ADDENDUM TO 2024 RBMS CATALOGUE

ETHICS GUIDE FOR ANGRY PEOPLE

1. ANONYMOUS

Only edition. The text begins by describing anger and listing its causes, then expounds on its effects for the angry person and society in general. For example, one who is angry distances himself from God, is prone to foolish and irrational behavior, and is unable to love others. The anonymous author then offers advice for ridding oneself of anger: recognize your anger as a burden, read the Bible, curse the Devil, etc. The book concludes with a list of prayers to God and the Saints for controlling and eliminating anger. OCLC records no copies outside Europe.

$ 2800.00

SEVENTEENTH-CENTURY DREAM INTERPRETATION

2. ARTEMIDORUS, Daldianus

First collected edition. Oneirocritica (The interpretation of dreams) is an ancient Greek treatise on dream interpretation written by Artemidorus in the 2nd century AD. The first three of five books, intended for the general public, provide an encyclopedic treatment of the subject matter of dreams, including anatomy and activity of the human body such as eating and sexual activity. The second treats objects and events in the natural world such as animals, weather and sea creatures. The third book takes into account other dreamed events, while the remaining two books were written for the private use of the author’s son, a novice dream interpreter, which was a thing in those early days (remember Joseph!). Apparently dream interpreters need to know the full background of the dreamer and how the subject feels about each component of the dream. A number of examples are provided for practice.

APPIGNANESI, Richard; ZARATE, Oscar (ill.)

First edition, possibly a later issue (though no copy was printed earlier) of this joyous and entertaining introduction to Freud.

$ 5000.00
CELEBRITY GOSSIP FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD

3. [DICKENS, Charles]; A MELBOURNE MEDIUM

_Spiritual communications and the comfort they bring; by the disembodied spirit of Charles Dickens, through a Melbourne medium._ Melbourne: Chas. Troedel, 1873. Small pamphlet. 8 pp. Original printed wrappers.

First and only printing, the first of a planned series of “spiritual communications.” Dickens has penned the preface, stating “then I wrote as a man of the world ... now I write in the spirit.” He goes on to describe spiritual life, what one may expect after entering the spirit world, and on the “change of our nature.” He does not dwell upon “the things of earth” but suggests that man should hold a far higher opinion of his nature than he does now. This pamphlet, noted as No. 1, was (so unfortunately) all published. No. 2 is advertised as _Christmas stories by the spirit of Charles Dickens._

$250.00

DEMONIC POSSESSION A PHYSICAL, NOT SUPERNATURAL AILMENT

4. FARMER, Hugh

_An essay on the demoniacs of the New Testament._ London: G. Robinson, 1775. 8vo. [xvi], 416 pp., including half-title. Contemporary calf, spine label; edges and corners a bit worn, interior very good.

First edition. Farmer here posits that demonic possession never caused insanity. Farmer would not “ascribe madness and epileptic fits to possession, rather than other disorders.” Though the Bible does teach demon possession during the apostolic age, Farmer did not believe the devil or demons even existed; instead he explained “possession” to be caused by physical diseases like epilepsy or flu viruses. Demon possession is real in the New Testament and is always accompanied by supernatural powers and knowledge. For example, it was impossible for demon-possessed men to be bound with even chains, and they also knew things normal humans did not know. Farmer believed that Jesus did perform genuine miracles of casting out demons, but equated it with a miracle of healing a simple disease. “The doctrine of demoniacal possessions, instead of being supported by the Jewish or Christian revelation, is utterly subverted by both ... Here I would observe that whether the doctrine of possessions be true or false, it was not originally founded on revelation; nor did it ever receive the sanction of any of the prophets either of the Old or New Testament.”

Farmer almost stands alone as a clergyman equating demon possession with the diseases like common cold and for viewing insanity as having a physical/biological cause.

$450.00
FIRST EDITION, WITH THE SCHEINER LETTERS

5. GALILEI, Galileo

Istoria e dimostrazioni intorno alle macchie solari et loro accidenti . . . Si aggiungono nel fine le lettere, e disquisizioni del finto appelle. Rome: Giacomo Mascardi, 1613. Two parts in one. 4to. [iv], 164; 55, [1] pp. Woodcut printer’s device on title, engraved portrait of Galileo by Villamoena (1566-1626) which is considered one of his best; 38 full-page engravings of sunspots, 5 full-page engravings of Jovian satellites, 1 text engraving, 8 woodcut diagrams, woodcut initials; second part with 1 double page engraving, 1 full-page engraving, 3 engravings and 7 woodcut and typographic text diagrams, woodcut initials. Contemporary mottled calf.

First edition. Galileo’s first printed endorsement of the Copernican system is a masterpiece of astronomical literature, written in a series of letters. This rare issue contains the supplement with Christoph Scheiner’s letters to Marcus Welser in which he claims sunspots to be satellites of the sun or small planets. Galileo here presents his arguments based on his own observations of sunspots and his discoveries relating to the rotation of the sun and that of the earth round its axis, the most important step in astronomy since the Copernican theory. Also included is Galileo’s first printed discussion of his discovery of the phases of Venus, and the then-unsolved mysteries of Saturn. In his third letter, he expressed his enthusiasm for the heliocentric cosmology described by Copernicus. This endorsement put Galileo on the path that led to his condemnation by the Roman Inquisition in 1633.

The present copy is the “domestic issue” containing the Scheiner letters; another issue without the Scheiner letters was apparently printed simultaneously. However, in order to avoid copyright disputes, the publisher omitted the supplement for the copies to be exported out of Italy.

The work is not only a scientific classic, but also one of the most outstanding examples of engraved illustrations in an early scientific book.

$52,000.00
RISKS TO THE LIVING FROM THE SPIRIT-WORLD

6. GOUGENOT DES MOUSSEAUX, Roger

Second edition, enlarged and augmented, of this exhaustive study of supernatural phenomena. While providing a history of magical occurrences and lore, the author systematically denounces them as evil or coincidental. He recognizes the validity of the spirit-world and its interactions with the living, but he asserts that only those of weak faith and moral character (usually women) are at risk. The fourth chapter explores the mystical role of blood and its necessary presence for demonic spirits to conduct rites. Masquerading as a historical treatise, this text is primarily a sweeping condemnation of the Spiritualist movement.

$ 550.00

THE DEVIL ULTIMATELY COLLECTS HIS DUE

7. GOUGENOT DES MOUSSEAUX, Roger

Second edition, expanded and augmented, of this comprehensive study of demonology. His final anti-Satanism diatribe, Gougenot explains here the evidence of the supernatural world and its necessary inclusion of evil spirits, which may interfere with the activities of the living in order to expand their dominion. He denounces Spiritualism as a Satanic sect through which the devil and his minions present themselves to vulnerable humans. He goes on to recount the history of magic and the occult as it was understood in the 19th century, asserting that even though some legends of magical intervention met with positive results, the bill from the devil came due eventually.

Gougenot des Mousseaux (1805-1876) was a French author and journalist who wrote extensively on occult matters, including the Kabbalah, Freemasonry, and Spiritualism.

$ 550.00
WHAT WE HAVE IN COMMON UNITES THE WORLD
(EVERYBODY POOPS)

8. MANUSCRIPT [ANONYMOUS]
Merda est salus hominis. . . [Italy, 19th century]. 8vo. 46 pp. Ruled manuscript notebook with engraved frontispiece. Preface and discourse in two parts. Contemporary black roan, and preserved in a black roan-backed box. The text is very clean. A handsome copy. With the bookplate of Roberto Gabbani engraved by Costante Costantini. A discourse in the form of a mock-address to an educated and learned public of women. The author is inspired to write this praise after he had accidentally stepped onto a pile of excrement. He addresses the ladies and in the first part theorizes the ancient and noble origins of defecation, from the beginning of time with Adam and Eve. The object of his ode is universal and unites all peoples of the world. The second part is devoted to the usefulness and benefits of excrement: it’s healthy, nourishes the trees and the soil, and provides work to those that transport it from cities to villages. The author ends his tribute talking to poop directly, inviting poop not to blame humans that don’t appreciate it. $ 5500.00

NOSTRADAMUS’ EFFECT ON FRENCH HISTORY

9. TORNÉ-CHAVIGNY, Henri

Only edition of this strange mystical report on 300 years of Nostradamus’ prophetic outcomes. Addressed as a missive to the French Senate, the text covers events that happened between the first publication of Nostradamus’ prophecies until the present year, 1878. Topics include royal births, events during the life of Marie de Medici, war with England, the French Revolution, the reign of Napoleon, and actions made by the sitting president of France (who ignored the author’s attempts to contact him regarding these predictions). The illustrations depict Nostradamus penning his prophesies alongside 60 notable men whose lives he predicted, the prophet with Marie de Medici when he saw her ascending the Bourbon throne, and reproductions of famous paintings of his prophecies by Rubens. OCLC lists just 1 copy in America (Newberry). $ 2500.00
10. [VILLARS, Nicolas de Montfaucon de]

[Bound with]


Two satirical anonymous occult texts taking aim at Rosicrucianism. The first is written in the form of a dialogue between a cabalist (Comte de Gabalis) and a skeptic. The five “entretiens”, or interviews, attempt to discount the Paracelsian doctrine on elementary spirits and parody alchemy, divination, and astrology. Whether deliberate or not, the book revealed many secrets closely held in the Rosicrucian and Jansenist circles, and for this slight, Villars was murdered 3 years after publication of the first edition (1670). The second text purports to be of the same authorship, but this would be impossible as the first edition, offered here, was published 45 years after Villars’ death. The narrative piggybacks off Comte de Gabalis, describing and denouncing the elemental spirits of genies and gnomes. $1950.00
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