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FORCE MAJEURE.



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14.

**Rootenberg Rare Books &
Manuscripts Presents:**

Witches, Mystics & Quacks

May 2024

THE WRATH OF NUNS

1. [AUBIN, Nicolas]

Cruels effets de la vengeance du cardinal de Richelieu, ou histoire des diables de Loudun. Amsterdam: Etienne Roger, 1716. 8vo. vi, 378, [6] pp. Engraved frontispiece. Contemporary mottled calf, spine and label gilt, edges sprinkled red, pink silk marker, custom slipcase. Scattered manuscript notes. An excellent copy.



First edition of this narrative of demonic possession at the Loudon convent. In 1632, several nuns at the convent claimed to have been bewitched by the Jesuit priest Urbain Grandier, a plot organized by Cardinal Richelieu who hated Grandier for his political and religious liberality. Grandier was convicted of witchcraft and burned at the stake. This text records the events surrounding the allegations and the subsequent trial and offers general information about Inquisitional torture and executions.

Caillet 509.

\$ 750.00

THE ART OF DEMONIC POSSESSION

2. CHARCOT, Jean-Martin; RICHER, Paul

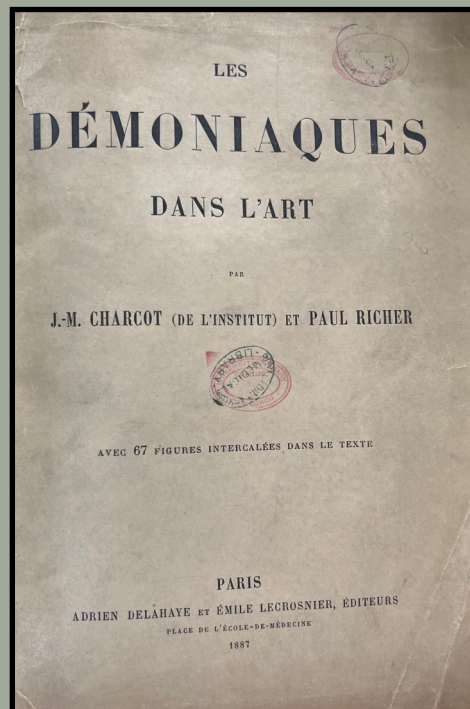
Les Démoniaques dans l'art. Paris: A. Delahaye and E. Lecrosnier, 1887. 4to. xii, 116 pp. With 67 text illustrations (halftone and wood engraving). Later boards, original printed wrappers bound in. Stamps of the Royal Edinburgh Asylum Medical Library and Edinburgh University Library. A fine uncut and partially unopened copy.

First edition of this study of mental illness portrayed in art. The authors examine over sixty works of art from the 6th through the 17th century that depict demonic possession and retroactively diagnose the disorder with which the possessed was likely afflicted, mostly epilepsy and “hysteria.” They point out specific positions of limbs and facial expressions that hint at underlying psychiatric problems.

Charcot, known as “the founder of modern neurology,” was interested in the physical manifestation of mental illness and experimented with photographing psychiatric patients. He educated Sigmund Freud, who wrote Charcot’s obituary.

Garrison & Morton, 6605.

\$ 750.00



TAROT OF THOTH

3. ETTEILLA [ALLIETTE, Jean-Baptiste]

[*Jeu de tarot*]. [Paris: B.P. Grimaud, 1890].

Deck of 78 chromolithographed playing cards, each with a central vignette with text above and below, a black line border around the vignette and outer edge, and the card number in the upper left and lower right corners. Versos are alike with a repeating blue floral field. In excellent condition.

Later printing of the first 78-card tarot deck specifically designed for cartomancy. Designed by Jean-Baptiste Alliette, who went by the anagram Etteilla, this deck first appeared in 1788 and remains the standard of tarot today. Prior to its production, tarot decks varied widely, had fewer cards, and were not used to tell fortunes. Etteilla claimed that he learned about the 78-card method by reading the so-called "Book of Thoth," a work of magic purportedly belonging to the Egyptian god of wisdom and later known as Hermes Trismegistus. \$ 2500.00



COMPLETE WITH EVIDENCE OF USE

4. [FORTUNE TELLING]

Original [sic] Norwood Gypsy. [London?]: s.n., ca 1840. Two broadsides. 197 x 223 mm. (print) and 260 x 203 mm. (letterpress). Wood-engraved game board finished in contemporary hand color and letterpress explanatory sheet. In excellent condition, some letter folds.

A tantalizing ladies' divination game based on the legendary Margaret Finch, "Queen of the Norwood Gypsies." To receive their fortunes, the assembled players should be blindfolded and, using a pin, poke the wheel three times. Whichever numbered image on the wheel that the landing place of the final poke is closest to, 1-100, corresponds to a fortune on the explanatory sheet. There are still pinholes on the wheel from games past!

Margaret Finch was a gypsy traveler who died in 1742 at the age of 108. She made her living telling fortunes on the road before she settled in Norwood, South London, 11 years before her death. The accuracy of her divinations as well as her old age cemented her place in English mystical folklore.

\$ 950.00





NOT COVERED UNDER YOUR INSURANCE

5. HARRADEN, L.A.

Harraden's illustrated manual of magnetic healing. Jackson, Michigan: the Author, 1900. 8vo. 32 pp. Wood engravings throughout. Original printed wrappers, stapled as issued; lower right corner of the final few leaves gnawed with no loss, fold down the center of the booklet. A good copy in original condition.

A complete course in 20 lessons on curing illness through magnetism. Couched in Mesmer's theory of vital magnetism and purporting to "quickly qualify the student to be a successful magnetic healer," this booklet instructs the reader to harness magnetism in the hands and eyes and direct it to the areas of another's body that are ailing. With copious illustrations the text describes methods for hypnosis, pressure point manipulation, and energy stimulation intended to relieve pain and dissipate disease.

OCLC locates 2 copies in America (Michigan, Rochester Medical Library).

\$ 600.00



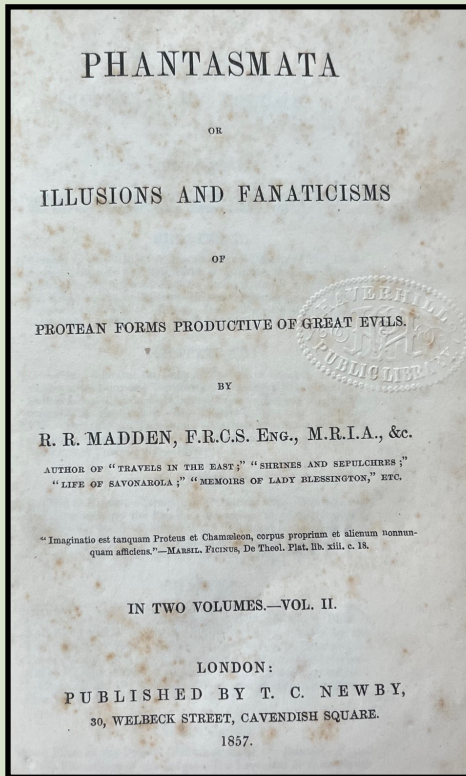
ONE DECK TO RULE THEM ALL

6. LENORMAND, Marie-Anne Adelaide

[*Grand jeu de société*]. [Paris:] B.P. Grimaud, ca. 1880. Deck of 54 chromolithographed playing cards, 52 of which contain a constellation in the top center, a letter of the alphabet in the top left corner, mythological vignettes on the lower portion, a flower in the lower central compartment, and a conventional 4-suit card illustration in the top right corner. The remaining two cards depict a standing male and female character. One card is stamped *Republique Française Decret du 12 avril 1880*. In fine condition.

An early fortune-telling deck of cards with astrological, mythical, and allegorical scenes. Each card features five cartomancy elements, making it a versatile deck usable for numerology, tarot, astrological readings, flora fortune telling, and basic card games. The mythological scenes are taken from Greek, Roman, and Biblical sources, and some cards depict alchemical experiments.

Lenormand (1772-1843) was a renowned French seer and fortune teller who advised Napoleon and Empress Josephine, among other aristocrats, and predicted many political events. This deck was first mass produced in 1845, shortly after Lenormand's death. \$ 3500.00



THE CONSEQUENCES OF A VIVID IMAGINATION

7. MADDEN, Richard Robert

Phantasmata, or illusions and fanaticisms of protean forms productive of great evils. London: T.C. Newby, 1857.

Two volumes. 8vo. xlii, 504, 24; 588 pp. Engraved frontispiece. Contemporary embossed cloth over stiff boards; somewhat foxed, but otherwise a fine set with the raised stamps of the Haverhill Public Library.

First edition, a psychological inquiry into the nature of the occult. The author asserts that “epidemic fanaticisms” are to blame witchcraft mania, werewolves, divine visions, and mysticism. He goes on to denounce such “phenomena of imagination” as the root of mass murders such as human sacrifices, the Inquisition, and the burning of witches. Written in the wake of the Spiritualist movement, this text serves as a

warning of the nature of this kind of mental manipulation. \$ 500.00



PROSTITUTIONS

DÉBAUCHES ET CRIMES

DE LA

FAMILLE BUONAPARTE

DEPUIS LÉTITIA, MÈRE DE NAPOLEON-LE-GRAND
JUSQU'À NAPOLEON-LE-PETIT

PAR

Hypolite MAGEN

— 1864 —



Londres

BRIDGES, LIBRAIRE-ÉDITEUR

7, Noël-Street, Oxford-Street, W.

—
1871

YOUR MOTHER WAS A WHORE

8. MAGEN, Hypolite

Prostitutions, debauches et crimes de la Famille Buonaparte. London: Bridges, 1871. 8vo. vii, 64 pp. Contemporary gilt red morocco-backed marbled boards; paper very slightly toned. An excellent copy.

Only edition, an exposition of the sins of the Bonaparte family. Beginning with Napoleon's mother, Letitia, who purportedly owned several brothels, and concluding with his bastard son, Louis-Napoleon, who supposedly engaged in incest, the author lists the crimes and debauched activities committed by twelve members of the royal family. Magen's intent, as stated in the preface, was to remind the French people of the atrocities and injustices they survived under imperial control so that they would never again accept tyranny.

OCLC locates 4 copies worldwide, all in Europe. \$ 800.00

LINCOLN IN THE BARDO

9. MAYNARD, Nettie Colburn

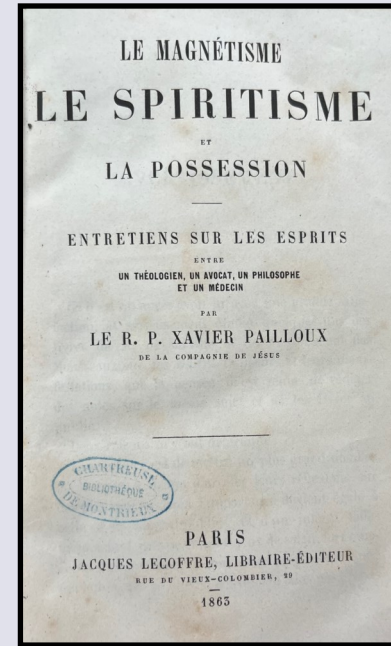
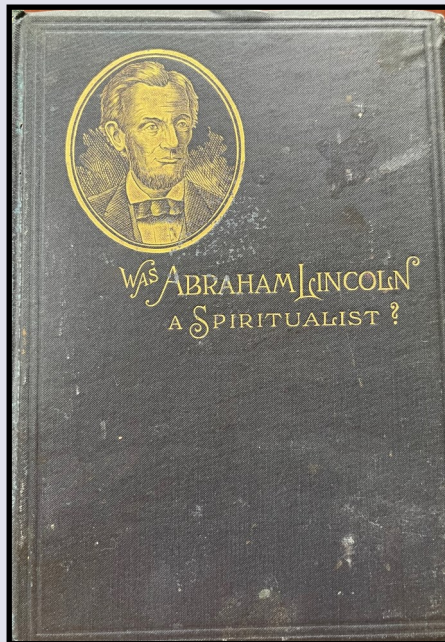
Was Abraham Lincoln a Spiritualist? Or, curious revelations from the life of a trance medium. Philadelphia: Rufus Hartranft, 1891. 8vo. xxiv, 264 pp. Half-tone frontispiece portrait, 14 full-page plates. Original gilt publisher's cloth. Pencil ownership inscription of E.M. Parsons dated 1891 on the front flyleaf. In excellent condition.

First edition, written by a female psychic employed by Abraham Lincoln's widow to contact the dead President. Here she recounts her séances at the White House wherein she spoke with Lincoln about the Civil War and its aftermath, and he offered advice on the plight of freedmen. In her narrative, Lincoln sends her missives to be communicated to politicians and military authorities in order to continue his mission from the spirit realm. Maynard also provides a thorough physical description of the late President and a series of "spirit poems," verses transcribed through her by spirits while in a trance state.

Maynard (1841-1892), a young medium conducted seances for Mary Todd Lincoln as well as other prominent politicians and celebrities of the time.

See <https://www.mrlincolnwhitehouse.org/residents-visitors/marys-charlatans/marys-charlatans-nettie-colburn-1841-1892>.

\$ 850.00



JESUIT EXPLANATION OF MAGNETISM

10. PAILLOUX, Xavier, S.J.

Le magnétisme, le spiritisme, et la possession. Paris: Jacques Lecoffre, 1863. 8vo. xv, 460 pp. Contemporary gilt green sheep-backed marbled boards; some light foxing, old pencil notes on the flyleaves.

First edition, an inquiry into the diabolical nature of magnetism and spiritualism written in the form of a conversation among a cleric, a lawyer, a philosopher, and a physician. They question the origins of table rapping, sleepwalking, hallucination, hypnotism, and magic; are these situations of demonic intervention in our world, or simply the work of physics and nature? While there are many other contemporaneous religious texts that denounce spiritualism and animal magnetism as satanic, this author takes a Jesuit stance and attempts to explain the phenomena scientifically. He provides case studies and eyewitness accounts to narrate the arguments.

Sommervogel-de Backer X: 928; Caillet III: 8259.

\$ 650.00

GHOSTS IN YOUR BLOOD

11. WIRDIG, Sebastian

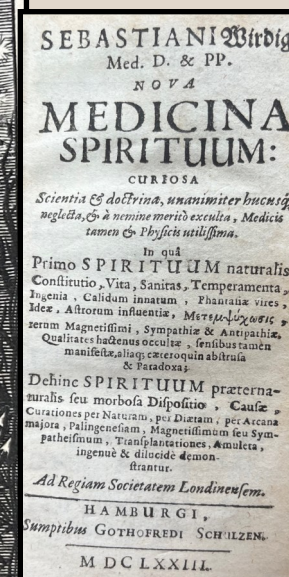
Nova medicina spirituum. Hamburg: G. Schulz, 1673. Two volumes in one. 12mo. [xlii], 238, 284, [14] pp. Each volume has a double-page engraved frontispiece. Eighteenth-century vellum manuscript waste over stiff boards, blue edges. In excellent condition.

First edition (also published the same year in Frankfurt) of this mystical medical guide. The author attributes the causes of diseases to spirits that live in the body and air and offers esoteric treatment advice couched in magnetism, alchemy, and ritual. His theory adds to the principles of humoral medicine; he claims that heat and cold are spirits that invade the body, and bodily spirits live in the blood. Insanity and mental illness feature heavily, and, despite the strange nature of the text, Wirdig suggests rather modern therapeutic psychiatric interventions. He also develops a theory of magnetism wherein attraction between spirits inside and outside of the body results in illness. The final part of the text provides recipes and recommendations for tinctures and talismans to protect the body.

Wirdig (1613-1687) was a German physician and professor who taught at the University of Tartu in Estonia.

Duveen 662; Caillet 11448; Krivatsy 13062; VD 17 1:068856H.

\$ 1800.00





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