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60th NY Antiquarian Book Fair (5-8 March)

Addenda - Stand A19

(Full descriptions & images available on our website)

Gutenberg's Other Great Innovation: "Texts Frozen in Metal"; The Hibbert – Botfield Copy of the Catholicon

1. BALBUS, Johannes. *Catholicon*. Gothic type, double column, 66 lines (33 line-pairs). [373] leaves. Decoration by a contemporary Dutch or Westphalian artist (see below). Eight pinholes to the sheet preserved. Royal folio (385 x 270 mm.), mid-18th cent. French red morocco over heavy boards, triple gilt fillets round sides, spine nicely gilt, a.e.g. Mainz: [Peter Schoeffer], 1460 [but ca. 1469]. \$600,000.00

Second impression (of three) of the original edition, first printed in 1460, in which Gutenberg first used the revolutionary method of two-line printing slugs, thereby finding "a solution to the challenge of permanently fixing typographical compositions" (Needham, p. 432). The *Catholicon* was not printed with movable type, Gutenberg's first great invention, but with units of paired lines or "slugs." It is an early form of stereotyping or linotype setting. The method was as follows: as composition in type of the *Catholicon* progressed, a secondary casting was made in units of paired lines or "slugs" in order to allow future reprinting without the expense of resetting the text.

As mentioned above, there are three distinct impressions of the *Catholicon*, all printed from the same setting of type — "down to the most minute details" (Needham, p. 423) — but on distinct presses and using different paper stocks: 1. the 1460 impression, by Gutenberg, is printed on vellum or Bull's Head paper; 2. our second impression, using the slugs created by Gutenberg and printed by Peter Schoeffer, was printed on Galliziani paper from Basel; and 3. a third impression, probably printed by Schoeffer ca. 1472, on Tower- and Crown-watermarked papers.

This is the first book to name its place of printing, and is also the first book to refer in print to the invention of movable metal type.

The Gardens & Landscapes of the Emperor's Summer Palace

2. KANGXI, Emperor of China. *Yu shi bi shu shan zhuang shi* [or] *ji* [*Imperial Poems on the Mountain Estate to Escape the Heat*]. 17 (of 36) folding black & white woodcut plates, each with fine contemporary hand-coloring. Printed in red & black (*zhu mo tao yin ben*). 51; 50 folding leaves. Two vols. 8vo (265 x 166 mm.), modern brown wrappers, new stitching. [Beijing: Wu ying dian [the Imperial Printing House], Preface dated 1711, Afterword dated 1712, completed 1713?]. \$15,000.00

First edition, Chinese issue, of this famous and beautifully illustrated book, ordered by and overseen by Kangxi (1654-1722), Emperor of China. It was printed in 400 copies on superior paper, 200 in Manchu and 200 in Chinese. The Chinese edition is quite remarkable for having been printed in both black and red ink (*zhu mo tao yin ben*), an invention from the Yuan Dynasty, requiring two runs through the press.

The book is a collection of poems written about 36 remarkable sites, which include gardens, landscapes, and buildings at the emperor's summer palace, a mountain estate, in Rehe (now Chengde, Hebei; it is today a UNESCO World Heritage Site). For each poem, a magnificent folding woodcut plate is provided, depicting the associated site.

While our copy has 17 of the 36 folding plates, they have been beautifully hand-colored at an early date and have large margins at the bottom. The difference between the black & white plates and those hand-colored is remarkable and dramatic. In each case, the plates — which are extremely fragile — have been expertly backed with new paper, margins strengthened, and reinserted into the volumes on stubs. The plates clearly come from another copy.

This work "offers a virtual tour framed by images and the emperor's own poetry, the garden placed in the palms of one's hands. Created in parallel painted [which no longer survives], woodblock printed [our first edition], and copperplate engraved versions, the album's multiple iterations resonated with each other and with the park itself."—Stephen H. Whiteman, *Where Dragon Veins Meet. The Kangxi Emperor and His Estate at Rehe* (2020), p. 6—(& see the entirety of this wonderful and beautiful book, especially pp. 151-88). The scenes of the imperial gardens and landscapes offered in this book allowed unprecedented access to the private life of the emperor.

In fine and fresh condition. Minor worming to text leaves (but not the plates). Preserved in a *chitsu*.

The Difference Engine First Conceived

3. MUELLER, Johann Helfrich von. *Beschreibung seiner neu erfundenen Rechenmaschine, nach ihrer Gestalt, ihrem Gebrauch und Nutzen*. Herausgegeben und mit einer Vorrede begleitet von Ph. E. Klipstein. One large folding engraved plate. xii, 50 pp. 8vo, cont. half-calf & marbled boards (bound with six other works, see below), flat spine gilt, red morocco lettering-piece on spine (lettered "Tracts Technical"). Frankfurt am Main: Varrentrapp Sohn & Wenner, 1786. \$49,500.00

First edition of one of the greatest rarities in the literature concerning the history of computers; this work describes the first difference engine, invented well before the time of Charles Babbage, who conceived it nearly 40 years later. WorldCat locates no copy in North America. This is a wonderful association copy and comes from the library of James Watt (1713-1819), engineer, scientist, and developer of the steam engine.

Mueller (1746-1830), studied mathematics, engineering, and physics at the University of Giessen. Following his service in the Artillery Corps, he devoted his energies to engineering, architecture, and mechanical inventions. During the years 1776-90, he was the state architect of Giessen. In the beginning of the 1780s Mueller designed a greatly improved calculating machine based on the machine devised by Philipp Hahn; it was capable of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division. That machine is described in the main part of the present work. By 1784, Mueller began to conceive the difference engine, which he writes about in his Appendix entitled "Further Inventions of Superior Calculating Machines and an Arithmetical

Printing Machine" (in trans.), on pages 48-50.

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