Rootenberg Rare Books & Manuscripts Presents:

A Short Spring List

April 2024
THE BIRDS OF INDOCHINA

1. DELACOUR, J. & JABOUILLE, P.
Les oiseaux de l’Indochine Francaise. Paris: Exposition Coloniale Internationale, 1931. Four volumes. 4to. [lvi], 279, xlvi; 336, lxi; 348, lxxiii; 296, lxvi pp., including half-titles in each volume. Complete with index, addenda, errata, and 67 color plates by Grønvold. Original half burgundy calf over marbled boards, gilt lettering on spine; browning and foxing to preliminary and blank leaves, otherwise a very nice wide-margined copy.

First edition of a standard work on the avifauna of Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. The authors spent the winter months over many years in ornithological exploration in Southeast Asia. The results of their explorations were first published in the Revue de Ornithologie and The Ibis and later gathered in this elaborate four volume set.

Delacour (1890-1985) was an American ornithologist with French origins known for discovering and breeding some of the world’s rarest birds, including the imperial pheasant. He founded the French ornithological magazine L’Oiseau. Leaving France for the United States during World War II, he ultimately became director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History.

Jabouille (1875-1947), a civil servant, was chosen by Delacour as his companion because of his expertise in the birds of Indochina. Grønvold (1858-1940), a Danish naturalist and artist, worked at the London Natural History Museum, where he developed skills as a taxidermist and established his reputation as an ornithological illustrator and painter of birds’ eggs.

Anker, p. 47.

$950.00
PHYSICAL SCIENCES THROUGH THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY

2. HALLE, Johann Samuel
Magie, oder, die Zauberkräfte der Natur, so auf den Nutzen und die Belustigung angewandt worden; (offered with) Fortgesetzte magie, oder, Die Zauberkräfte der Natur, so auf den Nutzen und die Belustigung angewandt worden; (offered with) Neufortgesetzte Magie, oder, die Zauberkräfte der Natur, so auf den Nutzen und die Belustigung angewandt worden. Berlin: Joachim Pauli, 1784-1792, 1799-1801; 1802. Together, seventeen volumes in fourteen. 8vo. . With engraved title vignettes, woodcut head- and tailpieces and 124 folding engraved plates; subject indices complete. Uniformly bound in contemporary half-calf over paste-boards, gilt lettering on spines; marginal dampstain on first two leaves of Volume III and annotations in contemporary hand on verso of last blank and paste-down of Volume IV of Magie, oder, Die Zauberkräfte der Natur, otherwise an exceptionally crisp and clean set.

First editions of all volumes (except Volume I in second edition), an absolutely superb set, complete with the rarely seen 1802 Neufortgesetzte Magie. This encyclopedia not only covers magic and the history of magic, but documents and illustrates, with beautiful plates, incredible accounts of human knowledge as well as physical science and technology through the eighteenth century.

Halle contributes a huge amount of new material in addition to describing and illustrating the current state of optics, electricity & magnetism, chemistry, mechanics, hydraulics, gunpowder, metallurgy, manufacturing, horology, acoustics, aeronautics (such as those by the Montgolfiers), meteorology (chapters on lightning and lightning conductors), cryptography, paper making, and engraving. The economics and commercial aspects of these subjects are also detailed; for example, Halle specifically discusses games of amusement, keyboard instructions, fortune-telling devices, magic lanterns, talking machines, Kempelen’s automaton chess player, mechanical games, stage props, telegraphy, mouse traps, tobacco and coffee, sign language, swimming, botany, plants and animals, artificial pearls, remedies (different herbs and mixtures), opium, distillation and wine making, etc., and all sorts of curiosities.

Halle (1727-1810), a toxicologist, was professor of history at the Royal Prussian Military Academy in Berlin. Little is known of his life, but he wrote many books on subjects of social, economic, technological, and military history.

Ferchl, p. 212; Poggendorff, I, 1003; Roller & Goodman, I, p. 505 (another ed.); Wellcome, III, p. 198 (two volumes only).

$12,500.00
Mit 9 Kupferstücken.

Erster Theil.
Zweyte Auflage.

Berlin, 1784.
von Joachim Pauli, Buchhändler.
3. HARGRAVE, Catherine Perry

*A history of playing cards and a bibliography of cards and gaming.* Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1930. 4to. xxvi, 468 pp. With colored frontispiece and nearly 1500 illustrations, including 31 full-page colored plates, and with all tissue guards present. Publisher’s red cloth; although without the dust jacket, a brilliant copy.

**First edition** of this excellent history of playing cards, which includes an invaluable bibliography. The historical aspect covers cards from countries around the world and from the earliest times to present-day America. An incredible resource for any library. $450.00
4. JOHNSON, Samuel
[TODD, Henry John] A dictionary of the English language; in which all the words are deduced from their originals; and illustrated in their different significations, by examples from the best writers; together with a history of the language, and an English grammar. With numerous corrections, and with the addition of several thousand words, as also with additions to the history of the language, and to the grammar, by the Rev. H.J. Todd . . . London: Printed for Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown and Green, 1827. Three volumes. 4to. Volume I with engraved frontispiece portrait of Johnson. Contemporary calf, rebbacked, covers a bit rubbed; edges of title reinforced, frontispiece offset onto title, otherwise a very good copy. Ownership inscription of Samuel Montgomery in Volume I.

The first revision of Johnson’s Dictionary in its second printing. Todd (1763-1845), an English clergyman, author and editor, added thousands of new words, updated a number of regional and dialectical variations which had become obsolete, and made important additions to many of Johnson’s historical notes. A conscientious editor, Todd was careful not to change Johnson’s delightful definitions and examples, which were drawn from contemporary works of literature.

Todd edited a number of other works, including Poetical works of John Milton; The life and writings of John Milton and The works of Edmund Spencer. His numerous original published works include catalogues of English books and manuscripts, historical works and sermons.

Courtney & Smith, p. 59; New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature, II, 1130. $1500.00
PRE-HISTORY IN BIBLICAL LANDS

5. LARTET, Louis
*Exploration géologique de la Mer Morte de la Palestine et de l’Idumée.* Paris: Arthus Bertrand, [ca. 1876-1877]. Folio. [iv], vi, 326 pp. With 14 plates (4 double-page and in color) and text illustrations. Later half-morocco over marbled boards; other than some light browning, a very clean interior. Signature of Ph. Robert in pencil on title page.

First and only edition of this extremely rare work on the geology and paleontology of the Dead Sea and its environs, considered the most complete survey of the area’s prehistory available at the time (Zittel). Though much of the volume covers geology and animal fossils, a notable chapter is devoted to human pre-history in Syria and Palestine. Lartet treats the subject with caution, however, being well aware of the Biblical significance inextricably linked to the area and the potential risk of ruffling more than a few feathers with his observations (he also wanted to avoid embroiling his patron, the Duke of Luynes, in any vitriol).

In the Epilogue, Lartet addresses the potential conflict between his findings and those interested in a Biblical interpretation, calling it “the most delicate of all subjects” and noting that his research is only concerned with the physical evidence, not theological debate. It is a bit surprising that Lartet did not go further with his argument; he would have been more than qualified to do so, having discovered the first Cro-Magnon skeletons not ten years prior to this publication.

Lartet (1840-1899) was a French geologist and paleontologist. His discovery of the first Cro-Magnon skeletons is considered “one of the most important discoveries in human paleontology” (*DSB*). Louis’ father, Edouard Lartet, was also a renowned paleontologist and major contributor to the burgeoning field of human pre-history.

Extremely rare; we could not locate any copies currently on the market or sold at auction. OCLC records only 10 copies in America; *Dictionary of Scientific Biography*, VIII, pp. 44-45; Zittel, *History of Geology*, p. 219. $9500.00
Vue des dépôts arenacés du W. Zuweirah.
formant le passage entre les dépôts de la Mer Morte et des alluvions anciennes.

Vue de la montagne de Sel (Dj. Usdom)
et de la portion méridionale de la Mer Morte.
MORAL AND FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CHURCH

6. LUGO, John de

Disputationum de justitia et jure. Lyon, P. Borde, L. Arnaud, and C. Rigaud 1652. Two volumes. Folio. [xvi], 606, [13]; [xvi], 623, [31] pp. Titles in red and black. Contemporary catspaw calf over stiff boards, spines and morocco labels gilt, edges speckled red; a few marginal worm trails, but a fine copy of a monumental set.

First edition thus, third overall, of the Jesuit cardinal’s most famous work. This economic treatise explores the moral responsibility of the Church and its people in proper distribution of funds and charity. It decries the sin of usury, calls for publicly funded social welfare programs, sets monetary compensation for civil and bodily harm, and establishes a template for courtroom procedures.

John de Lugo (1583-1660) was a Spanish theologian and educator. He received early training in law that helped to inform his later writing, but after joining the Jesuit order he became a professor of theology. He dedicated this book to Pope Urban VIII and presented it to him in person, a move that led to his being appointed cardinal.

Catholic Encyclopedia IX: 418-419. $1,500.00
7. MENNIE, Donald

The pageant of Peking comprising sixty-six Vandyck photogravures of Peking & Environs from photographs by Donald Mennie; with an introduction by Putnam Weale.

Shanghai: A.S. Watson, 1920, [1921]. Folio. [iv] leaves, 40 pages of text, and 66 tipped-in Vandyck photogravures of Peking and environs. Plates measure 7 ½ x 11 inches. Rubricated initials. Original blue silk cloth with Chinese cyphers, gilt lettering on front cover; silk repair to spine with slight stain in crease and on top edge of cover, still an exceptionally fine copy, complete with the original silk bookmark. From the library of Charles R. Crane, with his business card noting: “Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the United States of America.” Crane (1858-1939) was originally appointed minister to China in 1909, but before leaving was recalled to Washington where he was forced to resign by Secretary of State Philander C. Knox for his published objections to treaties between Japan and China. He later served as minister to China between 1920 and 1921. Crane was a virulent anti-Semite and an admirer of Hitler. He later founded the Institute of Current World Affairs.

First edition, second issue, with the title page showing the 1920 first edition date, and the copyright page noting that the first (numbered) edition was published in November, 1920, and that our copy was issued in January, 1921 as a second edition (but actually a reprinting of the first edition; no other copies are located with this copyright date imprint). Mennie (1875-1941) was a Scottish photographer who worked in early twentieth century China. His marvelous images depict a record of the city, people, sights and architecture and “evoked a romantic vision of antique China, featuring shopkeepers, travelers, merchants, dusty caravans, misty villages, old palaces, the Forbidden City, and the Great Wall of China” (see Worsswick and Spence, Photographs of Imperial China, 1980). Mennie was proposed as a member of the Royal Geographic Society for his Grandeur of the Gorges (1926) depicting scenes along the Yangtze River.

Thomas Hahn, Bibliography of photo-albums and materials related to photography in China and Tibet before 1949.

$1500.00
THE MOST POPULAR EDITION OF NEWTON’S PRINCIPIA

8. NEWTON, Sir Isaac

*Philosophiae naturalis principia mathematica*. . . editio ultima auctior et emendator. Amsterdam: Sumptibus Societatis, 1714. 4to. [xxviii], 484, [8] pp. With folding engraved plate of cometary orbit facing p. 465, numerous woodcut diagrams in the text. Title printed in red and black with an engraved device. Contemporary vellum over boards; a few wormholes in the spine, preliminary and endleaves, otherwise a very nice copy.

First Amsterdam edition of Newton’s epoch-making work, taken from the second printed edition (1713). It is in this edition of the Principia that Newton’s famous additions to the theory of the motion of the moon and the planets appear, as well as many other important additions and corrections.

This rare printing includes Newton’s prefaces of May 8, 1686 and Mar. 28, 1713, as well as the preface of the editor, Roger Cotes. This entire edition was reset in Amsterdam and the text corrected according to the Corrigenda. The woodcuts and plates were also re-engraved. (Gray, p. 10).


$ 12,500.00
9. ROSSELLO, Don Timotheo

*Della summa de' secreti universali in ogni materia parte prima (et seconda).* Venezia: Giovanni Bariletto, 1561.

Two parts in one. 8vo. [viii], 152; [viii], 152 leaves (A of first part misbound following title and before table of contents). Each part with separate title. Woodcut printer’s device of “Prudence” with the motto *Prudentia negotium non fortuna ducat* on each title and full-page on verso of last leaf of each part, woodcuts historiated initials, text woodcut illustration of an alchemical instrument (*sigilla hermetis*), contemporary manuscripts notes. Contemporary vellum, a bit worn, with faint notes on covers; some browning and minor staining. Manuscript note on second title that suggests that Rossello is an alias for D. Panizza of Venice (?). Also of interest is the different spelling of Venice, “Venegia” on the first title and “Venetia” on the second.

First edition, extremely rare, of this important and enigmatic treatise of alchemical, pharmaceutical and herbal formulas containing almost every remedy and new mode of therapy for illness as well as the ability to remain in good health. Among the topics described are recipes for plague amulets to aphrodisiacs and formulas from lip balm to paint pigments and cleaning teeth. In addition to the many other beauty treatments, the second book illustrates how to prepare “special waters” used to heal a variety of diseases. Noteworthy is the author’s description of his preparation of camphor, quicksilver and sulfur to make a universal medicine. Of special interest (especially given the question of the gender of the writer) is the formula for a mixture of quail testicles, large winged ants, musk, and amber to treat erectile dysfunction.

Little is known about the author and this work. In the same year the present book was published, Isabella Cortese, an Italian writer and alchemist, published *I secreti della signora Isabella Cortese (The secrets of Lady Isabella Cortese)*, same printer, same printer’s device, and very similar text. Both works contain instructions on the preparation of practical items such as toothpaste, soap and cosmetics; both contain the same directions on the “universal medicine”; and both have the same section on erectile dysfunction. Three men, Bariletto, Curtio Troiano di Navò and Mario Caboga, can all be connected to both works. Bariletto was a printer who came to Venice from the Riviera di Salò on Lake Garda around 1550; di Navò, his brother-in-law and described as a “book merchant,” applied in 1560 for the required privileges to print both works; Chaboga, the Archdeacon of Ragusa, was the dedicatee of both works. No extended information has been found on Isabella Cortese and her life; all that is known is her book of secrets. It has been questioned whether Cortese was a pseudonym for Rossello (or whoever Rossello actually was), as the possibility might exist for increased sales based on a female author. Alternatively, it could be that Rossello was a pseudonym used by Cortese (or whoever she actually was). The manuscript note indicating an alias of Rossello puts everything into question; the only Panizza we could locate was the printer Valente Panizza (fl. 1562-1572). Both books were reprinted numerous times over the following hundred years.

Adams, II, 804 (1575); Caillet, 9602; Durling, 3948; Neville, I, p. 295 (1584 edition of Cortese) and II, p. 393 (1575 edition of Rossello); Wellcome, I, 5573.

$ 10,500.00
WONDERFUL PLATES OF FIREFIGHTERS AND THEIR EQUIPMENT

10. ROVIRA Y TRIAS (Antoni)

*Tratado de la extincion de incendios*. Barcelona: Imprenta de la Publicidad, 1856. 4to. [xi], 280 pp. Complete with half-title and 14 folding plates. Contemporary calf-backed boards, worn on the edges; interior in excellent condition. Presentation to Mariano Lopez from A. Rovira, the author’s son.

First edition of this historic treatise devoted to extinguishing fires and the job of a firefighter, the first work on the subject to be published in Spain. In this extremely rare work, the author describes in detail the organization and administrative side of firefighting, as well as the physical training, equipment, and maneuvers used by firefighters to save victims from blazes. The work has fourteen exquisite engravings demonstrating what firefighters do; of special interest are the plates of the early fire engines.

Antoni Rovira y Trias (1816-1889) was an important architect, urban planner, founder of several associations, and radical egalitarian. He was apparently very vital in the development of Barcelona, constructing numerous buildings and markets such as El Born (1876), Sant Antoni (1879), Theatre Circ Barcelones (1853), just to list a few. In addition, the author was a founding member of the first corps of firefighters in Barcelona.

Palau, 279828; OCLC locates 1 copy in America (NY State Library). $2500.00
11. RUTHERFORTH, Thomas
*A system of natural philosophy, being a course of lectures in mechanics, optics, hydrostatics, and astronomy.* Cambridge: Printed by J. Bentham, 1748. Two volumes. 4to. [xxiv], 496; [iv], 497-1105, [7] pp. Complete with the rare subscriber’s list, 31 engraved plates (30 folding) and a fine folding map showing the oceans of the world. Contemporary tree calf, rebacked, spine in compartments with labels; some very general browning, but overall a fine copy.

First edition of these popular lectures on natural philosophy dealing with mechanics, optics, oceanography, hydrostatics and astronomy. Rutherforth (1712-1771), a member of the Royal Society and Royal Astronomical Society, continued Newton’s teachings as regius professor of Divinity at St. John’s College, Cambridge. The engraved plates contain detailed mechanical diagrams, and the world map by Halley reveals the trade winds, the variations of the compass, and an inset map of the North Pole. The long list of subscribers is virtually a who’s who in science of the time.

Babson, Supplement, p. 23; Poggendorff, II, p. 727.
MAJOR SCIENTIFIC WORKS IN ENGLISH

12. SALUSBURY, Thomas

This photo-facsimile reprint of both volumes of Salusbury’s Mathematical collections and translations of Galileo’s major works and other contributions from the writings of Kepler, Castelli, Foscarini and others, makes available to scholars one of the rarest of all early scientific works. All known bibliographical variants have been illustrated and five copies from libraries in England and America have been drawn upon to make a complete bibliographical picture of the work.

It is especially valuable for the second volume. The Second tome (1665) was destroyed in the Great Fire of London, and there are only seven known copies today: three in the United States and four in British libraries.

$ 1500.00

FASCINATING HISTORY OF THE SPANISH EMPIRE

13. WATSON, Robert
The history of the reign of Philip the Third, King of Spain. Dublin: Price, Whitestone, Watson, etc., 1783. 8vo. [viii], 525, [10] pp., including index. Contemporary calf, rebacked; an excellent copy with the bookplate of the Franciscan Capuchin Library, Church Street, Dublin, on the paste-down.

First Dublin edition, printed the same year as the first London edition. Divided into six books, the first deals with the life of Philip, with the remainder describing the various wars and the political state of Spain, its allies and enemies, during Philip’s reign, from 1598-1621. A significant focus of the history recounts Spain’s internal politics, including the expulsion of the Moriscos. A detailed and fascinating chronological work encompassing both the rise of the Spanish empire as well as the decline of its economy, all thoroughly tied to the nature and outlook of Philip and his counselors.

Watson (1730-1781) was a philosopher and church minister; the book was completed after Watson’s death by William Thomson (1746-1817), a disgraced Scottish minister and librarian to the eighth earl of Kinnoull.

$ 450.00
14. WHITEHEAD, Alfred & RUSSELL, Bertrand

Principia mathematica. Cambridge: University Press, 1910; 1927; 1927. Three volumes. Large 8vo. xiii, [iii], 666; xxxi, [i], 742; viii, 491 pp., including half-titles. Original blue cloth, exteriors faintly rubbed and small tear to bottom edge of second volume, still an excellent set. Volume 1 from the library of Thomas Fiske (1865-1944), professor of mathematics at Columbia, and stamp in Volume 3 of René de la Vallée Vital of Brooklyn.

First edition of Volume 1, second edition of Volumes 2 and 3. The greatest single contribution to logic to appear in the two thousand years since Aristotle was the result of the collaboration of two great philosophers and mathematical logicians, Whitehead (1861-1947) and Russell (1872-1970). Inspired by Giuseppe Peano’s and Gottlob Frege’s invention of a new ideography for use in symbolic logic (which contradicted the Kantian doctrine of a separate philosophy of mathematics), the authors attempted to set up a still better system of logic on which to base mathematics. This effort reached its climax with the publication in 1910-13 of the three-volume Principia mathematica, now considered a historic masterpiece of mathematical architecture.

DNB, 1941-50, pp. 952-954 (Sir Edmund Whittaker); DSB, XIV, pp. 302-310; Slater, Bertrand Russell, A Collection, 16. $ 8500.00

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PRINCIPIA MATHEMATICA

BY

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AND

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VOLUME I

First Edition

1910

Cambridge

at the University Press
OXFORD ALUMNI

15. WOOD, Anthony

Athenæ Oxonienœs. An exact history of all the writers and bishops who have had their education in the most antient [sic] and famous University of Oxford, from the fifteenth year of King Henry the Seventh, A.D. 1500, to the Author’s death in November 1695. Representing the birth, fortune, preferment, and death of all those authors and prelates, the great accidents of their lives, and the fate and character of their writings. To which are added, the fasti, or annals, of the said University, to the year 1690. London: Printed for R. Knaplock, D. Midwinter, and T. J. Tonson., 1721. Two volumes. Folio. Printed in two columns. Titles in red and black, woodcut head- and tailpieces. Contemporary full calf with gilt-ruled boards, spine with 6 raised bands and morocco labels, re-backed with original spines laid down, hinges reinforced, boards scuffed and rubbed; interior good with wide margins. From the libraries of the Rev. Charles Lyttelton, with his engraved bookplate, and Shakespeare scholar Charles Tyler Prouty, with his signed book label.

Second edition of this bio-bibliography of the lives and publications of Oxford alumni. Wood (1632-1695) goes into great and exacting detail on each of his subjects, making this a valuable tool for historical research. This is a greatly expanded work from the first edition of 1691 with over 500 additional entries.

$ 650.00
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