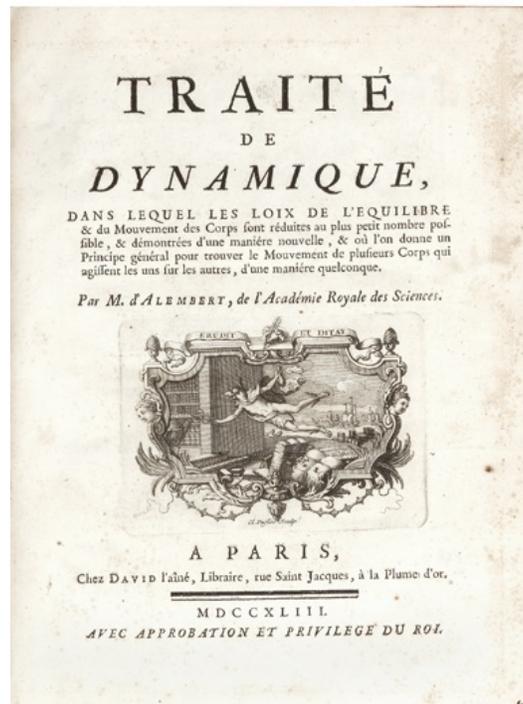




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Four Works by d'Alembert



D'Alembert's Masterpiece on Dynamics

1. ALEMBERT, Jean Le Rond d'. *Traité de Dynamique, dans lequel les Loix de l'Equilibre & du mouvement des Corps sont réduites au plus petit nombre possible, & démontrées d'une manière nouvelle, & où l'on donne un Principe général pour trouver le Mouvement de plusieurs Corps qui agissent les uns sur les autres, d'une manière quelconque.* Engraved vignette on title & four folding engraved plates. 2 p.l., xxvi, [2], 186, [2] pp. 4to, cont. marbled calf (extremities a trifle worn, preliminary leaves a bit discolored), spine gilt, red morocco lettering piece on spine.

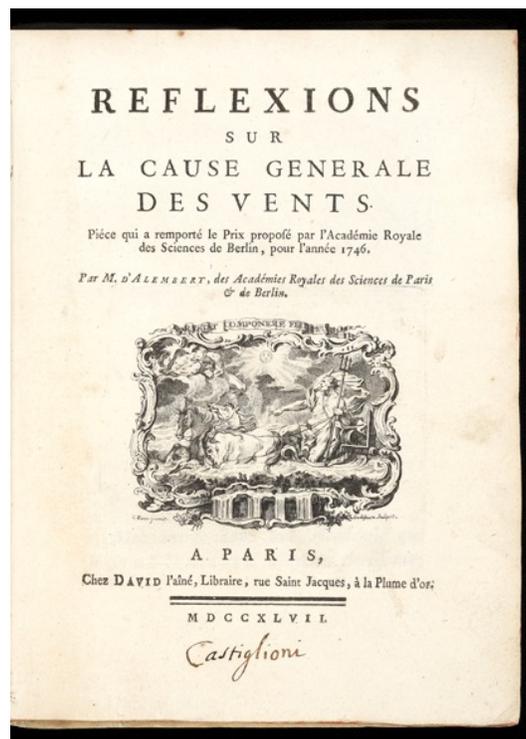
Paris: David l'ainé, 1743.

\$17,500.00

First edition, and a fine copy, of d'Alembert's masterpiece on dynamics; this has become a scarce book on the market. "The *Traité de dynamique*, which has become the most famous of his scientific works, is significant in many ways. First, it is clear that d'Alembert recognized that a scientific revolution had occurred, and he thought that he was doing the job of formalizing the new science of mechanics...The *Traité* also contained the first statement of what is known as d'Alembert's principle. D'Alembert was, furthermore, in the tradition that attempted to develop mechanics without using the notion of force. Finally, it was long afterward said (rather simplistically) that in this work he resolved the famous *vis viva* controversy, a statement with just enough truth in it to be plausible."—*D.S.B.*, I, p. 111—(& see pp. 111-13 for a full account of the work).

Fine copy. From the library of Marchese Giulio Stanga Carlo Trecco (d. 1832), amateur mathematician and physicist who formed a large collection of scientific instruments, with his shelfmark label at head of spine.

• *En Français dans le Texte* 147. *Printing & the Mind of Man* 195. Roberts & Trent, *Bibliotheca Mechanica*, p. 7—"A landmark in the history of mechanics."



The True First Edition

2. ALEMBERT, Jean Le Rond d'. *Reflexions sur la Cause generale des Vents. Pièce qui a remporté le Prix proposé par l'Académie Royale des Sciences de Berlin, pour l'Année 1746.* Fine engraved vignette on title; one engraved headpiece with a port. of Frederick the Great, to whom the book is dedicated; & two folding engraved plates. 4 p.l., 194 pp.; 138 pp. 4to, cont. vellum over boards (one corner a little jammed), spine gilt. Paris: David l'ainé, 1747 [but 1746]. \$4500.00

First edition of this important work. "In 1747 d'Alembert published two more important

works, one of which, the *Réflexions sur la cause générale des vents*, won a prize from the Prussian Academy. In it appeared the first general use of partial differential equations in mathematical physics. Euler later perfected the techniques of using these equations...As a work on atmospheric tides it was successful, and Lagrange continued to praise d'Alembert's efforts many years later."—*D.S.B.*, I, p. 113.

This and the Berlin edition of the same year are both variously claimed as the true first edition and it is perhaps logical to suppose that a prize-winning essay should first appear under the imprint of the prize giver. However, the imprimatur of the French Académie was granted on 6th September 1746 and the book was on sale in November of that year (see d'Alembert's letter of 6th January 1747 to Euler).

Fine copy of a very rare edition. Contemporary signature of "Castiglioni" on title. From the library of Haskell F. Norman with bookplate.

• See Roberts & Trent, *Bibliotheca Mechanica*, p. 8 for the Berlin edition.

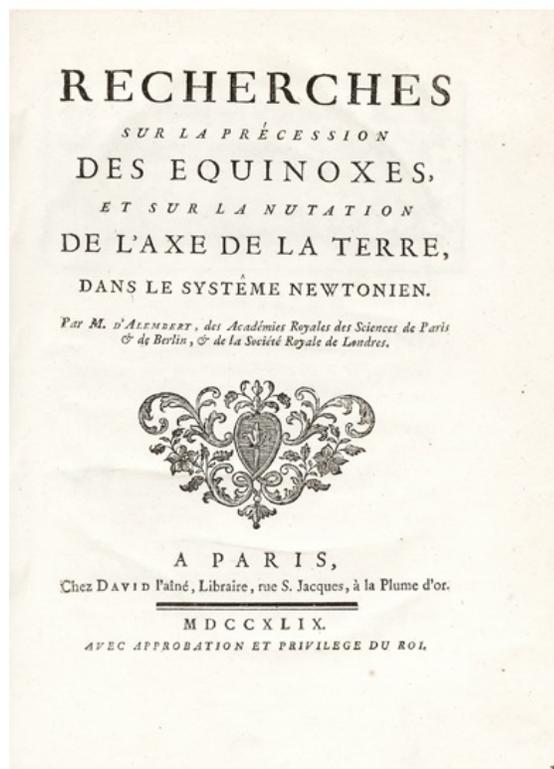
"A Masterly Work"

3. ALEMBERT, Jean Le Rond d'. *Recherches sur la Précession des Equinoxes, et sur la Nutation de l'Axe de la Terre, dans le Système Newtonien*. Four folding engraved plates. xxxviii, [2], 184 pp. 4to, cont. mottled calf, spine gilt, red morocco lettering piece on spine. Paris: David l'aîné, 1749. \$6500.00

First edition of one of Alembert's most important books. "During the late 1740's, d'Alembert, Clairaut, and Euler were all working on the famous three-body problem, with varying success. D'Alembert's interest in celestial mechanics thus led him, in 1749, to publish a masterly work, the *Recherches sur la Précession des Equinoxes*...The precession of the equinoxes, a problem previously attacked by Clairaut, was very difficult. D'Alembert's method was similar to Clairaut's but he employed more terms in his integration of the equation of motion and arrived at a solution more in accord with the observed motion of the earth. He was rightly proud of his book."—*D.S.B.*, I, p. 113.

A very fine copy and scarce on the market. From the library of Marchese Giulio Stanga Carlo Trecco (d. 1832), amateur mathematician and physicist who formed a large collection of scientific instruments, with his shelfmark label at head of spine.

• Babson 36.



Better Than Clairaut's Method

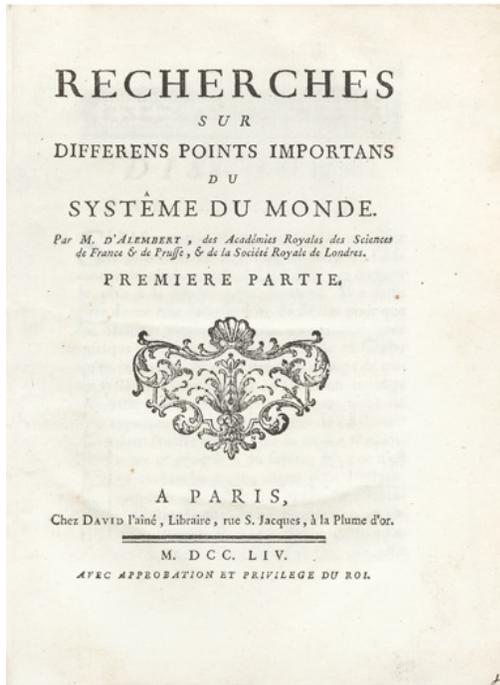
4. ALEMBERT, Jean Le Rond d'. *Recherches sur Differens Points importans du Système du Monde*. Six folding engraved plates. lxxviii, 260 pp.; vi, 290 pp.; xlvi, 263 pp. Three vols. 4to, cont. mottled calf (lower cover of Vol. II a little wormed), spines gilt, red morocco lettering pieces on spines. Paris: David, 1754-54-56. \$9500.00

First edition. "Devoted primarily to the motion of the moon (Volume II included a new set of lunar tables), it was written at least partially to guard d'Alembert's claims to originality against those of Clairaut. As was so often the case, d'Alembert's method was mathematically more sound, but Clairaut's method was more easily used by astronomers."—*D.S.B.*, I, p. 114.

Clairaut's anonymous and unfavorable review of the third volume, published in the *Journal des Sçavans*, caused a bitter, famous, and extended controversy which continued until Clairaut's death in 1765.

Fine set. From the library of Marchese Giulio Stanga Carlo Trecco (d. 1832), amateur mathematician and physicist who formed a large collection of scientific instruments, with his shelfmark label at head of spine.

• Lalande, p. 453—"On trouve dans le premier volume des recherches savantes sur le problème des trois corps."



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