



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

Collectors of Books and Art

Featuring a Mona Lisa?

1. (GAINAT, Louis Jean). *Catalogue raisonné des Tableaux, Groupes et Figures de Bronze, qui composent le Cabinet de feu Monsieur Gaignat, ancien Secrétaire du Roi, & Receveur des Consignations. Par Pierre Rémy. Et celui des Porcelaines rares & anciennes, tant du Japon que de la Chine, de Saxe & de France Effets de Laques, Meubles précieux & Bijoux, Par S. Ph. Poirier, Marchand.* [14–22 February, 1769]. Engraved frontis. xii, 92, [4] pp. of ads. Small 8vo, attractive antique calf-backed paste-paper boards, red morocco lettering piece on spine. Paris: Vente, 1768. \$1750.00

The catalogue of artworks in the collection of Gaignat (1697-1768), secretary of the Cabinet du Roi under Louis XV and famed book and art collector. Blessed with a massive fortune and little responsibility, he formed both an art collection and library considered amongst the grandest of the 18th century.

This catalogue's preface, written by the expert Pierre Rémy, begins with the usual eulogy of the deceased and his superb taste, but suddenly Rémy shifts to a passionate defense of his attributions and characteristically short descriptions — unlike this one (in trans.): "If I had not feared that one might suspect me of charlatanry, and if otherwise I had been able, as I would have wanted, to explain all that I see and that I feel about the praise that every Piece deserves, my observations certainly would have been much longer. Perhaps it would have been favorable if I had found in all of the Collections of Paintings of which I have made catalogues, pieces which had not been purchased for what they were, and seen as such by those interested in these inheritances; badly-intentioned people would not have so easily insinuated to various Curieux, prejudices against what insight I might have in the connoisseurship of Paintings...they claim that in examining my Catalogues de Ventes, that there are a number of uncertainties about objects even which a Connoisseur has to decide on from first sight...I can tell them that on all of these counts I have only done exactly what they would have done in my place" (pp. viii-ix). Rémy mentions that his detractors have highlighted the description of a lot in the Jullienne sale which attributes the work to Raphael, when in fact it is very likely a copy. Rémy then cites his longevity as an art dealer and the trust which the great collectors of previous decades had in him.

After a detailed biographical sketch of Gaignat, the catalogue begins with a supposed Mona Lisa ("Joconde"), which Rémy claims was once in the collection of Charles I as

supported by the presence of a stamp on the rear of the painting. The sale of pictures, which counted works by Berchem, Dow, Breughel, Teniers, Miel, Rembrandt, Wouwerman, Metsu, van Ostade, van Dyck, etc., totaled 208,000 livres.

Sculptures, bronzes, porcelain, jewels, and other objets d'art are also described, for a total of 241 lots. The catalogue is priced throughout in a contemporary hand with some additional annotations.

Fine copy. Concludes with a list of 34 recent auction catalogues by Rémy.

• Blanc, *Trésor de la Curiosité...*, Vol. I, pp. 147-51. Lugt 1734. *N.B.G.*, Vol. 20, cols. 170-71. *Lugt Les Marques de Collections* online resource "Remy, Pierre" (in trans.): "He was, in the second half of the 18th century, the most employed expert of Paris; as a dealer he excelled in the formation of collections."

One of the Most Important Sale Catalogues of the 18th Century; A Handsome Large Paper Set

2. (GAINNAT). *Supplément à la Bibliographie Instructive, ou Catalogue des Livres du Cabinet de feu M. Louis Jean Gaignat...disposé & mis en Ordre par Guill. François De Bure le jeune...avec une Table alphabétique des Auteurs.* xxxix, [1], 621 pp.; 491, [1] pp. Two vols. Large 4to, cont. English blue-grey boards, carefully rebacked with white paper, orig. manuscript labels laid-down on spines, uncut. Paris: De Bure, 1769. \$2500.00

A fine large paper set of the auction catalogue of Gaignat's magnificent library, comprising 3542 lots and including all of De Boze's incunabula. This was one of the most important of the 18th-century sale catalogues. The sale brought 257,597 livres (Gaignat had spent 279,381 livres to form the library), with La Vallière the most important buyer, spending between 80 and 90,000 livres. The books were very elaborately catalogued by Debure and there is a 246-page index.

Gaignat (1697-1768), owned a Gutenberg Bible (purchased by Girardot de Préfond), three (!) copies on vellum of the 1462 Bible, glorious early illuminated manuscripts, etc., etc. Coming from a rich family in the Nivernais and, having lost his wife and only son, Gaignat found comfort by forming very important collections of books, manuscripts, and paintings.

These two volumes form a sort of supplement to Debure's great *Bibliographie instructive* (1763-68) but were issued separately. Written by Debure, Gaignat's catalogue contains many bibliographical corrections to the *Bibliographie instructive*.

Very good and fresh set.

• Gustave Brunet, *Dictionnaire de Bibliologie Catholique*, cols. 461-62. Roland Folter, "The Gutenberg Bible in the Antiquarian Book Trade," in *Incunabula. Studies in Fifteenth-Century Printed Books presented to Lotte Hellinga*, p. 279. Horne, p. 707—"The erudite notices it contains render it indispensable to the bibliographical student." Peignot, p. 99—"Catalogue précieux et recherché." Pollard & Ehrman, p. 247 & number 291—"the sale took place on 10 April 1769 and following days. Gaignat was one of De Bure le Jeune's best customers; and the bookseller's taste had much influence on the selection of this library." Taylor, *Book Catalogues*, pp. 8 & 242.

Coins and a Fine Natural History Cabinet

3. (HANE DE STEENHUYSE et de LEEUWERGHEM, [Jean Baptiste], Comte d'). *Catalogue d'une très-belle, riche et nombreuse collection de Médailles romaines, modernes de Monnaies du Moyen-Âge de tous les pays, de jetons etc., en or, argent et en bronze, suivi d'une belle collection de Coquillages, Minéraux etc. etc., délaissée par feu Monsieur le Comte D'Hane de Steenhuyse et de Leeuwerghem, ancien intendant du Département de l'Escaut, Chambellan de S.M. le Roi des Pays-Bas,*

Chevalier de l'Ordre royal du Lion Belgique, membre de la Première Chambre des États-Généraux et de l'Ordre equestre de la Flandre Orientale... Dont la Vente publique aura lieu...le Lundi 19 Juin 1843 et jours suivans... 1 p.l., ii, 119 pp. 8vo, cont. semi-stiff paper wrappers (spine a little split), uncut. Ghent: F. Verhulst, [1843]. \$1750.00

The very rare sale catalogue of the impressive coin, shell, and mineral collections formed by d'Hane de Steenhuyse (1757-1826), Dutch nobleman and politician in Ghent. His family lived in the luxurious Hotel d'Hane-Steenhuyse, which still stands, and hosted figures such as Talleyrand, Tsar Alexander I, Louis XVIII, Chateaubriand, as well as John Quincy Adams.

This catalogue describes nearly 3500 lots. It includes a wide-ranging array of coins from ancient Greece and Rome, countries across Europe, Turkey, Morocco, India, Guadeloupe, the United States, China, and even those from small republics and individual cities. The 168 subsequent lots form the count's natural history cabinet of shells, starfish, and minerals, along with miscellaneous prints, vases, and sculptures.

Very good copy; none in North America. A few gatherings slightly loose.

• Lugt 17062.

A Great Belgian Library

4. (HANE-STEENHUYSE, Charles Joseph Marie, Comte d' ?). *Bibliothèque de M. le Comte d'Hane de Steenhuyse et de Leeuwerghem, Ancien Intendant du Département de l'Escaut...* Dont la Vente aura lieu à Gand...le Lundi 31 Juillet 1843 et jours suivans. xii, 299 pp. 8vo, orig. printed wrappers bound in attractive antique half-calf & marbled boards by Trevor Lloyd, flat spine gilt, uncut. Ghent: A. van der Meersch, [1843]. \$950.00

The rare sale catalogue of the library of the Comte d'Hane-Steenhuyse. I believe the owner was Charles Joseph Marie (1787-1846), not, as attributed by WorldCat, Ernest Marie Joseph (who was still writing books in the early 1860s). This was an important library with many rare 15th- and 16th-century books along with all the best editions of 17th and 18th centuries in law, the sciences, local history, etc.

Fine copy. 2809 lots of books, 186 lots of manuscripts (including several important Books of Hours), 200 lots of prints, and 21 lots of music.

• Blogie col. 101.

One of the Finest 18th-Century Collections of Books and Art

5. (RANDON DE BOISSET). *Catalogue des Livres du Cabinet de feu M. Randon de Boisset, Receveur Général des Finances: dont la vente se fera...* le Lundi 3 Février 1777, & jours suivans... 1 p.l., iv, 6, 188, 28 pp. Small 8vo, cont. calf (joints & corners neatly repaired), spine gilt, contrasting morocco lettering piece on spine, stamp in gilt at foot of spine "Brunck" (see below). Paris: De Bure, fils aîné, 1777.

[bound with]:

(—). *Catalogue des Tableaux & Dessins précieux des Maîtres célèbres des trois Ecoles, Figures de marbres, de bronze & de terre cuite, Estampes en feuilles...* Par Pierre Remy. *On a joint à ce Catalogue celui des Vases, Colonnes de marbres, Porcelaines, des Laques, des Meubles de Boule & d'autres effets précieux*, par C.F. Julliot. La Vente se fera le Jeudi 27 Février 1777... xii, 149 pp., 1 blank leaf; 158 pp. Two parts in one vol. Small 8vo. Paris: Musier et al., 1777. \$4500.00

The three posthumous sale catalogues of Pierre Louis Paul Randon de Boisset (1708-76), a high financial official of the French government.

I. The scarce auction catalogue of the library, comprising 1450 lots, is priced throughout

in a contemporary hand. We learn from the "Avertissement" that the collection is particularly rich in Italian books in fine condition; many are on large paper or in fine bindings by Padeloup and Derome père & fils. There are also some excellent early manuscripts.

II. The rare auction catalogues of one of the most celebrated collections of the 18th century. The catalogues, which together contain 904 lots, is priced throughout in a contemporary hand. Randon de Boisset's collection consisted of paintings, prints, porcelains, bronzes, and furniture of the highest quality. The collection sold for the enormous total of 1,272,384 *livres*, mostly from the sale of his large and fine collection of paintings. Patrick Michel, an expert on the 18th-century art market in France, writes (in trans.): "This sale, by its outcome, surpassed everything one had known up to that point and above all, no other cabinet of a *fermier général* or *financier* could claim a comparison."—*Peinture et Plaisir* (2010), p. 71.

This copy lacks, as is often the case, the 21-page supplement which lists 17 further lots and a schedule of the sale.

Minor browning, but fine copies. This copy was bound in France for Richard Franz Philipp Brunck (1729-1803), the philanthropist and critic, who owned a large and richly bound library (see *A.D.B.*). From the collection of Jules Coüet, librarian of the Comédie-Française (sale 7-8 November, 1938), with his photographic "Ex-libris du cabinet d'un vieux bibliophile" and bookplate of A.L. McLaughlin (purchased from E.P. Goldschmidt).

• I. Peignot, p. 120—"Bibliothèque peu nombreuse, mais d'une grande beauté." II. Cicognara 4467. Lugt 2652.

A Mayor of Antwerp's Library; Not in Blogie

6. (SCHOREL DE WILRYCK, P.F.G. van). *Catalogue des Livres, Estampes, &c. de Monsieur V.S. dont la vente se fera publiquement...à Anvers à la Chambre des Arquebusiers, le Lundi 18 Octobre & Jours suivants.* 12, 250 pp. 8vo, attractive antique half-calf & speckled boards, spine gilt, red morocco lettering piece on spine, a.e.g. Antwerp: J. Grangé, [1773?]. \$1950.00

An earlier owner (and I am sure he was correct) attributes the ownership of this catalogue to Pierre François Gisbert de Schorel, seigneur de Wilryck (1716-73), and mayor of Antwerp, whose collection of paintings was sold the following year in Antwerp by Grangé. Van Schorel was actively involved in the artistic life of Antwerp and in the early 1740s played an important role in the reorganization and financial support of the city's Academie voor Schoone Kunsten. He formed one of the largest gatherings of Rubens's oil sketches in the southern Netherlands in the eighteenth century. His splendid art collection featured twenty-eight paintings by Rubens.

The book section consists of 1829 lots; it was a library rich in art history and auction catalogues of books, prints, drawings, and paintings. The owner also had a fine collection of novels and history. The remainder of the catalogue describes illustrated books (12 lots), portefeuilles of loose prints (207 lots), and about ten more lots of portraits and other subjects.

Fine copy.

• Not in Blogie. WorldCat locates no copy in the U.S.

A Fine Northern Collection

7. (SCHOREL, Pierre François Gisbert de, de Wilryck). *Catalogue des Tableaux, Peintures à gouache, Miniatures, Dessesins, Estampes, Medailles, Sculptures, Bronzes, Ivoires, Porcelaines et autres Effets, provenant du Cabinet de Monsieur van Schorel...dont la Vente se fera...le 7 Juin 1774 et jours suivants.* 427, [1] pp. 8vo, cont. pink sheep-backed marbled boards (corners a

bit worn), spine lettered in gilt. Antwerp: J. Grangé, [1774].

\$2500.00

Van Schorel, seigneur de Wilryck (1716-73), served as mayor of Antwerp. He was actively involved in the artistic life of the city and in the early 1740s played an important role in the reorganization and financial support of the city's Academie voor Schoone Kunsten. Van Schorel formed one of the largest gatherings of Rubens's oil sketches in the southern Netherlands in the eighteenth century. His splendid art collection featured twenty-eight paintings by Rubens and masterpieces by Van Dyck, Rembrandt, Teniers, and Jordaens. 202 lots of paintings, 88 lots of gouache paintings, 535 lots of drawings (many with numerous items in the lots), 1249 lots of prints (some quite large), 695 lots of prints by Rubens, 311 lots of medals, and 421 lots of sculpture, curiosities, minerals, scientific instruments, porcelains, etc., etc.

This copy has been priced throughout in a contemporary hand. A leaf has been bound-in at the end with totals of each section in a contemporary hand.

Fine copy. Louvain University stamp (with release) on verso of title and on final leaf. Bookplate of Charles van Herck of Antwerp.

• Lugt 2299.