia, Austria, Switzerland, and France, During the Years 1819 and 1820. London & Edinburgh, Black, 1822. 8º. With a folding hand-coloured map and a plate (view of Mount Ararat). Contemporary polished calf, spine gilt, rebacked retaining original spine. Marbled endpapers. € 18 000

First edition. – Rare travel report by the British lieutenant Thomas Lumsden, who journeyed from Meerut near Delhi down the Ganges to Calcutta, then onwards by boat to the Arabian Gulf and by land through Persia (Iran), the Caucasus, and southern Russia. A German translation appeared in the same year (and was republished in 1824). The author gives a detailed account of his voyage through the Gulf from Muskat to Bushire immediately after the British Navy’s controversial 1819 campaign against Ras al-Khaimah, and notes approvingly the Arabs’ kindness and hospitality toward their foreign guests (“which could hardly have been the case, had their detestation of Christians been in reality as great as the Koran tends to inspire”), as well as the entire absence of the cruel mistreatment of the sailors so common on European ships. Plate slightly browned; a fine copy.


A defence of Arab culture in Spain

150. LUNA, Miguel de. Histoire des deux conquestes d’Espagne par les Mores, la premiere faite par Tarif & Mussa, sur les Crestiens; la seconde, par Abdalasis, sur les Mores revoltez, et des revolutions arrivées dans l’empire des califes pendant près de cinquante ans. [...]

Paris, widow of François Muguet, 1708. 12º. Contemporary mottled calf, red edges. € 1500
First edition of the second French translation of a history of the conquest of Spain by the Moors, detailing events from 712 to 761 CE, a description of Spain during the same period, and a biography of Almanzor (ca. 938–1002), the Islamic ruler of the Iberian Peninsula at that time. “This was a false chronicle, halfway between a history and a novel of chivalry, supposedly translated from an Arabic manuscript by a (fictitious) historian called Tarif Abentarique that Luna had found in El Escorial” (García-Arenal & Mediano). In the account, first published in 1592, the Iberian Peninsula is saved by the Arab newcomers from a state of evil and corruption under the Visigoth rulers. Luna’s account is a defence of Arab culture in Spain, independently of the religion of Islam and particularly defending the Arabic language. “His writings attempt to reimagine the origins and history of Christianity in the Peninsula such that its inhabitants of Arab origin may be seen as “natural” or “native” ...; therefore they cannot be expelled as alien invaders ..., but rather, and above all, may aspire to honors and privileges” (García-Arenal & Mediano).

Miguel de Luna (ca. 1550–1615) was a Spanish physician of Arabic descent, who also published a treatise on bathing. Known for his knowledge of Arabic, he worked as a translator for King Philip II of Spain and the Spanish Inquisition.

With owner’s inscriptions on the back of the first fly-leaf and the title-page. Binding lightly worn at the extremities; with a few spots; a good copy. 


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**One of the first books printed in the Arab World**

**151. LUQMAN.** Fables de Loqman, surnommé Le Sage. Edition arabe, accompagnée d’une traduction française, et précédée d’une notice sur ce célèbre fabuliste. 

Cairo, Imprimerie Nationale, an VIII [1799]. Small 4º (20.5 × 14 cm). 19th-century half cloth. € 18 500

First edition of a collection of 37 of Luqman’s fables, printed in Arabic accompanied by a French translation by Jean-Joseph Marcel (1776–1854). The preface is followed by the 37 fables and closes with some pages of “notes et corrections”. Marcel had arrived in Cairo in October 1798 to set up the Imprimerie Nationale (though he appears to have issued a specimen of its Arabic type at Alexandria in the third quarter of that year), the first modern printing press in Egypt, which places this book among the earliest printed in the Middle East after some short-live Hebrew printing offices. “The expedition of Napoleon Bonaparte to Egypt from 1798 until 1801 was a prelude to modernity. It was to change permanently the traditional Arab world ... The French brought Arabic typography to Egypt, where it was practised under the supervision ... of Jean-Joseph Marcel. Only a few days after the French troops landed ... they set up the Imprimerie Orientale et Française there. It was an extraordinarily important turning point. For, leaving aside the Hebrew printing presses in Egypt of the 16th to the 18th centuries, until this date announcements and news addressed to Arabs there, as well as in other parts of the Arab-Islamic world, had been spread only in hand-writing or orally, bycriers, preachers or storytellers” (Glass & Roper).

Piece of the upper corner of pages 17–18 torn off, some small spots and stains. Binding only slightly rubbed along the extremities. Overall in good condition. 


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**Italian friar captured by Ottoman pirates**

**152. MAGGIO, Francesco Maria.** Vita, e morte del venerabil P. F. Alipio di S. Giuseppe Scalzo di S. Agostino Palermitano della congregazione d’Italia, in odio della confessione della S. Fede di Giesù Cristo, crudelissimamente ucciso da’ Turchi di Barberia, nella città di Tripoli, a 17 di febbraio l’anno 1645 ...

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

Rare first and only edition of the biography of the Augustinian friar Alipio de Luca di San Giuseppe (1617–1645) from Palermo, by Francesco Maria Maggio (1612–1686), an Italian missionary in the Middle East.
Ottoman pirates captured Alipio’s ship on 1 July 1643 and brought it to Tripoli. He converted to Islam, but repented and was martyred on 17 February 1645 when he told the Pasha (Mehmed Saqizli) that he wished to return to his Christian faith. The account continues after his death, telling about his beatification and declaration of sainthood. The plates show the martyrdom and the holy relics of the Saint. With owner’s inscription. One of the three plates slightly larger than the bookblock and folded in at the foot, otherwise in very good condition. Spine damaged.

ICCU UM1E\007052 (9 copies); Streit XVI, p. 525, no. 4002; WorldCat (6 copies); not in Atabey; Chabine.

**Recommending a rising star for the chair of Arabic at Algiers**

153. MARCEL, Jean-Joseph. [Autograph letter, signed, of recommendation for Louis Bresnier].

Paris, 9 September 1836. 2o (36 × 23 cm). Letter in brown ink on wove paper.

Signed autograph letter of recommendation by the Parisian nobleman, professor of oriental languages at the Collège Royale de France in Paris and director of Napoleon’s Imprimerie Imperiale from 1803 to 1815, Jean-Joseph Marcel (1776–1854), for his student Louis Bresnier (1814–1869), supporting his appointment to the chair of Arabic at the Collège in Algiers. The letter is dated 9 September 1836, the year that Silvestre de Sacy appointed Bresnier to that chair. France had taken Algiers from the Ottoman Empire in 1830 and established the chair in Arabic there in 1832. Bresnier held the chair to his death in 1869, and it was during his tenure that the Collège gained a high reputation for its Arabic scholarship. Marcel had accompanied Napoleon’s troops on their Egyptian campaign and laid the groundwork that helped Champollion decipher the Egyptian hieroglyphs of the Rosetta Stone, discovered during that campaign in 1799. He is perhaps best known for his 1805 *Oratio Dominica* in 150 languages, printed for Napoleon, who knighted him for his services.

Formerly folded into eighths and showing some discolouration and minor wear along the folds, but otherwise in very good condition. An original document of the beginnings of a great Arabist’s career.

**Important Latin translation of the lost Arabic original**

154. MAŠA‘ALLAH IBN ATARI / HELLER, Joachim. De elementis et orbibus coelestibus, liber antiquus ac eruditus Messahalae laudatissimi inter Arabes Astrologi.

Nuremberg, Johann vom Berg & Ulrich Neuber, 1549. 4º. With several woodcut astronomical diagrams in text. Modern marbled boards with morocco label to gilt spine. Marbled endpapers.

A collection of astrological writings in Latin translation first published in 1504 as “De scientia motus orbis”. The work provides a comprehensive account of the whole cosmos along Aristotelian lines. The 8th-century Persian Jewish astrologer and astronomer Maša‘allah ibn Atari “wrote on virtually every aspect of astrology [...] His brief and rather primitive ‘De scientia motus orbis’ [or ‘De elementis et orbibus coelestibus’] combines Peripatetic physics, Ptolemaic planetary theory, and astrology in such a way that, in conjunction with its use of the Syrian names of the months, one strongly suspects that it is based on the peculiar doctrines of Harran, to which al-Kindi and Abu Masar were also attracted [...] This important Latin translation by Gerard of Cremona of the lost Arabic original of this exposition was published by J. Stabius (Nuremberg, 1504) and by J. Heller (Nuremberg, 1549)” (DSB).

Bookplate of the Marques de Viana, Conde de Urbasa on front pastedown. In excellent condition.

**Embassy to Persia and adventurous travels in the East**

**155. MANDELSLO, Johann Albrecht von.** Morgenländische Reyse-Beschreibung. Hamburg, Christian Guth, 1658. 2º. With engraved frontispiece by Christian Rothgiesser, full-page engraved author's portrait, double-page engraved map, and 21 large engravings in text, mostly signed by Rothgiesser; woodcut initials and head- and tailpieces. Contemporary blind-ruled leather, remnants of ties. € 11 000

First complete German edition of this important and entertaining travel account by Johann Albrecht von Mandelslo, edited by Adam Olearius. Mandelslo was attached to the diplomatic mission of the Duke of Holstein-Gottorp to Moscow and Persia. The ambassadors remained in Persia, but Mandelslo travelled further. He sailed from Hormuz to Surat and proceeded through Gujarat to Agra, Lahore, Goa, Bijapur and Malaba, visiting Ceylon, Madagascar, the Cape of Good Hope, and St. Helena on his return voyage in 1639. Before his death five years later, he had entrusted his rough notes to Olearius, who subsequently published them with a third part containing descriptions of the Coromandel coast, Bengal, Siam, Sumatra, Java, Borneo, Bantam, the Philippines, Formosa (Tai-wan), China and Japan.

Small contemporary owner’s inscription. Some spotting and soiling; tears in lower margin of pp. 31 and 137. A very good copy of this important account of an embassy to Persia and further to the East.


**14th-century tales of travels in Turkey, the Middle East, Near East, India and the East Indies illustrated with about 60 woodblocks**

**156. MANDEVILLE, John.** The voyages & travels of Sir John Mandevile, Knight, ... to the Holy Land, and to Hierusalem: as also to the lands of the Great Caan, and of Prestor John: to Inde, and divers other countries: ... London, Richard Chiswell, Benjamin Walford, Matthew Wotton, George Conyers, 1696. 4º. With a woodcut ship on the title-page and about 60 woodcut illustrations in the text (mostly about 5.5 × 8 cm) plus about 10 repeats. Gold-tooled, red goatskin morocco by Robert Riviere in London (ca. 1875/80), one of England’s best binders. € 22 500

A rare 17th-century English edition, with about 60 different woodcut illustrations, of a classic and partly fictional 14th-century account of travels presented as voyages of Sir John Mandeville through Turkey, Egypt, Ethiopia, Syria, Persia, Arabia, India and the East Indies. It was originally written in French and is thought to have been compiled from various sources by Jehan d’Outremeuse (1338–1400) of Liege. It includes many well-known stories and illustrations of monstrous people and animals in exotic lands: a man with only one enormous foot that he can use as a parasol, a dog-headed man, a man with his face in his chest, a girl who turns into a dragon, griffins, nine-meter giants, ants that gather gold, diamonds that mate and give birth to baby diamonds and much more that spoke to the imagination. The book also includes genuine descriptions of the regions covered and gave many Europeans their first notions of the Near East, Middle East, India and East Indies. The part on Arabia includes an account of the birth of Muhammad.

With early owner’s inscription and bookplates, along with a loosely inserted signed autograph letter (ca. 1900). 8 leaves with their margins extended at the fore-edge and foot, the title-page and last page somewhat worn and dirty, but further in good condition, with a few minor defects. The spine is slightly faded but the binding is still very good.

Arber, Term catalogues II, p. 593, item 6; ESTC R217088 (5 copies); J. O. Halliwell (ed.), Voyage and travaile of Sir John Maundevile (1866), p. xvi (item 2, from the Grenville library); Wing M447 (same 5 copies); for the story in general: Cambridge History of English Literature (1976), pp. 78–87.

14th-century tales of travels in Turkey, the Middle East, Near East, India and the East Indies, including an account of the birth of Muhammad


London, J. Woodman, D. Lyon & C. Davis, 1725. 8°. Title-page printed in red and black. Contemporary calf with giltstamped cover fillets, rebacked to style with giltstamped red label, leading edges gilt. All edges sprinkled in red. € 7500

Rare, reliable 18th-century English edition of the classic (though partly fictional) 14th-century account presented as voyages of Sir John Mandeville through Turkey, Egypt, Ethiopia, Syria, Persia, Arabia, India and the East Indies, published from a 15th-century manuscript in the Cottonian Library (Ms Titus c. xvi). “This is the completest edition up to date” (Cox). The book also includes genuine descriptions of the regions covered and gave many Europeans their first notions of the Near East, Middle East, India and East Indies. The part on Arabia includes an account of the birth of the Muhammad (p. 169).

Occasional slight browning, but well-preserved. Provenance: Sold as a duplicate by the Bodleian Library (with the Radcliffe Infirmary’s armorial bookplate and cancellation stamp); later in the collection of H. C. Gleave (his bookplate).


Mediaeval poem on corals and gemstones, attributed to an Arab king

158. [MARBOD of Rennes]. EVAX, King of Arabia / Heinrich VON RANTZAU (ed.). De gemmis, scriptum Evacis regis Arabum.

Leipzig, Georg Deffner, 1585. 4°. With woodcut title vignette and 7 woodcuts in the text (one full-page). Modern calf using the remains of a 16th century binding with blindstamped rules and roll-tools. Edges red. € 4500

Rare 16th century edition of this poem on gemstones, ascribed to the legendary Evax, king of Arabia, and sometimes entered in bibliographies accordingly, though in fact written by Marbod, the bishop of Rennes, in the late 11th century. “Marbod’s work briefly describes 60 gemstones, which number includes several that are not now considered to be in that category, and gives for each their magical and medicinal virtues” (Sinkankas, p. 669). They include mythical stones, mineral species such as emeralds, onyx, magnets, carbuncles, hematite, asbestos, etc., with numerous varieties of quartz, stones coming from the body of an animal, and several other hard substances that are not really minerals at all, among which is coral, described as “a stone that lives in the ocean, forming branches like wicker” (E3v).

“One of the questions connected with this work is whether it is by Marbodus or by an Arab called Evax. It has arisen because the poem opens with an allusion to a person of that name. Lessing does not see why Evax should not have written a work on precious stones, or why Marbod should have said that his poem was extracted from Evax’s work, if it were not so. Reinesius thinks Marbodus made himself the interpreter of Evax” (Ferguson). Today, all scholars “agree that Marbod was the true author and Evax an invention” (Sinkankas). The present editor, the German humanist Henrik Rantzau (1526–98), was an associate of Tycho Brahe. At the end of the book he includes an illustrated genealogy of his own family. He “states that the poems of Marbod are here issued completely for the first time ‘as far as he knows’, although this is not the case” (ibid.).

Rather severely browned throughout; several 17th century underlinings and marginal annotations. Gutter repaired and completely rebound in the 20th century with modern endpapers but using old material for the covers.

**Famous hippiatric manual**

159. **MARKHAM, Gervase.** Markham’s Maister-Peece. London, William Wilson, 1651. 4º. With additional engr. title page (frontispiece), 4 full-page text woodcuts (2 folding) and several smaller woodcuts in the text, as well as 1 folding woodcut plate, latterly backed with cloth. Sumptuous mid-19th-century three quarter morocco binding with gilt spine. € 15 000

Extremely rare and early edition of this great English hippiatric manual, first published in 1615, by one of the earliest western owners of and dealers in Arabian horses. Gervase (Gervais, Jarvis) Markham, as well as his father Robert, a Nottinghamshire MP and Sheriff, was the owner of valuable horses, and “is said to have imported the first Arab. In a list of Sir Henry Sidney’s horses in 1589 ‘Pied Markham’ is entered as having been sold to the French ambassador, and Gervase sold an Arabian horse to James I for £500” (DNB).

Variously browned; occasional corner faults (no loss to text). From the library of Sir Robert Throckmorton, Bt. (1800–62), member of an eminent Anglo-Catholic noble family who sat in the House of Commons from 1831 to 1835 (his bookplate on front pastedown; a later bookplate is opposite on the flyleaf).


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**Bedouins in Egypt and Syria, with 25 plates in colour**


First edition of this early study of the Bedouins of Egypt and Syria, covering their manners, laws, civil and religious customs. Illustrated with 24 steel engraved plates by Charlin after F. Massart and finely watercoloured at the time. The notes by Dom Raphaël were most probably taken during the French occupation of Egypt. Raphaël Monachis (Rufa’il Zakhûr) was born in Egypt of Syriac ancestry and was a monk in the Greek community in Cairo. He was an Arab member of the French Institute of Egypte and the first interpreter of the Diwan from Cairo.

Rare complete copy, some corners slightly scuffed, spine faded, otherwise in good condition.

*Macro 1555. Gay 3587. OCLC 25988256.*

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**Views of Jeddah, Mocha, and Cairo**


Views include Jeddah, Mocha, Cairo, etc. This work is published without text. The plates are set on a stone coloured background. A couple of the plates are signed by William Measom. The suggested publication date is taken from an inscription on the original front pastedown (bound in), and is consistent with the dates of other works illustrated by Measom. Occasional mostly light foxing and soiling.

*OCLC 23070449.*
With the portrait of Abdullah ibn Saud in hand colour and the earliest map showing Riyadh


Paris, A. Bertrand, 1823. 2 text vols. in 8° and atlas in 2°. With 12 lithogr. plates (6 of them hand-coloured), including a folding hand-coloured plan and the folding, double-page map of the Nejd. Contemp. full calf with giltstamped spine labels (text) and original green cardboard portfolio with printed title label to cover (atlas); maps and plates loosely inserted within.

€ 25 000

First edition, the extremely rare coloured issue. Mengin’s history of Egypt from the end of the French expedition to Khedive Muhammad Ali’s dramatic reforms of Egyptian society and culture is mainly sought for its extensive appendix containing an early chronicle of the Wahhabis, with an account of the sack of Derrich. The folio-sized atlas contains the celebrated portrait of Abdullah ibn Saud, leader of the first Saudi state, who was executed by the Turks for sedition, and the famous, large map of the Nejd country with an inset of the environs of “El-Derreth” near Riyadh by E. F. Jombard. His commentary on the map is of particular note, being a synthesis of Arab and western knowledge, with many place names added for the first time. This “notice géographique” (vol. II, pp. 549–613) also includes a "nomenclature du pays de Nedjid", mentioning – among other places – Dubai and Qatar both in the original Arabic and in French transliteration.

Some waterstaining throughout, but confined to margins. The work is rarely found complete with both text volumes and the atlas as present; even the map has separately commanded several thousand pounds at auctions (cf. Sotheby’s London, 6 May 2010, lot 147). Copies in contemporary hand colour are highly uncommon.


163. MENINSKI A MESGNIEN, Franciszek. Lexicon Arabico-Persico-Turcicum adiecta ad singulas voces et phrases significatione latina.


€ 28 000

Second edition, produced in a total press run of 502 copies, of which only two were printed on large paper (cf. Graesse, Ebert and Wurzbach). The normal-paper copies measure a mere 36 cm, compared to the present copy, which stands 45 centimetres tall. As the first edition, published in 1680, had been rare from the start, most copies having perished in the Siege of Vienna, and plans for a new London edition had fallen through, a second edition was becoming increasingly desirable. With the financial support of Empress Maria Theresa, who granted an advance of 8000 fl., the monumental work was edited by the Austrian orientalist Bernhard Freiherr von Jenisch (1734–1807), who enlisted the aid of Franz von Klezl for the final three volumes; the printer Kurzböck had many of the types specially recast. The first volume also contains a bio-bibliography of Meninski, “De vita et scritis Meninski”.

Vols. II–IV contain only half-titles as issued. All volumes rubbed and bumped at extremeties; top edge of volume IV has and old brown inkstain. Altogether a fine, untrimmed copy on large paper with only marginal light browning on a few pages.

107 War Office map

164. [MESOPOTAMIA]. Lower Mesopotamia Between Baghdad and the Persian Gulf.

London, War Office, Geographical Section, General Staff (George Philip & Son, London Geographical Institute), [1917]. Lithographed map, 632 x 704 mm, printed in brown and blue. Cut into sections, mounted on cloth, folded. € 6500

1907 War Office map, with additions and corrections dated August 1916, covering south-eastern Iraq, south-western Iran, Kuwait, and the upper Gulf. Shows physical features, the Turco-Persian frontier, ethnic and tribal society, populated places, cultivated land, major ancient and modern roads, railways, waterways, and communication lines ("a telephone runs along the Anglo-Persian Oil Company’s pipe line"). Relief shown by gradient tints, contour, and spot heights. Includes geographic notes on selected locations, reference to Arabic words, and bibliographic sources of additional information.

One segment nearly detached; trimmed closely along lower edge. Ownership of the Rev. S. Strachen Rogers, C. F., on title label.

Geographical Section, General Staff, No. 2563.

An interesting and extensive account of 19th century life in the Middle East

165. MICHAUD, [Joseph Fr.] / POUJOLAT, [Baptistin].
Correspondance d’Orient, 1830–1831.
Paris, Ducollet, 1833–1835. 8°. 7 vols. With a large folding map. Contemporary green half calf with gilt cover fillets; spines titled in gilt. € 2500

Only edition. – The bulk of this work comprises the correspondence between Michaud (the author of “L’Histoire des croisades”) and Poujoulat, who travelled together to Jerusalem through Greece and Constantinople and then separately explored Syria and Egypt respectively. “The letters form an interesting and extensive account of life in those countries at the time” (Blackmer).

Some foxing throughout, as common; lower covers of two volumes slightly sunned, otherwise an appealing, uniformly bound set.


Enormous panoramic Middle Eastern view with ruins, nearly 6 metres long

166. [MIDDLE EAST]. [Mountainous landscape with Middle Eastern and classical Roman ruins, 6 shepherds with their flocks, several figures riding dromedaries and one riding a donkey, (date?) palms, lakes, etc.].

[Palestine?, ca. 1910?]. An enormous panoramic view drawn in coloured gouaches on a single, continuous roll of paper (70 x 583 cm), the drawing running to the edges of the paper. € 35 000

A panoramic view of what appears to be a fantasy Middle Eastern landscape, with spectacular mountains in the background, a body of water near each end, and a wide variety of buildings and ruins, some clearly classical Roman and others Middle Eastern. The combination of classical Roman architecture with dromedaries and other Middle Eastern features places it very likely in Palestine, but we
have not been able to identify specific buildings. The most distinctive ruin, a round Roman temple with five columns on the viewer’s side, an entablature above them and a vertical base below them, looks more like the Temple of the Vesta at Tivoli than like any known in the Middle East (the columns are not rendered in sufficient detail to determine their order, but they are almost certainly not Ionic and are probably Corinthian). There are also classical Roman aqueducts. The six shepherds with their flocks all wear broad-brimmed hats and have staffs, and two are blowing long, slightly curved horns. Several more figures with broad-brimmed hats and staffs might be pilgrims, one together with what is presumably his wife.

With a 33 cm tear into the left end, a few insignificant and much smaller tears and with pin holes about 1 cm from the edges from mounting on a wall, but otherwise in very good condition and with the colours fresh and bright. A spectacular panoramic view of the Middle East, including many classical Roman ruins.

18 orientalist dissertations

167. MILL, David. Dissertationes selectae, varia S. litterarum et antiquitatis orientalis capita, exponentes et illustrantes.

Leiden, Conrad & Georg Jacob Wishoff, 1743. 4º. With 6 folded engraved plates and a few engravings in the text. Contemp. full vellum with gilt spine title. All edges sprinkled in red.

Collection of 18 orientalist dissertations by the Königsberg-born theologian and linguist David Mill (1692–1756), longtime professor of oriental languages at Utrecht. Includes treatises on “Mohammedism before Mohammed” and on Arabic etymologies, a speech on Mohammed in old Hebrew manuscripts, as well as miscellaneous oriental studies.

Well preserved.


European anatomical illustration introduced to Persian medicine

168. MIRZA MOHAMMAD-VALI. [In Arabic script: cheragh haa rewshenaaa der asewl pezeshekea = Illumination of the fundamentals of medicine].


Very rare first (and only?) edition of an extensive Persian-language medical handbook by Mirza Mohammad-Vali, chief physician of the army under the fourth Qajar Shah, Nasar al-Din (reigned 1848–1896). It is a pioneering work of Iranian printing, which introduced European anatomical illustration to Persian physicians and helped to promote the study of European medicine, primarily in the army. While the book provides a broad introduction to medicine in general, its most remarkable feature is the collection of anatomical illustrations: 56 lithographed plates showing human skeletons and bones; muscles, tendons and ligaments; internal organs (male and female); and the respiratory, nervous and circulatory systems. They are based on European models such as Vesalius, Scarpa and Fabrici. Bound differently than the pagination suggests, with the first two series of page numbers combined to form a single subdivision. Slightly browned and with a small restoration in the decoration of the main title-page but still in good condition. A half dozen pages are slightly dirty and there is an occasional minor marginal defect. The binding is slightly worn and much of the decoration of the inlaid parchment is lost, but the binding remains structurally sound. A rare and remarkable Iranian lithographic medical work, with 56 anatomical plates.

For lithography in Iran: Encyclopaedia Iranica (under Lithography, apparently unaware of the present work). For the author: Hormoz Ebrahimnejad, Medicine, Public Health, and the Qâjâr State, p. 50, and ibid., Medicine in Iran ... 1800–1925, (2014), note 131 on p. 190.
**First complete edition of Cosmas’s Christiana topographia, describing his travels in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf**

169. **MONTFAUCON, Bernard de** (editor). Collectio nova patrum et scriptorum Graecorum, Eusebii Caesariensis, Athanasii, & Cosmae Aegyptii. Paris, Claudius Rigaud, 1707. 2 volumes. 2º. With 4 engraved plates, and 3 woodcut illustrations in the text. Each volume with an engraved headpiece, the first incorporating the coat of arms of Pope Clement xi, and the second that of Jean-Paul Bignon. Contemporary calf, richly gold-tooled spine and binding edges. € 25 000

First edition, second issue, of a monumental collection of Greek voyages, often overlooked in the literature, including the first complete edition of Cosmas of Alexandria’s celebrated Christiana topographia. Cosmas, a merchant from Alexandria, sailed in the Red Sea and the Arabian Gulf and visited Ethiopia ca. 530. Though he was known as “Indicopleustes”, or Indian Voyager, it is doubtful whether he actually visited India. In his Christiana topographia Cosmas aimed to show that the earth was flat and the cosmos shaped like a rectangular vaulted box.

Several of the engravings in the present volume, reproduced from a manuscript, illustrate this view. One shows the earth as a rectangle with three notches, one notch representing the Arabian Gulf, and the whole surrounded by an ocean, with in the east another rectangle representing Paradise, out of which four rivers flow into the inhabited world.

Slightly browned, with some occasional minor foxing or thumbing, and some faint stains, otherwise in very good condition. Binding also very good, only slightly rubbed and the spine of the second volume slightly damaged at the head.


**Printed in colour by Vienna’s Imperial Print Shop**


Very rare monograph about Henri Moser’s collection of oriental arms and armour. The present copy in German is no. 103 of a small press run of 125 German copies (total number of copies: 300). The outstanding plates, printed in colour by the Vienna Court Printing Office, show extraordinary pieces of Moser’s precious collection containing over 1300 weapons. The Swiss merchant and art patron Henri Moser (1844–1923) left Schaffhausen at the age of 23 and began travelling through Asia. During his expeditions he collected many pieces of art, weapons, armour, and hunting trophies. His remarkable collection was displayed at various museums throughout Europe.

Cloth portfolio splitting at hinges. A few insignificant edge flaws; some staining, mainly confined to the text fascicle, otherwise in excellent condition.

**One of the earliest editions of the Cosmographia**

171. **MÜNSTER, Sebastian**. Cosmographiae universalis lib. vii. (Basel, Heinrich Petri, September 1554). 2º. With woodcut printer’s device on the final leaf by Urs Graf, 14 double-page maps as well as 37 double-page views and approximately 900 woodcuts in the text. Modern vellum. € 50 000
A very early edition of Münster’s monumental work. The Cosmographia by Sebastian Münster (1488–1552), a German cartographer and cosmographer, was one of the most successful and popular books of the 16th century. It passed through 24 editions in 100 years, and was most important inreviving geography in 16th-century Europe, being the most valued of all cosmographies.

In very good condition, with some very slight overall discoloration; map of the Americas shows unobtrusive rust mark.


**Sixteenth century handwritten Arabic-Turkish dictionary**

172. MUSTAFA IBN SHAMS AL-DIN AL-QARAHISARI AL-AKHTARI.

Lughat-i Akhtari-yi Kabir. N. p., 976 AH [1568 AD]. Small 2o (25,5 x 16,5 cm). Arabic, Turkish and European paper, several hands, mostly naskh script, but also some nasta’liq. Black ink with rubrics, 23 lines to the page. Full-leather Oriental binding with flap, rebacked.

€ 4500

The “al-Akhtari” or “Lughat-i Akhtari-yi Kabir” is an Arabic-Turkish dictionary written in the 16th century by Mustafa b. Shams al-Din Qarahisari al-Akhtari (d. 968/1560). It is dated Wednesday, noon, 1 Ragab 976 (1568) and was copied in the city of Gallipoli (colophon on f. 405v with copyist prayer in Persian). Written at a time when the Ottoman Empire was at the zenith of its power, it contains more than 40,000 words and was in use in the Topkapi Palace. It was copied throughout the centuries and first saw print in Istanbul in 1826.

Some waterstaining to margins.

GAL S II, 650.

**A Railway From the Nile to the Red Sea**


Cairo, Imprim. des Chemins de Fer, 1891. Small 2o (218 x 340 mm). With 5 folding plans, one measuring more than two metres in length. Original stiff printed wrappers.

€ 3500

Extremely rare report on construction plans for a railway from Keneh (Qena) on the eastern shore of the Nile to Kosseir (al-Qosair) on the coast of the Red Sea. The project was never carried out. The five plans include: 1) “Ligne de Kéneh à Kosseir. Route du Nord [...]
Plan général et profil en long”, ca. 62 × 205 cm. 2) “Plan de la grande gorge de El Hammamat”, ca. 33 × 125 cm. 3) “Plan de la petit gorge de El-Sed”, ca. 33 × 77 cm. 4) “Plan de petit gorge de E-Rieh”, ca. 33 × 94 cm. 5) “Plan de ville de Kosseir”, ca. 59 × 90 cm.

Binding lightly wrinkled and duststained in places, but altogether very well preserved. Inscribed on the upper cover by Yacoub Artin Pasha (1842–1919), the Armenian-born historian and Egyptian Minister of Education, to Julius Franz (1831–1915, "Franz Pacha"), the German-born senior architect to the Egyptian Viceroy.


Important contribution to the study of the Middle East


First French edition of this account on Arabia, translated from the German Reisebeschreibung nach Arabien und anderen umliegenden Ländern, (1774 ) by F.L. Mourier. Title pages are dated 1776–80; colophons dated 1775–79. The famous account of the Royal Danish Expedition (1761–67) to the Middle East, Egypt, Persia and India, the first scientific expedition to this area. Niebuhr’s “work on Arabia was the first European attempt at a complete account of Arabia, its people and their way of life. He 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. The expedition, which lasted 6 years, was sponsored by the Danish king, and included the brilliant Swedish scientist, Peter Forsskal, who died while in Yemen” (Cat. Sotheby’s, 13 Oct 1998, lot 1010). Of the 5 scientists, Carsten Niebuhr (1733–1815) was the sole survivor, and his work represents an important contribution to the study of the Middle East.

Old stamps erased from title pages (leaving insignificant waterstain), otherwise a perfect set in immaculate original French bindings, of this account on Arabia with the first exact map of Yemen ever, remaining the standard for the next 200 years.


Statistics on the world’s oil production

175. [OIL]. IMPERIAL MINERAL RESOURCES BUREAU. The mineral industry of the British Empire and foreign countries. War period. Gypsum (1913–1919). With:

(2) Strontium minerals (1913–1919).
(3) Molybdenum (1913–1919).
(4) Silver (1913–1919).
(5) Graphite (1913–1919).

London, His Majesty’s stationery office, 1923. 6 works in 1 volume. Contemporary red cloth, paper title-label on spine. € 375

Compilation of publications on the worldwide resources of gypsum, strontium, molybdenum, silver and “petroleum and allied products” and its mining industry in the period 1913–1919. Written two decades
before the discovery of oil the Middle East, the last and longest publication describes an almost unrecognizable oil production. “It will be noted that the United States and Mexico together produced over 87 per cent. of the world’s output in 1921, …” (p. 13). Under the header “Arabia” follows one of the shortest descriptions, only stating that “Indications of oil are known on the Farsan Islands in the Red Sea, where drilling has been unsuccessful. On the Persian Gulf coast of Arabia indications of oil occur in the neighbourhood of Basra and near Koweit. A deposit of asphalt … is known on Bahrain Island” (p. 185).

With the spine slightly discoloured and the front hinge somewhat worn; a very good copy.

**Extensive article on the Middle East oil industry around 1948**

176. [OIL—MIDDLE EAST]. The Petroleum Times. [drop-title]: Review of Middle East oil. A comprehensive illustrated review of all aspects of current developments based on a recent extended tour by Dr. C.T. Barber, ...

London, Brettenhem house, June 1948. 30 × 23.5 cm. With many reproductions of photographs, ground plans, maps, and cross-sections. Later cardboard binder. € 1750

Extract from the periodical The Petroleum Times, containing an extensive article on oil in the Middle East. It opens with a list of Middle East oil companies and their concessions, accompanied by a map showing their oil fields, followed by a section on the future of Middle East oil. Individual chapters are devoted to the oil industry in Iran, Iraq, Bahrein, Saudi Arabia, Haifa (Israel) and Kuwait, describing the area’s geology, oil fields, reservoirs, and more, illustrated with photographs and cross-sections of the soil. The first 25 and last 16 pages consist of advertisements. Lacking the first 4 leaves of the preliminaries (probably advertisements), but the article itself complete, some leaves slightly creased, otherwise in very good condition.

**On the economy of Oman**

177. [OMAN]. Oman. A class analysis.

Eugene, OR, Organization of Arab Students in the U.S. and Canada and the Gulf Solidarity Committee, 1975. With a map of Oman. Original publisher’s wrapper. € 350

Reprint of a 1974-publication by the Gulf Committee in London, which was itself a translation of an Arabic original published in Beirut in 1973, on the economy of Oman. The Gulf Committee in London was set up in solidarity with the Dhofar Rebellion (1962–1976) and whose members included Fawaz Traboulsi, Fred Halliday and Helen Lackner.

Binding slightly soiled.

**An excellent copy of this standard work**

178. OPPENHEIM, Max von. Die Beduinen.

Leipzig, Harrassowitz, 1939–1968. 4º. 5 parts in 4 volumes. With frontispiece to vols. 1, 2 and 4, 32 plates with photograph reproductions, several folding tables and maps in texts, and a total of 6 folding maps, some in end-pocket. Uniform green cloth. € 4500
First edition of an elaborate work on Bedouin tribes in the Arabian Peninsula, written by the German orientalist and archeologist Max von Oppenheim (1860–1946) in collaboration with Erich Bräunlich and Werner Caskel. Von Oppenheim made various travels to the Middle East in the early 20th century, where he observed and analyzed the lives and cultures of various Bedouin tribes. The last two volumes were posthumously published and edited by Caskel, comprising the tribes in Iraq, Iran and north and middle Arabia. Most of the tables show family trees, and tribe members are shown on the plates, along with their names and the year the photo was taken. "Perhaps the most comprehensive work on the locations, genealogies, and interconnections of the Arab Bedouin" (Sweet). In very good condition, only very slightly browned.

**Rare travel account**


First edition of this rare travel account by the diplomat, archaeologist and orientalist Max Oppenheim (1860–1946), a work that made his name as an expert on the orient. With numerous, mainly photographic illustrations.

Bindings rubbed; wants the large general map. Some slight browning; one map in vol. 2 loose with frayed edges.

**Muslim metal objects**


A fine collection of Arabic, Persian, and Ottoman as well as Indian and Asian decorated metal objects, including bowls, basins, water pitchers, and tea pots. Several separate plates show details of the elaborate ornamentation. Some foxing; slight defects to portfolio flaps. Removed from the Vienna University of International Trade with their cancelled stamps on the portfolio.

**Propaganda poster for the unity of Arab peoples and the nationalization of oil**


[Cuba, 1972]. Poster (ca. 52.5 × 32.5 cm) printed in black and red, with an image of four armed Arabian horsemen, with Arabic text above and below, and with the title in Spanish, French and English at the foot of the poster, together with the logo of the OSPAAAL. € 1500
Rare propaganda poster of the OSPAAAL, the Organization of Solidarity with the People of Asia, Africa and Latin America, designed by Olivio Martinez. The poster depicts four Arabian (Bedouin?) men on horseback, holding guns and galloping towards the viewer, with the text “Unity of the Arab peoples–Nationalization of oil” in Arabic above and below the image. At the foot of the poster is the logo of the OSPAAAL, flanked by the same text, given English, Spanish and French. The OSPAAAL is a socialist Cuban political movement against imperialism and to defend human rights. The organization was founded in 1966 and was especially active in less developed countries. The posters were often stapled into copies of *Tricontinental*, the organization’s magazine. With only a small fold in the lower right corner, otherwise in very good condition.

*R. Frick, The tricontinental solidarity poster (2003).*

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**A year in the Gulf**

London, 1957. 8º. With 13 photo illustrations and a map. Original red publisher’s cloth with giltstamped spine title. Original dustjacket. € 1000

Second printing of the first edition. A documentary of a year spent by the author in the Arabian Gulf, discussing Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Buraimi Oasis, Qatar, Kuwait; hunting and falconry. Dedicated “to the honour and glory of His Excellency Sheikh Shakhbut bin Sultan Albufalah, Ruler of Abu Dhabi”.
Dustjacket slightly frayed, otherwise a good copy of this now-rare title, inscribed “Laurie Tinckler / Bahrain / July 1958” on flyleaf.

*Not in Macro, Bibliography of the Arabian Peninsula.*

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“For Official Use Only”: *An Early Estimate of the Arabian Gulf’s Oil Resources*

[London], Admiralty Naval Staff Intelligence Department, 1918. 8º. (8), 9–116 pp, with 5 folding color-printed maps as issued. Bound in publisher’s blue cloth.

First edition of this internal government document on the topic of Iraq, Iran, the Arabian Gulf, and “the mineral resources and probable industrial development of those countries”. Driven by skyrocketing demand for oil during the First World War, interest in the suspected oil-fields of Mesopotamia became a matter of British naval security during this period, thanks to the promised conversion of warships from coal to oil fuel. Published long before the first oil reserves were discovered in Iraq (1927), Bahrain (1932), Qatar (1933), Saudi Arabia and Kuwait (1938), the United Arab Emirates (1938), and Oman (1964), the present work lays out the state of geological knowledge of the oil-fields at the end of WWI and suggests directions for their exploitation, noting that although “the scattered localities around the shores of the Persian Gulf” are favorably situated for commercial purposes, “they appear to be the least hopeful of yielding oil in quantities of commercial importance” (p. 73). Instead, the authors suggests further exploration of southwest Persia and the “bituminous occurrences” in Kuwait and Bahrain. The folding plate depicting the “Distribution of Oil Springs and Bituminous Deposits of Mesopotamia and the Persian Gulf” neatly summarizes the most advanced information available in 1918.

As a broader discussion of the geology of the region, the work also includes, e.g., a hydrological study of the Persian Gulf from Shatt el-'Arab to the Gulf of Oman, and a discussion of the geology of Northeastern Arabia and Bahrain. The early, often fruitless activities of the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (incorporated 1909) are also noted.

A few ex-library markings to title-page, pastedown, and versos of folding plates. Very good.
The Jewish insurgency in Mandatory Palestine: “Only your reluctance to be killed for their faults will teach the Government that it is up to them to clear the position”


Palestine, 1946–1948. Oblong 2º (242 × 307 mm). 285 original photographs (27 loosely inserted, sizes 160 × 397 mm and smaller) mounted on 59 leaves, together with newspaper clippings, letters, orders, settlement search map, Christmas cards and sport programme. Blue half morocco. Together with two other albums containing 332 photographs, mostly relating to Poole’s family and his time in India, an official letter from the Lord Chamberlain informing him of his award of the cbe in 1949, and large-format loose portrait photograph. € 25 000

An exceptional album containing a wide range of large-format images compiled by the Commanding Officer of 3 Brigade of 1st Infantry Division during the end of British rule in Palestine. The events documented take place before the background of the growing insurgent activity of Jewish paramilitary groups such as the Irgun, Lehi, and Haganah and the bitter Jewish-Arab fighting foreshadowing the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, immediately prior to the expiration of the British Mandate and Israel’s Declaration of Independence.

The album begins in 1945/46 with a Rifle Meeting in Egypt before moving to Haifa and the establishment of Brigade Headquarters at the Le Carmel Hotel. Several important photographs show the illegal immigrant ships in Haifa docks, with press clippings of “Operation Agatha” and the King David Hotel bombing, and associated photographs and maps culled from G.H.Q. Middle East Land Forces Weekly Intelligence Briefings, showing Jewish settlement searches, arrests of insurgents, discoveries of arms caches and Atlit Detention Camp for suspect terrorists. Other operations to curtail Jewish attacks are shown, including those of “Igloo” and “Elephant”. With regard to the Arab population, there are some large-format images of the parade and “Presentation of the Ramad Gun to Nablus June 1947”, which appears to be a large public relations exercise, and the “Programme of Visit of HM King Abdulla of Transjordan to 3rd Infantry Brigade”, contrasting with photographs of the demolition of an “Arab’s sniper’s nest in Manshiya”. There are photographs of major military exercises in Transjordan, as well as a visit with the Commander-in-Chief across the Allenby Bridge, while Poole himself can be seen directing operations involving tanks and infantry on the Mediterranean sea front. An original propaganda leaflet by the Irgun Tsai Leumi warns British soldiers to “avoid getting mixed into the trouble with this country’s men” rather than “risk [their] life every day so that the Government may have 10 more years to make up its mind to clear out of Palestine” (“picked up in Nathanya Mar, 1947”). The lighter side of the British officer’s command, living under the frequently documented threat of death by mortars, bombings, and landmines, is reflected in a snapshot of Poole taking a dip in a lake (pasted above a “remarkable photograph” showing the burning King David Hotel) and the Monty-Pythonesque “Standing Orders” for the 3rd Brigade’s “Goldfish Squadron” (“Intimidation of the Goldfish by tapping the glass sides of the tank or by making faces or by violently disturbing the water is forbidden”).

Poole was born into a military family and served with the Kings Own Yorkshire Light Infantry from Sandhurst in 1923. During World War II, he commanded a battalion in Burma before commanding brigades in that theatre. After 1945, Poole was posted to Palestine and Egypt, where he set a record by commanding 3 Brigade of 1st Infantry Division for over five years until 1952. The following year he was appointed Aide-de-Camp to the Queen.

Occasional light browning and dampstaining; 2 leaves show cuts (affecting one photograph). A few marginal tears, one leaf detached and loose. Covers lightly stained, extremities somewhat rubbed. A unique and important survival.

The Venetian merchant’s practical handbook

185. PASI, Bartolomeo. Tariffa de i pesi, e misure corrispondenti dal Levante al Ponente: e da una terra, e luogo allaltro, quasi p[er] tutte le parti dil mondo: con la dichiarazione, e notificatione di tutte le robe: che si tragono di uno paese per laltro … Con la sua tavola copiosissima, e facilissima a trovare ogni cosa per ordine.

Venice, (colophon: Pietro di Nicollini da Sabbio), 1540. 8º. With the title in an architectural woodcut border. 17th-century limp sheepskin parchment. € 12 000

Third edition of a practical handbook for international merchants, giving information for the conversion of monetary units, weights and measures from countries in the Mediterranean and Near East. It covers not only units from cities in the Italian states but also from Constantinople, Aleppo, Tripoli, Damascus, Cyprus, Corfu, Rhodes and Crete. Venice was at this time the centre of European trade with the Near and Middle East and the present work is invaluable as
a record of the panoply of commodities traded in the Mediterranean at the beginning of the 16th century, including pearls, silks, wool, saffron, chestnuts, figs, galangal, vegetable oils, gold and silver. On leaves 3, 11, and 12, Pasi records the tariffs on pearls in Damascus, Aleppo, Cairo, Alexandria, Constantinople and Venice. With a few contemporary manuscript annotations. The preliminary matter foxed and the bookblock slightly trimmed, shaving some of the manuscript annotations, otherwise in very good condition.


108 engraved prints centred around the Great Turkish War, with 14 views of the Arabian Peninsula

186. PEETERS, Jacob and Johannes. [Drop-title of letterpress text:] Korte beschryvinghe, ende aenwysinghe der plaetsen in desen boeck, naar hunnen tegenwoordighen standt, pertinentlyck uyt-gehebeeldt, in Oostenryck.
[Antwerp], Jacob Peeters, [ca. 1685]. Small oblong 2º (17.5 × 29 cm). Collection of 108 engraved prints published by Jacob Peeters, starting with 9 engraved scenes of the siege of Vienna after Romeyn de Hooghe (numbered 1–10, but lacking plate 1), and followed by 99 engraved city views after drawings by Jacob Peeters, engraved by Lucas Vorsterman and Gaspar Bouttats. The city views are preceded by a 12 page letterpress text giving descriptions of the towns. Contemporary red paper-covered boards.

Interesting collection of engraved prints centred around the Great Turkish War (1667–1683), a series of conflicts between the Ottoman Empire and Europe. The collection can be divided into 2 general parts: the first with engraved scenes of the siege of Vienna after Romeyn de Hooghe, and the second with nearly a hundred views of the involved cities. This second part contains 5 separate series, with views of Lower Hungary, Crete and the Maltese Archipelago, the Dardanelles and the Aegean archipelago, the Strait of Gibraltar and North Africa, and the Arabian Peninsula. The series of 14 views of Arabia, includes Mecca, Jerusalem (2), Bethlehem, Kidron Valley, Mount Sinai, Antiochia, the Valley of Terebinthu, Hurcasdin near Aleppo, the springs of Marah, Ramma Valley, a valley near Jerusalem with the Mar Elias Monastery, and a view of Suez with the mountains of Arabia in the background. The collection was published by Jacob Peeters (1637–1695), and most of the engravings are made after drawings by his brother Johannes, or Jan, Peeters (1625–1677), best known for his drawings of city views engraved by Merian. Johannes Peeters was a pupil of their eldest brother Bonaventura Peeters, a well-known painter and draughtsman, and specialized in maritime scenes as well-shown in the present views, often depicting harbours with several ships.

The number of plates vary from copy to copy, but the present collection seems to lack at least 1 plate: the first of the scenes of the siege of Vienna. Some occasional foxing and minor stains. Binding rubbed and spine worn and cracked. Good copy.

187. **[PENTATEUCH]**. Hamisah humse Torah ... Nevi’im rishonim ... Nevi’im aharonim ... Sefer Ketuvim ...

Leiden, Franciscus II Raphelengius, [5]170 [= 1610]. 4 volumes bound as 1. 24° in 8s (11 × 6 cm). Set in sephardic meruba Hebrew types (unpointed), with the imprints in semi-cursive (rabbinical) but the place of publication in meruba. Gold-tooled motred calf (ca. 1720?). € 8500

A pocket-sized edition of the Hebrew Old Testament in four volumes, volume 1 containing the Pentateuch or Torah, volume 2 the early prophets (Joshua, Judges, Samuel, Kings), volume 3 the later major (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel) and minor prophets, and volume 4 the Psalms, Job, Song of songs, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes, Esther, Daniel, Ezra and Chronicles. It was produced by Franciscus II Raphelengius, grandson of Christoffel Plantin and son of one of Europe’s first great Hebrew scholars, Plantin’s son-in-law Franciscus I Raphelengius (1539–1597), who helped prepare Plantin’s magnificent 1572 Polyglot Bible, succeeded to the Leiden branch of Plantin’s printing office and became professor of Hebrew at Leiden University. Plantin himself had produced the Dutch Republic’s first Hebrew book there in 1585 and Raphelengius produced many more beginning in 1588. With occasional very minor foiling or faint discolouration but otherwise in very good condition. The spine and joints are worn, with superficial cracks, a repair at the head and a small tear at the foot, and the sewing is slightly loose. A charming little Hebrew Bible from the first Dutch printing office to produce Hebrew books.

*aleph.nli.org.il* 001366023 (4 copies); Darlow & Moule 5124; Fuks 25 (2 copies); Steinschneider 386; WorldCat (8 or 9 copies).

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188. **[PENTATEUCH]**. Hamisah humse Torah.

**Including:**
- Hamesh megillot [= Five scrolls].
- Haftarot [= Partings].


Extremely rare first issue (previously recorded in the literature only from an incomplete copy in private hands) of Shabbethai Bass’s important 1680 Amsterdam Torah (the first five books of the Bible) with the Five scrolls (Song of songs/Canticles, Ruth, Lamentations, Ecclesiastes and Esther) and Haftarot (selections from Prophets), the first edition to include Bass’s commentary on Rashi’s commentary. An extensive search for copies world-wide, including three in private hands, reveals only 2 complete copies of the present first issue and only 5 complete copies of the second issue (including one in private hands). The present copy is also printed on large paper and nearly untrimmed, leaving large margins, though no large-paper copy has been previously reported for either issue and some copies on smaller paper have also been severely cropped. The present edition was a landmark in advancing Jewish biblical scholarship and bringing it to a broader public among both academics and worshipers. It includes for the first time the detailed supercommentary on Rashi’s commentary, by the Polish Talmudic scholar and singer Shabbethai ben Joseph Bass (1641–1718).

With occasional slight browning or mostly minor foiling, a water stain in the gutter margin of one quire and occasional minor marginal defects, but otherwise in very good condition and only slightly trimmed. The binding has some professional restorations, a few stains and dirt, but the tooling remains fairly clear.

*Bibliography of the Hebrew book* 000182344 & 001242807; Fuks 545; STCN (2 compl. & 2 incompl. copies); KVK & WorldCat (3 compl. & 3 incompl. copies); Steinschneider 600; Zedner, p. 109.
The Portuguese in India

189. PEREYRA, Antonio Pinto. Historia no Tempo em que a Gouernovo Viso Rey Dom Luis de Ataíde. Coimbra, Nicolau Carvalho, 1616. Small 2º (198 × 275 mm). Title within ornamental border and with a large woodcut armorial device; tail-pieces and decorative initials. Contemp. blindstamped brown full sheep, spine elaborately gilt. All edges red. € 15 000

Very rare first edition of this early history of the Portuguese in India, including the Arabian Peninsula. Portuguese expansion into the Indian Ocean began in the early 16th century following Vasco da Gama’s explorations and led to numerous armed conflicts with the Ottoman Empire along the coast of the Arabian Gulf. Here, the Portuguese asserted their suzerainty for more than two centuries: only in 1750 did Nasir bin Murshid al-Yaribi, Imam of Oman, oust the Portuguese from Muscat, which Afonso de Albuquerque had conquered in 1507.

The book describes the history of the Portuguese viceroyalty in India during the age of the rule of Don Luís de Ataíde, Count of Atouguia (1517–81), the 10th Vice-Roy of India (in 1568–71 and 1578–80). It was the time of the height of Portuguese naval power and of the prosperity of its East-Indian Viceroyalty, especially of Goa, which became the capital of the Viceroyalty in 1610.

Several ink corrections in a contemporary hand. Minor repairs to spine; modern endpapers; altogether a very good copy. Only three copies found in Worldcat (Yale University, the University of Leiden, and the British Library).


With 48 original photographs of Iran

190. [PERSIAN GULF COMMAND]. BOGER, Waldron William. Scrapbook of Soldier’s WWII Service in the Persian Gulf Command. Tehran and other places, 1943–1946. 2º (312 × 324 mm). Green 1940s photo album. 38 pp. on 20 leaves. Includes 48 gelatin silver b/w photographs of mid-1940s Iran stored within two tipped-in envelopes. € 4500

Intriguing mixed-media scrapbook of W. W. Boger (1915–90), a WWII soldier stationed for the majority of his service with the Persian Gulf Command, Iran. The album was probably assembled by his wife, Louise, during and/or after the war. Unlike many similar war service albums with their training photos, personal documents, correspondence and memorabilia, this scrapbook is unique in that it boasts a remarkable collection of forty-eight original photographs of Iran during the end and immediate aftermath of the War. The snapshots and souvenir photos (some apparently removed from an earlier scrapbook) include the Shah and his wife, numerous specimens of architecture, street scenes and children, bazaars, executions (one of two body-less heads; the other notes on reverse: “A couple of thieves they just finished shooting”), a photo of a woman nursing an older child on the street (“Chow time”), etc. (most captioned on reverse, some not well legible). Also present are five mounted photos of the US hospital, base, etc.; a Dec. 1945 Time magazine cover story on the Shah; and a mimeo 27-page soldier’s guide to Iran. The typescript of an original, unpublished poem (very likely by Boger himself) describes the disillusionment of the U.S. servicemen in the land of a Thousand and One Nights: “[...] Toilets know no water, sewers there are none, / Streets, mud holes, and offal that stinks in the midday sun. / Body sores and blindness, limbs twisted, what a sight / To see these helpless people asleep, on sidewalks cold at night. / [...] The women and the donkeys share in all the labors, / While their lazy, useless men-folks go calling on the neighbors. / You walk around from morn to night and many sights you see, / But the funniest one you gaze upon is the men who squat to pee. / If toilets were built in the thousands, in this very a[n]cient land, / The natives would use them to sleep in, they still prefer the sand. / Graft and corruption, dysentery and smells / Are constantly beside you, no matter where one dwells [...]”. The Persian Gulf Command was a relatively small station; its establishment marked the beginning of formal modern
U.S. military involvement in the Middle East. The command was originally founded to assist both British and Russian forces in maintaining supply lines, but also – and perhaps more importantly – to secure oil fields from both Germany itself and Persian Axis sympathizers within Iran. It also served as host to several important U.S. military hospitals. Boger, a Montana native, was sent to Iran after completing his training as a medic at Fort Douglas, UT, and Fort Barkeley, TX. He was assigned to 256th Station Hospital in Ahwaz, the first U.S. Hospital in the Persian Gulf theatre. Additional scrapbook material includes censored letters, telegrams, and V-Mail home, copies of Boger’s orders and life insurance policy, uniform patches, newspaper clippings, currency from numerous countries, Iranian bottle labels, etc.

Two illustrated publications of the Persian Gulf Command

191. [PERSSIAN GULF COMMAND]. Persian Gulf Command. With: (2)... I served in the Persian Gulf Command. [Teheran, 1944–1945]. 2 volumes. Ad 1 with many reproductions of photographs; ad 2 with several illustrations in text, a song with musical notes and a folding poster in colour. Original decorated publisher’s paper wrappers. € 800

Two publications of the Persian Gulf Command, a relatively small station of the United States Army located in Iran, founded during the Second World War to assist both British and Russian forces in maintaining their supply lines, but also to secure oil fields from Germany itself and Persian Axis sympathizers within Iran.

Ad 1: Publication of the Persian Command which was gifted to soldiers as a memento of their service and the country. It mentions Major General Donald H. Connolly (1886–1969) as commander, in command between 1942 and 1944. It contains many photographs of sights, craftsmen, architecture and the American military bases in Iran, all with brief captions. Underneath each photo is the surname of the photographer.

Ad 2: Journal published after the Persian Gulf Command was inactivated, probably published in 1945 or slightly later, mentioning Donald Prentice Booth (1902–1993) as commander. The first page states “For the men and the families of the men who served in the Persian Gulf Command”. It contains an illustrated article on the Command, followed by some figures of delivered cargo to the U.S.S.R. over the years. It closes with the song “Men of the Persian Gulf Command” and a large folding commemorative poster in colour.

Ad 1: paper wrappers slightly rubbed along the spine, some edges slightly creased, otherwise in very good condition; ad 2: paper wrappers worn, bookblock detached from wrappers, also some creased leaves, otherwise in good condition.

Two very rare peace treaties between Russia and the Safavid Empire

192. PETER II, Tsar and Shah ASHRAF. Title in Russian followed on the same page by:] Tractat, zwiscben dem russischen Reich und dem Sultan Eschref, jetzigem Besitzer des persischen Thrones zu Isphahan. Von russischer Seite ertheilet. St. Petersburg, Imperial Academy of Sciences, 1729.


St. Petersburg, Imperial Academy of Sciences, 1732. Two treaties between Russia and the Safavid Empire in Russian and German in 2 parallel columns. Small folio (27.5 × 19.5 cm). Disbound. € 6500

Ad 1: Very rare first and only edition of the Treaty of Rasht, a peace treaty between the Russian Empire and the Persian Safavid Empire, concluded between the very young Tsar Peter II and Shah Ashraf, who would both die a year later. After the Russian Tsar Peter the Great died in 1725, Russia faced difficulties in retaining the newly conquered lands around the Caspian Sea. The Safavids wished to push the Russians back from all Persian territory, and after some minor battles, they agreed to a truce in 1727, which was signed at Rasht in 1729. “The treaty incorporated a number of provisions that seemed to resolve all the outstanding issues between Russia and Persia but, as a practical matter, it was never put into effect. By the time the pact was signed, Ashraf’s regime was already on the verge of being overthrown by Nadir Quli Khan. ... Having successfully disposed the Afghans (i.e. Ashraf), Nadir then turned his attention to the restoration of the Persian lands seized earlier by the Ottomans and the Russians’” (Sicker).
Ad 2: Second copy located of the first and only edition of a new peace treaty between the new rulers of the Russian and the Safavid Empire, concluded between Tsarina Anna and Shah Tahmasp II, just a few months before the latter was deposed by Nadir Quli Khan, the future Nader Shah.

Upon restoring both treaties, the title-pages were switched; both have their spines strengthened, some restorations to the fore-edge margins and some waterstains, but all text is present and clearly legible; fair copies of two very rare treaties.


The first photographic book to appear on the Nejd


Intriguing photo publication of both Iraq and Central Arabia during the Great War, brought out by St John Philby at the end of the year 1918, after he had served with the British administration in Baghdad from 1915 to 1917 and then travelled through the interior of the Arabian peninsula as head of a mission to Ibn Saud. Philby completed a great tour of the Nejd in nine months, covering some 4000 kilometres. “The first photographic book to appear on Najd” (Badr El-Hage, p. 95f.). The tour of the Nejd shows fascinating images of Jeddah, Nafudh, Sakha, Madhiq, Riyadh, Al-Hafar, Saqtah Gorge, the Shamsiyah Garden, etc., as well as Arab chiefs and a group portrait with the anonymous tourist Philby himself, surrounded by his Bedouin escort. “Although Philby was an amateur photographer, and the quality of his photographs fails at times to be up to standard, his achievements were remarkable, and his photographs documented many towns and villages for the first time” (ibid., p. 114).

Near-indecipherable ownership inscription, possibly that of the Sheikh of Muhammerah, Khaz’al bin Jabir bin Merdaw al-Ka’bi (1863–1936), to the verso of the rear free endpaper. A photograph of the Sheikh appears in Part II. A few small scuffs and stains, corners bumped. A good copy of this rare and important work usually encountered only in poor condition.


Scottish map of the Arabian peninsula mentioning Beni Yas

Edinburgh, Macredie Skelly & co., 1821. Map (27 × 45.5 cm) engraved by H. Cooper, hand coloured in outline, on unwatermarked wove paper (31 × 51.5 cm). With a calligraphic title at the foot left, with a scale bar below in British miles (ca. 1 : 9 250 000).

Engraved map of the Arabian peninsula, originally appearing in James Playfair’s very rare A new general atlas (1814) and here published separately. The maps displays the whole peninsula below Syria and Iraq and is particularly detailed along the coast.

In very good condition.

Not in Al Ankhary; Al Qasimi.
195. **PLINIUS SECUNDUS, Gaius.** *Opus divinum, cui titulus naturalis historiae, multoquant antehac unquam prodiit in lucem castigatius, una cum annotationibus Hermanolai barbari.*

Paris, (Nicolaus Sauetier) for Jean Petit, 1526. 2º. Title-page in red and black and separate title-page to index, both with woodcut border. Elaborately decorated calf, with image of the crucifixion on both panels. Blind-tooled spine.

Very rare Paris edition of Pliny’s *Historiae naturalis*, in the original Latin, the first edition with annotations by Hermolaus Barbarus (1454–1494). Pliny’s *Natural history* is one of the largest single works to have survived from the Roman Empire and purports to cover the entire field of ancient knowledge, based on the best authorities available at the time. It encompasses the fields of botany, zoology, astronomy, geology and mineralogy as well as the exploitation of those resources. It remains a standard work for the Roman period and the advances in technology and understanding of natural phenomena at the time. Pliny’s accounts of some technical advances are the only sources for those inventions. Hermolaus Barbarus was an Italian Renaissance scholar. His discussions of Pliny’s *Natural history* were first published as *Castigationes Plinianae* in 1492, in which he made over 5000 corrections to the original text. Due to this work and other classical works he translated or edited he was considered a leading authority on Latin and Greek antiquity.

With manuscript inscriptions on title-page. The two parts bound in reverse order. Binding rebacked and restored, but with most of the central tooling on the boards still clear. Text in very good condition, with only a couple of marginal waterstains and some minor thumbing.


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196. **PLINIUS SECUNDUS, Gaius.** *The Historie of the World, commonly called the Naturall Historie.*

London, Adam Islip, 1634. 2º (235 x 320 mm). 2 vols. in one. Elaborate woodcut device on title-page; woodcut initials, head- and tailpieces. Contemp. calf, spine in six compartments, tooled and lettered in gilt.

Pliny’s renowned *Natural History* in its second publication in English (repeating, with corrections, the 1601 first publication), translated by Philemon Holland, the greatest translator of the Elizabethan age. The “Naturalis Historia” is one of the largest single works to have survived from the Roman empire to the modern day and purports to cover the entire field of ancient knowledge, based on the best authorities available to the author. Pliny claims to be the only Roman ever to have undertaken such a work. It comprised 37 books in 10 volumes and covered over 20,000 facts on topics including the fields of botany, zoology, astronomy, geology and mineralogy as well as the exploitation of those resources. It remains a standard work for the Roman period and the advances in technology and understanding of natural phenomena at the time. Some technical advances he discusses are the only sources for those inventions, such as hushing in mining technology or the use of water mills for crushing or grinding corn. Much of what he wrote about has been confirmed by archaeology. “We know from Pliny that there were important pearl fisheries in the Gulf [...] Pliny identifies Tylos (Bahrain) as a place famous for its pearls [...] He attests that pearls were the most highly rated valuable in Roman society, and that those from the Gulf
were specially praised [...] The pearl related finds at the site of El-Dur indicate the site was integrated into the maritime trade routes linking the Roman Empire, the Persian Empire, India and South Arabia” (Carter). Book 6 holds a chapter that gives the first detailed account of the regions around the Gulf, including what are now Qatar, the Emirates and Oman.

Binding rubbed; front hinge splitting. Includes the final printed leaf in vol. 2, containing the publisher's advertisement to the reader that all errors have been corrected in the present edition and the errata leaf (included in the same position in 1601) has become unnecessary rather than having been mistakenly omitted. Some slight browning and brownstaining, but an excellent copy removed in 1973 from the Royal Meteorological Society (Symons Bequest, 1900) with their bookplate on the front pastedown.

STC 20030. Cf. Pforzheimer 496 (1601 ed.).

With a humanistic manuscript

197. POMPONIUS MELA. De situ orbis. Hermolai Barbari fideliter emendatus.

[Venice], Giovanni Battista Sessa, 27 Oct. 1501. 4°. Followed by a 49-page manuscript index (beginning with instructions to the “amice lector” on the verso of the colophon) on 28 blank leaves bound after the printed text. 19th century boards with red morocco spine lettered and decorated in gilt.

The first edition of the 16th century: a very rare reprint of the incunable published in 1494, the first separate edition to be based on the criticism of the Renaissance scholar Ermolao Barbaro. Mela’s description of the ancient world, based on good sources and written during the reign of Emperor Claudius, is the oldest Roman geography to have survived. This edition was not equipped with an index, but a contemporary humanistic owner rectified the fault by crafting his own: the humanistic “cancelaresca” manuscript provides a list of all cities, places and even subjects mentioned, a total of some 1000 references to 227 paragraph numbers (which the owner, too, provided in brown ink throughout the inner margins of the book). Occasional slight foxing and waterstaining to margins near end, but a fine copy of this rare book.


17th-century Portuguese manuscript mentioning voyages to Mecca and Hormuz


[Lisbon?], ca. 1680?. 2º. Manuscript report in brown ink on laid paper, in a legible hand.

A report on Portuguese colonial conquests, presented as a means to preserve God’s fortress, advance the Portuguese people and commerce and the royal possessions. It explicitly mentions voyages to “Meca, Ormuz, Congo, Bacora, Caixem, Edofar, Sinde, Ecacha, Nagana” and later also to Mozambique.
Unusually favourable introduction to Islam and the Ottoman Empire

199. POSTEL, Guillaume. De la republique des Turcs: & là ou l’occasion s’offrera, des meurs & loy de tous Muhamedistes, ...

Inclusive:

- Histoire et consideration de l’origine, loy, et coustume des Tartares, Persiens, Arabes, Turcs, & tous autres Ismaelites ou Muhamediques, dits par nous Mahometains, ou Sarrazins.

- La tierce partie des orientales histoires, ou est exposee la condition, ... de l’empire Turquesque: ...

Poitiers, Enguilbert de Marnef, 1560. 3 parts in 1 volume. 4º. With Marnef’s printer’s device on title-page (repeated on the 2 part-titles). Contemporary blind- and gold-tooled calf, restored and rebacked with a large part of the original spine laid-down, modern endpapers.

First(?) edition of Postel’s three-part work on the Ottoman Empire, introducing “French readers to the life of the Prophet, the history of Islam, the Arabic language, as well as the religion, laws, customs of the Ottoman Turks. ... It offers an unusually favourable account of Muslim manners and customs. While not wholly uncritical of the way of the Turks, he thought that they were better than Christians in the way that they arranged marriages and divorces, in their charity, in their provisions for education and in the decorous quiet of their prayers” (Irwin).

Guillaume Postel (1510–1581), the foremost expert on Arabic and Islam in Europe in his day, wrote the present work around 1539, after his voyage to the Ottoman Empire, accompanying the French ambassador sent by Francois I to Suleiman the Magnificent in Constantinople in 1535–1537. He did not publish it at the time and may have revised it after his voyage to the Holy Land in 1549.

With early owner’s inscription on title-page and two marginal annotations. Minor restorations to the gutter of the lower margins of the first four leaves, title-page slightly soiled, a few occasional stains and marginal thumbing, and a small corner torn off of one leaf, but still a good copy. Binding rebacked and restored, with scuff marks and a few wormholes.


The book that introduced Islam to Japan: “The Life of Muhammad”


First Japanese edition: the first Japanese book on the life of the prophet Muhammad, drawn from Prideaux’s “The True Nature of Imposture Fully Display’d in the Life of Mahomet” (1697) and translated into Japanese by Hayashi Tadasu, later to become Japan’s Minister for Foreign Affairs. Rare as a complete two-volume set.

Bindings very slightly stained, otherwise fine.

Cf. Chauvin XI, 185f., 656ff. (other editions).

A kind Muslim, an English mummy snatcher and John Smith before Pocahontas

201. [PURCHAS, Samuel], John SANDERSON, Henry TIMBERLAKE and others. Seer gedenckwaerdige vojagien, van Johan Sanderson, Hendrick Timberly, en Capt. Johan Smith, door Europa, Asia en America. ...

Amsterdam, Joachim van Dyck, 1678. 4º. With engraved title-page, letterpress title-page with a woodcut floral ornament, 4 folding engraved illustration plates (including 1 with 4 small views). 18th-century half vellum.

€ 4500
First and only Dutch edition of an account of the voyages of three English merchant adventurers: John Sanderson in the Levant, Egypt and Constantinople (Istanbul), presented here as 1671–1676 but in fact describing travels in the years 1584–1602; Henry Timberlake in Jerusalem (1601); and the young John Smith in the Ottoman Empire (ca. 1598–1604) before his more famous voyage to America. All three are loosely translated from the relevant accounts in Purchas his pilgrimes, London, 1625, but the accounts of Sanderson and Timberlake are written in the first person. The present publisher added some texts from other sources, and the frontispiece and other illustrations, etched and engraved in a style sometimes reminiscent of Romein de Hooghe, are also new. Timberlake, though Protestant himself, shocked more narrow-minded Protestants by his accounts of the kindness of a Muslim Moor journeying from Fez to Mecca, who had joined his ship at Algiers and secured his release when he was arrested in Jerusalem.

Slightly browned and with the title-page backed, apparently to strengthen it after a library stamp on the back was erased, minor and mostly marginal smudges or spots and a small marginal tear, but otherwise in good condition and with generous margins. Lacking the final blank leaf. The dedication was supposed to precede the publisher’s note to the reader, but is here bound after it. The binding is rubbed and tattered, with most of the title-label gone. First Dutch edition of a fascinating account of English merchant adventurers in the Levant, Egypt and the Ottoman Empire.

Alden & Landis 678/140; Sabin 78871; STCN (6 copies); Tiele, Bibl. 955.

From a magnificent Quran manuscript

202. [QURAN]. Separate leaf from a Kufic manuscript on vellum.

Abbasidic (Near East or Northern Africa), 9th century. 170 x 263 mm. With gilt rosette and numerous gilt floral ornaments between the letters and in the margins. Vocalisation marks (dots) in red. 5 lines. € 24 000

Illuminated leaf from a once-magnificent Quran manuscript with fine gilt flower and leaf illustrations as space fillers and ornamental border around the large Kufic script written in black ink (line height ca. 25–30 mm). The ornamentation mainly consists in leaf designs with the occasional blossom. Illumination of this type is exceedingly rarely encountered among the preserved Abbasid Kufic manuscripts pre-dating the year 1000. The script style belongs to subgroup D.I, according to Déroche’s classification. Manuscripts in this style are normally dated to the 9th century CE. (cf. François Déroche, *The Abbasid Tradition*, London 1992. *The Nasser D. Khalili Collection of Islamic Art*, Vol. 1, nos. 19–23, pp. 67–71). The red dots are vocalisation marks: diacritic marks were not used until later. Some browning and staining. Brittle in places due to ink corrosion (slight loss to individual letters). Verso rubbed, but still legible.

*Cf. Fingernagel (ONB 2010), p. 33.*

The Hamburg Qur’an, the first Arabic printed Qur’an available

203. [QURAN]. Al-Coranus s. lex islamitica Muhammedis, filii Abdallae pseudoprophetae [...].

Hamburg, Gottfried Schultze & Benjamin Schiller, 1694. 4º. With woodcut Arabic half-title. Set in roman, italic and Arabic types with incidental fraktur, Greek and Hebrew. Contemporary vellum. € 25 000

First and only edition of Hinckelmann’s Arabic text of the Qur’an, the second edition of the Arabic Qur’an, the first actually available to readers and the only convenient edition before 1834, with a 36-page Latin introduction by the editor making extensive reference to the earlier literature. The first complete Arabic edition of the Qur’an was printed at Venice ca. 1537/38, intended for distribution in the Middle East, but the entire edition was thought to have been destroyed until one copy turned up in the 1980s. Hinckelmann’s edition was therefore the first edition available to European scholars, missionaries or Islamic readers. It was followed by Ludovico Marracci’s Arabic and Latin edition published at Padua in 1698, whose two folio volumes and extensive (anti-Islamic) commentary made it both expensive and inconvenient to use. The editions published at St
Petersburg (from 1789) and Kazan (from 1803) for the use of Islamic groups in the Russian Empire were almost unknown in Europe, so the present edition remained the primary source for European knowledge of the Qur'an for 140 years, until Flügel’s 1834 Leipzig edition. VD17 has four different entries for this work, with different fingerprints, but they are all the same edition. With bookplate on paste-down, covered behind the first endleaf, which is partially mounted to the paste-down, and an inscription on flyleaf. First quire partly detached, two small tears in the foot margins of pp. 185f. and 375f., first leaf slightly soiled and some minor thumbing to the first and last few leaves, otherwise in very good condition.


The finest German Qur’an produced in the 20th century


No. 7 of 29 de luxe copies on Japanese vellum (total issue: 240 copies). “The finest German Qur’an produced in the 20th century” (Enay). Lavishly designed in the style of the old oriental manuscripts and printed in Delitsch’s Roman type, specially cut for this work. Goldschmidt’s literal transcription follows the text of the Flügel edition. The magnificent binding is well preserved with only occasional minor rubbing. Formerly in the Ottoman collection of the Swiss industrialist Henry W. Schaefer. Rodenberg 445. Enay 121.

Islamic texts on the Christian crusades

205. REINAUD, Joseph Toussaint. Extraits des historiens Arabes, relatifs aux guerres des croisades, ouvrage formant, d’après les écrivains Musulmans, un récit suivi des guerres saintes ... [Paris], Imprimerie Royale, 1829. 8°. Contemporary dark green half sheepskin, gold-tooled spine. € 6500

First edition of a work on Islamic texts on the Christian crusades, by the French orientalist Joseph Toussaint Reinaud (1795–1867). It gives a French translation of numerous texts and extracts relating to the crusades originally written in Arabic from the 11th to the 15th century by Arab historians, with occasionally some passages in Arabic in the notes. Most of the texts deal with major battles and sieges, Saladin, and victories and deaths of important leaders. The preliminaries include brief biographies of some of the major authors, including Ali ibn al-Athir, Baha ad-Din ibn Shaddad, Imad ad-Din al-Isfahani, Ibn al-Adim and many more. The texts are arranged into different chapters, each devoted to a different stage of the crusades. With a stain on the half-title and some staining throughout, otherwise in very good condition. Hage Chahine 3965; not in Blackmer.

Arabic travel account from the early Abbasid era, concerning China and India

206. REINAUD, Joseph Toussaint (translator). Relation des voyages faits par les Arabes et les Persans dans l’Inde et à la Chine dans le XVe siècle de l’ère chrétienne; texte Arabe imprimé en 1811 par les soins de feu Langlès … Paris, Imprimerie royale, 1845. 2 volumes. 18° (35 × 10 cm). With Arabic title-page printed in red and black. Later half calf, gold-tooled spine, with the original blue printed wrappers bound in. € 4500

First edition in French of an account of two Arabic voyages to China and India. The text was translated from the Arabic by the French orientalist and professor Joseph Toussaint Reinaud (1795–1867). The Arabic text was first printed in 1811, under supervision of the French linguist and orientalist Louis-Mathieu Langlès. The first volume starts with an introduction to the text, followed by the translation. The
main text can be divided into two sections. The first account is based on a statement from a merchant called Suleyman, who is said to have travelled to India and China in the years 851–852 (237), however, the actual author of the text is unknown. The following account was written down by Abu Zayd al-Hasan al-Sirafi. Al-Mas'udi, “the Herodotus of the Arabs”, mentions al-Sirafi in one of his works, stating that he met him in the year 915–916 (303) in Basra, Iraq. Al-Sirafi tells us he was commanded to verify and extend the earlier account. The date of the second account is unclear, but it was probably written in the first half of the 10th century. The text gives a lively account of the life in China and India, with “… the first foreign descriptions of tea and porcelain, and a whole panorama of Chinese society, from the Son of Heaven and Confucian ethics down to toilet paper and bamboo urinals” (Mackintosh-Smith). The second volume gives notes to the translation, followed by the Arabic text. Added to the Arabic text are two extracts from works by Al-Mas‘udi, including his Muruj al-dhahab.

Restored tear though the wrapper and first two leaves, otherwise in very good condition, with only some minor browning. Wholly untrimmed.

Conversations at the Algerian marketplace, attractively bound

207. RICHARD, Charles. Les mystères du peuple Arabe.
Paris, Challamel Ainé (half-title: De Soye et Bouchet); Algiers, Bastide, 1860. Large 12º (17 × 12 cm). Contemporary yellow half morocco, gold-tooled spine with a blue morocco title-label and the emblem of the Ottoman Empire, a crescent moon with star, in the other compartments, gilt upper edge (bound by R. Petit).

First edition of a work explaining Arabian customs, culture and beliefs, by the French author and former Chef des affaires Arabes Charles Louis Florentin Richard (1815–1881). He situates his essay at the marketplace in Algiers, first describing the surroundings, the market and its colours and eventually its visitors. The majority of the text consists of conversations between various peoples, from both higher and lower social classes, including administrators, tribal leaders, merchants, slaves and a woman, all expressing their own ideas, opinions and beliefs.

Some minor foxing. Binding very slightly rubbed. Overall in very good condition.

Not in Chadenat; Gay.

Only copy located of a hand-coloured print series of Arabian horses, after drawings made in Baghdad

208. RICH, Claudius James and Siegmund Ferdinand von PERGER. Sammlung und Darstellung verschiedener Pferde interessanter Zuchten, Landeskarten und Rassen ...
Vienna, Müllersche Kunsthandlung, 1815. Oblong 2º (31 × 42.5 cm). Engraved print series, including a title-page engraved by Dorneck and 6 numbered engravings of horses engraved by Siegmund Ferdinand von Perger, hand-coloured and loose as issued.

Only copy located of the first of two(?) instalments of a hand-coloured engraved print series depicting five Arabian horses and one Hungarian stallion stud. All prints were engraved by the Austrian painter, draughtsman and engraver Siegmund Ferdinand von Perger (1778–1841), at the request of the Master of the Horse (Oberstallmeister) Johann Nepomuk Joseph Norbert Grafen zu Trauttmansdorff-Weinsberg (1780–1834). The five full-blood Arabian horses are after drawings made in Baghdad by the British merchant and antiquarian scholar Claudius James Rich (1787–1821) of horses in his own possession, with their pedigrees and other details in the captions below. Four of these also include a figure in Arabian garb. Paper slightly browning, but otherwise in very good condition, with a few specks and the edges of a few leaves a bit frayed or with tiny marginal tears (not approaching the plate edge).
209. RICOLDUS de Monte Crucis. *Confutatio Alcorani seu legis Saracenorum*. [Basel, Nikolaus Kessler], ca. 1507. Small 4º. Title is fragmentary, preserving the letterpress only, laid down to old paper. Near-contemporary full leather binding, spine rebacked. All edges red.

Rare edition of this famous and scarce refutation of the Qur’an. While many of his writings praise the Muslims’ social behaviour, hospitality and sense of honour, Ricoldus’s best-known work is a notorious refutation of the Islamic doctrines, contending that the Qur’an’s self-contradictory passages, confused arrangement and want of miracles prove that Islam cannot be a true revealed religion. Despite the author’s hostility towards Islam his work shows specific knowledge of the Qur’an and overcomes one important prejudicial error common to other medieval criticisms of Islam: the perception that Muhammad introduced a christological heresy. The work was widely received; a Greek translation was prepared as early as 1385 by Demetrius Kydones, which was re-translated into Latin by Bartolomeo Piceno as “Improbatio” or “Confutatio Alcorani”. A Spanish version appeared at Toledo in 1502, and Luther translated parts into German in 1530.

Binding worn but professionally repaired; spine rebacked. Some fingerstaining and browning with occasional slight worming to gutter. Trimmed rather closely with printed marginalia cropped in places, title fragment torn out and mounted, preserving some old handwritten annotations. Provenance: Mehmed v (1844–1918), Sultan of the Ottoman Empire from 1909, with his his Arabic bookplate on the pastedown.

€ 15 000

210. RIEMSDIJK, Willem Johan Emanuel van. *Verslag, ..., over een eenjarig verblijf in Frankryk*. [The Netherlands?, ca. 1904?]. 33.5 × 21 cm. With 32 original photographic prints (silver gelatin), mounted on 19 paper-board leaves, each with a neatly written manuscript caption. Inserted is a chromolithographic map of “Klein Asien, Syrien, &c.” (map 59 from “Stielers Hand-Atlas”), with two captions and the routes of two expeditions added in black and blue ink. Contemporary cloth.

A unique(?) Dutch typescript (carbon copy?) report on the breeding and training of Arabian horses by Willem Johan Emmanual van Riemsdijk (1881–1928), 2nd lieutenant of the cavalry in the Dutch Colonial Army and manager of the stud in Padalarang (Indonesia). The report was ordered by the Dutch Colonial Army, which sent Van Riemsdijk to France to study the French methods of breeding and training thoroughbred Arabian horses, apparently to improve the breeding of horses in the Dutch East Indies.

It opens with a description of the French national stud farm, followed by a chapter on the breeding and training of horses in the French colonies, an account of a journey to a stud farm and remount service in South France, an account of the Arabian horse in Syria (including two reports of French and Hungarian expeditions to Syria in order to buy thoroughbred Arabian horses), the Arabian horse in France, and finally a detailed description of the Arabian horse in the Dutch colonies.

It contains many manuscript corrections and may have been the author’s copy. Name on flyleaf: “Corn[?] van Riemsdijk”, possibly related to the author. Some of the photographs with the typical loss of highlight detail, the paper is slightly browned and binding shows some wear. Overall in good condition. A detailed and most likely unique typescript report on horse breeding.

€ 6 500
The feasts of Israel as parables of time and the age of the world

211. ROBBERTSZ. LE CANU, Robbert. Korte inleydinge der feesten Israels, twelck rechte tijtkaarten zijn, waer in ghy sien meucht hoe veel groot jaaren die werelt ghestaan heeft, ende hoe veel groot jaren datse noch staan sal, ende in wat groot jaar datse vergaan sal. [Amsterdam, Robert Robertsz. le Canu?], 1593. 4º. With 7 folding engraved plates, each with 4 to 7 small engravings of biblical scenes, 6 of the plates with the scenes positioned in a 2.45 cm diameter circular chronological diagram, but set in a linear diagram in the other (8 × 28 cm), and 8 woodcut diagrams in the text. With the compartments in the diagrams coloured by a contemporary hand. Late 19th-century half mottled sheepskin. € 9500

Rare first edition of an extraordinary treatise on the Jewish calendar, chronology and cabala, combined with a Mennonite song-book containing eleven hymns in Dutch, both by the Amsterdam schoolmaster, mathematician, poet and publisher Robert Robertsz. Le Canu (1563–ca. 1630). The first part deals with the Jewish holidays and the principles for the determination of the movable feasts, which are shown on seven coloured folding engraved plates. Part two contains eleven hymns in Dutch. Robert Robertsz. Le Canu was a Mennonite schoolmaster and mathematician in Amsterdam and later Hoorn, who taught the principles of navigation to Cornelis Houtman, Jacob van Eck, Gerrit de Veer and others. In 1585 he had a vision concerning the biblical ordinances relating to Passover and other feasts, which he saw as a prophesy of the end of the world in the year 3000. He began proselytizing with a poem where he put himself in the role of a prophet, included in the second part of the present book along with ten other poems on the same subject, all in the spirit of the Mennonites. In 1593 he issued them with his theories on the chronology of the world in the present book.

With two pages of 19th-century bibliographical before the final blank. Slightly browned but still in good condition. The head of the spine is chipped and the binding generally slightly rubbed, but otherwise also good. A fascinating view of a 16th-century Dutch Mennonite’s interpretation of scripture and Jewish rites.


Egypt and Nubia in 45 early drawings and squeezes, preserving images of sculptures and inscriptions

212. ROBERTSON, William. Egypt & Nubia. Cairo [and elsewhere in Egypt and Nubia], 1838–1839. 2º (48 × 36.5 cm). Album containing 42 pencil and other drawings (a few partly coloured) and 3 squeezes, some on the album leaves and some loosely inserted, mostly of ancient Egyptian and Nubian architecture, sculpture, bas-reliefs and hieroglyphic inscriptions, but also with a few botanical drawings and landscapes with buildings. Most have English-language captions in brown ink and are signed and dated 1838 to 1839. New black half morocco, using mid-19th-century marbled paper for the sides. € 45 000

An album of drawings (and squeezes of bas reliefs) made by William Robertson on a journey from Cairo in December 1838 down the Nile into Nubia, reaching as far south as the present-day Egyptian-Sudanean border region, including the temples of Abu Simbel, in January 1839, then returning via Philae, Karnak and other sites to Thebes in February 1839. They give very detailed views of numerous buildings, sculptures, bas-reliefs and hieroglyphic inscriptions, as well as more distant views of landscapes with buildings and three botanical drawings. Since many of the ancient Egyptian sites have been looted and damaged over the years, these early drawings and squeezes provide an important record of what was there in 1838/39 and how it was situated, before the first photographs were made.
While Robertson made most of his drawings on site, he drew the Temple at Luxor after a drawing by Achille Émile Prisse d’Avennes (1807–1879) who began exploring and drawing the ancient Egyptian sites in 1836 and published many of his drawings in 1847. A few of the original album leaves are now detached and may have been removed by the artist himself. One inserted drawing is severely foxed and one inserted floor plan is rather dirty, but in general the drawings are in very good condition.

Logbook of the first Dutch expedition to the Arabian Gulf with maps showing Sir Beni Yas, Abu Dhabi, Dubai & Sharjah

213. ROOBACKER, Cornelis Cornelisz. and Albert HOTZ (editor). Cornelis Cornelisz Roobacker’s scheepsvraagla Gamron-Basra (1645); de eerste reis der Nederlanders door de Perzische Golf. Leiden, E.J. Brill, 1907. With a folding table, 2 folding maps of the Arabian Gulf and 1 folding map of the North Pole. Publisher’s printed wrappers. € 750

Journal containing the first and only publication of the original text of the primary logbook of the first Dutch expedition to the Arabian Gulf. “In the year 1645, two small Dutch ships, the Delfshaven and the Schelvis, set out from Bandar Abbas on their first trading mission to Basra. ... As was the custom for shipping to Basra, the Dutch ships took a local pilot on board on Kharg island. The pilot took the ships directly to the Shatt al Arab, but there trouble began”. The logbook describes the various problems the Dutch faced due to the size of their ships and subsequent navigation errors, but at the end they did reach their destination. The ships had English charts on board, but Captain Roobacker complained that they were inaccurate and during the voyage he drew his own charts.

Albert Hotz (1855–1930) was a Dutch businessman and consul-general of the Netherlands in Beirut, who wrote articles on the Dutch activities in the Arabian Gulf. He formed a large library on the Middle East, also containing early photographs and Arabic manuscripts, which is now kept at the University of Leiden.

Wrappers somewhat worn; maps loose in binding; a good copy.

Slot, The origins of Kuwait, pp. 18–26 (with a translation of a small part of the logbook).

The Trucial Sheikdoms’ Perpetual Maritime Peace Treaties and the 1958 Lebanon crisis


Published as a typescript, this memorandum “had its origin in the need to put together for immediate use during the summer of 1958 documents and statements relating to the latest of the recurring crises in the Middle East” (Preface); that was the Lebanon crisis of 1958, when President Camille Chamoun requested the assistance of the United States; the American military intervention would last for three months. The present work includes the text of and material on the Tripartite Declaration (1950), Baghdad Pact (1955) and Eisenhower Doctrine (1957), as well as commitments affecting particular countries such as Turkey’s NATO commitments (1951), the UK’s 1953/54 treaties and agreements with Libya, the 1955 Special Agreement between the UK and Iraq, and the U.S.-Saudi Exchange of Notes (1957). Of particular interest are the treaty commitments not only with Saudi Arabia, Yemen, and Aden, but also with the “Persian Gulf Sheikhdoms” Bahrein, Kuwait, Muscat and Oman, Qatar, and the “Trucial Sheikdoms” (now the UAE, and here specified as “Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Sharjah, Ras al Khaimah, Umm al Qaiwain, Ajman, Fujaira”), which reach back as far as the 18th century and include extracts from the “Perpetual Maritime Peace Treaties” of 1853, 1868, etc. The volume concludes with an outline of the then-recent Buraimi dispute and the unofficial text of the 1920 Treaty of Sib between Oman and the UK.

Well preserved. Removed from the Manchester Public Libraries with their bookplate and Reference Library slip.

OCLC 3117961.
Profusely illustrated


Uncommon, profusely illustrated series of sketches of the Middle East and Muslim Northern Africa (Egypt, Palestine, Persia, and the Barbary Coast), each in two parts, with maps of the respective regions. Translated from English accounts by August Diezmann and Johann Sporschil. The illustrations include the famous portrait of Viceroy Muhammad Ali, after Forbin’s 1818 drawing published in Mengin’s “Histoire de l’Egypte”. The map of Persia (bound head-over-heels) includes the northern coastline of the Arabian Peninsula, showing Bahrein and the Great Pearl Bank.

Some maps rather wrinkled. Occasional foxing due to paper, binding slightly bumped at extremities, but well-preserved on the whole. From the Library of Count Ferenc Széchényi (1835–1908), grandson of the founder of the Hungarian National Library and National Museum in Budapest, with his ownership on the title page; additional bookplate of the Swiss theologian and educator Abraham Emanuel Fröhlich (1796–1865) on front pastedown.

OCLC 74472949.

One of the few works confirming the continuation of the production of Arabic texts at the Imprimerie Royale in Paris


Rare congratulatory canticle to Louis xviit of France, composed by Michel Sabbagh in Arabic and translated into French by Grangeret Lagrange, student of the Special School of Oriental Languages. One of the few works confirming the continuation of the production of texts in Arabic at the Imprimerie Royale, composed on the occasion of the First Restoration and the accession of Louis xviit to the French throne.

Mihail ibn Niqula ibn Ibrahim al-Sabbag (1784–1816), whose name was francicized into Michel Sabbâgh, was of Palestinian origin. After completing his studies in Damascus, he moved to Cairo from amidst the Syrian Melkite community; during the Campaign of the Armée de l’Orient he was an interpreter for the French, and he followed them during the embarkation that followed the capitulation of Desaix. In Paris, Silvestre de Sacy involved Sabbâgh with his work, in 1807 he officially became copyist for the Imperial Library, and also created a translation service of Arabic texts into the French language.

Binding rubbed; slight rustmark to half-title; very clean altogether.

OCLC 11873620. Cf. Fück 143; GAL II, 479 (for Sabbagh).
Carrier pigeons in the Arabic world

217. SABBAGH, Michel. Kitab Musabaqat al-barq wa-al-ghamam fi su’at al-hamam. La colombe, messagère plus rapide que l’éclair, plus prompte que la nue. Paris, Imprimerie Impériale (J. J. Marcel), an xiv = 1805. 8º. Contemp. wrappers. € 3500

First French edition, with the translation (by Silvestre de Sacy) and the Arabic text printed in parallel, entitled “The race with the lightning and the clouds above: on the success of the messenger dove”. The Syrian linguist Michel Sabbagh (1784–1816) served as interpreter to the Imperial Army during Napoléon’s Egyptian Campaign. He emigrated to France when the army left Egypt and attached himself to Silvestre de Sacy and the Imperial Library and print shop. His original work on carrier pigeons remains a classic.
A well-preserved, untrimmed and wide-margined copy.

5 original glass lantern slides with the earliest photographs of Mecca and Medina

218. SADIQ BEY, Muhammad, Christiaan SNOUCK HURGRONJE and Al-Sayyid ‘Abd al-GHAFÂR. [5 photographic lantern slides of Mecca and Medina (silver gelatin glass positives), taken in the years 1880 to 1889]. Stuttgart, Lichtbilderverlag Theodor Benzinger, [ca. 1910]. 5 glass positive lantern slides (8.5 × 10 cm), each with a black paper mask, paper tape around the edges, a letterpress slip at the foot giving the publisher’s name and city, and a slip at the head with the manuscript title. Kept in a contemporary purpose-made wooden box with brass fittings, with the word “Mekka” on the top of the hinged lid.

€ 35 000

Five of the earliest and best photographs of Mecca and Medina, beautifully preserved as silver gelatin glass plates, including the first photograph of the Ka’ba in Mecca’s Masjid al-Haram (Great Mosque). Two of the photographs were taken by the first person to photograph Mecca and Medina, the Egyptian Colonel Muhammad Sadiq Bey (1832–1902), who made them in 1880 for the Ottoman Sultan Abdülhamid 11. The others were taken by the first European to photograph Mecca, Christiaan Snouck Hurgronje, and Al-Sayyid ‘Abd al-Ghaffär, who worked closely with him. Snouck Hurgronje (1857–1936), one of the greatest pioneering Dutch Arabists, converted to Islam and lived in Mecca from January to about July 1885. The photographs by these three men are best known and most often reproduced from the published collotype facsimiles, and the rare surviving early albumin prints are usually faded and often otherwise in bad condition. The present five plates, sold as lantern slides for magic lantern presentations, are therefore of the greatest importance as well-preserved high quality images of these famous photographs, providing the best early images of the mosques of Mecca and Medina.

All five slides are in very good condition, with only a bit of dust and an occasional smudge on the glass.
They show:
1) The Masjid al-Haram in Mecca (the Great Mosque)
2) A closer view of the Ka’ba in Mecca
3) A portrait of an unidentified Mu’ezzin in Mecca
4) A portrait of an unidentified East Indian pilgrim
5) The al-Masjid an-Nabawi in Medina (the Prophet’s Mosque)

219. SALIGNIACO, Bartholomeus de. Itinerarij Terre Sancte: inibique sacrorum locorum: ac rerum clarissima descriptio: omnibus sacre scripture tractatoribus utilissima: peramena auditoribus. Lyon, Gilbertus de Villiers, 1525. 8º. With woodcut coat of arms of Cardinal Jean de Guise of Lorraine on the title-page, a full-page woodcut of the crucifixion, 10 small woodcuts of Christ’s passion in the text, and small woodcut initials throughout. 18th-century red morocco, gold-tooled spine, boards and board edges, and richly gold-tooled turn-ins, gilt edges. € 12 500

First edition of an account of the Holy Land, written by Bartholomeus de Saligniaco. In 1522 Saligniaco travelled to Jerusalem, starting his voyage in Venice and travelling to Corsica, Cyprus and Joppa (Jaffa), also mentioning Rhodes. He describes Arabia, the cities Mecca and Petra, the Red Sea, and the customs of the Arabs, without actually visiting the area. Saligniaco gives a very extensive description of Jerusalem, visiting religious sites, churches, sanctuaries, crypts, relics, etc., mentioning the different peoples, religions and religious orders. He briefly mentions America when discussing newly explored lands.

From the library of Fairfax Murray. With a water stain in the lower margin of the first three leaves, occasionally a marginal stain, leaf 33 slightly damaged at the gutter causing minor text loss, otherwise in very good condition.

Baudrier XII. 414; Davies, French 499 (this copy!); USTC 145699; Yerasimos 151.

One of the earliest Turkish medical works to draw on Paracelsian science

220. SANI-ZADE MEHMED ATAULLAH. [Hamse-i Sani-zade]. Kostantiniye (Istanbul), Tabhane-yi Sahane / Dar üt-Tibaat ül-Amire (Imperial School of Medicine), 1235 AH [= 1820 AD]. 2º (208 × 289 mm). 3 parts in 1 volume, with 56 etched plates. Contemporary half calf with gilt-stamped spine and marbled covers. € 48 000

First edition of the pioneering Ottoman physician Sanizade’s (1771–1826) medical compendium: the first three books (on anatomy, physiology, and internal medicine) of what would later be known as “Sani-zade's Canon of Five”. This was one of the earliest Turkish medical works to draw thoroughly on western, Paracelsian science: indeed, it is modelled on and partly translated from Italian and German sources, such as Anton Sörck, Bartolomeo Eustachi, Gabriele Fallopio, and Costanzo Varolio, reproducing anatomical illustrations from a variety of sources including Vesalius.

Collation agrees with the BSB copy. Some dampstaining throughout, more prominent in several plates. In all, a good copy of this rare work, the only edition published during the author’s lifetime.

OCLC 668102180.
Nautical charts

221. [SAUDI ARABIA—JEDDAH—NAUTICAL CHARTS]. Collection of 3 nautical charts for navigating the Red Sea and the waters of Jeddah.


€ 2000

Fine collection of three large-scale, perfectly preserved nautical maps issued by the U.S. Geological Society: “Jidda Harbor” (H.O. 3758), “Approaches to Jidda” (H.O. 3759), and the “Red Sea: Siyâl Islands to Masamirit Islet” (No. 2814). The charts show depth information and designate special areas where particular caution is due. Occasional insignificant brownstaining and stamped on reverse; otherwise perfect.

Not in Al Ankary; Al-Qasimi.

Small-scale geologic map series

222. SAUDI ARABIA—MINERAL INVESTIGATIONS. Mineral Investigations Maps.

Jeddah, Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources [Mudiriyah al-'Ammah lil-Tharwah al-Ma’diniyah], 1966–1967 & 1969. Collection of 14 maps (nos. MI 1–13 and MI 18). Mostly in full colour; various sizes but mostly ca. 70 × 100 cm; scale mostly 1 : 100 000 (MI 3: 1 : 250 000; MI 6: 1 : 2470 [b&w]; MI 7: ca. 1 : 1600 [b&w with red overlays]; MI 8: 1:800 [b&w with red overlays]; MI 9: set of 2 maps, ca. 1 : 2340 and 1 : 1200, and 1 cross-section, all b&w, maps with red overlays). All folded in original brown printed envelopes.

€ 9500

14 maps of the 25-map series published between 1966 and 1971, including the complete set of the first 13 maps. Many photomaps based on aerial reconnaissance and photomosaics, showing geological or geochemical information. Some sheets include location diagrams, text, notes, cross sections, charts, index map, and insets. The mapped resources also concern ancient gold mines.

Among the credited cartographers are some Arabian scientists, but mainly Americans: James Mytton, Robert F. Johnson, Virgil A. Trent, C. W. Smith, J. Kouther, M. Q. Asad, Gerrit Eijkelboom, Mohammed Gendi, Bernard Henry, Xavier Leca, Mohammed Shanti, Phillipe Delange, and Jean Pflaum. Abdullah O. Ankary contributed to the text of several maps, and much of the geology is based on work done in the 1950s and early 1960s by Glen F. Brown, one of the pioneers of the partnership between the U.S. Geological Survey and the Saudi government which began in the 1940s, spanned the next five decades and played such an important role in the development of the kingdom. The map and envelope design closely match that of the geological maps of Saudi Arabia issued by the USGS since the 1950s. Perfectly preserved.

OCLC 977893902.
"the foundation stone for a revolution in Arabic scholarship"

223. SCALIGER, Joseph Justus. Opus de emendatione temporum.
Including: Computus Arabricus ecclesiae Antiochaeae.

Leiden, Franciscus Raphelengius (Officina Plantiniana), 1598. 2º (36 × 24 cm). With woodcut printer’s device on title-page. Set in roman and italic types with long passages in Greek, Arabic, Hebrew, Samaritan and Ethiopic, shorter passages in Syriac, and zodiac signs, the Arabic, Samaritan and Ethiopic specially cut for use in the present book. Vellum (ca. 1630?). € 19 500

Third and definitive edition, greatly revised and expanded by the author and printed by Plantin’s son-in-law using a wide variety of non-Latin types, of a thorough scholarly study of classical, biblical and “oriental” chronology, by the leading linguist and linguistic scholar of his generation (“the greatest scholar of his age” PMM). Three of the non-Latin types (nashk Arabic, majuscule Samaritan and Ethiopic) were cut especially for this work.

Scaliger and Raphelengius were far ahead of their time in viewing Arabic as an important field of study in its own right, and they showed sympathy for Arabic culture. Like their predecessors, they used Arabic for biblical exegesis, but they also studied the Quran, medical, mathematical and astronomical texts and other works originally written in Arabic. In the present work, Scaliger studied and compared the calendars and historical chronology of the Greeks, Romans, Persians, Babylonians, Egyptians, Jews and others, attempting to link them so that their dates could be related to those of the European calendar. Scaliger’s work in this area “towers above that of his contemporaries” (PMM) and served as an essential key to modern historical scholarship. This was the first work ever set in Raphelengius’s pioneering Arabic type, which set the stage for the Arabic types of Thomas Erpenius and others in the Netherlands and abroad: “it served as the foundation stone for a revolution in Arabic scholarship” (Lane).

With a piece cut out of the title-page. It has been patched with a paper slip, and with further slips in the endpapers. With water stains in about a dozen leaves and occasional slightly browned patches, but otherwise in very good condition and with generous margins. The binding is slightly dirty, the spine-title faded and the headbands have lost much of their green thread.

Adams S568; Fuks, Hebrew typography 15; Lane, Arabic type specimen of Franciscus Raphelengius, item 26 & p. xxv; Typ. Bat. 4476; cf. PMM 98 (1583 ed.); for the Arabic, Samaritan and Ethiopic types: Vervliet EXO 1, 2 & 3.

History of Tamerlane’s conquests, with 5 engraved maps

224. SHARAF AD-DIN ALI YAZDI. Histoire de Timur-Bec, connu sous le nom du grand Tamerlan, empereur des Mogols et Tartares.

Delft, Reinier Boitet, 1723. 4 volumes. 12º. With an engraved portrait of Timur and 5 folding engraved maps. € 2950

First edition printed in the Netherlands of the history of Timur (Tamerlane) by the Persian historian Sharaf ad-Din Ali Yazdi (d. 1454), who was a close companion of Tamerlane’s successor, Shah Rukh. Shah Rukh’s son commissioned the book, which Yazdi probably wrote between 1424 and 1428, originally entitled Zafernana: “The book of victory”. He based much of his work on an earlier but less extensive Zafernana, written by the historian Nizam ad-Din Shami, a contemporary of Tamerlane. The first volume opens with an engraved portrait of Tamerlane. Included are maps of Transoxiana, Mongolia, Turkey, Iraq and Iran, a general map of Asia and a map depicting Tamerlane’s expeditions in and around India.

Occasionally some minor foxing and some small spots. Bindings only very slightly rubbed. Overall in very good condition.

Elwell-Sutton, Bibliographical guide to Iran, p. 194; STCN 14 52686 (8 copies).
Early history of the Arab People and the birth of Islam


Paris, Imprimerie Impériale, 1808. 4º. Set in Roman, Italic, Greek and Arabic. With a folding engraved plate of a Greek inscription and 5 letterpress tables. Contemporary half calf.

€3500

Early work of the famous French orientalist Silvestre de Sacy (1758–1838), printed in a collection of articles by members of the French Académie royale des inscriptions et belles-lettres. In his article, read before an audience in 1785, Sacy describes the early history of the Arab People and the birth of Islam, based on ancient Arab sources which are added to his text both in French translation and in the original Arabic. Also added are a genealogical table of the ancestors of the Prophet Muhammad and chronological tables of the kings of Yemen, the rulers of the Banu Khuzâ’ah over Mecca, the kings of al-Hirah and of the kings of the Ghassanids.

The articles in this collection were printed by the Imprimerie impériale, which owned one of the world’s best collections of Arabic types, including several that Napoleon had confiscated from the Propaganda Fide in Rome. The printing process was overseen by Jean-Joseph Marcel (1776–1854), who in 1798 oversaw the printing of the first books ever printed in Egypt (Hebrew presses excepted).

Silvestre De Sacy was the first professor of Arabic at the École spéciale des langues orientales vivantes in Paris on its establishment in 1795. He produced an 1810 Arabic grammar that finally replaced Erpenius’s as the scholarly standard and several carefully edited editions of Arabic and other oriental manuscripts from the collections of the Bibliothèque Royale/Impériale.

Binding somewhat worn, at the hinges; a very good copy.


Slavery in the Gulf

226. [SLAVE TRADE]. Class A. Correspondence with the British commissioners at Sierra Leone, Havana, Rio de Janeiro, Surinam, the Cape of Good Hope, Jamaica, St. Paul de Loanda, and Boa Vista, relating to the Slave Trade. From January 1 to December 31, 1843, inclusive.


€12500

Rare, early British parliamentary papers and correspondence with British agents and residents regarding the slave trade. Includes communications relevant to slavery in Africa and India, with reports by the Agent at Muscat on the landing of slaves in that city’s harbour (p. 383) and the kidnapping of children by Muslim slave dealers and their conveyance to “Arabia and the Persian Gulf” (p. 426f.), as well as instructions to the Resident in the Persian Gulf “immediately to communicate with the Arab Chiefs” to pursue the objective of suppressing the slave trade in the Arabian seas (p. 382).

Well preserved, with additional page numbers in a contemporary hand.

OCLC 25471335.
British-Arabian Treaties: The Emergence of the Modern Gulf States

227. [SLAVE TRADE]. Instructions for the Guidance of the Captains and Commanding Officers of Her Majesty’s Ships of War Employed in the Suppression of the Slave Trade.

London, Harrison and Sons, 1892. 8º. 2 vols. Contemp. black half calf with giltstamped spine. € 35,000

First edition of this rare manual for British naval officers, reprinting in full the texts of all the treaties signed between the Gulf Sheikdoms and the United Kingdom between 1820 and 1847. The first agreement is the General Treaty with the Friendly Arabs, signed at Ra’s al-Khaymah in 1820 (pp. 144–146). Arab signatories include “Sheikh Shakbool”, that is Tahnun b. Shakhbut, Sheikh of the Bani Yas and ruler of Abu Dhabi from 1818 to 1833, “Sultan bin Sugger”, or Sultan bin Saqr al-Qasimi, ruler of Sharjah, and the “Sheikh of Dubey”, who in later agreements is named explicitly as Maktum b. Bati, who announced the independence of Dubai from Abu Dhabi in 1833 and founded the Maktoum dynasty. The treaty binds the Arab sheikdoms to aid the British against piracy in the Gulf, illustrating that the British, despite their naval supremacy, found their interests genuinely threatened by the activities of Arab sailors in the region. A further set of agreements, signed in 1838, with the chief of Abu Dhabi, now known as “Khaleefa ben Shakbool”, gives the British the right to detain and search any ships entering their ports which are suspected of carrying slaves. The final set of treaties, agreed with the various Gulf sheikhs over the course of 1847, including the chief of Bahrain, Muhammad b. Khalifah b. Subman, gives licence to British cruisers to seize any ships suspected of involvement in the slave trade. These “Instructions” were published in light of the Brussels Anti-Slavery Conference of 1889–90; the year of publication was also that of the Exclusive Agreement.

Rare, and a highly important document of the formation of the modern Gulf States. One of 500 copies printed, a printed issue-slip tipped to the title page of volume I appearing to indicate that a maximum of 250 copies were actually issued in the first instance, with just six copies now traced in libraries worldwide.

OCLC 17932251.

Investigation into the sanitary and health measures during the Hajj in the late 19th century, with 19 photographs of Mekka, Medina, Jeddah, and more

228. SOUBHY, Saleh. Pèlerinage à la Mecque et à Médine. Précédé d’un aperçu sur l’islamisme et suivi de considérations générales au point de vue sanitaire et d’un appendice sur la circoncision.

Cairo, Imprimerie Nationale, 1894. 8º. With 19 plates with reproductions of photographs. Modern green cloth. € 5000

First and only edition of a report on the pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina written by the Egyptian doctor Saleh Soubhy. Soubhy worked as a health inspector at Cairo, and was appointed by khedive Abbas Hilmi II (1874–1944) to investigate the sanitary conditions of the Egyptian pilgrimage caravan to Mecca and Medina. Soubhy travelled to the Hijaz in 1888 and 1892, and published his experiences in the present work. “The French-educated doctor, Soubhy, wrote for a foreign audience in order to show both the sanctity and orderliness of the Hajj, regulated by quarantines and public health measures through which a great number of pilgrims flowed” (Sheehi). With this work, “a carefully composed defense of Islam” (Marmon), Soubhy also tried to portray Islam as an acceptable religion to his European colleagues. The book also includes some important early photographs of Mecca and Medina, taken by Muhammad Sadiq Bey (1832–1902), the first to photograph the holy cities, and al-Sayyid ‘Abd al-Ghaffar (active 1880’s).

With a bookplate on paste-down. Upper outer corner of half-title restored, tiny piece of the same corner torn off from the title-page, browned throughout, half-title smudged, and a few plates slightly thumbed, otherwise in good condition.

The bombardment of Alexandria, a night-attack of jihadic troops in Sudan and a survey in the Far East and Australia

229. SPINKS, Walter. [Album of watercolours drawn aboard HMS Myrmidon].
On board HMS Myrmidon, [1884–1886]. Oblong 4º (175 × 25 cm). With 25 watercolours (including 1 double-page) and 13 pencil drawings, most of them captioned in pencil. Contemporary half-sheepskin album. € 12 500

Album of watercolours drawn by a crewmember of the survey ship HMS Myrmidon and showing actions during the Anglo-Egyptian War and the Mahdist War and a surveying journey around the Dutch East Indies and Australia. Most of the watercolours are waterside views of the various ports visited: starting at Sheerness, then Gibraltar, Malta, Alexandria and Port Said, with the watercolour of Suez showing a crudely drawn skirmish on the quayside. In Sudan, Myrmidon took part in the Mahdist War between Anglo-Egyptian forces and the Islamic Mahdist-Sudanese. A pencil drawing shows the landing of a machine gun in Suakin and two watercolours depict a night attack on the port city. From there the ship travelled to Massawa and fought with a slaver before reaching Aden. Subsequent views show Colombo, Singapore and various locations in the Dutch East Indies, including the island Wetar where the Myrmidon is shown alongside several native canoes. The final drawings, most of them only in pencil, show various ports in Australia, ending with a drawing of the collision between Myrmidon and HMS Tyne in 1887. Among the Australian drawings, is a watercolour drawing of a lady, titled “day dreams”, and the album ends with a watercolour portrait of Queen Victoria. Near the end is a large two page panorama of the bombardment of Alexandria by a British fleet in 1882, during the Anglo-Egyptian War, which led to the British occupation of Egypt. If the artist witnessed this event, he must have been on a different ship as Myrmidon did not take part in that action. Walter Spinks (ca. 1856–after 1886) was “painter, 2nd class” aboard HMS Myrmidon. However, the South Wales Police Gazette of March 1886 mentions Spinks as a deserter. Since one of the drawings in the album shows an event in April 1887, Spinks either returned to Myrmidon or the album remained aboard and this drawing was made by someone else.
Numbered in yellow chalk on the front. Binding worn, most of the leaves loose but in excellent condition.

Best edition of Strabo’s “Geographika” including Casaubon’s notes, with descriptions of the Arabian Peninsula

230. STRABO. Rerum geographicarum libri xvii.
Paris, typis Regis [Fédéric Morel], 1620. 2 parts in 1 volume. 2º. With title-page printed in red and black with the engraved coat of arms of Louis xiii, and several woodcut initials, head- and tailpieces. Contemporary gold-tooled parchment, gilt edges. € 8 500

Enlarged and corrected second edition of Strabo’s Geographika including the notes by the French scholar Isaac Casaubon (1559–1614); one of the earliest and most important scientific treatises on historical geography. It contains the Greek text together with the Latin translation by Wilhelm Xylander (1532–1576) and is followed by Casaubon’s notes. “Casaubon was but 28 years of age when he published his first celebrated edition of Strabo [in 1587]... The [present] second edition, published by Frederick Morel at Paris, is much more accurate and splendid than the first” (Dibdin). Together with the works of Ptolemy and Solinus, Strabo’s Geographika constitutes the first attempt at a unified treatise of geographical knowledge. It was first printed in 1516 by the Aldine press at Venice. Strabo visited Egypt and sailed up the Nile in 25 bc. Books 15 and
16 are devoted entirely to the Orient in general and Arabia in particular, while the final book discusses Egypt and Libya. With two bookplates on paste-down. Title-page browned, with the lower outer corner torn off, a single minute wormhole in the gutter margin through the first half of the book, otherwise in very good condition. Binding rubbed and front hinge partly split, but otherwise good. An essential source for Europe’s earliest relations with the Middle East.

The King’s Strabo: the Arabian Gulf, and all the country of the tent-dwellers and the Sheikh-governed tribes

231. STRABO. [Geographia.] Rerum geographicarum libri xvii.
Paris, typis Regis, 1620. 2º (339 × 225 mm). Title printed in red and black with engraved vignette showing arms of Louis xiii, initials. Double-column text in Greek and Latin. Contemp. citron morocco gilt, boards of gilt fillets enclosing a séme of fleurs-de-lys, alternating with the kings crowned monogram, enclosing arms of Louis xiii (variant of Olivier 2493, fer i). Spine in 7 compartments, the second with gilt-lettered title, others filled with the same séme. All edges gilt.

Enlarged and corrected second edition of Strabo’s “Geography”, one of the earliest and most important scientific treatises of historical geography. Together with the works of Ptolemy and Solinus, Strabo’s “Geography” constitutes the first attempt at a unified treatise of geographical knowledge. Even in the introductory chapters, the author provides important details on the Arabian Peninsula. Furthermore, books 15 and 16 are devoted entirely to the Orient (bk. 16 is on Arabia in particular), while the final book 17 discusses Egypt and Libya.

The personal copy of Louis xiii, King of France (1601–43), magnificently bound for him with his arms and monogram. Later in the Jesuit College, Paris (inscription on title page); in 1624 awarded to the scholar Robert Roussel, College de Clermont, Jesuit College of Paris, as a prize for eloquence in Greek (inscription on preliminary blank). A faint, unidentified stamp on the title page; stamp of the Bibliothèque Publique of Alençon on J2 and final leaf. Slight edge defect to upper margin of QQq3, affecting a few letters of the headline. A few marginal abrasions to the binding’s edges professionally repaired.

Popular rhyming vocabulary: first printing

232. SÜNBÜLZADE VEHBÎ, Mehmet. [Tuhfe-i-vehbi].
[Istanbul], Darü’t-Tibaati’l-Mamure, 1213 AH [= 1798/99 AD]. 8º. Modern brown half cloth.

Editio princeps of a popular rhyming vocabulary by the Turkish poet Sümbülzâde Vehbi (1719–80). The writer here employs mesnevi rhyming couplets in various meters to offer a substantial repertoire of Persian words and phrases along with their Turkish equivalents, while providing at the same time an elementary text on poetics. The most famous example in Turkish literature of a genre which presents information in easily-remembered lines of verse, “Tuhfe-i Vehbi” (“Vehbi’s Offering”) was composed around 1782 and has numerous precedents in earlier Ottoman poetry.

A rare first printing of this ephemeral school book, and an outstanding witness to the polyglot philological traditions of the Islamic East.

**History of Bahrain**


(= Publications de la Revue générale de droit international public, nouv, sér., no 1). History of Bahrain, with special attention to the international legal, political, and diplomatic problems which haunted the region in the 19th and early 20th centuries. Contains “documents-annexes”, including treaties and diplomatic correspondence. Based on the author’s thesis. Untrimmed, uncut copy.

OCLC 7627011.

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**An early Muslim travelogue from the Bulaq press**


First edition of this groundbreaking early printed travelogue by a Muslim: the account of a young Egyptian scholar, Rifa‘ah Rafi‘ Tahtawi (1801–73), who journeyed to the West to study the culture and educational system. The linguist and translator Al-Tahtawi, a pioneer of modern Muslim education, is known as one of the first Egyptian scholars to write about Western culture. With the support of the progressive Khedive Muhammad Ali, who sought to modernize the country, al-Tahtawi lived in Paris from 1826 until 1831 to study the French educational system. Upon his return to Cairo, al-Tahtawi founded a language school, Al-Alsun, based on the western model. Courses on science, law and commerce lasted first five and later six years. The school formed the nucleus of today’s Ain-Shams University in Cairo. Originally written in Arabic (“Tahlis al-ibriz fi talhis Baris au ad-Diwan an-nafis bi‘iwan Baris”), Tahtawi’s account of his journey (Seyahatname) was translated into the more widely understood Ottoman Turkish at the command of Muhammad Ali. It was published by the Bulaq Press in 1839, itself part of the Khedive’s modernisation project, and was distributed among students and officials, large quantities even being brought to Constantinople. Al-Tahtawi’s voyage to Paris is considered one of the most influential journeys of a Muslim scholar to the West. Binding slightly age-toned, waved and stained; paper slightly stained with slight worming throughout, otherwise in excellent condition. Rare; only four institutional copies listed in WorldCat (Universitätsbibliothek Bern, McGill University Library, Library of Congress, SOAS London).

Attractive view of the carpet trade

235. **TARENGHI, Enrico.** [Carpet sellers and a dromedary beside the Nile].

[ Rome?, late 19th century?]. Watercolour on a large sheet of paper (image size: 74.5 × 52 cm), signed at the foot right: “E. Tarenghi”. Contemporary (?) gilt wooden frame (89.5 × 66 cm), behind plastic.

€ 18 000

Attractive watercolour painting by the Italian orientalist painter Enrico Tarenghi (1848–1938), it shows three bearded men with carpets and two poufs. One of them is clearly the seller, another is inspecting the wares and the third is sitting on the ground rolling up one of the carpets. In the background a wide river (generally assumed to be the Nile), a dromedary and dozens of palm trees.

Tarenghi made extensive use of photography in his work and often used photographs as a template for the background. The present setting is found more often in his work, not only showing carpet sellers, but also merchants selling fruit. The carpet trade, however, seems to be one of his favourite subjects regardless of the background. The carpets allowed Tarenghi to show off his skills, with their intricate motives, textures, creases and folds.

Small waterstain and minor defects at the foot and a few other negligible blemishes, but otherwise in very good condition.

*For the artist: Thieme & Becker XXXII, p. 445.*

Authoritative history of the Portuguese missions in Ethiopia and Arabia, with a folding map

236. **TELLEZ, Balthasar.** The travels of the Jesuits in Ethiopia: containing [...] travels in Arabia Felix, wherein many things of that country [...] are treated of, as a particular description of Aden, Moca, and several other places [...]. London, J. Knapton, 1710. 4°. With engraved map of Ethiopia, including part of the Red Sea and the source of the Blue Nile. Modern calf, gold-tooled spine, with red morocco title-label, and the sides blind-tooled in a panel design.

€ 25 000

Rare first English edition of Tellez’s influential historical account of Ethiopia and Arabia. It is a digest of the accounts of all the Jesuit travellers to Ethiopia and Arabia, including Paez, De Montserrat, Almeida, Lobo and Mendes. It includes an account of the travels of the Jesuit missionaries Pedro Paez and Antonio de Montserrat, who were captured off the Kuria Muria islands on a mission from Goa to Ethiopia in 1590 and subsequently taken to Yemen, where they were held captive until 1596. After being sent to San’a by way of Melkis and the Wadi Hadramaut, then after three years taken to Al Mukha (Mocha), where they were forced to serve as galley slaves, they were finally ransomed in 1596 and returned to India. Paez discovered the source of the Blue Nile and is said to have been the first European to have tasted coffee in Al Mukha.

The work further includes a detailed description of Aden (Yemen) as well as of the Ethiopia-Adal War (1529–43), during which Ahmad ibn Ibrahim al-Ghazi led several expeditions against the Ethiopian emperor until most of Ethiopia came under the power of the Muslim Sultanate of Adal. The present English edition is based Almeida’s “Historia geral de Ethiopia a alta” (1660), edited by Tellez.

With early owner’s inscription (“W. G. Patchell”) on title-page. Quires 2D and 2E transposed; a couple of millimetres shaved off the outer border of the map; a faint waterstain throughout; some leaves foxed and some occasional spots. A good copy.

237. THORNTON, John & Samuel. A large draught of the coast of Arabia from Maculla to Dofar. London, William Mount and Thomas Page, [1734]. Chart engraved by Sutton Nicholls, with the title in cartouche at the head left, a compass rose at the right, and a scale bar below. On one sheet of laid paper (44 × 54 cm). € 3500

A sea chart of the coast of Yemen and Oman from the celebrated “third book” of The English pilot. This attractive, minimalistic chart depicts the coast of the Arabian Peninsula from Al Makullah in Yemen to Dhofar in Oman. The coastal view is bisected into 2 images, separated by a border formed by the tendrils of a vine. The upper view depicts the southern, while the lower portrays the northern aspect of the coast. Prominent features of the desert coastline are depicted, while compass roses, from which radiate rhumb lines, decorate the seas.

In 1671, the London cartographer John Seller commenced work on The English pilot, a work that intended to challenge Dutch hegemony in the sea atlas market. Intended to be published in four books covering different regions of the globe, Seller published an uncompleted book on Oriental navigation in 1675. Unable to continue this Herculean endeavour, Seller sold his rights to John Thornton, the official hydrographer to the English East India Company. When John Thornton died in 1708, his brother Samuel took over the business and added to and modified existing charts. The project succeeded in giving the English dominance in the sea chart market as the 18th century progressed.

With a small restoration, affecting the title, but restored with ink, otherwise in very good condition.

Tibbetts 177; cf. Phillips, Atlases, 4278–4218; not in Al Ankary; Al Qassimi (1999).

238. TIRION, Isaak. Nieuwe en beknopte hand-atlas. Bestaande in eene verzameling van eenige der algemeenste en nodigste landkaarten; ... na de alderlaatste ontdekkingen van De L’Isle en anderen opgesteld. Amsterdam, [widow of] Isaak Tirion, [1770]. 2º (42 × 26.5 cm). With 109 engraved maps (106 double-page and 3 larger folding; plate size mostly ca. 30 × 34 cm), all coloured as published. Contemporary half calf. € 28 000

Coloured copy of a lovely world atlas by Isaak Tirion: “his maps excel in style and exactness ... [with] a homogeneous character” (Koeman III, p. 126). As noted on the title-page, the maps are largely based on the work of Guillaume De l’Isle in Paris, the greatest cartographer of the early 18th-century. Included are 13 maps of Asia and the Middle East, 5 of Africa, and 15 of America. Noteworthy maps include the general map of Asia and the Middle East, which also includes the most northern part of Australia (“Nieuw Holland”), the very detailed map of Arabia, that of mainland southeast Asia soon followed by separate maps of its most southern parts and the archipelago. The maps of America are unusually detailed, including separate double-page maps of “California” (the Baja peninsula, here securely attached to the mainland), the area around the future Panama Canal, Salvador and the Baia de Todos os Santos in Brazil, Cayenne and its fortress on the coast of modern French Guiana, the coast of Surinam, Martinique, New Orleans and the mouth of the Mississippi River, the Saint Lawrence River around Quebec, and many maps of larger areas.

With the owner’s inscription of the Dutch lieutenant Ernestus Engelbertus Pröbsting (d. 1825). With restored tears in two of the folding maps, some small tears to the folds (mostly restored) and some occasional thumbing, but internally otherwise in very good condition.

Binding worn. Tirion’s Hand-atlas, coloured by hand and printed on heavy paper with broad margins.

Koeman, Tir 4; V.d. Krogt, Advertenties 1273; Phillips & LeGear 4282.
Safe telegrams to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company during WWI

239. [THE FOREIGN OFFICE]. Minute Book. Sub-Registry No. 1. [London], 1913–1918. 2º (205 × 320 mm). Approximately 150 entries, typed or manuscript, mainly on letter-headed stationary and mounted on blank leaves. Bound in half red calf over cloth boards with title lettered in gilt on cover and spine.

Fascinating archive of internal notes relating to the Foreign Office’s attempts to direct sensitive, diplomatic correspondence from the Middle East, Eastern Europe, and Scandinavia during the important war years of 1913-18. As British diplomatic and intelligence operations blossomed during the late 19th century, 6 ‘sub-registries’ were set up within the Foreign Office to deal with the smooth operation of these many moving parts. As witnessed here, the intricacies of each level of bureaucracy are altogether evocative of the most intricate plot-lines of Kipling, Conrad, Greene, and John Le Carré (who worked in the Foreign Office himself).

In the present volume – dedicated to the activities of Sub-Registry 1 during WWI – we find internal memoranda concerning methods for destroying top-secret mail which falls into enemy hands (p. 115); notes on how safely to transmit telegrams to the Anglo-Persian Oil Company (p. 121); notes on cyphering for code-named locales (p. 36: “Preservation of Whales”; “Opium”; “Eastern Sanitary Reforms”; “Plumage Traffic”; etc.); “faulty transmission” in cables to Bucharest; how to securely deliver goods to Isfahan (p. 113); and so on. The clerk’s index at the front of the volume also gives a good flavour of the entries, ranging from “Importance of avoiding delays in sending paper to The King” to “Department to be informed when a heavy bag is about to leave for Tehran, in order that Swedish Customs officials may be instructed to let bag pass”; “Arrangements for sending confidential matter between Foreign Office and Petrograd, Stockholm, and Copenhagen and Christiania”; and “Arrangements for Indian Office bags to Basrah, Bagdad, or Bushehr [Persia].” Extremities rubbed; otherwise very good.

Polémical treatise against the Ottomans, printed in 1481


Some browning, with slight waterstain throughout in lower margin; first and final leaf washed. Slight paper flaw in fol. 1 (not touching text); final leaf restored. Faint traces of a later ms. page count are visible near the lower edge. Occasional 16th-century marginalia. A fine copy of this rare work, rubricated throughout.

Meeting Middle Eastern rulers on board the flagship

Commemorative publication “written, compiled and produced by [the] officers and men” of the USS Greenwich Bay after the ship’s first tour of duty to the Persian (Arabian) Gulf as flagship for the Commander of the US Navy Middle East Force.

The small seaplane tender Greenwich Bay departed Norfolk on 30 April 1949 for a six-month mission, four months of which were spent in the Gulf area based at Bahrein, calling at Kuwait, Ras al Misha’ab, Ras Tanura, Sharjah, and Muscat before returning to Norfolk on 1 November. Every year thereafter the ship would repeat this duty, sailing through the Mediterranean to operate as flagship in the Red Sea, Gulf, and Indian Ocean for 4 to 6 months. In total, the Greenwich Bay made 15 Mediterranean deployments. This fully illustrated record contains rare images of a fire at Aramco’s Ras Tanura oilfield that scorched the ship’s hull, scenes from Manama, Bahrein, the “distinguished guests” who visited aboard (dignitaries of the Gulf countries visited, including a portrait of HRH Faisal al Saud on board the Greenwich Bay), etc. In addition to operating with foreign naval units in the Mediterranean, Red Sea, Gulf, and Indian Ocean, the Greenwich Bay performed extensive work in the People-to-People program, particularly in carrying drugs and other medical supplies to Arab and African nations, and operated as an important tool of diplomacy in the region.

Light brownstaining to endpapers, otherwise a fine copy of a rare, privately printed work whose press-run likely did not exceed the number of the crew: 20 officers and 206 men. Inserted are a 3-page assessment form “Military requirements for all men in the Navy” and a Bombay port receipt from the ship’s call at Bombay in July 1949.

With the first European edition of Abulfeda


Issued with: (2) ABU AL-FIDA ISMA`IL IBN `ALI. Chorasmiae, et Mawaralnahrae, hoc est, regionum extra fluvium Oxum descriptio, ex tabulis Abulfedae Ismaelis, principis Hamah.
London, 1650. Title-page printed in red and black.

Contemporary English calf with rebacked spine, preserving original giltstamped red spine label. € 15 000

Editio princeps of both works contained. Ulugh Beg (1394–1449), the “Great Prince”, born as Muhammad Taragay, was raised at the court of his grandfather, Tamerlane. From 1409 onwards he ruled Mawara’annahr from Samarkand, where he had a three-story observatory built. One of the oldest inhabited cities in Central Asia, Samarkand prospered from its location on the trade route between China and the Mediterranean (Silk Road).

“An important result of the scientific work of Ulugh Beg and his school was the astronomical tables called the ‘Zij’” (198). The present work offers the calendrical and chronological section of his tables. It was through the works of the Oxford mathematician and oriental scholar John Greaves (1602–52), formerly professor of astronomy, who edited the volume, that Newton became acquainted with the works of Ulugh Beg. The second part of the volume offers the first European edition and translation of any text by the important Arab historian Abu al-Fida (Abulfeda, 1273–1331), ruler of Hamah among the Mamluks: his geography of present-day Usbekistan.

Some browning and spotting throughout; old library stamp “chiesa libera” to title and dedication. Binding rubbed; extremeties rather severely bumped; spine rebacked.

Wing U-24; I-1073. OCLC 7907287; 4383680. DNB XXIII, 38. GAL II, 46; Schurr, p. 122, no. 759; Fick 86; Zenker I, 984 (Abulfeda only). Cf. DSB XIII, 335ff. GAL II, 212f.; S II, 298; M. H. Fikri, Treasures from the Arab Scientific Legacy in Europe, nno. 52f. (later eds. of Ulugh Beg only).
Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Qatar: “all modern maps [...] trace their roots back to these first publications” (Parry)


Two sheets from the groundbreaking series of 21 fully bilingual and dual-dated maps prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey and the Arabian American Oil Company under the joint sponsorship of Saudi Arabia and the U.S. State Department. The first to produce a full series of geological and geographical maps of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the venture was instrumental in establishing the country as a major global force in the production of natural resources and must count as “a unique experiment in geological cooperation among several governments, petroleum companies, and individuals” (Seager/Johnston).

The area here covered is the eastern portion of Qatar and the westernmost area of Abu Dhabi, including the island of Sir Bani Yas and the adjoining border territory of Saudi Arabia. Indeed, this is the only map in the series to show any portion of today’s United Arab Emirates: the land to the eastward was still beyond the focus of oil exploration in the mid-1950s and was omitted from the mapping project.

The importance of the present map within the series is underscored by the fact that its joint authors, R. A. Bramkamp and L. F. Ramirez, were Aramco’s foremost geologists. Together with Glen F. Brown, a veteran of the industry who also had been in the region since the 1940s and who would oversee the venture, Bramkamp had in February 1955 planned the entire programme, laying down everything from the scales of maps, the areas of responsibility, and types of terrain representation to the bilingual names. As Aramco’s chief geologist, Bramkamp was responsible for the compilation of the areas within Arabia where the sediments crop out. This responsibility fell to Ramirez following Bramkamp’s early death in September 1958.

The surveyors divided the Peninsula into 21 quadrangular sections (numbered I-200 through I-220), each to cover an area 3 degrees of longitude and 4 degrees of latitude. All maps were produced on a 1 : 500 000 scale and issued in two series: a combined map of geography and geology (marked by the appendix ‘A’) and a map of geography only (‘B’). “High altitude photography [...] was [...] completed in 1959 [...] This controlled photography resulted in highly accurate geographic maps at the publication scale which then served as a base for the geologic overlay. The topography of the sedimentary areas was depicted by hachuring and that of the shield region by shaded relief utilizing the airbrush technique. The first geographic quadrangle was published in July 1956 and the last in September 1962 [...] The first of the geologic map series was published in July 1956 and the final sheet in early 1964” (Seager/J.).

Lower left corner of ‘B’ map chipped (no loss to text or image); printed sleeve somewhat rubbed with a 1960s few pencil annotations, otherwise a very clean set in excellent state of preservation. A single map of the quadrantale to the immediate west of this, I-208 (the 1958 ‘A’ sheet only), showing Dhahran and Ras Tanura, is currently being offered on the market at £25 000.


Egypt in 309 beautiful illustrations, many in colour

244. VALERIANI, Domenico and Girolamo SEGATO. Nuova illustrazione istorico-monumentale del basso e dell’alto Egitto.

Including: Atlante monumentale del basso e dell’alto Egitto.

Florence, Paolo Fumagalli, 1836–1837 (text) & 1837–1841 (plates). 2 text volumes (8º) and 2 plates volumes (large 2º). With engraved portrait of Segato as frontispiece in the first text volume and the plate volumes with 160 engraved and aquatint plates (7 double-page), including 51 tinted and/or coloured by a contemporary hand; many plates contain multiple illustrations, making 309 illustrations in total. Contemporary green (text vols.) and brown (plates vols.) half morocco.

€ 18 000

First edition of a beautiful series of illustrations of Egypt and classical Egyptian monuments, with the accompanying text volumes giving detailed information on each
illustration. The illustrations show maps, costumes and views of both ancient and modern Egypt. The scientist and Egyptologist Girolamo Segato (1792–1836) began working on a new description and depiction of Egypt, selecting illustrations from the works of Denon, Grau and Rosellini, and also including his own original drawings. After his premature death his collaborator Domenico Valeriani finished the work and provided the accompanying texts.

The text and plates volumes with marginal foxing throughout, minor except in the preliminary leaves. Otherwise in good condition. The binding slightly rubbed along the extremities, damage to the upper right corner of the first plates volume, resulting in a stain on the front endpapers, and the upper half of the sides on the second plate volume faded, otherwise good and structurally sound.

Blackmer, sales catalogue 984 (180 plates); Ibrahim-Hilmy II, p. 301; for Segato: Almagia, “SEGATO, Girolamo” in: Treccani Enciclopedia Italiana (online ed.).

One of the earliest printed sources for the early history of Fujairah and Sharjah

Venice, Paolo Baglioni, 1661–1664. 12º. 4 vols. Contemporary limp vellum with ms. spine titles; all edges of vol. 2 sprinkled in red. € 18 500

Early duodecimo edition of Della Valle’s complete “Viaggi”, published while the first complete edition was still under the press. Della Valle’s account is highly sought after as one of the earliest printed sources for the early history of Dibba, the coastal region at the northeastern tip of the United Arab Emirates, today ruled by the Emirates of Fujairah and of Sharjah.

Pietro della Valle (1586–1652) left Venice in 1614 on a pilgrimage to Palestine, proceeding to Baghdad and then into Persia, where he married and sojourned in the court of Shah Abbas. While staying with the Sultan of Bandar Abbas, he “met the son of the ruler of Dibba who was visiting. From this he learned that Dibba had formerly been subject to the kingdom of Hormuz, but was at that time loyal to the Safavids who in 1633 sent troops to Dibba, Khor Fakkan and other ports on the southeast coast of Arabia in order to prepare for a Portuguese counter-attack following their expulsion from Hormuz (Jarun). In fact, the Portuguese under Ruy Freire were so successful that the people of Dibba turned on their Safavid overlords, putting them all to death, whereupon a Portuguese garrison of 50 men was installed at Dibba. More Portuguese forces, however, had to be sent to Dibba in 1627 as a result of an Arab revolt. Curiously, two years later the Portuguese proposed moving part of the Mandaean population of southern Iraq, under pressure from neighbouring Arab tribes, to Dibba” (UAE History: 2000 to 200 years ago – UAEinteract, online).

Only the first volume, dealing with Turkey, saw print during his lifetime. The two-part volume II on Persia was released in 1658, four years after his death; in 1662 the Turkey volume saw a second edition, and the set was concluded in 1663 with the volume on India. A single-volume English translation of the Indian travels appeared in 1655. Occasional slight brownstaining, otherwise fine.


Della Valle’s travels in the Near East, Persia and Arabia: “one of the finest works of travel literature” (Howgego)

Geneva, Johann Herman Widerhold, 1674. 2º. 4 vols. bound as 1. With 31 engraved plates (1 folding), including frontispiece and portraits of the author and his wife, by Jean Jacques Thourneyser. Further with woodcut initials, head- and tailpieces, factotums and several small woodcuts in the text. 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.

The first European in Mecca


Excessively rare first printing of Hieronymus Megiser’s German translation: Ludovico di Varthema’s famous account of travels to Arabia, Syria, Persia, Ethiopia, India and the East Indies; a highly important and adventurous narrative including his 1503 visit to Mecca and Medina, the first recorded visit of a European (probably of any non-Muslim) to the Islamic holy cities. The 1510 first edition, published in Italian at Rome, had no illustrations. The illustrations in this early 17th century edition include a map of the Arabian Peninsula as well as a separate one of only the Gulf (both identifying “Catura”, i.e., Qatar), a view of Aden, riders on Arabian horses, a view of Damascus and the Arab costume as worn in Syria, an elephant, etc. Varthema’s account became a bestseller as soon as it appeared in 1510 and went through about twenty editions in various languages in the next fifty years. It certainly provided many Europeans with their first glimpse of Islamic culture and of non-European cultures in general. This first edition of this translation is so rare that Röhricht doubted its existence. Somewhat browned throughout due to paper. Several contemp. underlinings and marginalia in red and black ink. Contemp. ownership “Michael Thomas, Ao. 1635, 1 Octobris” on t.p. and note of acquisition (“const. 8 ggr”) on flyleaf (with later ownership “A. U. D. S. 1715” and further provenance note “Aus des Vice Praesid. Fryers Erbschaft” on pastedown).

By the Ottoman ambassador to Spain


In Ottoman Turkish throughout. Second edition of “The Beauty of Chronicles and the Truth of Histories”, a chronicle of the Ottoman Porte from 1166 to 1187 (1752–75), written by the Ottoman ambassador to Spain and published by the first official governmental printing press in Cairo. Ahmed Vasif (Ahmed Klican Wasif Efendi, ca. 1730–1806) was born in Baghdad to a poor family. During his early years he served as a soldier and for a while was imprisoned by the Russian army. For his language skills he was chosen to assist in the Bucharest peace negotiations of 1772. In 1788 he became the first Ottoman ambassador to Madrid, charged with securing relations in the Mediterranean; he wrote the present account upon his return. The Bulaq or El-Amiriya Press, the first official and governmental printing press established in Egypt, was founded in 1820 by the viceroy of Egypt Muhammad Ali. Five years earlier, in
1815, the first delegation was sent to Milan to learn the art of printing. After construction of the press was completed in the autumn of 1820, it took another two years to transport the machines and train the employees. The first book, an Arabic-Italian dictionary, was published in 1822. Viceroy Muhammad Ali started several reform programs aiming to create a modern Egyptian society after the European model, the printing press being a part of the modernisation programme. Muhammad Ali is noted for establishing modern Egypt as an independent country.

Binding slightly worn; edges scuffed, hinges repaired, otherwise in good condition, lacking original wrappers with the printed title.

Zenker 959. OCLC 222875897 (only 2 copies: Cambridge Univ. and UNC Chapel Hill). Cf. Atabey 905; De Sacy 5014; Brill Turcica 21 (1804 first ed., published by the Imperial Press at Istanbul).

A military manual, published within two decades of the invention of letterpress printing

249. VEGETIUS, Flavius Renatus. Epitomia rei militaris, libri numero quatuor.

[Cologne], N[ikolaus] G[ötz], [ca. 1475]. 2º (217 × 297 mm). 36 (instead of 40) ff., wanting the first and final blanks (as common) and leaves [a]5–6, missing text supplied in near-contemporary manuscript (but omitting initials). 38 lines, 2 columns, 3- and 4-line Lombardic initials supplied in red, red initial strokes and paraphs. 19th century unsophisticated boards.

One of the earliest editions of Vegetius’s famous military manual. The book gives an account of the Roman military institutions, organization and science, and includes a discussion of naval warfare. Ebert and Schweiger both date this to “between 1474 and 1478”.

Annotated throughout in a contemporary hand. The two missing leaves of text have been supplied in different handwriting, no later than the early sixteenth century (watermark of inserted leaves: couronne à diadème, 138 mm high, not identified but similar to Briquet 4900ff., 4950ff., Piccard I.VI, 27–29: various locations, but mainly 1490 to 1520s). Blanks lacking (as from the Bodleian copy); the BSB copy wants the final two leaves (including d9, the last leaf of text). Only 19 copies listed in public collections; no sale records for this edition.

Provenance: 1) William O’Brien (1832–99), Irish bibliophile and judge who presided over the 1882 “Phoenix Park Murders” (his handwritten pencil acquisition date “6 March 1868” on pastedown); 2) bequeathed as part of his enormous collection, which included 100 incunabula, to Milltown Park Jesuit Library (Dublin) in 1899 (their bookplates, with bequest plate).


Striking aquatint of a Mamluk leader


Paris, Jazet and Bance & Aumont, [1821]. Aquatint print (image size: 48,5 × 39 cm, not including title and imprint; paper size: 55 × 45 cm), engraved by Jean Pierre Jazet after Vernet.

Striking aquatint of a Mamluk leader by the acclaimed French artist Carle Vernet (1758–1836), best known for his depiction of horses and war scenes. The Mamluk leader is depicted in traditional garb with a scimitar dangling from a robe in his hand, on a horse, with a fighting scene in the background in front of a Middle Eastern town. The engraver, Jean Pierre Jazet (1788–1871), must have been a skilled artist himself.

A fine copy in a crisp impression.

Striking aquatint of a Mamluk warrior in combat


Striking aquatint of a Mamluk warrior in combat by the acclaimed French artist Carle Vernet (1758–1836), best known for his depiction of horses and war scenes. The warrior is depicted on a horse in traditional garb, firing a pistol and with some type of javelin (?) in the other hand. The scenery consists of ruins with a tower in the background. The engraver, Jean Pierre Jazet (1788–1871), must have been a skilled artist himself. A fine copy in a crisp impression.


One of the earliest lithographed views of Jeddah

252. VIGNAUD, Jean and Barthélémy LAUVERGNE. Vue de Djeddah. [Paris, 1845]. Chalk lithograph of Jeddah (image size: 19 × 31.5 cm) by Lauvergne after Vignaud, with the caption “Vue de Djeddah” below. Framed (44.5 × 54.5 cm).

Very early lithographed view of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, after a design by the French painter Jean Vignaud (1775–1826), a pupil of the famous Jacques-Louis David, and lithographed by Barthélémy Lauvergne (1805–1871). It depicts Jeddah’s coast with its white buildings as seen from sea, with on the foreground some ships and small boats. The view was originally published in one of the rare atlas volumes (Album historique, ethnologique et archéologique) of Lefèbvre’s Voyage en Abyssinie, the first comprehensive scientific work on Ethiopia, which included a narrative of the author’s journey and which remains an important source.

A very good copy of an extremely rare lithographed view.

Cf. Thieme & Becker XXII, p. 466 & XXXIV, p. 357.

Reinvigorating the corrupt Dutch East India Company


Extremely rare missive from the directors of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), written in what would be the first years of the decline of the company. In 1741 the charter of the VOC was extended in a secret resolution of the States General, despite the rising debts and growing signs of corruption. Upon this resolution, the colonial administrator Van Imhoff (1705–1750), newly reinstated after his opposition to the brutal 1740 Batavia massacre, proposes several measures to reinvigorate the company. In the present publication the directors comment on these measures.
and they conclude with a list of regulations to be followed by the company’s personnel, to prevent corruption and other misbehaviour. We could only locate one other copy of the missive. Two shorter, separately published, related documents are added.

First leaf a bit frayed and the two added documents are separated from the bookblock, otherwise in very good condition.


Compilation of all charters granted to the VOC up until 1754

254. [VOC]. Octroy, by de hoog mog. Heeeren Staaten Generaal der Vereenigde Nederlanden verleend aan de Oostindische Compagnie. In dato den 20 Maart 1602. Mitsgaders reglement, limitatie, ampliatie en continuatien van het voorschreeve octroy, ...

The Hague, Jacobus Scheltus, 1743. 2 volumes. 4º. Contemporary marbled wrappers.

With: (2) Prolongatie van het octroy voor de Oostindische Compagnie, voor den tyd van twaalf jaaren, en sulks tot den jaare 1754 incluis. (Colophon:) The Hague, Jacobus Scheltus, 1743.

€ 1250

Ad 1: Compilation of all charters of the Dutch East India Company (VOC), starting with the original charter of 1602 followed by all prolongations up until 1743, which prolonged the charter until 31 December 1754. The first charter was granted on 20 March, 1602 for 20 years, and was followed by 12 extensions, the last one expiring on 31 December 1800. The Dutch East India Company (VOC) came into existence by merging various small trading companies into what was to become the world’s largest trading company, building a trade empire with an extensive network of trade posts. The 1602-charter granted the VOC a monopoly on trade, warfare, minting, building fortresses, appointing officials, etc., for the entire area between Cape of Good Hope to the Strait of Magellan.

Ad 2: Very rare edition of the prolongation of the charter dated 17 December 1742 and valid for 12 years.

Very good copies.

Ad 1: Landwehr & V.d. Krogt, VOC 19 (3 copies of which 1 variant); STCN (7 copies); ad 2: cf. Landwehr & V.d. Krogt, VOC 17–18 (folio size copies printed on one side); not in STCN.

Charter of the Dutch East India Company


The Hague, Jacobus Scheltus, 1748[–1755?]. 4º. Later half vellum. € 950

Rare eighth extension of the charter (octroy) granting the VOC (Dutch East India Company) a monopoly on trade, warfare, government etc., in the East Indies. It includes the first charter, granted in 1602, and the several extensions of the charter up to 1774. The first 6 quires are a reissue of the 1743 edition by Jacobus Scheltus, the last quire contains the 20-year extension granted for 1 January 1755, which was valid to the end of 1774. The Dutch East India Company (VOC) came into existence by merging various small trading companies into what was to become the world’s largest trading company, building a trade empire with an extensive network of trade posts.

Title-page stained and restored at the gutter and head, a marginal tear on the last page, restored. Binding slightly soiled. A good copy.

Landwehr & V.d. Krogt, VOC 21 (2 copies); STCN 204321082 (4 copies).
A collection of 26 documents concerning the VOC (Dutch East India Company) and the Dutch East Indies, mostly from the second half of the 18th century. They include commercial rules and regulations for the operation of a ship for the VOC in 1787; lists of ships lost or destroyed by the British in the Fourth Anglo-Dutch War and its aftermath (1780–1786); records of troops from the regiment of Karl Eugen, Duke of Württemberg, that are to be transported to the Cape of Good Hope for the Amsterdam and Zeeland chambers of the VOC in 1787 (and a credit/debit note for 1787/88); instructions for bookkeeping, with examples; an agreement drawn up in 1790 at the request of Huijg Jacobsz de Reus, Lieutenant Captain on the ship “De Pollux”, for himself and his brother Jacob de Reus who both went into the service of the Zeeland chamber of the VOC in that year; a fragment of a notarial document drawn up by the VOC at Batavia ca. 1645; Eight numbered articles concerning the VOC, England, the Moluccas and the pretender Charles Stuart, described as King of Scotland; extracts from the registers of the Governor General of the Dutch East Indies, 1822; a filled-in form appointing the surgeon major F.W. van Zouw Zeldenrijk at the military hospital at Weltevreden to the post of directing officer of health for the Moluccas in 1822; what appears to be a sermon delivered at Batavia by J. Eikenkoken[?] in 1833; and more. There is also a 20th-century English translation of a 1795 Dutch inventory of coins in the VOC’s great chest at the Cape of Good Hope, together with two engravings: a portrait of ... by Cornelis van Noorde with a 6-line verse by P. Langendijk; and an illustration of two bank notes (6 and 12 stuyver) issued at Batavia in 1782 and 1783.

While some of the other documents have slightly tattered edges or an occasional minor stain, they are further in good or very good condition. A remarkable collection of 26 documents forming a unique and valuable primary source for the VOC and the Dutch East Indies, especially in the late 18th century.

On various proposals regarding the Dutch East and West India Company

A collection of various proposals regarding the Dutch East and West India Company.

First edition (one of two simultaneously published editions) of a brief work on the renewal of the charter of the East India Company. It also discusses various proposals directly related to the East and West India Company, such as the merging of the two companies, the discontinuance of the companies, the companies’ finances, the relation between the companies and the Dutch state, and the founding of new, independent companies for regions as Japan, Brazil, Persia, Banda, etc.

With a bookplate on paste-down. With a few small spots and the page-numbers “455–493” added in manuscript in the upper corners. Otherwise in very good condition.

Asher 200; Knuttel 5224; Landwehr & V.d.Krogt, VOC 8; Sabin 20235; STCN 86749804 (6 copies).
Amsterdam, Peterus Conradi; Harlingen, W. van der Plaats, 1784–1787. 14 volumes bound as 6. 8º. With 2 engraved folding maps, 1 engraved folding city plan and 61 engraved plates (56 folding) including many topographic views. Uniform half tree calf (ca. 1820?), gold-tooled spines.

First and only edition of an extensive and well-illustrated collection of Dutch voyages from the late 16th century to the second half of the 18th century, primarily to the East Indies, but also including voyages to China, Japan, Australia and Surinam. Volumes i–xi contain voyages in search of a Northeast Passage and to the East Indies before the establishment of the VOC (Willem Barentsz, Houtman, Van Neck & Warwyk, Van Noort, Jacob Heemskerk, Spilbergen, etc.). Volumes iv–xiii are devoted to VOC voyages to the East Indies, Africa, the Indian Ocean, Japan, China and the Pacific (Warwyck, Van der Hagen, Matelief, Van Caerden, Verhoeven, Van den Broecke, Spilbergen, Bontekoe, Taschen, Schouten, Hagenaar, De Graaf, Hamel, Roggeveen, etc.) and include the ill-fated voyages of the Arion ( shipwrecked in the Chinese Sea on a voyage from Batavia to Japan) Blydorp, Rustenwerk and Nyenburg. The final volume includes accounts of the West Indies (Piet Hein, Johan Nieuhof, Adriaan van Berkel and Jan Erasmus Reyning). In very good condition, with only occasional very minor and mostly marginal foxing, volume 12 with some marginal water stains and the edge of 1 plate slightly tattered. The bindings show some light wear and bumped corners, but are still good. Well-illustrated accounts of dozens of Dutch voyages.

Landwehr & V.d. Krogt, VOC 272; Tiele, Bibl. 909; Sabin 52228.

Islamic architecture, illustrated

259. VOGÜÉ, Melchior, de. Syrie centrale. Architecture civile et religieuse du Ier au VIIe siècle.
Paris, J. Baudry, 1865–1877. 2º (285 × 358 mm). 2 volumes. With a total of 3 maps (2 in colour) & 152 mostly full-page plates, several with tinted lithographed backgrounds. Later red half morocco with giltstamped spine titles.

First edition of this detailed study of Syrian decorative architectural art. “De Vogüé travelled with William Waddington in 1853 and 1854, exploring the area from Aleppo to Damascus, Palmyra and Basra. It was an important expedition and much new material was uncovered. The author became ambassador to the Porte in 1871” (Blackmer). Occasional foxing to plates, but a fine set.

The first oriental manuscript to be reproduced in facsimile:
an Iranian calendar with Turkish commentary, from Weikmann’s Kunstkammer


First facsimile edition of any oriental manuscript. 16 of the 22 finely engraved plates show a Persian perpetual calendar with Ottoman Turkish “commentarius” and floral borders. Welsch had acquired the ms. from Christoph Weikmann’s Kunstkammer in Ulm. The remaining six plates are concerned with Arabian astronomy: astrolabe, orrery, zodiac, circular table of Sundays and names of the months in various languages. The calculation of this calendar is today attributed to the 9th-c. Persian mathematician Wafâ al Buzjâni. The predominant attribution to one Turkish Sheikh Wafâ had been disputed by Babinger as early as 1927. Welsch (1624–77) was a physician and “a researcher of the very first magnitude [...] while the works of this polymath were mainly dedicated to the Arabian and Persian sciences, he also has provided proof of his close study of Ottoman Turkish. In this connexion, his important ‘Commentarius in Ruzname Naurus’ must be cited” (cf. Babinger 1919). Welsch’s “Dissertatio” (with Arabic typeface) is aimed at the usefulness of the calendar for relative oriental chronology: he also compares the works of Schall von Bell and Andreas Müller on Chinese astronomy and chronology. 

Bookplate of South Library on front pastedown. Occasionally browned.


Beautifully illustrated description of Palestine, Sinai and Egypt

261. WILSON, Charles. Picturesque Palestine, Sinai and Egypt. Edited by Colonel Wilson, R.E., C.B., F.R.S. formerly engineer to the Palestine Exploration Society. Assisted by the most eminent Palestine explorers etc. With numerous engravings on steel and wood. London, Virtue and Co., [ca.1870]. 4 volumes. Large 4º (33 × 25 cm). With 4 title-pages in red and black, each with a different large steel-engraved vignette, 38 plates (including 4 different steel-engraved frontispieces), and 2 double-page engraved maps of Egypt and Sinai, printed in brown. Contemporary half sheepskin, buckram sides; front board with centre piece in gold, gilt edges. € 2500

First edition of beautifully illustrated description of Palestine, Sinai and Egypt by Major-General Sir Charles Wilson (1836–1905). In the preface to his biography on Wilson, Charles Moore Watson wrote that Wilson “probably did more than any other man to increase the knowledge of the geography and archeology of Asia Minor, Palestine and the adjacent countries”. It also includes descriptions by distinguished explorers in Palestine such as Canon Tristram, Charles Warren, M. Rogers, and notably Major Claude Reignier Conder, R.E. (1848–1910), as well as several others. The fourth volume is completely devoted to Sinai (pp. 1–120) and Egypt (pp. 121–234). The illustrations in the parts that describe Sinai include a detailed map of Sinai and Egypt, views of Jebel Hammam Far’un, Jebel Kanata, the mountains at the head of Wady Leja and Jebel ed Deir. Some occasional spots, but otherwise a very good set.

262. WÜSTENFELD, Ferdinand and Ibn Qadi SHUHBA. Die Academien der Araber und ihre Lehrer. Nach Auszügen aus Ibn Schohba's Klassen der Schafitien...
Göttingen, Vanderhoeck & Ruprecht (colophon: printed by Friedrich Ernst Huth), 1837. 8º. Publisher's original printed wrappers. € 3500

First and only early edition, in German, of an extraordinarily thorough documentation of scholarly academies in the early Islamic world, biographical dictionary of early Arabic scholars and lists of their writings. It is one of the earliest and most important publications of the Göttingen orientalist Ferdinand Wüstenfeld, who based much of it on the ancient biographical dictionaries compiled by Abu-Bakr Ibn Qadi Shuhba and Ibn Khallikan. It covers the 5th to the 9th centuries AH (11th to 15th centuries CE), with accounts of 37 academies in Baghdad, Nishabur, Damascus, Jerusalem and Cairo, and brief biographies of 254 scholars, 187 listed under the academies where they taught and 67 in a separate section at the end. For most he includes a list of their writings. A 22-page appendix gives the original Arabic text of an extract from Ibn Shuhba, Tabaqat al-shafi’iyya, published here for the first time.
With minor foxing, mostly in the wrappers and the first and last leaf, but otherwise in very good condition, only slightly tattered at the edges and preserved in the original publisher’s printed wrappers, nearly untrimmed and mostly unopened.

With: (2) YEARSLEY, Ann. Poems on various subjects by Ann Yearsley, a Milkwoman of Clifton near Bristol, being her second work. London, printed for the author and sold by G.G.J. and J. Robinson, 1787.
Marbled boards. € 3500

First editions. – “Only edition; the narrative of Luco, who, stolen from the embrace of his Incilada, is sold into slavery. A noble savage made to endure torture at the hands of Christian men, he ends up burnt on a stake, a warning to other slaves never to pause in the work of the cane-fields” (Quaritch, Americana). Small owner’s stamp to each title, some minor fraying. Very good and clean copy.

264. [YEMEN AND EGYPT]. Photograph album.
Yemen, Egypt and other places, c. 1889. An album of 25 albumen prints (vintage), measurements usually ca. 200 × 270 mm, one a double-page spread, many captioned in English. Bound in contemporary giltstamped auburn full calf (378 × 280 mm; spine rebacked). All edges gilt. € 4500
Photographic record of a journey begun in Australia and taken, via Aden, through the Suez canal and to the Mediterranean (and then on to England). While the first image shows the steamship RMS *Ormuz* in the port of Sydney, three images (including a double-page spread) show the port of Aden in Yemen, the famous water tanks, and a native of the Southern Arabian region in a studio portrait. The majority of the album is dedicated to Egypt, showing Arabs on their camels, the Khedive’s Ismailia Palace, the Suez Canal, Port Said, and members the local population, as well as the famous pyramids. The last few photographs show the final leg of the journey: Naples, and ultimately Gibraltar. Among the studios identified in the photographs are those of Hippolyte Arnoux and the Zangaki brothers, based at Port Said. Some foxing and waterstaining, but prints largely clean.

Arabic medical compendium

265. YUHANNA IBN SARABIYUN (Serapio maior). Iani Damasceni Decapolitani summae inter Arabes autoritatis medici, therapeutice methodi, hoc est, curandi artis Libri VII. partim Albano Torino Vitodurano paraphraste, partim Gerardo iatro Cremonensi metaphraste.

Basel, Heinrich Petri, (March 1543). 2º (20.5 × 29 cm). 17th century black-tinted vellum binding using an earlier liturgic musical manuscript. € 18 000

Important Latin edition of this Arabic medical compendium (first printed, also in Latin, in 1479), with additions by Gerard de Cremona. It provides a collection of opinions voiced by Greek and Arabic physicians on pathology and therapeutics. “No Arabic printed edition exists so far” (cf. Choulant). The third-century doctor Yahya bin Sarabiyun, son of a Bagarma physician, wrote his great medical work “Al-Kunnas” in Syriac, but it was soon translated into Arabic by scholars such as Musa Ibrahim al-Haditi and ibn Bahlul. There exist manuscripts in twelve and in seven books. “The seven-book edition was frequently printed in Latin translations as ‘Breviarium’ and ‘Practica therapeuticae methodus’. Albanus Torinus, the editor of the Basel 1543 edition, called him Janus Damascenus, for which reason he has been confused with the well-known theologian of that name. He is also often mistaken for his younger namesake, Serapio junior” (cf. GAL I, 233). Some catalogues even ascribe this work to the Baghdad physician Abu-Zakariya Yuanna Ibn-Masawaih.

Slight waterstaining; some unobtrusive worming to upper cover and flyleaves. Binding rubbed; extremeties bumped with chipping to spine-ends. A wide-margined copy. Provenance: 1677 ownership of the pharmacist and medical student Joseph Franz König on front pastedown; later in the library of Bonifacius Brix von Wahlberg, court physician to the Princes of Fürstenberg, in the later 18th century (his ownership on the title-page).
