



325 West End Avenue, New York City, New York, 10023-8145

Tel: 646 827-0724 Fax: 212 994-9603

E-mail: jonathan@jonathanahill.com and yoshi@jonathanahill.com

April Recent Acquisitions

Supplied by Lebrun

1. (AUCTION CATALOGUE: BASAN, François, expert). *Catalogue d'une très-belle Collection de Tableaux de différens grands Maîtres des trois Ecoles, rassemblés par un Artiste: Dont la Vente se fera le Lundi 11 Janvier 1773, & jours suivans...* Par Fr. Basan. 30 pp. 8vo (180 x 115 mm.), 19th-century calf-backed paste paper boards (spine rubbed), spine gilt. Paris: Basan, 1773. \$2500.00

A quite scarce sale catalogue which very possibly presents a number of the earliest paintings imported by the emerging *expert* Jean Baptiste Pierre Lebrun (1748-1813) from the Low Countries. Lugt records the consigners as "Favre, peintre à gouache" and "Lebrun." "Favre" is also noted in this copy on the page facing the title-page. Under the auspices of Basan (1723-97), one of the pre-eminent dealers of the time, Lebrun likely consigned pieces which he had acquired on a buying trip. Basan writes in the preface (in trans.): "The Artist who offers to the public the paintings for which I give details afterwards has just made a voyage to Holland and Flanders, where he purchased the mentioned paintings, and desiring to rid himself of them all, decided to make an auction of them..." Lebrun specialized in Northern Old Masters and sought to rediscover underappreciated and forgotten artists, such as Vermeer and Holbein. It should also be added that, according to a list of his public sales printed in 1784, Lebrun organized auctions in 1772 and 1774, but not 1773, the year of this auction.

The present catalogue describes 91 lots of paintings and six lots of bronze sculpture. The paintings include work by Dow, Solimena, Metsu, Frans van Mieris, C. Netscher, Ter Borch, Lairesse, Rembrandt, Rubens, Jordaens, A. van Ostade, Brouwer, N. Berghem, J. Steen, Wouwerman, A. van de Velde, Asselijn, Bakhuizen, Wijnants, C. Poelemburg, Ruysdael, Vermeer (here "Vander-Meer"), F. Hals, S. Bourdon, F. Boucher, J. Vernet, Fragonard, etc. Each lot is presented with measurements and a concise description of the contents. Lebrun's preference for Northern paintings and expertise shine through as one reads the descriptions.

Very good copy, with no example in North America. Engraved bookplates of Louis de la Forets, comte d'Armaille and [H]enry [Pannier] on the front paste-down.

• Lugt 2097. Francis Haskell, *Rediscoveries in Art: Some Aspects of Taste, Fashion & Collecting in England & France* (1976), pp. 21—"With hindsight we can see that Lebrun was doing something whose implications were even more revolutionary than he himself probably

realized. He was the first connoisseur to break with the prevailing habit of trying to attribute as many pictures as possible to the great and established names and to insist instead on the value of rarity and unfamiliarity..."

Printed on Vellum

2. [JAYBERT, Léon]. *Les Après-Soupers, par L'auteur de Trois Dizains de Contes Gaulois, Illustrations de Henriot*. Added engraved title with an additional title *avant lettre* printed in sepia, title-page in black & red, and many full-page & text illus. (all engraved by "Henriot"). 233, [4] pp., 1 leaf of limitation, 10 pp. of publisher's ads. 8vo, orig. printed vellum wrappers bound in cont. *citron morocco*, signed "Chambolle-Duru," triple gilt fillet round sides, spine richly gilt, dentelles gilt, a.e.g. Paris: E. Rouveyre & G. Blond, 1883. \$3500.00

First edition, a splendid extra-illustrated copy; one of two printed entirely on vellum (from a total edition of 502). The original printed vellum wrappers, bound-in, have been heightened in gold and are preserved in a fine Chambolle-Duru binding. This work is a collection of *risqué* poems, with caricatures executed by Henri Maigrot (1857-1933), a popular illustrator, who frequently used the pseudonym "Henriot" or "Pif."

A beautiful copy. The ten-page catalogue bound in at the end is also printed on vellum. Housed in a box.

The Uses of Rochlitz Porphyry

3. PERSON, Christian. *Kurtzer Bericht, von der Natur und eigenschafft des Röchlitzer Steinmarcks, und wie dasselbe zu der Artzney nützlich zu gebrauchen, Beschrieben und an tag geben...* Woodcut of Saxon coat-of-arms on verso of title. 24 unnumbered leaves (final two leaves blank). Small 8vo, attractive antique calf-backed paste-paper boards, spine gilt, red morocco lettering piece on spine. Wittenberg: G. Müller for P. Hellwicks, 1596. \$3500.00

First edition of a most interesting book in which Person, the longtime city doctor of Rochlitz, gives a scientific description of the local stone — Rochlitz porphyry — which has been mined on the Rochlitz Berg for many centuries and used for building (bricks, facades, and tiles) and sculptures but also as a constituent of many medicines. Person describes numerous recipes using the stone to cure colic, leprosy, syphilis, dysentery, diseases of the blood and lungs, bloody noses, fevers, and the plague. Rochlitz porphyry could also be pulverized and made into casts for broken limbs.

Fine large copy. WorldCat locates no copy in North America.

•Hirsch, IV, p. 563.

Freedom of Speech

4. PFYFFER VON ALTISHOFEN, Kasimir. *Ueber Pressfreyheit und Publizität. Eine Rede in Beziehung auf die bevorstehenden Verhandlungen der Eidgenössischen Tagsatzung gehalten im Grossen Rathe des Kantons Luzern, den 28. Brachmonat 1828...* 28 pp. Small 8vo, self-bound. Luzern: J. M. Anich, 1828. \$350.00

First edition of this rare speech by Pfyffer (1794-1875), Swiss jurist and politician, who served as president of the Swiss National Council and mayor of Lucerne. He was a prominent figure within the Lucerne Liberals, which transformed Swiss politics in the early 19th century. The present speech discusses the role of the press and free speech in Switzerland and was given in advance of negotiations within Switzerland's Federal Diet.

Fine copy of a work for which WorldCat locates no copy in North America.

A Prault Art Collector

5. (PRAULT, Louis François). *Catalogue des Tableaux, Dessins, Marbres, Bronzes, et Porcelaines du Cabinet de feu M. Prault Ainé... Dont la Vente se fera les 13 et 14 Février 1807, en sa Maison...* 8 pp. 8vo, 19th-cent. marbled boards (joints restored), spine gilt. Paris: Poultier & Constantin, 1807. \$1500.00

The rare sale catalogue, fully priced in a contemporary hand, of Louis François Prault (1734-1806), *ancien Imprimeur du Roi* and son of the great publisher and bookseller Laurent François (1712-80). Prault's firm printed many auction catalogues in the 18th and early 19th centuries. Because of the Constantins' relationship with the Prault family, who printed almost all of their sale catalogues, either Guillaume Jean Constantin or his son, Amédée, was the expert for this sale.

The present catalogue describes Prault's choice collection of paintings (by Greuze, Lancret, Teniers, Wijnants, van Goyen, etc.), drawings (by Titian, Caravaggio, Panini, Le Sueur, Cochin, etc.), as well as sculpture and ceramics. There is a total of 63 lots, all priced.

Very good and uncut copy. Engraved bookplate of Georges Pannier (1853-1944), the Parisian art dealer, and stamp of the Bibliothèque Heim on verso of title-page.

• Lugt 7183.

6. (SILK). [Drop-title]: *Suspiros Reverentes, y Ruegos Humildes de los Maestros, y Oficiales pobres del Arte mayor de la Seda de la Ciudad de Valencia, à favor de la nueva Compañia de su Gran Protector San Antonio de Padua.* Two unnumbered leaves. Small folio (290 x 195 mm.), attractive antique marbled boards. [Valencia: ca. mid-18th cent.]. \$550.00

A printed petition begging the local and national government for increased support of a Valencian silk factory so that conditions might be improved. This was likely written during one of Valencia's major economic downturns in the 18th century, which greatly impacted the silk trade. The author writes that thousands of families go hungry due to the shortage of jobs.

A few tiny dampstains, else fine condition.

7. (SILK). Manuscript on paper endorsing a silk company in Valencia and its director, Juan Belagarde, as a great benefit to the country. Eight unnumbered leaves. Small folio (295 x 200 mm.), attractive antique marbled boards. [Valencia: ca. 1755]. \$950.00

An intriguing manuscript in which a Spanish tax official recounts his visit to a Valencian silk factory and, convinced of their "zeal of service to the king, of love of nation," endorses Juan Belagarde and his company. He proposes furnishing the company with a royal privilege, favoring it over other companies in the area. By the 18th century, Valencia was the Spanish center for silk production, and the industry played a primary role in rejuvenating the city's flagging economy.

In fine condition, slightly trimmed, barely touching text on a couple leaves.