Sub-Saharan Africa

E-CATALOGUE

Jointly offered for sale by:

ANTIQUE RIAAT
FORUM

ASHER Rare Books

Since 1830

Extensive descriptions and images available on request
All offers are without engagement and subject to prior sale.
All items in this list are complete and in good condition unless stated otherwise.
Any item not agreeing with the description may be returned within one week after receipt.
Prices are EURO (€). Postage and insurance are not included. VAT is charged at the standard rate to all EU customers. EU customers: please quote your VAT number when placing orders. Preferred mode of payment: in advance, wire transfer or bank check. Arrangements can be made for MasterCard and Visa Card.
Ownership of goods does not pass to the purchaser until the price has been paid in full.
General conditions of sale are those laid down in the ILAB Code of Usages and Customs, which can be viewed at: <http://www.ilab.org/eng/ilab/code.html>
New customers are requested to provide references when ordering.
Orders can be sent to either firm.

Antiquariaat FORUM BV
Tuurdiijk 16
3997 MS ‘t Goy – Houten
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0)30 6011955
Fax: +31 (0)30 6011813
E–mail: info@forumrarebooks.com
Web: www.forumrarebooks.com
www.forumislamicworld.com

ASHER Rare Books
Tuurdiijk 16
3997 MS ‘t Goy – Houten
The Netherlands
Phone: +31 (0)30 6011955
Fax: +31 (0)30 6011813
E–mail: info@asherbooks.com
Web: www.asherbooks.com
An early account of Timbuktu by an American sailor

1. [ADAMS, Robert (= Benjamin ROSE)]. Jongste en echte berigten betrekkelijk Tombuctoo en eenige andere nog onbezochte deelen der binnenlanden van Afrika.
Amsterdam, J.C. Sepp en Zoon, 1818. 8°. With a folding engraved map (30.5 × 37.5 cm) of North Africa with the routes of Mungo Park and Robert Adams highlighted in colour. Contemporary boards.

First Dutch edition of Adam’s *The narrative of Robert Adams,...* (1816). Robert Adams, an American sailor whose real name was Benjamin Rose, sailed in the *Charles* on a trading voyage along the west coast of Africa. Somewhere near Cape Blanc the ship struck ground, and after the crew had struggled ashore they were immediately taken prisoner by some 30 Moors, possibly with the intention of selling the crew as slaves. The prisoners were taken into the interior of Mauritania, and after the party had reached a hilly village, they were assaulted by a company of black Africans. Both the Moors and the captives were imprisoned and subsequently taken to the King in Timbuktu, where they arrived in February 1811. Adams, who stayed as a guest of the king, describes Timbuktu and its inhabitants at length. Timbuktu wasn’t the thriving metropolis it was made out to be, but a small city with no walls, and houses made of clay and grass. However, after a time Adams was sold as a slave to a group of tobacco sellers. Over the next three years, Adams would change hands four more times before eventually being ransomed by the British consul.

Spine slightly damaged. In very good condition, untrimmed leaving all deckles intact.

*Howgego, 1800–1850, R24; NCC (4 copies); Saalmink, p. 31.*
New plant species from Guinea

2. AFZELIUS, Adamus and Ericus Samuel WENNBERG. Stirpium in Guinea medicinalium species novae. 
Uppsalæ, Zeipel and Palmblad, 1818. 4º. Disbound. € 150

Dissertation on plants collected by Afzelius during his stay in Guinea and Sierra Leone as botanist for the Sierra Leone Company, including new species.

Edges frayed, otherwise a good copy.

Krok, Afzelius 12b.
Ethnography of the Xhosa people of South Africa, with the very rare album with four attractive hand-coloured aquatints

3. ALBERTI, Lodewyk and Ludwig Gottlieb PORTMAN. [Drop-title:] Zuid-Afrikaansche gezichten. Amsterdam, Evert Maaskamp, [1810]. Oblong 1º (45 × 60 cm). Letterpress text leaf and 4 large aquatint plates coloured by a contemporary hand, engraved by Ludwig Gottlieb Portman after drawings by Jacob Smies and Christopher Howen. Contemporary stiff, marbled paper wrappers, kept in a modern green half morocco clamshell box.

With:
(2) ALBERTI, Lodewyk. De Kaffers aan de zuidkust van Afrika, natuur en geschiedkundig beschreven. Amsterdam, Evert Maaskamp, 1810. 8º. With engraved title-page, aquatint folding plan, with coastal view, of Algoa Bay, and 2 stipple-engraved plates, all but the title-page coloured by a contemporary hand. Contemporary gold-tooled calf; rebacked, with new endpapers.
(3) ALBERTI, Lodewyk. Description physique et historique des Cafres, sur la côte méridionale de l’Afrique ...
Amsterdam, Evert Maaskamp, 1811. 8º. With the same plan and 2 plates as ad. 2, also coloured by a contemporary hand. Contemporary gold-tooled calf, richly gold-tooled spine. € 25 000

Very rare album with four beautiful hand-coloured aquatint views to Alberti’s ethnographic monograph on the Xhosa people (“Kaffers”), of South Africa, together with both the first edition, in Dutch, as the first edition of the French translation of this monograph. Even though the plates are mentioned in the preface of the text volume, they are rarely found together. All the plates are brightly coloured and remarkably fresh and lively, evoking the beauty of the African landscape and the culture of the Xhosa.
Lodewyk Alberti (1768–1812) came to the Netherlands in 1784 as lieutenant in the Dutch army, and left for the Cape in 1802. He successfully kept the peace between Xhosas, Khoisan and European colonists, but conflicts flared up soon after he left in 1806. He describes the situation and climate of Caffria, as well as the appearance and physical strength of the Xhosa, but mainly focuses on their culture.
Ad 1: small tear in the text leaf of atlas, but restored, plates fine except for a tiny blemish on the first plate; ad 2: slightly browned, and recased, as noted; ad 3; some sentences marked in pencil the margins and an occasional annotation, plates slightly browned and binding rubbed along the extremities. Very good set.

Bobins collection 68; Gay 3153 (text only); Mendelssohn I, p. 17–18; Landwehr, Coloured plates 217–218.
**Beetles of Madagascar, with 54 engraved plates depicting numerous species**


First edition of volume 21 and 22 of a monumental work on Madagascar, these volumes devoted to the Coleoptera (beetles) of Madagascar, the text volume compiled by the French entomologist Charles Alluaud (1861–1949) and the plate volume by Philippe Alexandre Jules Künckel d’Herculais (1843–1918). The text volume lists numerous beetle species, all arranged according to their family and genus, briefly noting some reference works and the province or area where it can be found. Occasionally some additional information is provided, commenting for example on the classification or the importation of the insects to Europe. It closes with an index. The plate volume (volume xxii) contains 54 plates each showing many beetle species, engraved by Béchade and Lebrun after drawings of Paul-Eugène Mesplès, Gustave Arthur Poujade and others. “A splendid example of systematic work” (Wood).

Bindings only very slightly rubbed. Internally in very good condition.  
*Cf.* Nissen, ZBI 1676; Wood 366.
Sub-Saharan butterflies,
with 6 chromolithographed plates


First edition of an extensive work on the African butterfly species Rhopalocera, covering the entire Afrotropical (sub-Sahara) region, by the Swedish entomologist Per Olof Christopher Aurivillius (1843–1928). It opens with a preface and a brief introduction to the method of describing the butterflies, followed descriptions of numerous species of butterflies, all arranged according to their families and genera. The six plates depict 46 butterflies.

With the bookplate of Lionel George Higgins, fellow of the Royal Entomological Society and co-author of the *Field guide to butterflies of Britain and Europe* (1970). With numerous marginal annotations in pencil. Occasionally some foxing, a water stain in the gutter, margins of the first plate frayed. Otherwise in good condition.

Autograph letter by Arctic explorer
Frederick William Beechey

6. BEECHEY, Frederick William. [Autograph letter, signed, to Heinrich Barth (?)].
[London], 9 December, 1855. Folded leaf (18.5 × 11.4 cm).
In English. € 1250

Letter by Frederick William Beechey (1796–1856), Arctic explorer and from 1855 president of the Royal Geographical Society. The author discusses a paper on the geography of Central Africa which will be read at the Society “tomorrow evening”. The paper referred to was James MacQueen’s “Notes on the Geography of Central Africa”, read on 10 December.
The first page of the letter bears the name of “Dr Barth”, possibly the German Africa explorer Heinrich Barth. Beechey mentions the possibility of arranging a meeting between the addressee and Sir Roderick Murchison, one of the founders of the Royal Geographical Society and Beechey’s successor as president. In fine condition.
Newly discovered fish in the waters of Mauritius

Amsterdam, C.G. van der Post, 1878. Large 4º (28.5 × 23.5 cm).
With 3 chromolithographed plates (1 folding) by L. Speigler after drawings by Bleeker, lithographed by Emrik & Binger. Original publisher’s printed stiff paper wrappers. € 300

First edition of the last work by the well-known Dutch ichthyologist Pieter Bleeker (1819–1878), dealing with fish living in the waters around Mauritius, published by the Dutch Royal Academy of Sciences. It contains descriptions of three newly discovered fish, which are beautifully depicted on the plates. The rest of the work consists of a list with all the known fish species swimming in the waters of Mauritius: a total of 471 species.
Spine tattered. Internally in very good condition, bolts unopened.
Tousaint & Adolphe Dr64; not in Nissen.
Paris, Roret (back of half-title: Jules Didot l'Ainé), 1833. 8° (24.5 × 16.5 cm). With 16 lithographed plates. Later brown half cloth. € 950

First edition of a monograph on Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) from Madagascar, Mauritius and Réunion by the French lepidopterist, botanist and physician Jean Baptiste Alphonse Boisduval (1799–1879) and with notes by the French zoologist Victor Sganzin (d. 1841). The work opens with a brief general introduction, followed by descriptions of butterflies, arranged according to their families, genera and species. The entries include descriptions of the butterfly’s appearance in Latin, some references to other authors and books, comments on the butterfly’s characteristics, habitat and specific areas where it can be spotted, in French.
With a book-plate on paste-down. Half-title restored, some small spots and some minor foxing on the last few pages. Overall in very good condition.

*Nissen, ZBI 448; Horn & Schenkling 1807.*
**Madagascar and its opportunities for trade and colonization, detailing the trade with India, Persia and other countries along the Arabian Sea**

9. **BOOTHBY, Richard.** A breife discovery or description of the most famous island of Madagascar or St. Laurence in Asia neare unto East-India.

London, Printed by E[dward]. G[ riffin], for John Hardesty, 1646. Small 4º (20 × 15.5 cm). Gold-tooled tanned sheepskin (ca. 1850). Rebacked, with original backstrip laid–down. € 35 000

First separately published edition of Boothby’s description of Madagascar and its opportunities for trade and colonization, detailing the trade with India, Persia (includingOrmuz, captured in 1622 by a joint Anglo-Persian force) and other countries along the Arabian Sea and touching on a large variety of subjects including Saint Augustine’s harbour, culture of the natives, opportunities for plantations, natural resources, pearl fishery and trading practices of the English, Portuguese, Spanish and Dutch.

The British merchant Richard Boothby had reinvested his capital in the East India Company around 1615, after which he sailed to India where he was jailed as a result of a dispute with company officials. Upon his release he returned to London by way of Madagascar, which inspired his enthusiasm so much that he wrote the present book advising the East India Company’s rivals to take advantage of it as the ideal location for a European colony.

With the bookplate Crosby Gaige (1882–1949). Several chapters are heavily annotated in English in an early hand. These give information about a voyage or voyages and would reward further study. With the gutter margin of the title-page and all margins of the last leaf restored but otherwise in good condition, with a small tear in the fore-edge margin of the title-page and a couple minor spots. Rebacked, but binding otherwise good.

"The first authoritative and detailed account of the West Coast of Africa"

10. BOSMAN, Willem. Voyage de Guinée, contenant une description nouvelle & très-exacte de cette côte où l’on trouve & où l’on trafique l’or, les dents d’éléphant, & les esclaves: ...

Utrecht, Antoine Schouten, 1705. Large 12º (17 × 10 cm). With an engraved author’s portrait, an engraved frontispiece and 27 folding engraved plates. Contemporary marbled boards. € 1750

First edition of the French translation of a work on the trade-settlements on the West Coast of Africa. The author, Willem Bosman (b. 1672), was Chief Factor at Fort Elmina for the Dutch West Indian Company. “He stayed on the coast for fourteen years, his Voyage de Guinée ... being regarded as the first authoritative and detailed account of the West Coast of Africa. It is a major source for the Dutch slave trade during second half of the seventeenth century, and provides an interesting picture of international rivalry, current trade, and the wretched and depraved existence of the European factors stationed permanently at the coast” (Howgego). It contains detailed information of areas which were hardly described by other travellers, and remained the most important source for over a century. The book is written in the form of letters to a friend, Dr. D. Havard, living in the city of Rotterdam in the Netherlands. With library stamp. Some occasional spots and one plate heavily browned, but otherwise in good condition, wholly untrimmed. Binding worn along the extremities and spine discoloured.

Gay 2808; Howgego, to 1800, F58; Tiele 174, note.
Manuscript ledger recording the work hours of F.A. Boulten, from 1952 to 1955. Although Boulten's specific field of work, or even the company he worked for, is not stated, he worked on engineering and infrastructure projects in the British colonies, the Commonwealth and other states in Britain's sphere of influence (most notably Iraq). Each day he devoted 1 to 3.5 hours to multiple power plants, oil terminals, bridges, dams and harbours. As Boulten worked on most of the projects before construction had started, it is probable that his firm was related to the initial financing of the project. A probable suspect for the latter is the Colonial Development Corporation, founded by Great-Britain after World War II for the economic development of its colonial territories. The CDC provided loans for many of the projects mentioned in the ledger. These projects include: the power stations of Aden, Melbourne and Singapore, the oil jetties at Al-Faw near Basra, the harbours of Sierra Leone, Lagos and Mombasa and in Iraq the Adhamiyah Bridge, Darbandikha Dam, Taq Taq Bridge, Lake Tharthar and the Mujarah Canal.

Boulten worked 7.5 hours, five days in a week and mentions the days the office was closed, Bank Holidays, sick leave and days off, including one to have an X-ray taken. One of his off days was 2 June 1953, Coronation Day, and he drew a crown above the name of the month. On 15 February 1952 he marked the funeral of King George VI, but spent the day at the office.

Binding worn at the extremities; slightly thumbed; in very good condition.
On the archaeological dilemma of the rock painting of “the white lady”, author’s presentation copy to his collaborator Mary Boyle


London, The Trianon Press; William Clowes and sons, (back of title page: 1955). 2º (375 x 29 cm). With a coloured frontispiece, a small map in text, 13 coloured plates (2 folding, images numbered 1–XXII), and 5 collotype plates with photographs (1 folding, each plate with several photographs). Original half leather.

First edition of a work on the so-called “White Lady”, a painting on a rock face near the foot of Brandberg mountain in Namibia, written by the French archaeologist Abbé Henri Édouard Prosper Breuil (1877–1961), with a presentation inscription to his collaborator Mary Boyle. The present copy is one of the 100 signed copies (no. 90) on rag paper. The rock painting was excavated in 1918 by Reinhard Maack and is today believed to have been made around 2000 years ago. The present text deals with the presumed origin of the painting and the researchers’ excavation methods. It is usually assumed that the painting shows some sort of ritual dance, and that the “White Lady” is a (male) shaman, but the painting has long been an archaeological dilemma. It was Breuil who coined the name “White Lady” and suggested a relation to paintings at Knossos (Crete). The coloured plates show the entire “White Lady” as well as details, followed by photos of the researchers and the rock painting.

With on the half-title a presentation inscription by the author to Mary Boyle his life-long companion, who collaborated in the writing and publication of the book. Today, her technically competent translations, her contemporary monographs as well as hundreds of her coloured petroglyph and rock art drawings are recognised as foundational to modern rock art research. A few faint stains, otherwise in very good condition.
An expedition to the South African interior: “of great permanent worth”, together with a description of the Cape of Good Hope


First and only edition of the French translation of a very interesting account of the Cape of Good Hope, together with an historical journal of an expedition into the interior of Africa, made by order of the late Governor Ryk Tulbach, with a force of 85 men under the command of Captain Henry Hope. The first part of the work contains an interesting description of the Cape. The journal making up the second part of this work contains no less interesting information on the fauna and flora, tribes and minerals met and found during the expedition to Namaqualand from 16 July 1761 to 27 August 1762 under the command of Henry Hop.

“This document is . . . not only highly interesting, but of great permanent worth” (Theal, History of South Africa).

Two 19th-century bookplates on pastedown (one heraldic) with the name and other identifying features obliterated. Cracks in the hinges, but otherwise in very good condition.

Tiele, Bibl. 118; Mendelsohn 1, pp. 185–186; STCN (3 copies); cf. Rookmaker, The zoological exploration of Southern Africa, pp. 36–37; not in Nissen.
Important account containing the earliest information on Darfur, written by the first European to describe the region


Amsterdam, Johannes Allart, 1800. 2 volumes. 8º. With 2 folding maps engraved by D. Veelwaard (ca. 32 x 24 cm and 43 x 40 cm), a woodcut of a pyramid and some tables in text. Modern half vellum. € 1250

The rare Dutch translation of an important work, containing the earliest information on Darfur (Sudan).

William George Browne (1768–1813), "inspired by Bruce’s travels, went to Egypt in 1792 hoping to explore the oases in the eastern Sahara and to journey to the source of the White Nile. He reached El Fashur in Darfur and was the first Englishman to explore the temple of Jupiter Ammon at the Oasis of Siwa. These deserts were not explored again until 1848 when Bayle St. John travelled through them. Browne was the first European to describe Darfur, which he reached with a Sudanese caravan in 1793. He was imprisoned there by the Sultan of Darfur. In 1796 he reached Egypt again by caravan and eventually returned to England via Syria and Constantinople. From 1800 to 1802 Browne travelled again in Turkey and the Levant. Some information gained at that time was published in Walpole’s Memoirs. In 1812 he left England with the intention of travelling through Persia to Tartary, but was murdered by bandits in Persia” (Blackmer).

The maps show Darfur and the route of the Sudanese caravan travelling from Egypt to Darfur as well as the routes slave traders took from Darfur to surrounding countries (one route has been coloured).

In very good condition and wholly untrimmed, with owner’s stamp on both title-pages. Scarce Dutch translation of an important work containing the earliest information on Darfur.

Cox I, p. 394; Houwego, to 1800, B170; Ibrahim-Hilmy I, p. 97; cf: Atabey 156; Blackmer 219–220.
Piracy and shipwrecks: travelling to the Indies via the Cape of Good Hope in the 18th century


Very rare German translation of the second Dutch edition of a 16-year voyage in the East Indies (Zestien jaarige reize naa de Indiën, Haarlem, 1757; first published as Aanmerckelyke ontmoetingen in de zestien jaarige reize naar de Indiën, Haarlem, 1744), together with the unfortunate voyage of Jacob Franken in the years 1756–1760. Jacob de Bucquoy (b. 1693), a surveyor and cartographer for the Dutch East India Company (VOC), relates remarkable adventures, including attacks by pirates during his travels from 1720 to 1735 via the Cape of Good Hope to Goa, Madagascar, the African and Malabar coasts, the Dutch trading station at Delagoa Bay (now Maputo Bay in Mozambique), abandoned in 1730, and Batavia. The unfortunate voyage of Jacob Franken with the ship de Naarstigheid (first published Haarlem, 1761) describes the voyage from Batavia along the coast of Bengal to Holland in the years 1756 to 1760. Small tear in folding map. Good copy of this narrative on a voyage to the East Indies by Jacob de Bucquoy.

Mendelssohn I, pp. 425–426; cf. Landwehr & V.d. Krogt, VOC 294 & 295 (Dutch editions); Tiele, Bibl. 213 (Dutch edition); not in Howgego, to 1800.
The first European to visit Timbuktu

16. **CAILLIÉ, René-Auguste.** Dagverhaal eener reize naar Temboektoe, van de westkust af van Afrika, door de binnenlanden, over Jenné, Kabra, Arawan en vele andere opmerkelijke plaatsen, de groote woestijn door, op Tanger... Uit het Fransch overgebracht door Herman van Lil. Haarlem, widow A. Loosjes, 1831. 2 volumes. 8º. With engraved frontispiece and an engraved author’s portrait by D. and A. Veelvaard, and a large folding map (41.5 × 28.5 cm) after E.F. Jomard. Contemporary half cloth. € 1950

First Dutch edition of Caíllé’s travels to Timbuktu. In 1826 the Société de Géographie had offered a reward of 10,000 francs to the first European to visit Timbuktu (and return alive). Caíllé, by that time already travelling in Africa, was determined to reach the fabled city. Dressed as a Muslim and well-versed in Arabic, he embarked on his journey in April 1827, reaching Timbuktu on 19 April of the following year. “Caíllé was sorely disappointed with what he saw: a dreary, sleepy little town on the edge of the desert...” (Howgego). Nothing was left of the legendary riches of the city, and the population lived in constant fear of Tuareg attack. Caíllé remained in Timbuktu for only two weeks, leaving for Morocco on 4 May. He crossed the Sahara, and after many hardships reached Morocco’s Tafilet region on 23 July. By way of Fez, Meknes and Rabat he arrived in Tangier from where he sailed for France.

Caíllé was preceded Benjamin Rose and by Alexander Gordon Laing in being the first European to enter Timbuktu. Laing, however, was murdered on the way back and Rose’s account met with disbelief. Accordingly, Caíllé was rewarded the 10,000 franc prize after his successful return in October 1828. His narrative contains many interesting details on the secluded regions he traversed and the peoples he encountered, without romanticizing his adventures.

Fine set.

* NCC (6 copies; 1 incomplete); Saalmink, p. 338; cf. Gay, Bibl. de l’Afrique et l’Arabie (French edition); Howgego, 1800–1850, C2; not in Tiele, Bibl.
Clapperton’s expedition in search of the course of the Niger

17. CLAPPERTON, Hugh and Richard LANDER. Reis in de binnenlanden van Afrika, ... gedurende de jaren 1825, 1826 en 1827: benevens het reisverhaal van Richard Lander.

Rotterdam, widow J. Allart (printed by Gebr. Giunta d’Albani, The Hague), 1830–1831. 2 volumes bound as 1. 8º. With aquatint portrait of the author, folding lithographed map (47 × 55 cm) showing the routes of the expedition and a folding map of the “Kouarra” (Niger) river. Mid 19th-century tanned sheepskin, gold-tooled.

The first Dutch edition of Clapperton’s valuable narrative of his second journey through Africa. Determined to find the course of the Niger, Clapperton made 2 expeditions into the interior of Africa. The present account records his final attempt, undertaken after the first had failed. Initially, he had tried to approach the river from Tripoli, in this second attempt he travelled from West Africa, starting at Ouidah, accompanied by Robert Pearce, Thomas Dickson, Robert Morison, and his manservant Richard Lander. The party travelled through the Yoruba country, reaching its capital Katunga (or Oyo), on 23 January 1826. Clapperton and Lander then headed for Yauri, crossed the Niger at Komie (south of Bussa), and proceeded to Kano. Clapperton left Lander at Kano and travelled alone to Sokoto, where he was welcomed by Sultan Muhammad Bello. The present Dutch edition includes Lander’s journal, which covers the journey from Kano to Sokoto.

Though Clapperton and Lander failed in their primary objective to discover the course of the Niger, their expedition was of great significance and the information recorded in their journals contributed greatly to the knowledge of African geography.

With some faint waterstains and both maps with tears along the folds neatly repaired, but still in very good condition. Spine chafed.

Cat. NHSM I, p. 200; Houwgo, 1800–1850, C34; for Clapperton: Fyfe, “Clapperton, Hugh (1788–1827)”, in: ODNB (online ed.).
Portuguese shipwreck off the coast of Africa,
a classic of Portuguese literature


Lisbon, Francisco Rolland, 1783. Small 8º (15 × 11 cm). Contemporary limp vellum. € 650

Second edition in the original Portuguese of one of the most important works of Portuguese literature, by the poet, painter and musician Jeronimo Corte Real (ca. 1533–1590), first published in 1594. After Camões, Corte Real is considered the greatest Portuguese epic poet. His Sepúlveda “is a narrative of the disastrous shipwreck and ultimate fate of Manoel de Sousa de Sepúlveda, of Donna Leonora, his wife, and their children on their voyage from India to Portugal, on board the great galleon Saint John, which was lost at the Cape of Good Hope on the Coast of Natal.

With an owner’s inscription on title-page. In good condition, some small defects. Binding with a small chip at the foot of the spine and some small scuff marks. Influential second edition of a great Portuguese epic poem.

Inocêncio III, 262–263 & X, 128; Palau IV, 63005; Porbase (2 copies); SAB I, p. 653.
The animals and inhabitants of South Africa

19. DELEGORGUE, Adulphe. Voyage dans l’Afrique australe notamment dans le territoire de Natal dans celui des Cafres Amazoulous et Makatisses et jusqu’au tropique du Capricorne ...

Paris, (back of half-title: W. Remquet et compagnie), 1847. 2 volumes. 8º. With a lithographed frontispiece showing the author, 8 lithographed plates and 2 folding lithographed maps. Contemporary black half morocco, richly gold-tooled spines. € 875

First edition of an account of a voyage to South Africa by the French naturalist and hunter Adulphe Delegorgue (1814–1850). He arrived at the Cape of Good Hoop in 1838 and describes in great detail his six-year journey, visiting Table mountain, the Verloren vlei, Hantam, Natal, and much more. During his travels he hunted many wild animals. In the text Delegorgue describes his hunting methods and gives (zoological) descriptions of various animals (hyena, hippopotamus, crocodile, elephant, and several snakes and birds). The second volume contains a catalogue of South African butterflies. Delegorgue also met and stayed with many different African tribes, commenting on their customs regarding marriage, religion, food, war, etc. Included at the end of the second volume is a vocabulary of the Zulu language. Some minor foxing. Binding slightly rubbed along the extremities. Overall in very good condition.

Broc 108; Chadenat 1086; Howgego, 1800 to 1850 W4.
Orchids of the French colonies, with 110 engraved plates

20. **DU PETIT-THOUARS, Louis-Marie Aubert.** Histoire particulière des plantes orchidées recueillies sur les trois îles australes d’Afrique, de France, de Bourbon et de Madagascar.

Paris, the author, Arthus Bertrand and Treuttel and Wurtz, 1822. 8º. With 110 continuously numbered engraved illustrations of orchids and 2 folding tables. Modern blue cloth. € 4750

Extensively illustrated work on orchids from the East African islands of France, Bourbon and Madagascar, by the French traveller and botanist Du Petit-Thouars (1758–1831), a brother of the well-known marine officer Abel-Aubert Du Petit-Thouars. The plates were published separately between 1804 and 1822, and were issued together with the text (in two parts) as quarto (with coloured plates) and octavo (uncoloured). All these different issues explain the different collations of this work. Our copy has the complete text, though it ends with a catchword. The plates in our copy are continuously numbered, though the numbering of the copy described by Stafleu & Cowan slightly differs.

Old owner’s inscription cut from right upper corner of the title-page, the text and a few plates foxed and a few minor tears in the margins of the plates. A good copy.

*BMC NH, p. 493; Nissen, BBI 564; Stafleu & Cowan 1586.*
Detailed account of a commercial expedition to Senegal and Sierra-Leone, attractive copy with 18 engraved plates and 16 maps


Paris, Henri Agasse, 1802. 2 volumes (1 text and 1 atlas). 4º. Atlas with an engraved portrait of Léonard Durand, 16 double-page engraved maps (mostly folding) and 27 engraved plates. Modern dark green half morocco, gold-tooled spine, upper edges gilt. € 6500

Attractive copy of the first edition, in the original French, of an account of the 15-month commercial expedition to Senegal and Sierra-Leone, initiated by the French African Company and led by Jean-Baptiste-Léonard Durand (1742–1812). Durand gives a detailed description of the native inhabitants and their customs, the geography, flora and fauna, also giving valuable information on European trade and commerce in the area, the relationship between the Europeans and African tribes, and of the things he accomplished and agreed upon with the local authorities. The atlas volume includes three copies of commercial treaties drawn up in French and Arabic; many very detailed maps of the coast of Senegal and of the settlements along the river Senegal; and illustrations with scenes of daily life and domestic vegetation and animals.

With only a few occasional spots and stains. Overall in very good condition, wholly untrimmed, with all deckles intact, leaving generous margins.

Chadenat 4746; Hogg 175a; cf. Gay 2892 (8e edition); Kainbacher, p. 110; Nissen ZBI 1214.
Excellent, annotated excerpt on James Cook’s second Pacific voyage

22. FORSTER, Johann Reinhold. Descriptiones animalium quae in itinere ad Maris Australis Terras per annos 1772, 1773 et 1774 suscepto.

First edition of an account of the zoology of Captain Cook’s second voyage with exact location of the 305 species described by Latham and named by Gmelin with references to Georg Forster’s drawings. Johann Reinhold Forster (1729–1798) is best known as the naturalist on James Cook’s second Pacific voyage, during which he was accompanied by his son Georg Forster. His Descriptiones animalium, completed within a month of returning to England with Cook, remained unpublished until the present edition edited by Heinrich Lichtenstein. It contains some very detailed descriptions of the Cape animals “Promontorium Bonae Spei” (pp. 362–410), also listing the animals of Madeira and Ascension.

Front wrapper slightly soiled; back wrapper with small repaired tear. Very good copy, wholly untrimmed and with some bolts unopened.

Beddie 1295; Ferguson 3822; Holmes 90; Nissen, ZBI 1413; cf. Hill 627–629.
2 offprints discussing De Froberville’s researches on languages and races in sub-equatorial East Africa, with an autograph letter from De Froberville


[Port Louis, Mauritius], [Société d’Histoire Naturelle de Maurice], [1846]. Offprint, with its own pagination, from Procès-verbaux de la Société d’Histoire Naturelle de l’Ile Maurice, du 6 octobre 1842 au 28 août 1845, [1846].

With: (2) FLOURENS, Pierre, [Louis-Isidore?] DUPERREY and Etienne SERRES. Rapport sur les races nègres de l’Afrique Orientale au sud de l’équateur, observées par M. de Froberville.


2 works in 1 volume. Small folio & large 8º. 19th-century black half morocco, with the blue paper back wrapper of the second offprint bound in. € 1950

Two offprints discussing the researches of the French ethnographer Eugène de Froberville (1790–1871) in Mauritius on the languages and races of sub-equatorial East African, the first one published in Mauritius. The first is especially interesting, because it is an account of a lecture De Froberville gave at the Royal Society of Arts and Sciences of Mauritius, apparently on 8 February 1844, and his lecture does not appear to have been published on its own. The present account, comprising primarily long quotations from De Froberville’s lecture (including an 11-page comparative table of East African languages), may therefore be the best record of his lecture.

Bound before the offprints is a signed autograph letter from De Froberville, written in Port Louis, Mauritius, on 7 August 1846. It does not name the person he is addressing, but it seems likely to have been sent to Louis Bouton concerning his publication of De Froberville’s lecture. A signed autograph note by Bouton on the first page of the 1846 offprint identifies him as the author of the parts that are not directly quoted from De Froberville.

With the second offprint foxed, but both otherwise in very good condition. A rare record of early French research into East African languages.

Ad 1: WorldCat (1 copy, as issued in the proceedings); ad 2: Cohen, French encounter with Africans, p. 242 & note 86 on pp. 340–341; for De Froberville’s work in Mauritius: Vaughan, Creating the Creole Island: slavery in eighteenth-century Mauritius (2005), p. 267.
Early work on Ethiopia, with uncensored native sources

24. GOES, Damião de. Fides, religio, Moresque Aethiopum sub imperio Preciosi Joannis …
Paris, Chrestien Wechel, 1541. With Wechel’s woodcut Pegasus device and 3 lines of woodcut text in Ethiopic.
With: (2) NONNIUS, Ludovicus. Hispania sive populorum, urbium, insularum, ac fluminum in ea accuratior descriptio.
Antwerp, Hieronymus Verdussen, 1607. With Verdussen’s woodcut device. 2 works in 1 volume. 8º. 17th-century vellum. € 12 500

Ad 1: second edition of Goes’s early and very popular work on Ethiopia, including his translation of the exposition on the principles, practices and rituals of the Ethiopian Christians by the Ethiopian emissary Zagazabo, who was sent to Portugal in 1527 to win recognition for the Ethiopian church as a member of the Western Christian community, and an exchange of letters between Manuel, Dawit, João and the Pope concerning the Ethiopians, previously published by Paolo Giovio. As an introduction, Goes added his own history of Portugal’s relations with Ethiopia and the search for Prestor John. Although the great Portuguese humanist Damião de Goes (1502–1574) never visited Ethiopia himself, the present work is important because of its uncensored native sources. It contained so many references to rituals and practices considered shocking that it was banned, causing Goes to be dismissed from the Portuguese court. It also includes a reference to Columbus and his voyages.

Ad 2: First and only edition of a description of Spain by the Belgian physician Ludovicus Nonnius (1553–1643), well known to today’s art world because he had his portrait painted by Peter Paul Rubens. It is an erudite work containing numerous references to authors from classical antiquity.
In Ad 2 the bifolium *5.6 is misbound in quire X and X2.5 in X3.4, but still complete. Some leaves slightly browned, two leaves with some thumbing and the head and foot of the title-page of ad 2 slightly damaged, otherwise in very good condition.

"One of the most interesting of the Dutch 19th century books on West Africa", with coloured plates


First edition of “one of the most interesting of the Dutch 19th century books on West Africa" (Bulletin d'information) by the Dutch military physician Jan Simon Gerardus Gramberg (1823–1888). Gramberg arrived at Fort Saint George in Elmina (São Jorge da Mina) in 1856, where he explored the coast and inlands of the Gold Coast. Later he founded a cotton plantation on the Bossum-prah (Pra) river in present-day Ghana. The book is divided into three parts. In the first part Gramberg gives a concise description of West Africa: its history (with remarks on the Spanish and Portuguese properties there) climate, geology, religion, education, flora, fauna etc. As a physician, Gramberg included some interesting information on common diseases in the area. The second part contains Gramberg's own travelogue, in which he gives descriptions of Elmina, Cape Coast, Accra, Ouidah and other places, with an illustration of a trading post and Gramberg's own plantation, and finally a part on the Dutch properties in West Africa. The chromolithographed plates depict native inhabitants and several forts.

With an owner’s inscription on the back of the frontispiece. Like many copies, this one does not include the 3-page list of subscribers (“Naamlijst van inteekenaren”) following the title-page. Slightly foxed. Binding rubbed along the extremities and slightly damaged at the head and foot of the spine. Overall in good condition.

Bobins coll. 96; Bulletin d’information III (1977), p. 30; Cat. NHSM I, p. 206; Landwehr, Coloured plates 287; Tiele, Bibl. 409; not in Gay; Kainbacher.
Trade within Ethiopia

London, Harrison and sons, 1900. 2º. With a folding lithographed map with some coloured details. Bound as sewn. € 1250

Diplomatic document, presented to the Houses of Parliament, on the trade of the Ethiopian cities Addis Ababa and Harar. It includes many letterpress tables, showing imported and exported tradeware, its quantities, prices, and origin, occasionally with some other remarks. The maps shows various trade routes from the two cities to other cities, towns and ports. In very good condition.
Official notices from the last year of the Dutch Cape colony in South Africa including one allowing slaves to sell goods

27. JANSENS, Jan Willem. [Publicaties, advertenties, notificaties en een waarschouwing].

[Cape Town, the former VOC printing office at the Castle], 1805. Small folio (31.5 × 19.5 cm). 38 official ordonnances, proclamations, notices, etc., printed together, addressed to the colonists in the Cape of Good Hope, with no general title, but each item with its own drop-title: 5 with one of two large woodcut titles in script lettering (“Publicatie” and “Notificatie”) and the others with letterpress titles “Publicatie”, “Advertentie”, “Notificatie”, “Waarschouwing”. Each item with the autograph signature of Governor-general Janssens, and/or his secretary J.A. Truter in brown ink. Contemporary half sheepskin.

Only known copy, previously unrecorded, of the official proclamations, ordonnances, notices, etc. of Jan Willem Janssens (1762–1838), governor-general of the Dutch Cape colony (the Cape of Good Hope in South Africa), appointed by the Napoleonic Asian Council, which replaced the directorate of the VOC (Dutch East India Company) in 1799. They were printed at what had been the VOC’s printing office at the castle in Cape Town and cover the last year before the English retook the colony from the Dutch at the Battle of Blaauwberg on 8 January 1806. They are arranged in chronological order from 3 January to 27 December 1805, beginning with a call for a census not only of the population but also of the property of the entire colony. Several items concern the cultivation of wheat and its price, others the provisioning of the colony’s troops, the harvesting of grapes and transportation of wine, notices about the appointment of governmental personnel, bills of exchange, public debts, insolvency and bankruptcy. There is a new regulation replacing a 1794 proclamation that forbade people from buying any goods (other than food) from slaves and forbade slaves from offering such goods on the street: it is now to be allowed, but the slave owner must get an authorizing certificate for the slave, who must also show the list of goods to be sold.

Two leaves have part of the head margin cut away, not affecting the printed texts, but otherwise in very good condition. The binding is scuffed and the labels defaced. A unique publication printed in Cape Town for the Batavian government, very important for the history and economics of the Cape and for the Batavian Republic’s Asian policy following its dissolution of the VOC.

Not in KVK; WorldCat; cf. Mendelssohn I, p. 286; South African bibliography I, p. 388.
The most richly illustrated edition of a famous description of South Africa

Amsterdam, Balthazar Lakeman, 1727. 2 volumes bound as 1. 2º. With engraved title-page, engraved portrait of the author, 6 engraved maps (including one large folding map, 42.5 × 54.5 cm), 1 engraved plan and 45 engraved plates. 18th-century tanned sheepskin with a tree pattern, gold-tooled spine. € 7500

Best (and first Dutch) edition of the most important account of the Cape of Good Hope and one of the most important works of all time on South Africa, with twice as many copperplates as the first German edition. Much of the material is based on Kolbe's own observations in the years 1705 to 1713, but he also compares them with the observations and theories of earlier writers. The zoological plates show numerous mammals, birds, fish and other marine animals and reptiles, and other plates cover topography, agriculture, hunting, buildings, etc. In addition to these subjects, the text provides detailed information on the customs and habits of the Hottentots, a well-documented account of the VOC government of the Cape, the earliest list of South African animals and much information about plants. It remains an essential primary source for any study of South Africa.

Some minor thumbing and foxing in the margins of the textleaves, some of the folds of the plates reinforced and a few occasional minor stains. Binding rubbed along the extremities, hinge slightly cracked at the head. Overall in very good condition.

Mendelssohn I, pp. 843–844; Nissen, ZBI 2282; South African bibliography III, p. 7; Tiele, Bibl. 606.
Captain’s journal of the voyage of the steam ship
“Cornelis Dirks” to Africa and South America


[Amsterdam, widow of G. Hulst van Keulen, 1863]. 8º. Contemporary blue paper wrappers.

Separately published edition of the journal of a voyage of the screw-propeller steam ship Cornelis Dirks to the west coast of Africa (Guinea, the Gold Coast, the Congo), Rio de Janeiro in Brazil, Montevideo in Uruguay, Buenos Aires in Argentina and other sites along the South American coast. It was written by the ship’s captain, Lieutenant first class J.F. Koopman and edited for publication by Jacob Swart. Besides the daily account of events on board, lists of provisions purchased, etc., the journal gives descriptions of the lands, peoples, costumes and activities in the regions visited, including accounts of the indigenous peoples and the Dutch and Portuguese troops and colonists. It gives an extensive account of slavery and the slave trade, carried out both within Africa and by Europeans for their colonies or former colonies.

Slightly foxed, a few pages slightly frayed along the margins. Paper wrappers worn, spine damaged, book block loosened. Otherwise in good condition.

Cf. NCC (in journal only); Tiele, Bibl. 1143.1863 (in journal only); WorldCat (in journal only).
Primer in a Bantu dialect for the Finnish Lutheran mission in Namibia


Helsinki, Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seuran [=Finnish Literature Society], 1876. 8º. With 2 title-pages, the first in Finnish and the second in Ndonga, a brief preface in both languages, but with the sample texts in Ndonga. Contemporary brown textured cloth. € 2500

A rare primer of the Bantu dialect Ndonga or OshiNdonga, spoken by the Ovambo people in the kingdom of Ondonga in what is now northern Namibia and southern Angola, still spoken today by some 1 million people. It was published by the printing office of the Finnish Literature Society in Helsinki and many of the texts are Christian. Finnish Lutherans set up a mission in Ondangwa, seat of the kings of Ondonga, in 1870, and the present primer was probably intended both to help Finnish missionaries preparing for life in Africa learn Ndonga and for them to use in Ondonga to teach the natives to read and write their own language and to promote Christian ideas.

In very good condition, with only very slight browning. Lower corner of the front board chipped.

WorldCat (2 copies); not in Mendelssohn.
South Africa at the beginning of the 19th century

31. LATROBE, Charles Ignatius. Journal of a visit to South Africa in 1815, and 1816. With some account of the missionary settlements of the United Brethren, near the Cape of Good Hope.

London, W. M’Dowall for L.B. Seeley and R. Ackermann, 1818. 4º. With folding map (53 x 27 cm), partly hand-coloured, 12 full-page hand-coloured aquatints, and 4 full-page engravings. Later half calf. € 2950

First edition of a voyage to South Africa by Latrobe on behalf of the Moravian Church to visit the missionaries at Genadendal and Groenekloof and to search for locations to establish new missionaries. There is a full description of the district of Groenekloof and of the missionary settlements north of Cape Town. Latrobe travelled from Genadedal via Zwellendam, Zeekogat, Welgelegen, Uitenhage to the Witter River and thence to the Little Fish River, visiting Plettenberg Bay and Mossel Bay on the way back. The fine plates show mostly scenic views.

Some browning and spotting. A good copy.

Abbey, Travel 325; Mendelssohn I, pp. 866–867; Tooley, Coloured plates 292.
Important description of the South Africa interior, with 9 hand-coloured plates (7 showing indigenous Africans)

32. LE VAILLANT, François. *Voyage de Monsieur Le Vaillant dans l'intérieur de l'Afrique.*
Paris, Leroy (colophon vol. 2: printed by Lottin l’aîné & Lottin), 1790. 2 volumes. 8°. With the publisher’s woodcut device on each title-page, engraved frontispiece, 2 folding engraved views and 9 numbered engraved plates (7 costume figures of indigenous Africans and 2 illustrations of giraffes). With the 9 numbered plates coloured by a contemporary hand. Contemporary half calf, richly gold-tooled flat spines. € 1950

First edition (in octavo: a quarto edition appeared simultaneously) of Le Vaillant’s account of his first expedition into the interior of South Africa. Le Vaillant (1753–1824) embarked on a first excursion on 18 December 1781, advancing as far as the Great Fish River. After returning to Cape Town, he undertook a second excursion during which he travelled beyond the Orange River. His engaging narrative of the expedition contains valuable ornithological information and interesting notes on the peoples he encountered, including the Khoikhoi (“Hottentots”) and the Xhosas. Plate vii, a portrait of a naked “Hottentote” woman that was later suppressed, is present here and the censors have not tampered with it. The octavo edition is typographically superior to the quarto edition. In very good condition. The bindings are also very good, with only minor signs of wear. A landmark voyage to the South African interior, with 7 iconic costume portraits of indigenous Africans, coloured by hand.

First edition of the account of Livingstone’s first mission to southern Africa, with many illustrations

33. LIVINGSTONE, David. Missionary travels and researches in South Africa; including a sketch of sixteen years’ residence in the interior of Africa, and a journey from the Cape of Good Hope to Loanda on the west coast; thence across the continent, down the river Zambesi, to the eastern ocean.

London, John Murray (back of title-page: W. Clowes and sons), 1857. 8º. With a folding tinted lithographed plate as frontispiece, a wood-engraved illustration on the title-page, a lithographed portrait of Livingstone, 20 lithographed plates, 2 tinted lithographed plates, a folding lithographed plate with a geological cross section, a lithographed folding map of southern Africa, a lithographed folding map pasted on cloth, with Livingstone’s route from west to east Africa highlighted in red, and many wood-engraved illustrations in text. Original publisher’s blind-blocked brown cloth. € 1350

First edition of the famous account of the first mission and expedition through southern Africa undertaken by the Scottish physician, missionary and explorer David Livingstone (1813–1873). The account narrates chronologically his travels and experiences, including numerous descriptions of African tribes and chiefs, deserts, rivers, lakes, forests, cities, diseases, animals, trees, etc. Livingstone arrived in July 1841 at Kuruman in southern Africa. “In 1841–43 he travelled a considerable distance to the north of Kuruman and selected for his future operations the valley of Mabotsa (Mabotse)” (Howgego). He changed station several times in the following years and was the first European to locate Lake Ngami (Botswana) in 1849. In 1852 Livingstone left Cape Town travelling north, trying to find a suitable location on the Zambezi for a missionary station, and travelled further to Luanda (Angola), where he arrived in 1854. He decided to travel back to Lintanti (Botswana), decided to travel further eastwards and arrived at what he would name the Victoria waterfalls. From there he continued his journey to the east by canoe and arrived in Quelimane (Mozambique) in May 1856. The map included at the end shows this impressive journey. From Quelimane Livingstone sailed back to England. The folding frontispiece depicts the Victoria falls; the other plates show many wild animals and natives in their villages. Occasionally some small spots, stains or minor foxing, internally otherwise in very good condition. Binding worn, damaged at head and foot of spine and back board partly detached.

Abbey, Travel 347; Gay 3034; Howgego, 1850–1940, L 33; Mendelssohn, South African Bibliography, pp. 908–910.
The butterflies of Madagascar, with 63 plates

34. MABILLE, Paul. Histoire naturelle des Lépidoptères de Madagascar.
Paris, l’Imprimerie Nationale, 1885–1887. 2 volumes (text & atlas). Large 4º (32 × 25 cm). With 63 aquatint plates printed in brown and black. Later brown half morocco. € 975

First and only edition of a monograph on the butterflies of Madagascar by the French entomologist Paul Mabille (1835–1923). It was published as volume 18 & 19 of Grandier’s Histoire physique, naturelle et politique de Madagascar. A very good copy, with crisp impressions on notably white paper.

Nissen, ZBI 1676.
Rare school book in the Zulu language

35. [MELLEN, W. Revd.?]. Incwadi yesifundo.
Port Natal, printed for the American Mission (colophon: printed at Esidumbini mission station), [ca. 1870]. Narrow 12º (18 × 10.5 cm). With 11 woodcut illustrations on text. Contemporary dark brown cloth. € 1250

Extremely rare school book in the Zulu language, the most widely spoken language in South Africa, printed for the American Mission at Port Natal (Durban). The book contains 57 isifundo (lessons), starting with the alphabet, syllables and some basic words, followed by common sentences and dialogues. Other lessons contain brief descriptions of some of South Africa’s wild animals (lion, elephant, leopard, cow, ostrich, rhinoceros, etc., with woodcut illustrations), a description of Napoleon Bonaparte and some moral and religious lessons. The text book closes with numerals, the months of the year, the days of the week and two songs. The catalogue of the Grey Collection attributes this work to Reverend W. Mellen.

With a small chip at the foot and gutter of the title-page, not affecting the text, internally otherwise in very good condition. Binding rubbed along the extremities, spine worn and slightly damaged at the head and foot.

Index of the Grey Collection in the South African Public Library (1884), p. 144; not in WorldCat.
Discovering the sources of the rivers Senegal and Gambia


An account of a shipwreck at Cape Blanco on the African coast and a successful 1818 attempt to discover the sources of the rivers Gambia and Senegal, by one of the earliest explorers of the West African interior. Published in French, English and German editions in 1820, it gives much geographical and anthropological information in diary-style entries. At the end are an itinerary, an English-Iolof-Poule and an English-Serrere vocabulary, and a short list of African terms commonly used by Europeans in Africa. A very good copy, with a small tear in the map and some foxing in the other plates. A first-hand account of an early journey into the African interior.

Lounes, English Literature, p. 582; cf. Gay, Bibl. de l’Afrique et l’Arabe 2910 (French eds.); Kainbacher, Erforsch. Afrikas, p. 277 (German eds.).
86 botanical drawings of South African flowers

37. MOSNIER, A. [South African Flowering Plants].
[United States or Canada?, ca. 1905]. An album (32 × 42 cm) containing a series of 86 ink and watercolour botanical drawings on paper (each about 27 × 18.5 cm) showing South African flowering plants, all but 10 with the species name and the signature of the artist, A. Mosnier. The drawings mounted on the leaves of a contemporary commercial photograph album (blocked green cloth).

€ 3250

A well-executed series of 86 botanical drawings of South African flowering plants, all in a consistent style and format on two fine Whatman laid paper stocks, with watermarked dates 1902 and 1904. All but 10 give the species or occasionally only the genus name (mostly in Latin, but a few in English) and are signed by the artist, A. Mosnier.

In very good condition and only slightly trimmed (shaving a leaf or stem in 4 drawings). A nice series of botanical drawings of South African flowering plants.
A very rare translation into Swedish of Norris’ travels in the West Guinean country Dahomey. Robert Norris (d. 1791) was a slave trader. In February 1772, he visited the court in Dahomey, and provides his readers with curious and horrifying details of a mass execution taking place as part of various “customs” or royal ceremonies. “In 1788, when, owing to the vigorous action of the advocates of abolition, a committee of the privy council was appointed to inquire into the slave question, Norris was delegated to lay before it the views of the Liverpool trade, a circumstance which probably led to the publication of his … His account of the slave trade is a defence of slavery” (DNB). Additionally, the Swedish translation contains many interesting notes by Samuel Ödman (1750–1829). With embossed library stamp on first endleaf. Some traces on title-page and last leaf of earlier binding. Spine of the boards slightly soiled and the top a bit damaged. A very good copy.

Cf. Compact DNB I, p. 1504; Gay 2881; Maggs, Bibliotheca Asiatica et Africana 841.
A classic of travel literature, opening up the interior of Africa for the first time

39. PARK, Mungo. Reize in de binnenlanden van Afrika, gedurende de jaren 1795, 1796 en 1797. ... Benevens een aanhangsel, behelzende aardrijkskundige ophelderingen over Afrika; door den Majoor Rennel. Met kaarten en platen. Naar de derde uitgave uit het Engelsch vertaald. The Hague, Johannes Coenradus Leeuwestijn, 1801–1802. 3 volumes. 8º. Volume one with a stipple engraved author’s portrait as frontispiece, large folding engraved view of the tent of Ali on Benown and engraved botanical plate; volume two with a folding engraved plate with musical scores and a folding engraved view of Kamalia; and volume three with 2 folding engraved maps, a folding engraved view and a folding engraved botanical plate. Contemporary half calf. € 3500

First edition of the Dutch translation of the immensely popular account of the travels of Mungo Park in west Africa, originally published in English as Travels in the interior districts of Africa (1799). The translation was made by Adriaan van den Ende. Added to this edition is a geographical treatise by James Rennell. “Until the publication of Park’s book in 1799 hardly anything was known of the interior of Africa ... Having sent out four expeditions to the Niger, all of which had failed, the African Association in 1795 charged Mungo Park with the task. On 22 May 1795 he set sail to find and explore the Niger. Travelling eastward from the English factory at Pisania (where he had learned the Mandingo language) along the River Gambia, Park reached the Niger at Segou and followed its course for about one hundred miles to Sulla, where difficulties forced him to turn back. ... Park’s Travels had an immediate success and was translated into most European languages. It has become a classic of travel literature, and its scientific observations on the botany and meteorology of the region, and on the social and domestic life of the negroes, have remained of lasting value. Park’s career was short but he made the first great practical advance in the opening-up of Central Africa. Park did not solve the problem of the Niger: he believed it to be a tributary of the Nile or to be really identical with the Congo; but he set the further exploration of the region in the right direction” (PMM).

Apparently lacking one preliminary leaf in volume three, but otherwise in very good condition, with only the bindings slightly rubbed along the extremities.

Howego, to 1800, P21; cf. PMM 253.
40. PIGAFETTA, Filippo and Duarte LOPEZ. Relatione del reame di Congo et delle circonvicine contrade tratta dalli scritti & ragionamenti di Odoardo Lopez.

Rome, Bartolomeo Grassi, [1591]. 4º. With an integral engraved architectural title-page (with the coat of arms of the dedicatee Antonio Migliore, Bishop of San Marco), large folding engraved general map of Africa (64×44 cm), large folding engraved map of the Congo (43.5×51.5 cm) and 8 numbered folding engraved plates of plants, animals and inhabitants of the country, by Natalis Bonifazio.

Contemporary limp sheepskin parchment.

First edition of one of the main sources for authentic information on central Africa. Filippo Pigafetta, a relative of Antonio Pigafetta, Magellan’s companion on his first circumnavigation of the world, based his work on the information he collected from the Portuguese traveller Duarte Lopez, who sailed to the Congo in 1578 and stayed in Loanda until 1587.

Pigafetta’s important and beautifully illustrated account deals with the geography of the country, its animals, the inhabitants and their customs, the Portuguese trade, missionary activities, etc. Of special interest are his history and descriptions of Congolese tribes and their kings. It remained the main source for information on the Congo and central Africa up to the middle of the 19th century.

The fine and decorative map of Africa includes the Red Sea and parts of the Arabian Peninsula.

With the maps repaired and mounted on cloth, and a tear repaired in 1 folding plate, slightly foxed, margins of the plates frayed (without affecting the images, but in one case reaching the border). Some small stains on the binding and the spine a bit worn. Good copy, complete with all the maps and plates.

Adams L-1468 (lacking 1 map); Brunet IV, col. 651 (without the plates); Cox I, pp. 354–355; Gay, Bibl. de l’Afrique et l’Arabie 3077 (without the maps); for the maps: Beta, The mapping of Africa 34–36, 186; Norwich, Africa 16.
One of the rarest of all African big game hunting books, beautifully illustrated

41. POTOCKI, Józef and Piotr STACHIEWICZ. Notatki myśliwskie Z Afryki: Somali. Warsaw, Gebethner & Wolff, 1897. Large 4º (40 × 31 cm). With a colour printed frontispiece, 18 photogravure plates (5 double-page), 5 numbered full-page tinted plates, and ca. 60 illustrations in text (mostly tinted). Publisher’s original pictorial beige cloth, with a lion’s head on the front board and zebra-patterned endpapers. € 3250

Well-illustrated first edition, in the original Polish, of “one of the rarest of all African big game hunting books” (Czech) by the Polish count Józef Potocki (1862–1922), a renowned big-game hunter and breeder of Arabian horses. In 1895 he went on safari to Somaliland and afterwards wrote the present volume to commemorate the trip. The illustrations were made by the notable Polish painter and illustrator Piotr Stachiewicz (1858–1938) and include 18 beautiful photogravures of his paintings, including 5 double-page. It was translated into English a few years later as Sport in Somaliland (1900), a much sought after publication and usually much more expensive, but equally rare. Some foxing throughout, binding slightly soiled and one hinge slightly damaged. A good copy.
Discussing the survey of the West coast of Africa

42. ROUSSIN, Admiral Albin Reine. [Autograph letter, signed, to Louis-Marie Bajot]. Rochefort, 31 August 1818. Double-leaf (31.3 x 20 cm). In French. 2 pp. text. € 3500

A letter by Admiral Baron Albin Reine Roussin, dated “Rochefort 21st of August 1818”, to Louis-Marie Bajot (1775–1854), the inspector-general of the libraries of the Ministry of the French Navy and editor of the Annales maritimes & coloniales. Roussin discusses an article published in the Annales Maritimes (which had appeared earlier in the Moniteur of 13 October) that criticized his survey of the African coast from Senegal to Guinea, as well as the work of several of his predecessors and colleagues, including Labarthe’s Voyage à la côte de Guinée, où Description des côtes d’Afrique. Roussin published the results of his surveys a year later as Mémoire sur la navigation aux côtes occidentales d’Afrique (Paris, 1819).

In very good condition.
Salm’s very rare first listing of succulents

43. SALM-REIFFERSCHEID-DYCK, Joseph. Liste des plantes grasses, cultivées dans les jardins de M. le Comte de Salm, à Dyck. [Schloss Dyck, near Düsseldorf, 1809]. 4º. Unbound. € 250

Salm’s very rare first listing of succulents printed in 1809. Salm-Reifferscheid-Dyck (1773–1861) started collecting succulents at Schloss Dyck in 1800 after consorting with the leading French botanists in Paris and took lessons in paintings from Redouté after he saw the illustrations Redouté made for Candolle’s Plantarum succulentarum historia. The present first listing of succulents was a short pamphlet printed in 1809, the next listing was published in 1816 and was followed by a more regular publication of catalogues printed in very small numbers. They acted as “exchange lists with the botanical gardens and private collectors with whom Salm-Dyck exchanged specimens” (Rowley). After his death in 1861 the collections at Schloss Dyck soon started to break-up. The herbarium was the first to go, but his unrivalled succulent collection survived until the First World War. What was left of his magnificent library was auctioned in 1992–1993. “Only then did the extent of the loss become apparent: in addition to Salm-Dyck’s manuscripts, notebooks and fine paintings [...] there were several editions of his garden catalogue unrecorded by Pritzel, Stafleu & Cowan and other recognised bibliographies, and unseen by succulentists in the never-ending search for prior publication of names and dates of introduction of new species” (Rowley). Very good copy.

Rowley, “Salm-Dyck’s Catalogues”, in: Taxon vol. 42, no. 4, pp. 845–851; KVK/WorldCat (3 copies); cf. Kew Gardens on-line Cat. (photocopy only); not in Stafleu & Cowan.
Count Salm’s 1834 catalogue of succulents

44. SALM-REIFFERSCHEID-DYCK, Joseph. Index plantarum succulentarum in Horto Dyckensi cultarum. Aachen, J.J. Beaufort, 1834. 8º. Contemporary brown/yellow wrappers. € 225

Very rare sixth catalogue of the succulents cultivated by Count Salm in his gardens at Schloss Dyck, including American and South African species. The catalogue contains 10 more pages than the previous one from 1829 and lists a total of some 1500 species.

Salm-Reifferscheid-Dyck (1773–1861) started collecting succulents at Schloss Dyck in 1800 after consorting with the leading French botanists in Paris and took lessons in paintings from Redouté after he saw the illustrations Redouté made for Candolle’s *Plantarum succulentarum historia*. The first listing of succulents was a short pamphlet printed in 1809, the next listing was published in 1816 and was followed by a more regular publication of catalogues printed in very small numbers. They acted as “exchange lists with the botanical gardens and private collectors with whom Salm-Dyck exchanged specimens” (Rowley).

After his death in 1861 the collections at Schloss Dyck soon started to break-up. The herbarium was the first to go, but his unrivalled succulent collection survived until the First World War. What was left of his magnificent library was auctioned in 1992–1993. “Only then did the extent of the loss become apparent: in addition to Salm-Dyck’s manuscripts, notebooks and fine paintings [...] there were several editions of his garden catalogue unrecorded by Pritzel, Stafleu & Cowan and other recognised bibliographies, and unseen by succulentists in the never-ending search for prior publication of names and dates of introduction of new species” (Rowley).

Very good copy.

BMC NH, p. 1792; Rowley, “Salm-Dyck’s Catalogues”, in: *Taxon* vol. 42, no. 4, pp. 845–851; WorldCat (1 copy); not in Stafleu & Cowan.
Bees, wasps and flies from Madagascar, with 27 engraved plates


Paris, Imprimerie Nationale (back of half-title: Hachette et compagnie), 1890. Large 4º (30.5 × 22.5 cm). With 4 illustrations in text and 27 engraved plates, some partly printed in colour. Modern green cloth. € 300

First edition of the twentieth volume of a monumental work on Madagascar, this volume devoted to the Hymenoptera of Madagascar, compiled by the Swiss mineralogist and entomologist Henri Louis Frédéric de Saussure (1836–1921). It describes numerous species of bees, wasps and flies, commenting on the appearance of the male and female insects, their characteristics and habitat. Included at the end is an index. The complete Histoire physique, naturelle et politique de Madagascar consists of 40 volumes, supervised by the French naturalist and explorer Alfred Grandidier (1836–1921).

Some minor foxing, a faint marginal water stain, and pages 396–397 stained, otherwise in very good condition.

Nissen, ZBI 1676.
1500 plants at the Leiden botanical garden, in a very rare Latin & German edition


Very rare first and only Schrötter edition, with the text in Latin and German on facing pages, of an alphabetical catalogue of about 1500 plants in the botanical garden of Leiden University, with an appendix listing about 300 plants native to Leiden, first prepared by Florens Schuyl and published in Latin by Johan Elzevier in 1668.

Though clearly based on Vorstius’s catalogue, which the Elzeviers had published in 1636, Schuyl’s catalogue expands the list considerably, including for the first time South African plants. It also includes the date palm and some Far Eastern plants. Urban Schrötter, court gardener at the botanical garden of the Prince Bishops of Eichstätt, apparently saw this edition through the press. The present edition appears to be the only work listing Schrötter as publisher, so he may have been more editor than publisher in the normal sense.

With an erroneous manuscript attribution to Gottschalk on the title-page and date 1697. In very good condition. The binding is somewhat worn but still good. Very rare Latin and German edition of Schuyl’s catalogue of plants at the Leiden University botanical garden.

Bircher, Barock 1600–1720, B14340; KVK & WorldCat (3 copies); VD17, 23:691814K (1, the same, copy); cf. Pritzel 8519.
On the suppression of slave trade in Arabia, Africa and America

47. [SLAVE TRADE]. Class A. Correspondence with the British Commissioners at Sierra Leone, Havana, the Cape of Good Hope, Loanda, and New York; and reports from British Vice-Admiralty courts, and from British naval officers, relating to the slave trade. From January 1 to December 31, 1867. London, Harrison and sons, 1868. 2º. Modern blue paper wrappers. € 4500

Official document, as presented to the British Houses of Parliament, containing letters and reports from British commissioners and officers, written in 1867, concerning the suppression of slave trade in Arabia (Aden, Mukalla, Muscat), Africa (Sierra Leone, Cape of Good Hope, Luanda, Zanzibar, Madagascar, Somalia, Mozambique), Asia (Bombay), and America (Havana, New York). The majority of the commissioners briefly state that there hasn't been any activity in the slave trade in their region. However, at Africa's east coast, especially around Mozambique and Zanzibar, the reports regularly mention captured dhows with slaves on board, mostly heading for Mukalla, Muscat, Persia or the Red Sea: “a greater part of the slaves exported from the coast of Africa find their way into Persia” (p. 71). Sometimes new laws against slavery and slave trade are included. The reports from the naval officers also deal with commerce, rebellions, politics, etc. In very good condition.
Treaty between Spain and Great Britain
to suppress the Arab slave trade in and around Africa

London, Harrison and sons, 1892. 8º. Original publisher’s printed blue paper wrappers. € 2500

First edition of the publication of a treaty between Great Britain and Spain, signed at Brussels in 1890, to suppress the slave trade in and around Africa. While the European slave trade ended around the 1850s, the Arab slave trade picked up significantly in the 19th century. The complete treaty, consisting of 11 articles, is included in both English and Spanish, printed in two columns. “In this treaty, the signatories agreed to prohibit all trade in slaves carried on by them, and to punish all persons engaged in such traffic” (Cherif Bassiouni).

The treaty was signed during the so called “Convention relative to the slave trade and importation into Africa of firearms, ammunition, and spirituous liquors” on 2 July 1890, a convention during which many treaties were signed between several parties, including many European nations as well as Russia, Zanzibar, Persia, the Congo and the Ottoman Empire. It was the result of the Brussels anti-slavery conference of 1889–1890. Front wrapper slightly stained and with a small tear. Internally in good condition.

M. Cherif Bassiouni, International criminal law I, p. 545; not in Hogg.
Visiting the Cape of Good Hope with Captain Cook


Paris, Buisson, 1787. 2 volumes. 4º. With a large folding engraved map, an engraved view of the Cape of Good Hope, and illustrations on 15 engraved plates (5 folding). Contemporary half, tanned sheepskin; rebacked with the original gold- and blind-tooled backstrip laid down. € 2750

Quarto edition of the French translation of the account of Swedish naturalist André (Anders) Sparrman’s travels in South Africa and his journey around the world with Captain Cook. In 1772 Sparrman received the opportunity to travel to the Cape Province, where he arrived in April. He made several journeys and reported on the plants, animals and inhabitants of the country. In October 1772, Captain Cook anchored in Cape of Good Hope on his second voyage to the Pacific Ocean. John Reinhold Forster and his son George accompanied Cook as botanists. They invited the Swedish naturalist to join their expedition and from November 1772 till March 1775, Sparrman circumnavigated the world, leaving the famous discoverer in Cape of Good Hope.

Inspired by this journey, Sparrman set out on his own expedition through southern Africa with his friend Immelman. The largest part of his account, from volume 1 page 143 onward, is devoted to this tour which lasted from July 1775 till April 1776. He reports on plant and animal life, the local population, their customs and language. “... the narrative of their travels is interesting and instructive, and is described by Mr. Theal as the “most trustworthy account of the Cape Colony and the various races of people then residing in it” that had been published in the eighteenth century” (Menselssohn).

The French translation was published in two editions, two volumes in quarto format and three volumes in octavo.

Some minor browning and marginal foxing, and the binding slightly rubbed, otherwise generally in good condition.

Beddie 1279; Chadenat 1751; Cox I, p. 386; Mendelssohn II, pp. 414–415.
Unconventional travel account giving a fresh look at the declining Dutch overseas empire

50. STAVORINUS, Johan Splinter. Voyages par le Cap de Bonne-Espérance dans l’archipel des Molucques, de 1768 a 1771 et de 1774 a 1778 …
Paris, Maradan, 1805. 3 volumes. 8º. With 4 engraved plates (3 folding) and 5 folding engraved maps. 19th-century gold-tooled half sheepskin. € 1,450

Second French edition of Stavorinus’s accounts of his two voyages, made in 1768–1771 and 1774–1778, to the Cape of Good Hope and the Dutch East Indies. Stavorinus was a rear admiral who temporarily transferred to the Dutch East India Company (VOC) in search of adventure. An observant traveller, he not only comments on the many exotic beauties he encounters (he was especially taken by the beauty of the Parsi women of Gujerat), but also describes the decline of the VOC, the appalling health conditions in pestential Batavia, claiming the lives of numerous VOC servants each year, the fate of slaves kept in Batavia, the drinking habits of Europeans in Ambonia (10 to 12 glasses before diner was apparently no exception), etc.
Browned, some stains, slightly soiled, two maps reinforced. Bindings worn, spines damaged at head and foot.

South African bibliography IV, p. 386; Tiele, Bibl. 1044 note; cf. Landwehr, VOC 300.
One of four editions, all published in the same year and all very rare, of a popular eye-witness account of a ship wrecked in the Indian Ocean, in the vicinity of Mauritius. Andries Stokram tells the colourfully story of how a fleet of seven East Indiaman on their way back from Batavia got caught in a terrible storm. Four ships sank, of which only the crew of the Aernhem managed to get away in an open boat. After a week without any food they managed to reach Mauritius. “When they were finally taken on board a Dutch privateer, Stokram had been living for eight months the way Robinson Crusoe would a century later, in an environment Daniel Defoe knew from descriptions such as Stokram’s” (Nieuwenhuys). Stokram was put a shore on St. Helena and made his way to the Netherlands. Somewhat browned and the fore-edges restored (not touching the text), otherwise in good condition.

Eyewitness account of the British invasion of Réunion

52. [TELFAIR, Charles]. An account of the conquest of the island of Bourbon.
London, Thomas Egerton (back of title-page and colophon: G. Hayden), 1811. 8º. With a folding lithographed plan of Saint-Denis. Contemporary dark green cloth, rebacked with the original backstrip laid down. € 3500

Rare first and only edition of a firsthand account of the British invasion of the Island of Bourbon (Réunion) in 1810, written by “an officer of the expedition”, sometimes identified as Charles Telfair (1778–1833), an Irish botanist who visited Réunion and Mauritius in 1810 as a ship’s surgeon to the Royal Navy. The author briefly narrates the events leading up to the invasion, and describes the invasion itself in more detail, including much information on the ships, squadrons, regiments and officers involved. “His object was to commemorate facts, while he was a spectator of them, and to stamp them with the sentiments they excited” (p. [5]). Also included are the “General instructions and directions to officers at the head of brigades, issued by Lieut. Colonel Keating” (pp. 38–53) and transcripts of letters, decrees and newspaper articles (or extracts thereof) relating to the invasion (pp. 54–102). It closes with an appendix on the island’s “value” as a colony, observing its population, climate, agriculture, trade, infrastructure etc. (pp. 103–116).

Browned and foxed throughout, otherwise in good condition.

Binding rebacked and restored.

J. McAleer, Britain’s maritime empire (2016), p. 87; J. Ryckebusch, L’Île Bourbon 121.
Important account of Cape province


First edition of Thunberg’s famous journey to South Africa, Indonesia, Japan and Ceylon in the years 1770 to 1779, in Swedish. “Contains material of great ethnographical interest” (DSB).

In 1770 Carl Peter Thunberg (1743–1828), a student of Linnaeus, received a travel scholarship. On his way to Paris, he met the Burman family in Amsterdam, via whom he was offered the extraordinary opportunity to travel to Japan on a Dutch merchant vessel. There he was supposed to collect plants for the Amsterdam botanical garden. Japan was closed to all foreigners except the Dutch, and, in order to pass for a Dutchman, Thunberg stayed three years in the Cape Province to learn the language. In this period, he made three journeys to the interior of the country, collecting and describing more than three thousand species, of which about one thousand were new to science. In 1775 he travelled on to Java, where he stayed half a year, and in August 1775, he arrived in Japan. Although his movements were restricted, he nevertheless managed to collect species via his interpreters. He left Japan in 1776, and travelled home via Java, Ceylon, and South Africa.

The present work contains his account of this important journey. “His narrative affords considerable information respecting the natural history of [Africa], together with notes on the Hottentots, Kaffirs, and slaves, and general remarks on the state of the Cape at this period.” (Mendelssohn). The volumes were published in 1788, 1789, 1791, and 1793. Stafleu & Cowan list German, English and French editions.

With bookplate. Lacking the half-title to volume 2; extensive annotations in ink and pencil on endpapers and margins; some browning and foxing. The first edition of Thunberg’s famous account.

Parliamentary papers on settling land disputes in Transvaal, Bechuanaland and Pondoland

54. [TRANSVAAL ROYAL COMMISSION]. Report of the commissioners appointed to inquire into and report upon all matters relating to the settlement of the Transvaal territory. Part 1[–2].

With:
- Further correspondence respecting the affairs of the Transvaal and adjacent territories.
- Further correspondence respecting the affairs of the Bechuanaland and adjacent territories.
- Report of the commissioners appointed to determine land claims and to effect a land settlement in British Bechuanaland.
- Correspondence respecting the affairs of Pondoland [3 parts].

London, George Edward Eyre and William Spottiswoode, 1882–1888. 2 volumes. 2º. With a total of 21 folding lithographed maps, many coloured in outline. Contemporary brown cloth. € 1500

Collection of eight parliamentary papers, individually published between 1882 and 1888, dealing with disputes and affairs in Transvaal, Bechuanaland and Pondoland. The first volume opens with three subsequent reports on land disputes in Transvaal, resulting from the First Boer War (1880–1881), executed by the Transvaal Royal Commission. It includes numerous telegrams, letters, transcripts of interviews and conferences, and maps showing the boundaries of different territories. The papers on Transvaal are followed by 2 similar reports on Bechuanaland, also including several maps. The second volume deals with Pondoland in the east of South Africa, containing 3 published papers with correspondence on different affairs in the area.

With bookplate. Some parts slightly browned, mostly in the margins, and some occasional minor foxing. One of the folding maps torn along the fold, and one leaf in the second volume also torn, not affecting the legibility of the text. Binding slightly scratched. Overall in good condition.
Illustrated description of the Yoruba people, among the most heavily targeted by the Atlantic slave trade

55. [TUCKER, Charlotte Maria] and Theodorus Matthijs LOOMAN. Abbeokoeta; of de dageraad tusschen de keerkringen: eene schets van het ontstaan en den vooruitgang der zending in Yorriba. Uit het Engelsch naar den vijfden druk vertaald, en tot op den jongsten tijd bijgewerkt.
Amsterdam, H. Höveker (back of half-title: for the “Vereeniging ter bevordering van Christelijke lectoruur”), 1860. 12°. With chromolithographed frontispiece, 3 lithographed maps (2 double-page and 1 folding), 1 chromolithographed plate and 8 wood-engraved plates. Contemporary half cloth. € 800

First and only edition of the expanded Dutch translation of *Abbeokuta, or Sunrise within the tropics* by Charlotte Maria Tucker (1821–1893), translated and expanded by Theodorus Matthijs Looman (1816–1900). It is a description of Yorubaland, West Africa, and the Christian mission. The book opens with a chapter on the slave trade — the Yoruba people were among the most heavily targeted — followed by chapters on the Muslim Fula people, the Niger-expedition, Abeokuta, etc. It includes maps of West Africa, Yorubaland and Abeokuta, and several other illustrations.

The British Charlotte Tucker, a prolific children’s writer known for her realistic depiction of the lives of the poor, is best known for her tales of India, where she travelled and worked as a missionary.

With the index loosely inserted, one plate loose, a mostly marginal tear in one page and slightly browned throughout, but all plates still very good.

*NCC (7 copies); not in Kainbacher (2016); for Tucker: K. Reynolds, “Tucker, Charlotte Maria (1821–1893),” in: ODNB online.*
A utopian Ethiopia

56. URRETA, Luis de. Historia de la Sagrada Orden de Predicadores, en los remotos Reynos de la Etiopia.
Valencia, Juan Chrysostomo Garriz, 1611. Small 4º (21 × 15 cm). With woodcut arms of the Dominican order on title-page, and a variant version on the last page, and 3 woodcuts in text (2 saints and the Cross). Further with 24 decorated woodcut initials in two series, including 11 repeats. Contemporary gold-tooled mottled calf, each board with the coat of arms of the French Seguier family, rebacked with original gold-tooled backstrip laid-down.
€ 35 000

First and only edition, in Spanish, of an early work on Ethiopia by the Spanish Dominican monk Luis de Urreta (ca. 1570–1636), who wrote two volumes glorifying his own order’s accomplishments in Ethiopia while diminishing those of the Jesuits. In the present work, the second of the two, he deals specifically with the Dominican presence in Ethiopia and the history of the Ethiopian saints. Like the first work, the Historia ecclesiastica published in 1610, it is a late example of a stream of geographical fantasies where Ethiopia was presented as the wondrous utopian kingdom of Prester John, and Urreta makes the case for an ancient Dominican presence in the country, arguing that they should thus be given precedence over the Jesuits as Catholic missionaries in that country. With information on two Dominicans who entered Mecca around 1580.

From the library of Pierre Seguier, Lord Chancellor of France from 1635 to 1672, best known for his appearance in The three musketeers, with his arms and monogram stamped in gold on the binding. And with an owner’s inscription on title-page. With a faint water stain in the lower margin of four leaves in the introduction, a tiny corner torn from the title-page, otherwise in very good condition. Binding heavily restored, but with the gold-tooled coat of arms still very clear.

The most comprehensive and authoritative source on the Dutch colonial empire in the East, with 267 engraved plates

57. VALENTIJN, François. Oud en nieuw Oost-Indië, vervattende een naaukeurige en uitvoerige verhandeling van Nederlands mogentheyt in die gewesten, ... Te zamen dus behelzende niet alleen een zeer nette beschryving van alles, wat Nederlands Oost-Indiën betreft, maar ook ’t voornaamste dat eenigzins tot eenige andere Europeërs, in die gewesten, betrekking heeft.

Dordrecht, Johannes van Braam; Amsterdam, Gerard onder den Linden, 1724–1726. 5 volumes. 2º. With engraved frontispiece, engraved dedication to Egidius van den Bempden, engraved author’s portrait, 264 (of 265) engraved plates (many folding), 8 letterpress folding tables, and 80 engravings in text. Contemporary calf, gold-tooled spine with a floral/ornithological tool in 5 of 7 compartments, gold-tooled board edges. Bound by the so-called Pentateuch Bindery, located in Amsterdam.

Richly illustrated first edition (the only early and only unabridged edition) of Valentijn’s monumental study of the East Indies and especially Ambon, where he lived for more than 15 years. Besides being the most comprehensive and authoritative source about the Dutch colonial empire in the East for centuries, its literary qualities were praised even by modern critics. The work is also of particular interest for Australia as it “for the first time gave a complete and accurate account with maps and drawings of Tasman’s first voyage”, including information based on manuscripts now lost. Valentijn is “remarkably complete; the book is therefore a goldmine overflowing with information; he brought together everything accessible in his day ... [and] includes much information that one can find nowhere else; for that reason it remains indispensable” (NNBW). Valentijn (1666–1727) went to the East Indies as a minister of the church in 1685 and settled in Ambon.

With 18th-century(?) owner’s inscription in each volume, partly erased or covered. Lacking the engraved portrait of Mattheus de Haan in volume 4 and an errata leaf in volume 3. Some occasional browning, occasional small spots and stains, and with a tear in a some of the folding plates. Bindings rubbed along the extremities, a few slightly damaged at the foot or head of the spine. Overall in good condition.

Howgego D-88; Landwehr & V.d. Krogt, VOC 467; Schilder, Australia unveiled, p. 152; for Valentijn: NNBW V, cols. 989–990.
Sketches of Sudan during the Nile Expedition of 1884/85

58. VERNER, Willoughby. Sketches in the Soudan.
London, R.H. Porter (back of title-page: printed by Taylor and Francis), 1885. Oblong large 4º (30 × 40 cm). With a lithographed title-page, a small printer’s device on the back of the title-page, 37 tinted lithographed plates by J.G. Keulemans, and one chromolithographed map. Contemporary boards, with a lithographed camel’s head on the front board. € 1950

First edition of a series of views of Sudan and the south of Egypt, with 37 tinted lithographed plates, each accompanied by a leaf of descriptive text. The illustrations derived from the diary and sketch-book Captain Willoughby Verner kept during the Nile Expedition of 1884–1885. They include views of lakes and deserts, ships, villages and tents, native inhabitants, some scenes aboard of a ship, army troops and battle sites, and more. “He [Verner] saw action at the Battles of Abu Klea (17 January 1885) and El Gubar (21 January 1885)” (Raugh). The book opens with a dedication to the Queen, a list of subscribers, a brief preface and a list of contents. Included at the end are two pages of advertisement. Some minor foxing and occasionally some marginal thumbing, otherwise in good condition and wholly untrimmed.

Raugh, British military operations in Egypt and the Sudan: a selected bibliography 590.
Horrifying account of a shipwreck, bound together with the travels of Pierre Poivre

59. VIAUD, Pierre (and Jean Garpard Dubois-Fontanelle). Naufrage et aventures de M. Pierre Viaud; natif de Rochefort, capitaine de navire. Bordeaux, the Labottiere brothers; Paris, Lejay, 1780.

With: (2) [POIVRE, Pierre]. Voyage d’un philosophe, ou observations sur les moeurs & les arts des peuples de l’Afrique, de l’Asie et de l’Amerique. Yverdon, 1768. 2 works in 1 volume. 8º. Contemporary gold-tooled tree calf, richly gold-tooled spine; very subtly rebacked, preserving original backstrip. €1950

Ad 1: 1780 edition of the adventures of the French sailor and merchant Pierre Viaud (1725), who sailed along the Gulf Coast of Florida and shipwrecked on a reef near Dog Island. As full of drama as an Indiana Jones adventure, Viaud’s story became a bestseller in Europe and is still important for its early description of Florida.

Ad 2: First edition of the voyage of the French horticulturist Pierre Poivre (1719–1786) to Cape of Good Hope, Madagascar, Siam, Cambodia, China, etc. Poivre travelled as missionary to China and southeast Asia, and later held some positions on Mauritius, where he created a botanical garden.

With two bookplates on paste-down (“A. Jouffray” and “Colonel Ph. Milon”), a manuscript inscription on half-title of ad 1, and another on the title-page of ad 2. Overall in very good condition.

Ad 1: Huntress 80G; Polak 9438; Sabin 99412; ad 2: Cordier, Bibliotheca Indocinica, col. 2495; Kress B.222; Sabin 63716.
Important work on newly discovered 
African butterfly species

60. WARD, Christopher. African Lepidoptera, being descriptions of new species. 
London, Longmans, Green & Co., [1873–1875]. 3 parts. 4º. With 18 lithographed plates, including 12 coloured by hand. Loosely inserted in the original printed wrappers. € 875

Rare first and only edition of a work on newly discovered butterfly species from Africa by the English entomologist Christopher Ward (1836–1900), published in three parts. Included are 55 descriptions of new butterfly species from Madagascar, but also from Cameroon, Calabar (Nigeria) and Ribé (East Africa). Some of the descriptions had been published in issues of the Entomologist’s monthly magazine of the previous years, between 1870 and 1873. Some faint spots or stains, otherwise in very good condition. 
Not in Nissen.
More books, maps, photographs, manuscripts and prints related to Africa available at our websites:

www.forumrarebooks.com/category/africa.html

www.asherbooks.com/category/africa.html
Previously published and available for download on our websites

www.forumrarebooks.com
www.asherbooks.com

Floras & flowering plants

Fortification & siegecraft III: France

Pharmacy
Shells & other invertebrates
Religion & devotion III
The Islamic World 9