



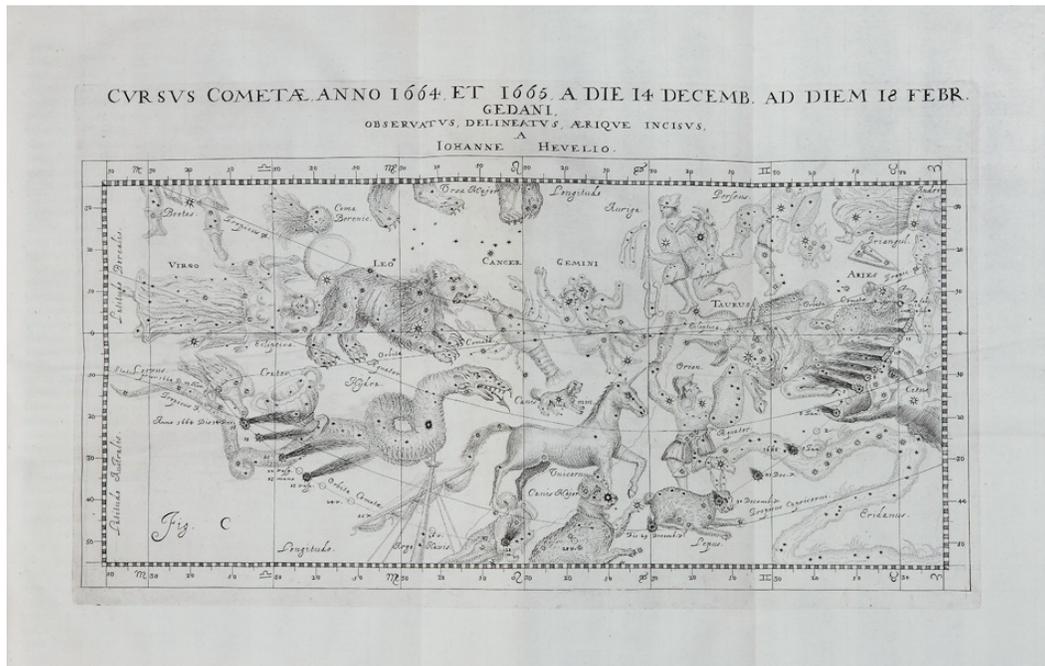
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Comets II

The Comets of 1664, 1665 & 1672



No. 2: HEVELIUS, Johannes. *Prodromus Cometicus, quo Historia, Cometæ Anno 1664...* Danzig: 1665. [bound with]: —. *Descriptio Cometæ Anno Aerae Christ. M.DC.LXV...* Leipzig: 1666.

1. [PRAETORIUS, Johannes]. *Meridionalis Nuncius das ist Ein Wunder-seltzamer südischer Crinit- oder Comet-Stern, Welchen der allmächtige und getreue Gott im Reste des 1664. Jahrs nach Christi Geburt, vom Ausssgange Novembris biss in den Decembrem weit hinein, am Himmel gegen Mittage, nach Mitternacht in denen Morgen-Stunden, der untern Welt zur Warnung und Erleuchtung, angebrandt und hernieder gehänget hat: Wie solcher vor etlichen Jahren gerade umb diese Frist vom Herrn D. Tackio und Barth. Schimpfero &c. zuvor verkündiget, oder prognosticiret worden: nebst einem astrologischen und cabbalistischen Judicio so wohl jenes südischen, als des allerneuesten nordischen Cometens illustriret.* Von Johanne Richtern, Astrophilo. Large engraved vignette on title. 16 unnumbered leaves. Small 4to, attractive modern marbled boards. Leipzig: C. Kirchner, n.d [1664 or 1665]. \$3250.00

First edition of this most uncommon account of the 1664 comet, visually the most impressive of the 17th century. It was observed by many of the greatest scientists of the period including Cassini and Borelli in Italy, Auzout and Petit in France, Hooke in England, and Samuel Danforth in North America.

In this work, Praetorius uses the pseudonym of Johannes Richter, "astrophilo." Praetorius (1630-80), "had an open eye and a sharp ear for all wonder stories, witch tales, and accounts of ghosts and sorcery current among the people. He indefatigably collected all information on remarkable subjects and happenings, and was fond of popular gossip."—Faber du Faur, *German Baroque Literature*, pp. 199-200—(who describes related items but not this work). The fine and large vignette on the title depicts the course of the comet with the constellations in the background. Praetorius was clearly familiar with the early and contemporary literature on comets and astronomy because of the many references he makes in the text. He describes the appearance, size, and path of the comet.

Fine copy.

• Lalande, p. 265. Waibler, "Johannes Praetorius (1630-1680). Ein Barockautor und seine Werke" in *Archiv für Geschichte des Buchwesens* (1979), no. 22.

2. HEVELIUS, Johannes. *Prodromus Cometicus, quo Historia, Cometæ Anno 1664 exorti Cursum, Faciesq; diversas Capitis ac Caudæ accuratè delineatas complectens; nec non Dissertatio de Cometarum omnium Motu, Generatione, variisque Phænomenis, exhibetur.* Engraved vignette on title & three engraved plates (one folding). 2 p.l., 64 pp. Folio, cont. Dutch vellum over boards (spine a little defective), covers panelled in blind, in center of each cover a large arabesque device. Danzig: Autoris typis, et Sumptibus, 1665.

[bound with]:

— *Descriptio Cometæ Anno Aerae Christ. M.DC.LXV. exorti, cum genuinis Observationibus, tam nudis, quam enodatis, Mense Aprili habitis Gedani. Cui addita est Mantissa Prodromi Cometicæ, Observationes omnes prioris Cometæ MDCLXIV, ex iisq; genuinum motum accurate deductum, cum notis, & animadversionibus exhibens.* Engraved vignette on title, one engraved illus. in the text, 4 engraved plates (one folding), & tables in the text. 6 p.l., 188 pp. Folio. Danzig: Autoris typis, et sumptibus, 1666. \$110,000.00

A most attractive sammelband of two first editions by Hevelius from the library formed by Sir Christopher Sykes (1749-1801), at Sledmere House in Yorkshire.

I. "Dedicated to Colbert, controller general of finance to Louis XIV, who had been instrumental in procuring an annuity for Hevelius. The work was published as a forerunner to the projected *opus* [published in 1668 as the *Cometographia*] on the theory of comets. The present work contains a description of the Comet of 1664 and a synopsis of the author's theory of cometography."—*Johannes Hevelius* (B.Y.U., 1971), p. 84.

II. The first part of this book presents Hevelius's observations of the comet of 1665 and

includes a synopsis of his general cometary ideas. "Features all observations of the Comet of 1665, together with the calculations as well as general comments on the theory of comets. *Mantissa Prodromi Cometicæ*, which begins on page 57, is a reply to the criticism voiced by Petit, Auzout, and others, who disagreed with Hevelius's findings in his *Prodromus Cometicus*."—*Johannes Hevelius* (B.Y.U., 1971), p. 84.

Provenance: Inscription of "Cat. VI P331 CS Sledmere" on front paste-down endpaper. Fine unpressed copies. Preserved in a morocco-backed box.

• *Johannes Hevelius* (B.Y.U., 1971), 8 & 9.

3. MÜLLER, Friderich. *Cometologiæ Libri Tres De Natura Cometarum qualem elapsi 1664. anni Decemb. est enixus, & præsentis 1665 anni Februarius extinxit...* Woodcut vignette on title & three engraved plates (one folding). 3 p.l., 50 pp. Small 4to, attractive modern paste-paper wrappers. Giessen: F. Karger, [1665]. \$3500.00

First edition of this rare and appealing book. Müller is described on the title as a professor at the Giessen Academy. In this work, he describes the physical, astronomical, and astrological aspects of the two comets of 1664 and 1665; their appearance "prompted treatises from many important astronomers and their widely varying conclusions and theories underscored contemporary confusion concerning the nature of comets."—Yeoman, *Comets*, p. 70.

The primitive but attractive vignette depicts a man with a telescope observing the sky. The three engraved plates depicts the Ptolemaic, Copernican, and Tychoic systems.

Fine copy.

• Thorndike, VIII, p. 95n.

4. NOTTNAGEL, Christoph. *Gründlicher Bericht, von dem biss in den Februar. dieses 1665sten Jahrs, am Himmel gestandenen importirlichen Cometen, und dessen vermuthlich-merckwürdigen Bedeutung.* Large engraved vignette on title. Two parts in one vol. [44] leaves. Small 4to, modern boards (some browning due to the quality of the paper). Wittenberg: M. Henckeln, [date on *Appendix* title:] 1665. \$2950.00

First edition and very rare with the additional eight-leaf *Appendix*. Nottnagel (1607-66), was the highly regarded professor of mathematics at the University of Wittenberg; he wrote a number of books on astronomy, several of which went into later editions. This is a detailed account of the less impressive 1665 comet which arrived only a week after the 1664 comet was last sighted. Again, leading astronomers observed this new comet, including Hevelius, Auzout, Petit, Borelli, Hooke, and others.

Very good copy.

• *A.D.B.*, Vol. 24, pp. 45-46. Lalande, p. 264. Poggendorff, II, cols. 302-03.

5. TREW, Abdias. *Gründliche und zu Erörterung vieler schweren Puncten in der gantzen Stern- und Natur-Kunst dienliche Beschreibung des jüngst zu End des Jahrs 1664 und im Anfang 1665 erschienen Cometen...* Two folding engraved plates (one a little cropped at head). 4 p.l., 64 pp. Small 4to, attractive modern paste-paper boards. Nuremberg: M. & J.F. Endter, 1665. \$3950.00

First edition and scarce. Trew (1597-1669), professor of mathematics and physics at the University of Altdorf, also wrote on fortification, geometry, the calendar, and on many aspects

of mathematics. His main interest was astronomy and he established an observatory where he spent many years making astronomical and meteorological observations. He was a conservative in astronomy and wrote against Copernicus in 1636.

This is a scientific account of the two comets of 1664 and 1665; their appearances "prompted treatises from many important astronomers and their widely varying conclusions and theories underscored contemporary confusion concerning the nature of comets."—Yeoman, *Comets*, p. 70.

The two fine engraved and folding plates depict the path of the first comet in the sky and astronomical principles.

Fine copy.

• Poggendorff, II, 1133.

The First Observation of the Comet of 1672

6. HEVELIUS, Johannes. *Epistola, de Cometa, Anno MDC LXXII, Mense Martio, & Aprili, Gedani Observato*. Large engraved vignette on title & one folding engraved plate depicting the comet's path against the constellations. 11 pp. Small folio, attractive antique calf-backed marbled boards, vellum tips. Danzig: Printed by S. Reiniger for the Author, 1672.

\$17,500.00

First edition of this rare account of the comet of 1672 which was first discovered by Hevelius. "Description of the comet, which appeared in March and April 1672. Published as a letter addressed to H. Oldenburg, secretary of the Royal Society of London. Hevelius observed this comet from March 6 until April 21, 1672."—*Johannes Hevelius* (B.Y.U. 1971), 11.

Fine copy.

• Lalande, p. 277. Yeomans, *Comets*, p. 421.