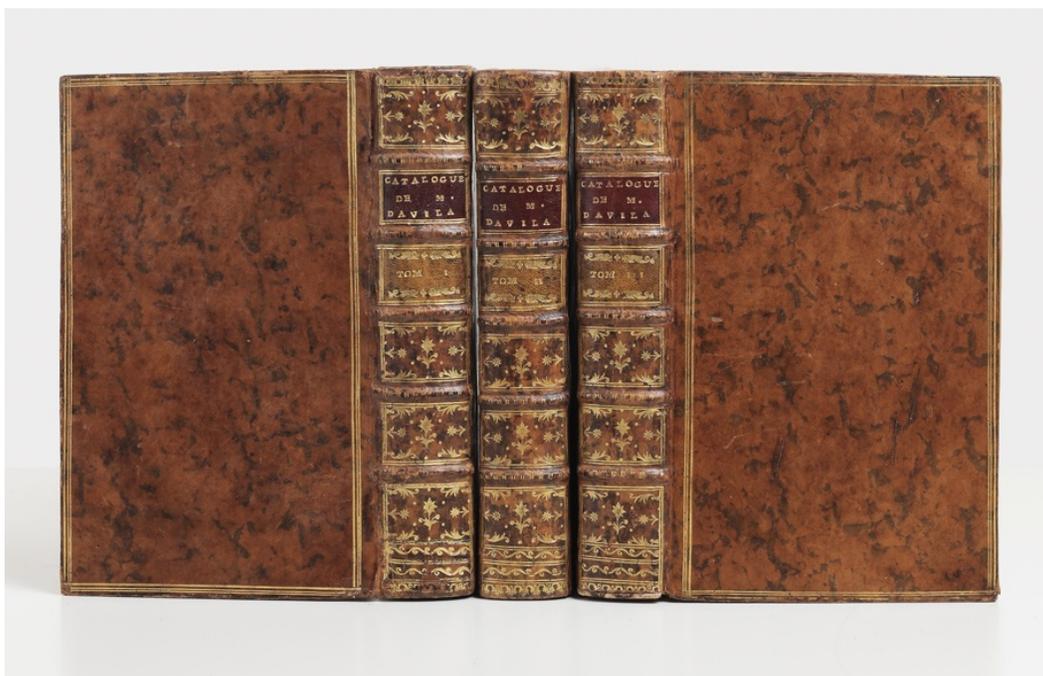




325 West End Avenue, New York City, New York, 10023-8145
Tel: 646 827-0724 Fax: 212 994-9603
E-mail: jonathan@jonathanahill.com and yoshi@jonathanahill.com

Cabinets of Curiosities



*Romé de l'Isle's First Mineralogical Work;
Presentation Copy with Prices*

1. (DAVILA, P.F.). *Catalogue systématique et raisonné des Curiosités de la Nature et de l'Art, qui composent le Cabinet de M. Davila...* Thirty engraved plates (many folding). xxxv, [1], 571 pp.; vi, 656 pp.; vi, 290 pp., 3 p.l., 286, [1] pp. Three vols. 8vo, cont. mottled calf (foot of spine of Vol. III with a bit of wear), triple gilt fillet round sides, spines gilt, a.e.g., red morocco lettering pieces on spines. Paris: Briasson, 1767. \$10,000.00

First edition, and a very handsome set, of this lavish and detailed catalogue. "In 1767 Romé was employed, on Sage's recommendation, to draw up a catalogue of the curiosities

that had been collected by Pedro Francisco Davila, who wished to sell his cabinet of natural history before returning to Peru. The work ran to three volumes, in the second of which Romé, in agreement with Linnaeus, stressed the importance of crystalline form in mineralogical description.”—*D.S.B.*, XI, p. 520.

During Romé’s early years, he found steady employment by preparing at least fourteen other mineralogical catalogues. Davila’s enormous collection contained scientific instruments (26 items), medals, prints, sculpture, illuminated MSS., Oriental MSS., and books (402 lots) as well as natural history objects. In the Preface to Vol. I, Davila writes that he hopes to sell the collection *en bloc* but, if no person comes forward, the collection will be sold at auction beginning 12 November. The second part of the third volume is devoted to the classical bronzes and medals (catalogued by Abbé Grimaud) and the prints and drawings (catalogued by M. Remy).

The present set is priced throughout in a contemporary hand; it is the first time I have seen a set so annotated. The prices furnish invaluable information regarding the market of the period.

Fine set and very scarce on the market. This is a presentation copy from Davila, inscribed on the first title: “Pour Monsieur Hulin de la part de son tres humble et tres obeissant serviteur Davila.”

• Laissus, “Les Cabinets d’Histoire Naturelle” in Taton, ed., *Enseignement et diffusion des sciences en France au dix-huitième siècle* (1986), p. 668—“le cabinet compte alors parmi les plus riches de France: le catalogue de ce remarquable ensemble emplit trois gros in-8, le premier consacré aux règnes animal et végétal, le second aux minéraux et le troisième aux fossiles.” Wilson, *The History of Mineral Collecting*, p. 209—(erroneously calling for 7 plates only).

From the Library of Franziska von Hohenheim

2. DEZALLIER D’ARGENVILLE, Antoine Joseph. *Conchyliologie oder Abhandlung von den Schnecken, Muscheln und andern Schaalthieren welche in der See, in süßen Wassern und auf dem Lande gefunden werden, Nebst der Zoomorphose oder Abbildung und Beschreibung der Thiere welche die Gehäuse bewohnen*. Aus dem Französischen übersetzt und mit Anmerkungen vermehret. Finely engraved added title & 40 engraved plates. Printed title in red & black. 2 p.l. (incl. engraved title), xii, 302, 82, lviii, [14] pp. Folio, cont. marbled boards (one corner a bit worn), spine gilt, red & green leather lettering pieces on spine. Vienna: Krauss, 1772. \$15,000.00

First edition in German, and a very fine copy from the library of Franziska von Hohenheim (see below). Dezallier (1680-1765), one of the chief contributors to the *Encyclopédie* (his articles were chiefly on gardening and ornamental waterworks in gardens) formed “one of the finest private collections of such objects as stones, shells, paintings, sketches, and art prints. No mere hoarder of curios, but a collector-scholar, he allowed visitors into his private museum and helped stimulate the passion for natural history so prevalent in eighteenth-century France.”—Kafker, *The Encyclopedists as Individuals: A Biographical Dictionary of the Authors of the Encyclopédie*, pp. 12-16.

The present work is translated with valuable additions from the second French edition of 1757. It is a storehouse of information on shells and remains today a valuable source because it describes many of the famous eighteenth-century natural history collections of Europe. Written for the collector in order to facilitate the identification of shells for the cabinet, it “was very popular with collectors and even Linnaeus utilized it to arrange his shells.”—Dance, *Shell Collecting. An Illustrated History*, pp. 58-59. There is an extensive list of shells, with remarks on rarity and desirability, followed by a discussion of private natural history collections in Paris and Holland, with remarks on the outstanding features of each collection.

The plates are especially well-engraved and are present in rich, dark impressions.

Very fine and fresh copy with large margins. Old library stamp on title. From the library of Franziska Theresia Reichsgräfin von Hohenheim, the second wife of Duke Carl Eugen of Württemberg. Her characteristic bindings are always so pleasing and the books so fresh.

• D.S.B., I, pp. 243-44. Yves Laissus, "Les Cabinets d'Histoire Naturelle," in *Enseignement et Diffusion des Sciences en France au Dix-Huitième Siècle* (ed. René Taton), p. 679-85.

The Natural History Collections at Dresden
Large Paper Copy

3. [EILENBURG, Christian Heinrich]. *Description du Cabinet Roial de Dresde touchant l'Histoire Naturelle*. Engraved arms on title, an engraved headpiece depicting the Zwinger, & two engraved folding plates. 1 p.l., 101, [1] pp. Large 4to, cont. mottled & polished sheep (minor browning), spine gilt, leather lettering piece on spine. Dresden & Leipzig: G.C. Walther, 1755. \$5000.00

First edition, and a fine large paper copy, of the "first separate catalogue of the Dresden natural history collections housed in the magnificent baroque Zwinger (built by Poeppele in 1711), which also accommodated the Dresden print cabinet. This catalogue is one of the fruits of Augustus the Strong's reorganisation of the old Dresden *Wunderkammer* into a number of specialised collections. The collection of ancient marbles was similarly catalogued in 1733, and the prehistoric and mineralogical collections in 1749; other departments of the museum followed in the nineteenth century...

"Fossils and petrifications, animal skeletons and specimens, corals and shells were all represented in profusion, but oddities and natural curiosities still abound in the form of 'Missgeburten', peculiarly shaped plants, and two pieces of gold and silver supposedly transmuted from copper and lead by Johann Friedrich Boettger, better known for his rediscovery of the art of making porcelain. The final chapter is devoted to a model of Solomon's temple, constructed over a period of twenty years from Biblical references by a Hamburg gentleman named Schott. The model had been admired by Peter the Great and exhibited in London where a pamphlet about it was issued in 1725. The folding plates give ground-plans of the Zwinger."—Grinke, *From Wunderkammer to Museum*, 50.

Very nice copy, printed on large paper. A German language edition was also published in the same year.

• Murray, I, pp. 207-8. Schuh, *Mineralogy & Crystallography: A Bibliography, 1469 to 1920*, 1506.

The First Illustrated Work on Fossils;
A Fine Association Copy

4. GESNER, Conrad. *De Omni Rerum Fossilium Genere, Gemmis, Lapidibus, Metallis, et huiusmodi, libri aliquot, plerique nunc primum editi...* Woodcut illus. on title, two ports. of J. Kentmann, many woodcuts of fossils & stones in the text, & several printer's devices. Eight parts in one vol. 8vo, 18th-cent. mottled half-sheep & marbled boards, spine gilt, red leather lettering piece on spine. Zurich: J. Gesner, 1565. \$125,000.00

First edition of this famous collection of texts which forms one of the most important contributions to 16th-century geology and mineralogy. It consists of eight separate treatises by seven authors on the subjects of fossils, gems, and metals, all edited by Gesner and with his general introduction and extensive commentaries.

This is an important association copy, with the signature on the title of Caspar (Gaspard) Bauhin (1560-1624), the first professor of anatomy and botany at the University of Basel. He made a number of important contributions to both anatomy and botany (see *D.S.B.*, I, pp. 522-

24). Like Gesner, Bauhin was greatly concerned with nomenclature; his great merit, again like Gesner, was his ability to treat his subjects in an orderly and methodical manner.

The treatises are:

I. Kentmann, Johann. *Nomenclaturae Rerum fossilium*. 8 p.l., 95 leaves, one blank leaf. This contains an illustration of Kentmann's cabinet, and catalogues over 1600 specimens, with localities where known, and German equivalents of the Latin names. It is the first published catalogue of a geological collection.

II. Kentmann. *Calcolorum qui in Corpore ac membris hominum innascuntur*. 2 p.l., 22 leaves. An illustrated account of stones formed in the human body.

III. Fabricius, Georg. *De Metallicis rebus*. 3 p.l., 31 leaves. A treatise on noble and base metals.

IV. Goebel, Severin. *De Succino libri duo*. 2 p.l., 30 (i.e. 31), [4] leaves, one blank leaf. A discussion of amber and other gems and minerals, with a separate treatise by Gesner on bitumen, amber, naphtha, etc.

V. Cordus, Valerius. *De Halosantho seu Spermate Ceti liber*. 3 p.l., 37 leaves. A commentary on the "efflorescence of salt" sometimes found floating on water, which Dioscorides and Galen had recommended as a cure for skin diseases. Gesner in his commentary refutes the notion that this was the sperm of whales.

VI. Epiphanius. *De XII Gemmi*. 4 p.l., 28 leaves. A discussion of the gemstones in Aron's shield.

VII. Rue, François. *De Gemmis aliquot*. 2 p.l., 85 (i.e. 86) leaves. A treatise on gems mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

VIII. Gesner, Conrad. *De Rerum Fossilium...* 7 p.l., 169 leaves. The earliest scientific attempt to classify the members of the mineral kingdom, based on the forms of the fossils. It is illustrated by numerous woodcuts after Gesner's own drawings, many of which are still preserved in the Basel University Library. According to Adams, this part contains the earliest illustration of a lead pencil. There is also an illustration of the mariner's Compass made from magnetic iron ore.

A fine copy, preserved in a box. Old stamp on blank portion of title. Complete copies are of considerable rarity on the market today.

• Adams, *The Birth and Development of the Geological Sciences*, pp. 176-83—"Of special interest in that it presents a picture in miniature of the mineral kingdom as seen through the eyes of the greatest naturalist of his time." Hoover 347. Sinkankas 2366—(long note). Sparrow, *Milestones of Science*, p. 10 & plate 37. Wellisch A 63. Wilson, *The History of Mineral Collecting 1530-1799*, pp. 23-25.

An Anatomist Collects

5. (MORAND, Sauveur François). *Catalogue des Bronzes et autres Curiosités Egyptiennes, Etrusques, Indiennes & Chinoises; Médailles & Monnoies d'or & d'argent; Bagues & Boutons de diamants; Pierres gravées, Agates, Jaspes & Coquilles, dont la Scalata; Polypiers, Animaux, Oiseaux & Insectes: Pieces anatomiques & nombres d'autres morceaux curieux. Du Cabinet de feu M. Morand...* Cette Vente se fera le Mercredi premier Décembre [1 December 1773] [Expert: P. Remy]. 2 p.l., 66, [1] pp. Small 8vo (180 x 105 mm.), late 19th-century cloth-backed marbled boards, spine gilt. Paris: P. Remy & Musier, 1773.

[bound after]:

([BENARD, —]). *Catalogue des Bronzes, Marbres, Porcelaines, Meubles, & autres objets de curiosité. Provenant du Cabinet de M.*** Dont la Vente se fera...le Jeudi 26 Mai 1774, & jour suivans...* 9 pp. Small 8vo. Paris: Chariot, 1774. \$5500.00

I. The very rare auction catalogue of Morand's important cabinet of anatomical

curiosities, natural history specimens, art, and antiquities (see below). Morand (1697-1773), the esteemed surgeon and contributor to the *Encyclopédie*, possessed an eclectic collection, but focused principally on anatomical specimens for his research, and antiquities.

"Morand sought to be a scholar-surgeon rather than a mere surgeon at a time when many still thought that occupation closer to barbering than to medicine. He taught anatomy and surgery at the Paris College of Surgery, the Charité, the Invalides, and his home. Also, for some fifty years he published articles and books on such varied scientific subjects as cataracts, the anatomy of the brain, the medical uses of electricity, the differing size of humans in the morning and evening, and extra-fingered humans."—Kafker & Kafker, *The Encyclopedists as Individuals: a Biographical Dictionary of the Authors of the Encyclopédie* (1988), p. 270.

This catalogue describes 539 lots of sculpture, ceramics, furniture, medals and coins, weapons, tools, clothes, minerals, shells, petrified wood, fossils, bird and insect specimens, human specimens (many with deformities), Morand's anatomical teaching collection, jewelry, etc. His anatomical collection constitutes just over 100 lots, which are meticulously inventoried and described. For example, we find two fetal skeletons connected at the head, a hand with six fingers, two boxes filled with human and animal teeth, the wax model of a female skeleton assembled by Morand, artificial eyes, etc., etc. A number of the other curiosities come from India, China, Egypt, Greece, and Africa.

II. A choice collection of 47 lots of ancient sculpture, weapons, and ceramics. Lugt was able to confirm only the designer's last name as "Benard."

Two rare and interesting sale catalogues, the first thoroughly detailing a fascinating anatomical cabinet. Engraved bookplate of G[eorges] P[annier] (1853-1944) on the front paste-down. Natural paper flaw touching text on Biii of the Morand catalogue. Title-page of the Benard catalogue a little browned. We locate no copy of this second catalogue in North America.

• I. Lugt 2208. *N.B.G.*, Vol. 36, cols. 446-47 (Morand). R. Taton, *Enseignement et Diffusion des Sciences en France* (1986), pp. 185 & 691. II. Lugt 2294.

An Important Scientific Library; Priced

6. (PATU DE MELLO, André Claude). *Catalogue des Livres de la Bibliothèque de feu A.-C. Patu de Mello, suivi de la Notice d'une Collection précieuse d'Instrumens de Physique, de Chymie, de Mathématiques, d'Astronomie, d'Optique, etc. provenant de sa Succession.* xii, 250, [3] pp. 8vo, cont. marbled boards (extremities a bit worn), red morocco lettering piece on spine, entirely uncut. Paris: Veuve Tilliard et Fils, n.d. [sale: 20 Feb. 1800]. \$4500.00

Very rare. "Ce catalogue renferme des articles précieux. M. André-Claude Patu de Mello, ancien payeur des rentes de l'hôtel-de-ville de Paris, né en 1726, est mort en 1799...M. Patu de Mello...possédoit un très beau cabinet de machines de physique et d'astronomie."—Peignot, p. 117.

Patu de Mello had strong scientific interests and the catalogue of his library lists 1957 lots, which for the largest part consisted of books on natural history, medicine, and the physical sciences. It is followed by the catalogue of his scientific instruments (pp. 215-20), describing 77 lots of magnets, electrical machines, barometers, thermometers, microscopes, astronomical instruments, and pendulums. The catalogue contains interesting notes concerning provenance, questions of bibliographical priority, and medical curiosities.

Fine copy, priced throughout in a contemporary hand. With the three-page schedule of the sale. Bookplate of Docteur Dautheuil of Saint-Leu-d'Esserent. From the library of Jean Viardot.

• Gustave Brunet, *Dictionnaire de Bibliologie Catholique*, col. 509—"Collection importante sur la physique et les sciences naturelles." Grolier Club, *Printed Catalogues of French Book*

Auctions...1643-1830, 402.

Website <https://www.jonathanahill.com/>
Our Catalogues: <https://www.jonathanahill.com/catalogues.php>
Our Other Lists: <https://www.jonathanahill.com/lists.php>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/JAHBookseller>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/jahillbooks/>