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THE FIRST PRINCIPLES OF THOUGHT

ALEXANDER OF APHRODISIAS.

In topica Aristotelis commentarii [Graece].

[Aldus, 1513]. The scarce editio princeps of Alexander of Aphrodisias' extremely influential commentary of Aristotle's "Topics", which is responsible for our understanding and utilization of this most fundamental text for the thought of mankind. Aristotle's "Topics" occupies an absolutely central place in the development of science and philosophy since Antiquity. It is this work that sets the boundaries for what we can meaningfully talk about, and even how to talk about it. Through the "topics" mankind will be able to state the true premises that form the foundation upon which we build science and philosophy. Alexander's commentary on this fundamental work is the most important and influential that we have. It was of the utmost importance to Renaissance philosophy, science, scholarship and learning, and it greatly influenced the path of Aristotelian scholarship as well as almost all original thought and philosophy within this period. Alexander came to influence all reading of Aristotle in the Renaissance and with his commentary on the "Topics", he came to profoundly influence our understanding of the first principles of thought as well as the dialectical and philosophical training that is necessary for our understanding of them.

EUR 14,000 / HKD 121,000

THE EXCEEDINGLY RARE TRUE FIRST PRINTING OF "THE UGLY DUCKLING" ETC.

ANDERSEN, H.C.

Nye Eventyr og Historier. [New Fairy Tales. Complete with all five collections in two volumes, all in first issue, also the first, which contains "The Ugly Duckling"]

1844-48. First edition of Hans Christian Andersen's seminal second collection of fairy tales - the publication that caused him international fame - with all five collections in first issue, also the first, which is of the utmost rarity. It is in this legendary first collection that we find the first printing of "The Ugly Duckling" (not as is indicated in PMM in his first fairy tale collection, which does not contain his most important fairy tales). The rarity of the first issue of volume 1, collection 1 is legendary. It was published on November 11th 1843 (dated 1844 on the title-page) in a very small number, probably due to the poor sales of Andersen's first fairy tale collection. Against all belief, this first collection sold out within a few days, catapulting Andersen into worldwide fame, and a second issue was published already on December 21st 1843. Thus, only very few copies of the first issue exist, and almost all collections of the "New fairy Tales" are bound with the second issue or the third of 1847, meaning that they do not contain the actual first printing of "The Ugly Duckling", "The Nightingale", "The Angel", and "The Sweethearts".

EUR 11,500 / HKD 98,000

FIRST PRINTING OF ANDERSEN'S FIRST FAIRY TALE

ANDERSEN, H.C.

Digte.

1830. The rare first edition of the first published collection of Andersen's poetry - Andersen's third published book (at the age of 25) - containing, at the end, the first printing of any of his fairy tales, being also his very first fairy tale ("The Ghost", also sometimes "The Spectre"). This is the first time that Andersen uses the term "Eventyr" (fairy tale), the term which came to denote the genre for which he received world-wide fame as one of the most important writers of all time. This seminal publication lays the foundation for Andersen's activity as an author of fairy tales.

EUR 6,000 / HKD 51,500

ANDERSEN'S FIRST ADULT FAIRY-TALE - MAGNIFICENT PRESENTATION-COPY

ANDERSEN, H.C.

Tre Digtninger.

1838. Rare first edition, in the extremely rare original printed wrappers (only known in a few copies), with a magnificent signed presentation-inscription from Hans Christian Andersen, exceptionally written on both front- and back-wrapper and to one of Andersen's close friends, Høedt. The "Three Poetical Works" contains the first printing on one of Andersen's most important fairy tales, "The Galoches of Fortune", which is in fact his very first fairy tale for adults, here in the original version (it was later re-written for publication in Andersen's collected fairy tales 1849-50). It appeared while Andersen was still publishing his first fairy tale-collection, namely as early as 1838, and constitutes the 18th fairy tale that he publishes, predating e.g. "The Steadfast Tin Soldier". "The Galoches of Fortune" is of the utmost importance to the development of Andersen's fairy tale writing and his style of writing. It is not only his first grown-up fairy-tale, it is also the first, in which he works with dividing a fairy tale into chapters, here bound together by the galoche-motive as the red line.

EUR 10,000 / HKD 86,500

HAND-PAINTED BY PICASSO

APOLLINAIRE, GUILLAUME - PICASSO (ILLUSTR.) - JEAN COCTEAU - LÉON BAKST - SERGE DIAGHILEV.

BALLETS RUSSES. PROGRAMME. PARIS 1917.

1917. Scarce original printing of this seminal avantgarde-publication, the May 1917 "Théâtre du Chatelet"-publication that presents Diaghilev's "Ballets Russes" in Paris - here containing the entire separate publication mainly devoted to Jean Cocteau's groundbreaking ballet "Parade" - being one of the most important publications in the history of modern art. It is here, in his presentation-article to "Parade" that Apollinaire coins the term "surrealism" and thus lays the foundation for the seminal cultural movement that Bréton came to lead. Furthermore, the ballet "Parade" represents a historical collaboration between several of the leading artistic minds of the early twentieth century: Erik Satie, Jean Cocteau, Pablo Picasso, Léonide Massine, and Serge Diaghilev, and is famous, not only for its contents and its music, but also for its magnificent costumes designed by Picasso, the drawings of which are presented in the present publication for the first time - most famously the front cover for the "Parade"-programme, which depicts the "Costume de Chinois du ballet "PARADE"/ Aquarelle de Picasso", an etching with original, stunning pochoir-colouring (hand-painted by Picasso himself!).

EUR 11,500 / HKD 98,000

THE BEGINNING OF A NEW ERA FOR PLASTIC SURGERY

BARONIO, GIUSEPPE.

Degli innesti animali.

1804. A magnificent copy, in completely original condition, of the rare first edition (printed in a small number only) of this milestone in the history of plastic surgery, Baronio's immensely significant masterpiece, which constitutes the first example of purely scientific research in the history of plastic surgery. Furthermore, it is in this work that the possibility of skin transfer (grafting) is demonstrated for the first time, marking the beginning of a new era for plastic surgery. "The basic principle of free transplantation . . . constituted, when fully understood and applied, the greatest single advance [in plastic surgery] of the nineteenth century."

EUR 11,500 / HKD 98,000

BRAHE'S "INSTRUMENTA ASTRONOMICA"

BLAEU, J.W.

Descriptio Daniae... Tychonis Brahae Instrumenta Astronomica

(1662). First printing of the magnificent Hven-Brahe section of Blaeu's Atlas Major, considered "the greatest and finest atlas ever published". Tycho Brahe educated Joan Blaeu's father Willem Blaeu, who visited Brahe's Island Hven for a period of six months in 1595, learning, among other things, triangulation; - the map here of Hven became the first triangulated map and is furthermore probably Blaeu's first map. He devoted a part of volume one of his fine atlas to Tycho Brahe, and this magnificent part constitutes the engravings depicting Tycho Brahe's Island Hven, his buildings, castles and astronomical instruments. The beautiful depictions of Brahe's astronomical instruments are copied by Blaeu from Brahe's "Astronomia instaurata Mechanica" and put into a larger scale here. The "Mechanica" is called one of the most elegant scientific works ever published; it set a new standard for description of technical apparatus. The text is written by Johannes Pontanus.

EUR 17,000 / HKD 145,000

CHINESE COSTUMES

BRETON, M.

China: Its Costume, Arts, Manufactures &c.

1824. A beautiful copy of the Howlett & Brimmer edition from 1824, based on the original French edition from 1811.

EUR 3,300 / HKD 28,500

INTRODUCING THE ATOMIC THEORY OF SPACE TO THE MODERN WORLD

BRUNO NOLANI, JORDANUS.

De Triplici Minimo et Mensura...

1591. The extremely scarce first edition of one of Bruno's main works, one of his key cosmological texts, being the earliest and most important of his three long Latin poems with prose accompaniment and thus one of the most influential works of the Renaissance. It is in this foundational work that "the greatest thinker in Italy during the sixteenth century" (Paterson) defines the triple minimum, which consists in the monad (being the basis of metaphysics), the mathematical point (being the basis of geometry), and the atom (being the basis of physics) and thus presents the basis for his theory of nature and the universe. It contains much of the author's ripest thought and his first description of his seminal doctrine of the minimum, by which he was the first Western thinker (since Plato) to introduce the atomistic theory of space. The work was extremely influential and directly influenced Leibnitz, Kepler, Spinoza, Descartes, Kircher, and many others.

EUR 67,000 / HKD 577,000

EXTREMELY RARE INCUNABLE WITH MAGNIFICENT WOODCUT ILLUSTRATIONS, IN A CONTEMPORARY BINDING

CONRAD DINCKMUT.

[Epistolae et Evangelia]. ["Hye hebt sich an das Evangeli Buch"]. [Evangelienbuch].

[14]83. The exceedingly rare first (and only) printing of Conrad Dinckmut's "Plenarium", being a German translation of the Epistles and Gospels for the Sundays and festivals of the entire liturgical year. Richly illustrated with numerous magnificent woodcuts of a very high quality, all coloured (beautifully, but later), bound in a fully contemporary and completely unrestored south German binding, possibly from Dinckmut's own workshop, or possibly by Johannes Richenbach of Geislingen (just north of Ulm, active 1467-1485, and known as one of the first German binders to use roll tools on his bindings). This magnificent illustrated incunable by one of the earliest printers of Ulm (the 4th) is of the utmost scarcity. OCLC lists merely 1 copy in libraries worldwide. It seems, however, that there are a few more copies and some fragments in a few German libraries. 246 (of 256 leaves), lacking first leaf (blank?), f. 39, and one entire quire, being ff. 193-200.

EUR 33,500 / HKD 289,000

THE DUTCH EXPEDITION TO CHINA

DAPPER, O.

Gedenkwaerdig Bedryf der nederlandsche Oost-indische Maetschappye, op de Kuste en in het Keizerrijk van Taising of Sina...

1670. First edition of this authoritative work on China in the 17th century. This is Dapper's richly illustrated account of the second and third embassies to China by the Dutch East India Company. His book describes the Dutch expeditions to China - Admiral Balthasar Bort's expedition along the Fujian coast in 1663 and 1664 and Pieter van Hoorn's embassy to Beijing in 1666-1668 - and then proceeds to give a detailed background on the country, putting together information from the best sources available at the time, from Ricci and Martini, to Schall and the Spanish Jesuit Adriano de Las Cortes. It contains an extensive description of China, its government, religion, customs, art, science, natural history, etc. and brings together many important records of Dutch relations with China from 1662 to 1664. The work still represents an invaluable source for all aspects of 17th century Chinese life, offering a wealth of information and a rich iconography. Especially interesting are the large plates illustrating Chinese art.

EUR 6,000 / HKD 51,500

THE ZOOLOGIST-PRINTING OF THE PUBLICATION THAT ANNOUNCES THE THEORY OF EVOLUTION BY NATURAL SELECTION

DARWIN, C. [R.] AND A. R. WALLACE.

Three papers on the Tendency of Species to form Varieties...

1858. Very rare first printing in "The Zoologist", being the second printing overall, of the first published exposition of the Darwinian theory of evolution by natural selection. The publication by the Linnean Society did not make much of a stir and was more or less overlooked. But it caught the eye of the editors of the much more popular and widely-read "The Zoologist", who immediately grasped its importance and grabbed the opportunity to spread one of the most important theories in the history of mankind, the of evolution by natural selection. They thus published the three papers immediately after the Linnean Society, and it is through this publication in The Zoologist that "the theory of natural selection" becomes widely known.

EUR 12,750 / HKD 110,000

THE FIRST TEXTBOOK OF PHYSIOLOGY

DESCARTES, RENATUS.

De Homine...

1662. First edition of Descartes' seminal treatise on man, the first European textbook of physiology, constituting an epochal work of modern thought, defining the mechanism of man as it does. "In the Treatise of man, Descartes did not describe man, but a kind of conceptual models of man, namely creatures, created by God, which consist of two ingredients, a body and a soul. "These men will be composed, as we are, of a soul and a body. First I must describe the body on its own; then the soul, again on its own; and finally I must show how these two natures would have to be joined and united in order to constitute men who resemble us". This highly influential work was the first to present a coherent description of bodily responses in neurophysiological terms that are still, to a wide extent, accepted today.

EUR 10,750 / HKD 92,000

ONE OF THE FINEST OF ALL ANATOMICAL TREATISES

ESTIENNE, CHARLES.

De dissectione partium corporis humani.

1545. The very rare first edition of one of the most important works in the history of medicine, being the first published work to include illustrations of the whole external venous, arterial, and nervous systems, and the most magnificent anatomical atlas of the sixteenth century, next to Vesalius' "Fabrica". Although the work was published two years after Vesalius', the anatomy itself is pre-Vesalian and antedates the "Fabrica" by some years in actual composition. "This magnificent folio volume is one of the finest of all anatomical treatises." (Heirs of Hippocrates). "One of the finest woodcut books of the French Renaissance, in which science and art are ideally merged." (Schreiber).

EUR 52,000 / HKD 445,000

FLORA DANICA IN EXQUISITE HAND-COLOURING

OEDER, G.C. & O.F. MÜLLER (Edts.).

FLORA DANICA. Vols. 1-5.

(1761) 1766-82. Extraordinarily fine copy of the original printing of the first 5 volumes of one of the finest floras ever compiled, the greatest illustrated work in Danish book-production, and the largest Flora ever produced. The earlier plates, in particular, are extremely delicately engraved and beautifully coloured. The colouring of this particular copy is superior to any other we have seen.

EUR 47,000 / HKD 405,000

THE BIRTH OF BOTANICAL ILLUSTRATION

(FUCHS, LEONHART - SCHINZ, SALOMON).

Anleitung zu der Pflanzenkenntnis...

1774 -(77). First (and only) edition of Schinz's reissue of 101 plates from Leonhart Fuch's "De Historia Stirpium", Basel 1542, a work which marks the birth of botanical illustration and perhaps the most celebrated and most beautiful herbal ever published. The illustrations have been printed with the original wood-blocks, which Schinz borrowed from Chorherr Gessner, in the possession of whom they were to be found, and the plates are thus considered original. They were hand coloured in the years 1774-77.

EUR 10,000 / HKD 86,500

GLEICHEN'S MICROSCOPE

GLEICHEN, WILHELM FRIEDRICH von [RUSSWORM / GLEICHEN-RUSSWORM / RUSSWURM].

Das Neueste aus dem Reiche der Pflanzen, oder Mikroskopische Untersuchungen...

1764 [recte: 1763-66]. The scarce first edition of this splendid work, in which the outstanding microscopist Baron Gleichen-Russworm recorded his observations of plants and insects. The 51 astonishingly beautiful hand-coloured copperplates show the morphology of plants and insects in great detail as well as his magnificent specially constructed microscope and its different parts, making it of the utmost importance to the history of the microscope as well as the fertilization processes in plants.

EUR 22,000 / HKD 190,000

ON ABSOLUTE KNOWLEDGE

HEGEL, GE. WILH. FR.

System der Wissenschaft. Erster Theil (all), die Phänomenologie des Geistes.

1807. The very rare first edition of Hegel's first major work, "Phenomenology of Spirit", in which he gave the first systematic account of his own philosophy. The Phenomenology of Spirit can be read as the itinerary of human reason. It traces the development of the categories of reason from the basic categories of sense perception to the manifestations of absolute spirit as religion, art, and philosophy. As the historical coming into being of reason coincides with the genesis of its self-awareness, the Phenomenology of Spirit also offers a justification of the human condition. The importance of Hegel's work for the development of modern thought cannot be overestimated. The dialectical structures which keep in place Hegel's thought shall determine the trajectory of Marx and - through the lectures of Alexandre Kojève - the course of modern French philosophy.

EUR 9,200 / HKD 78,500

OFFPRINT PRESENTATION COPY OF HEISENBERG'S DISSERTATION

HEISENBERG, WERNER.

Über Stabilität und Turbulenz von Flüssigkeitsströmen.

1924. First edition in the exceedingly rare offprint - with a most attractive presentation-inscription from Heisenberg to Swedish Hilding Faxén - an important contributor to the field - of Heisenberg's doctoral dissertation on the stability and turbulence of fluid flow, which "involved an approximate solution of the complicated equations governing the onset of hydrodynamic turbulence"(David C. Cassidy). It is widely regarded as being "the most important early paper devoted to this subject".

EUR 12,750 / HKD 110,000

THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

HOBBS, THOMAS.

Leviathan...

1651. First edition, first issue. Quite simply the most important work of philosophy produced in the English language, Hobbes' *magnus opus* is one of the finest achievements of the modern mind. It has shaped political modernity in a way that only a few other texts have. Even if it had not been so spectacularly successful, the *Leviathan* would have deserved a place among the most important works of political thought. It is in this treatise that the concept of representation is introduced which has since then been a pivotal element in constitutional order, being the conduit through which the sphere of political life is reflected in the constitution. Some leaves of this copy have marginal repairs, not affecting text.

EUR 21,000 / HKD 179,000

TRUE FIRST EDITION OF THE "ENQUIRY"

(HUME, DAVID).

Philosophical Essays concerning Human Understanding.

1748. The rare first edition of one of the most influential books in the history of philosophy, the work that - in Kant's own words - woke him from his "dogmatic slumber", "One of Hume's most important philosophical works, and one of the greatest works in Western philosophy" (Cambridge texts in the history of philosophy). This scarce first edition of what is arguably Hume's *magnus opus*, one of the greatest classics of philosophy, was published under the title "Philosophical Essays concerning Human Understanding" and did not receive the title under which it is known today, namely "Enquiry concerning Human Understanding" (also known simply as the great "Enquiry") until 1758, when it appeared under that title in the edition of the *Essays & Treatises*.

EUR 11,500 / HKD 98,000

PMM 226 - PURE REASON - CHANGING THE FACE OF PHILOSOPHY

KANT, IMMANUEL.

Critik der reinen Vernunft.

1781. Rare first edition of Kant's monumental main work, arguably the most important work in the history of philosophy since Aristotle.

EUR 25,000 / HKD 214,000

MAGNIFICENT PRESENTATION-COPY

(KIERKEGAARD, S).

Indøvelse i Christendom.

1850. First edition, presentation-copy to J.L. Heiberg, of Kierkegaard's highly important "Training in Christianity". The work points to the essence of Kierkegaard's religious-philosophical writings, and is considered the most "Kierkegaardian" of all of his works. Describing the personal suffering that comes with being a Christian, he treats his ever central problem: How to become a Christian in Christianity. Distinguishing sharply between the established, triumphant church and the true, struggling one, the work also constitutes a fierce attack on the Danish church. Johan Ludvig Heiberg (1791-1860) was the main cultural figure of the 19th century in Denmark. He hugely influenced all of Danish culture within this period, and was the patron of Copenhagen's literati. He was a highly influential intellectual, and he altered the course of Danish philosophy by introducing Hegel to the Northern country. There is no doubt as to the rôle that Heiberg - directly and indirectly - played in the life of Kierkegaard.

EUR 7,800 / HKD 67,000

THE BASIS OF ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

LINNAEUS, CAROLUS (CARL LINNÉ).

Systema Naturae.

1758-59. The extremely rare seminal tenth edition of Linnaeus' main work, being the most important edition of this foundational work, as "[i]t is in this edition that Linnaeus carried out the definitive plan of binominal nomenclature, with diagnosis and synonyms, for the first time, including the generic and the trivial names, which together form the specific name of each animal. This edition has therefore been accepted as "the basis of zoological nomenclature". "Systema Natura" is considered the bible of natural history, and with the definitive tenth edition of it, it founded modern zoological nomenclature and changed the science more profoundly than any other work before or after.

EUR 17,000 / HKD 145,000

CHANGING OUR VIEW OF HEART AND BLOOD

LOWER, RICHARD.

Tractatus de Corde...

1669. The rare second edition, printed merely a few months after the first (London, 1669), of Lower's groundbreaking main work, which immediately changed that the way we perceive of the role of the heart and the lungs in the human body. The work is considered a milestone of medical history, as it provides one of the earliest accounts of blood transfusion, it established air as a necessity for life, and it was the first to demonstrate the scroll-like structure of the heart.

EUR 6,700 / HKD 58,000

POPULATION AND SUBSISTENCE

MALTHUS, T.R.

An Essay on the Principle of Population...

1803. The Great Quarto-edition, being the second edition of this first and most influential book on population. The work was first printed anonymously in 1798. This edition, though being the second, may be considered as a new work, which Malthus himself also claimed; -it is thoroughly revised and much enlarged (nearly four times the length of the original essay), the title has been changed (the title of the first is merely: "An Essay on the Principle of Population, as it Affects the Future Improvement of Society with Remarks on the Speculation of Mr. Godwin, M. Condorcet, and Other Writers"), and with this edition, Malthus does accept authorship of the work (by not publishing it anonymously). All the later editions were minor revisions of this second one.

EUR 7,000 / HKD 60,000

ONE OF 100 COPIES OF THE FIRST EDITION

MANN, THOMAS.

Der Tod in Venedig.

1912. The very scarce first edition, nr. 32 of 100 copies, of Thomas Mann's disturbing masterpiece, probably the most famous story of obsession ever written. "The Death in Venice" is considered one of the most important literary productions of the 20th century.

EUR 28,000 / HKD 242,000

FIRST TRANSLATION INTO ANY LANGUAGE OF "THE BIBLE OF MARXISM"

MARX, KARL.

Kapital.

1872. First Russian edition (first issue, with the issue-pointers), being the first translation into any language, of Marx' immensely influential main work, probably the greatest revolutionary work of the nineteenth century. Marx' groundbreaking "Das Kapital" originally appeared in German in 1867, and only the first part of the work appeared in Marx' lifetime. The very first foreign translation of the work was that into Russian, which, considering Russian censorship at the time, would seem a very unlikely event. But as it happened, "Das Kapital" actually came to enjoy greater renown in Russia than in any other country; for many varying reasons, it won a warm reception in many political quarters in Russia, and it enjoyed a totally unexpected rapid and widespread success.

EUR 19,000 / HKD 161,000

THE FOUNDATION OF THE DISCOVERY OF THE PERIODIC LAW

MENDELEEV, D.

Udel'noe ob'emoe [Russian, i.e. Specific Volumes].

1856. The exceedingly rare first edition of Mendeleev's first book, the work in which he lays the foundation for the discovery that leads him to establish the periodic table. The "Specific Volumes" is Mendeleev's master's dissertation, defended at St. Petersburg University in 1856. It deals with the concepts of both isomorphism and specific volumes, which lead directly to the discovery of the periodic law. He himself called the concept of specific volume "one of the most striking examples of periodicity", and it is exactly this urge and interest in classifying natural phenomena in terms of an underlying regularity that leads him to the pattern of the periodic law and the establishing of the periodic table.

EUR 12,000 / HKD 104,000

INTRODUCING MODERN COSMOGRAPHY

MERCATOR, GERARD.

Atlas...

1613. The seminal Mercator-atlas with all 150 maps. Few other inventions have done as much for our understanding of the world and our place in it as that of the atlas, which marks a turning point in the history of mankind. Mercator is one of the two greatest figures in the history of cartography; together with Ortelius, he introduces to mankind modern cosmography and our way of looking at the world geographically. It is Mercator who turns map making into an exact science and frees us from Ptolemy's cosmogony, which, though very unscientific and full of errors, was dominating up to the point of Mercator. It is in the present work that the term "atlas" is used for the first time, and as well as inventing "Mercator's projection, which is still of the utmost importance to map-making, Mercator is the first to name North America and South America.

EUR 135,000 / HKD 1,155,000

PRESENTATION-COPY, SIGNED, WITH AUTHORIAL CORRECTIONS AND AUTHENTICATION STAMP

MYDORGE, CLAUDE.

Prodromi catoptrorum et dioptrorum...

1631. The exceedingly scarce first edition, presentation-copy with authorial corrections and authentication-stamp, of Mydorge's highly important work in optical geometry (providing the geometrical basis for optics), his famous study on conic sections, which served as inspiration for the likes of Descartes and Newton. It is in the present work that Mydorge presents for the first time his new powerful idea of deforming figures, proving important results on deforming conic sections, a groundbreaking technique, which was taken up by La Hire and Newton, and later by Poncelet and Chasles. The term "parameter" (for the erect side) of a conic section is also introduced for the first time. This first edition is of the utmost scarcity, with only four copies listed in libraries world-wide and no traceable auction-records. It was printed in very few copies only, and as far as we can make out, the entire print has presumably been intended as gift-copies from the author. The copy, inscribed to the distinguished Christian S. Zeuggmann, has been water-damaged at an early stage, leaving the bards a bit stained and "bumpy" and the interior "creased", but with very little (and then very light) staining or spotting.

EUR 37,000 / HKD 317,000

"GOD IS DEAD"

NIETZSCHE, FRIEDRICH.

Die fröhliche Wissenschaft.

1882. The very rare first edition, first issue - one of only 212 copies - of what is arguably Nietzsche's most important work, namely the work in which he introduces his three most important concepts: "God is Dead", the "Eternal Return of the Same", and the "Superman", which together provide the basis for almost all of his later writings, including "Also sprach Zarathustra" (part 1 of which was published the following year).

EUR 13,500 / HKD 115,000

INFLUENCING THE WESTERN VIEW OF CHINA

NIEUHOF, JOAN.

Het Gezantschap der Neêrlandtsche Oost-Indische Compagnie, aan den Grooten Tartarischen Cham, Den tegenwoordigen Keizer van China...

1665. First edition of Nieuhof's famous travel round China, which made him THE authoritative Western writer on China. Dealing with nearly all aspects of Chinese life - folklore, religion, crafts, topography, architecture, zoology, geography, geology etc. etc. -, the work is also one of the first illustrated books to describe China, and it profoundly influenced the Western view on the country.

EUR 5,700 / HKD 49,000

THE BIBLE OF RUSSIAN LIBERAL ECONOMIC THOUGHT

NIKOLAJ - ON [DANIELSON, NIKOLAJ FRANCEVIC].

Otserki naschego poreformennogo obshchestvennogo chozjajstva. [Russian, i.e.: Studies of Our Post-Reform Economy].

1893. The exceedingly scarce first edition of Danielson's groundbreaking work on the Russian economic development, which is widely considered the bible of Russian liberal economic thought. In the present work, written at the suggestion of Marx himself, Danielson proposed a way for the Russian economy to consolidate itself without foreign money by - highly controversially - claiming that capitalist industrialization was possible without any change in the political system and emphasizing and defending the peasant class, which so many socialists of the time readily proclaimed doomed. Danielson completely changed the view on capitalist industrialization; his economic philosophy was not only pioneering in contemporary Russian economics, it also anticipated many solutions to problems that still face some of the Third World countries today.

EUR 10,750 / HKD 92,000

THE BEGINNING OF BACTERIOLOGY AS A MODERN SCIENCE

PASTEUR, M. L.

Mémoire sur la Fermentation appelée Lactique.

1858. First printing, in the extremely scarce off-print (separately paginated), of this landmark paper which founded scientific bacteriology, immunology and microbiology in general. The work constitutes "[t]he first demonstration of the connection between a specific fermentation and the activity of a specific microorganism ... the beginning of bacteriology as a modern science" (G&M). "In this epochal paper [Pasteur] first published his research on lactic fermentation... A great milestone in biochemistry" (Neville). Few medical discoveries have changed our lives so profoundly as the beginning of bacteriology, improving the general health of our species more profoundly than any other discovery, ridding the world of former plagues.

EUR 8,700 / HKD 75,000

THE NERVOUS SYSTEM AND PSYCHIC ILLNESS - PRESENTATION-COPY

PAVLOV, I.P.

Lektsii o rabote bolshih polusarov golovnogo mozga. [Russian, i.e.: Lectures on Big Cerebral Hemispheres].

1927. First edition, excellent presentation-copy, of one of Pavlov's most important and influential works, his lectures on the function of the cerebral hemispheres, which sums up all of his work on the higher central nervous system of the dog and thus began the branch of physiology that has to do with higher nervous activity. The work is considered a foundational classic in the history of psychology, linking the central nervous system to the nature of human psychic illness.

EUR 7,400 / HKD 63,500

ONE OF THE EARLIEST INTERPRETATIONS OF THE MEANING OF THE DISCOVERY OF AMERICA

PICO DELLA MIRANDOLA, GIOVANNI FRANCESCO.

De morte Christi & propria cogitanda libri tres.

1497. Exceedingly scarce first edition of the two highly important works "On Remembering the Death of Christ and Oneself", which is dedicated to Savonarola in the year before he was condemned and hanged, and "On the Study Divine and Human Philosophy", being Gianfrancesco Pico's seminal first philosophical work, in which the foundation for his philosophical theories are laid and which foreshadows the scepticism of his "Examen", for which he became famous as the first modern Sceptic. The present publication is furthermore the first in which Gianfr. Pico refers to the discovery of America; the work was written merely a couple of years after Columbus' discovery became known; Pico's references in the present work constitute one of the first testimonies to the awareness of the meaning and importance of the discovery of the New World and it is considered a highly important piece of 15th century Americana.

EUR 23,500 / HKD 202,000

THE FIRST SYSTEMATIC HANDBOOK OF PAPAL HISTORY

PLATINA, BARTOLOMEO (BARTHOLOMEO SACCHI).

[Vitae Pontificum].

1481. First edition thus, being the first Koberger-printing of Platina's main work, his highly influential history of the "Lives of the Popes" - from St. Peter down to his own time -, which for centuries remained the standard reference work for Papal history, highly influencing the way the different popes were viewed and portrayed.

EUR 12,750 / HKD 110,000

DOUBLE-PRESENTATION-COPY

SARTRE, JEAN-PAUL.

La Nausée. Roman.

(1938). A magnificent double-presentation-copy of the first edition (issue unknown) of Sartre's first book, a canonical work of existentialism. The present copy is inscribed (and signed) twice by Sartre, both times on the half-title, first around the time of the appearance of the work, and then again decades later. The copy was originally given by Sartre to the young writer Jean Jansion (who was killed by the Germans in 1944), apparently after a conversation on liberty, a theme important to both. Some time after the death of Jansion, Mr. Fortin has presumably bought the presentation-copy of Sartre's first novel, met and talked to Sartre and then had him inscribe it again, mirroring the inscription he originally wrote. The second inscription is presumably from the 70'ies.

EUR 6,700 / HKD 58,000

"SAY'S LAW" - CREATING ECONOMIC POLITICS

SAY, JEAN-BAPTISTE.

Traité d'Economie politique...

1803. The seminal first edition of Say's main work, his "Treatise on Political Economy", which irrevocably created the study of economic politics as a separate science. With his classically liberal views, which included arguments of free trade and lowering of restraints on business, all in favour of competition, Say, the first academic teacher of economics in France, became one of the leading founders of the classical school within economics. He is now primarily famous for his groundbreaking principle of markets, also known as "Say's Law", which is developed in his "Traité d'économie politique".

EUR 6,700 / HKD 58,000

ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR ARITHMETICS FOR MERCHANTS

SFORTUNATI, GIOVANNI.

Nuovo Lume. Libro di Arithmetica.

1534. The exceedingly rare first edition of Sfortunati's highly influential treatise on arithmetic for merchants. The work quickly became immensely popular and at least seven later editions soon followed. Whereas Pacioli's "Summa" (1494) and Calandri's "Arithmetica" (1491) were both very learned works, they did - in Sfortunati's own words - contain too much that was not useful for merchants and did not explain elementary notions well enough to be truly useful for beginners. This is obviously Sfortunati's attempt at promoting his own work, but true enough, his simple and pragmatic approach soon made his "Nuove Lume" one of the most popular works among Mid- and North-Italian merchants.

EUR 8,000 / HKD 69,500

FUNDAMENTAL WORK ON PERSPECTIVE

SIRIGATTI, LORENZO.

La pratica di prospettiva.

1596. The rare first edition of this most important work on the art of perspective, one of the most elegant of its kind. Sirigatti's work is famous for being one of the very earliest thorough works solely dedicated to the art of perspective. Combining the visual language of the German book tradition of Lencker and Jamnitzer with the Italian tradition of linear perspective treated previously by Serlio and Barbaro and earlier that of Leon Battista Alberti (unillustrated), as applied to stage design and architectural theory, this is one of the seminal Italian works on the subject of perspective. Presumably, this work functioned as a basis for Galileo's drawing technique.

The book quickly became very popular and several Italian editions appeared in the 17th century; its reputation was so long-lived that an English translation was published no less than 160 years after the original.

EUR 18,000 / HKD 156,000

MEASURING THE EARTH - FOUNDING THE MODERN ART OF MAPMAKING

SNELLIUS, WILLEBRORD.

Erathosthenes Batavus.

1617. Very rare first edition of Snell's seminal magnum opus, in which he founded the modern systematic use of triangulation, thus also founding the modern art of map-making. It is due to his development of triangulation presented in the present work - a method that was used for accurate large-scale land surveying until the rise of global navigation satellite systems in the 1980'ies - that Snell "may rightfully be called the father of triangulation". (D.S.B.).

EUR 13,500 / HKD 115,000

INTRODUCING MARITIME AND COMMERCIAL LAW

STRACCHA, BENUENUTI.

De mercatura, seu Mercatore tractatus.

1553. Exceedingly rare first edition of Stracca's highly important work on merchant- and economic insurance- and insurance-law. With the present work, Stracca provided the first systematic exposition of commercial law, in particular maritime law, which he was the first to view as distinct from civil law. He was furthermore the first to consider these aspects of the law from a practical point of view, thereby breaking with the late Medieval scholastic law-tradition.

EUR 17,000 / HKD 145,000

THE FAMOUS FLORILEGIUM

SWEERTS, EMANUEL.

Florilegium amplissimum et selectissimum...

1631. Scarce early edition of Sweert's magnificent Florilegium, at first intended to be both a catalogue for selling plants and bulbs as well as a picture-book of plants, but with the later editions, it became a true Florilegium for collectors and botanical scientists. The first part deals with bulbous species and the second with species having "fibrous" roots. Thirty-three tulip heads are paraded in regular columns. The American contingent is represented by the sunflower, cactus, agave, pineapple and Canna. Sweerts and Johann Theodor de Bry were the first to establish the convention of portraying lower stem with bulb or root alongside severed upper stem and flower in order to reproduce the plant life-size on the page. "Sweert prepared his Florilegium as a guide of his available stock for the Frankfurt Fair of 1612. The plates, depicting some 560 bulbs and flowers, were from the Johann Theodore de Bry Florilegium which in turn was based on that by Pierre Vallet. His attractively depicted bulbs sparked their popularity, leading to 6 editions of the work between 1612 and 1647, and a demand which would later result in "Tulipomania". At the time of the fair Sweert was in the employ of Emperor Rudolf II as head of his gardens in Vienna. He borrowed freely from plates that had been published before, so that many of those that appeared in the Florilegium had been cultivated in the gardens of King Henry IV of France at the Louvre."

EUR 22,000 / HKD 190,000

THE MOST IMPORTANT BOTANICAL WORK OF THE 17TH CENTURY

THEOPHRASTUS ERESII.

De historia plantarum...

1644. First edition thus, being the most important and influential edition of Theophrastus' seminal work "Enquiry into Plants" - the first systematization of the botanical world and the most important contribution to botanical science up until the Renaissance. Bodaeus von Stapel's groundbreaking edition constitutes the first illustrated edition of Theophrastus' masterpiece as well as the first with both Greek and Latin text. Furthermore, von Stapel has not only collected all relevant commentaries and knowledge, he has also added corrections and much foundational information, turning the work into one of the most influential botanical works of the 17th century, profoundly influencing the likes of Linnaeus and contributing significantly to the development of modern scientific botany.

EUR 10,750 / HKD 92,000

EXQUISITE ORIGINAL HAND-COLOURING

WALTER.

(Flora...).

(1835-42). 180 engraved plates (out of a total of 306), with the accompanying text, of the extremely scarce first printing of the most beautifully coloured Danish work on flowers. The present 180 plates are in the most exquisite original hand-colouring. The work is of great scarcity and was only printed in few copies, which is why it is almost never seen complete (not even in the Danish Royal Library, which has 204 plates). Nissen 2101. - Not in Pritzel. - Not in British Museum (NH). - De Belder, 379: "Of exceptional rarity, this edition is unrecorded in the catalogue of the British Museum (Natural History), Linnean Society, Lindley Library, Kew and Massachusetts Horticultural Society. The attractive plates... are conservative in style and reminiscent in both design and colouring of the late eighteenth century."

EUR 10,000 / HKD 86,500

THE CATALOGUE OF THE FIRST DANISH MUSEUM

WORM, OLE.

Museum Wormianum.

1655. The scarce first edition of this monumental work in early modern museum literature, constituting the catalogue of the first Danish museum and one of the most important cabinets of curiosities in Europe. The magnificent double-page engraved plate depicting the interior and outlay of the museum is one of the most well known and famous illustrations from any "Wunderkammer"-book, iconographically summarizing what we understand by the genre.

EUR 12,000 / HKD 104,000