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Three Books x 3 Themes

I. Three Books on Censorship & Freedom of the Press:

1. PETZEK, Joseph Anton, ed. *Katalog. Der von 1783. bis 1794. in Oesterreich von der hochlöblichen Hofbücherzensurkommission vorbothenene Bücher. Zur Warnung der Herren Leser, Buchhändler, und Buchdrucker.* 1 p.l., 203 pp. 8vo, orig. wrappers (some foxing throughout). Freiburg im Breisgau: Zehnder, [1794 or -95]. \$1250.00

First edition. Censorship in Austria in the second half of the 18th century was an “on or off” matter. During the reign of the liberal Joseph II (1780-92), censorship was rather relaxed. But during the reigns of Leopold II (1790-92) and Francis II (1792-1835), censorship practices again tightened in reaction to the revolutionary events in France.

This is a list of recently published “forbidden” books, for the most part issued between 1783 to 1794. There were four major groups of forbidden titles: pornographic French “gallant” literature, books advocating superstitious beliefs contrary to the Catholic Church, atheistic or “natural” philosophy considered unacceptably offensive to established religion, and certain political works.

The person overseeing the compilation of this work, Petzek (1745-1804), was chair of canon law at the University of Freiburg and chief of the office of censorship for Austria.

Very good copy and rare. We find no copy in North America. Bookplate of Max von Portheim.

2. PFYFFER VON ALTISHOFEN, Kasimir. *Ueber Pressfreyheit und Publizität. Eine Rede in Beziehung auf die bevorstehenden Verhandlungen der Eidgenössischen Tagsatzung gehalten im Grossen Rathe des Kantons Luzern, den 28. Brachmonat 1828...* 28 pp. Small 8vo, self-bound. Luzern: J. M. Anich, 1828. \$350.00

First edition of this rare speech by Pfyffer (1794-1875), Swiss jurist and politician, who served as president of the Swiss National Council and mayor of Lucerne. He was a prominent figure within the Lucerne Liberals, which transformed Swiss politics in the early 19th century. The present speech discusses the role of the press and free speech in

Switzerland and was given in advance of negotiations within Switzerland's Federal Diet.
Fine copy of a work for which WorldCat locates no copy in North America.

3. [UNGER, Johann Friedrich]. *Einige Gedanken über das Censur-Edikt vom 19. December 1788*. 36 pp. Small 8vo, modern boards. Berlin: "Im Verlag der Königl. Preuss. akadem. Kunst- und Buchhandlung," 1789. \$950.00

First separate edition, originally published in the same year in the *Berlinischen Journal für Aufklärung*. This work was written in response to the newly enacted censorship edict, in which King Friedrich Wilhelm II ordered that all publications and other forms of printed material—including illustrations—be submitted to Prussian state censors for approval. Any critical statements of a political or religious nature were officially discouraged. These restrictions remained in force until the 1840s, with the accession of Friedrich Wilhelm IV to the throne.

In this work, Unger (1753-1804), the leading Berlin printer and publisher, protests the new law.

Fine copy. Early signature of "Zimmermann" on title.

• Sauter, *Visions of the Enlightenment: The Edict on Religion of 1788 and the Politics of the Public Sphere in Eighteenth-Century Prussia*, pp. 95-101.

II: Three Books on Incunabula & Early Printed Books:

Early Books & MSS. in Strasbourg

4. COMMANDERIE SAINT JEAN, Strasbourg. *Catalogus Librorum Impressorum [& Codicum Manuscriptorum] in Bibliotheca...Ordinis Sancti Johannis Hierosolymitani asservatorum Argentorati, ordine alphabetico, nova grataque methodo contextus a Johannes Nicolao Weislinger*. 4 p.l., 262, [4] pp.; 56, [8] pp. Two parts in one vol. Folio, cont. sheep (upper joint cracked but strong, three corners somewhat worn, minor foxing), vellum lettering piece on spine. Strasbourg: typis S. Kürsner, 1749.

[bound after]:

WEISLINGER, Johann Nikolaus. *Armamentarium Catholicum perantiquæ, rarissimæ ac pretiosissimæ Bibliothecæ, quæ asservatur Argentorati in...commenda...ordinis Melitensis Sancti Johannis Hierosolymitani ...Notis...interspersis illustratum ex ejusmodi libris, qui ab anno Christi M. CCCC. LXIII. ordine chronologico prodierunt usque ad annum M.D. XXII. quo prodiit primò Martini Lutheri Novum Testamentum...* Engraved frontis. port. of the author. Title printed in red & black. 16 p.l., 824, [30] pp., one leaf of errata. Small folio (final leaves of index with some dampstaining). Strasbourg: J.F. Le Roux, 1749. \$2500.00

I. The catalogue of the printed books and manuscripts in the library of Strasbourg's St. John's Commandery. The library was originally located in the former monastery of the Trinity at Grünen Wörth, of which the Order of St. John of Jerusalem (or Johannites) took possession in 1371, thanks to the funds provided by the Strasbourg patrician and mystic Rulman Merswin. The Order of Saint John (the Knights of Malta) organized a system of commanderies throughout Europe during the medieval and early modern period.

Although a prestigious commandery, they were expelled in 1633 as it became necessary to strengthen city fortifications at that site. In 1687, the order found a new home in the old monastery of St. Mark; in 1789 the Revolution put an end to their community and brought about the dispersion of their wealth.

The library was clearly formed largely before 1600 and the vast majority of the ca. 6000 titles listed are 15th and 16th century. The library also had an important collection of early manuscripts, here compiled by Johann Jacob Witter; about 2000 are listed in the second part.

As we learn from the title-page, the arrangement of books is alphabetical, with columns for author, title and format, place of publication and date, printer, and shelf-mark.

II. This bibliography, also compiled by Weisinger (1691-1755), a Catholic polemical writer, was written to champion the Roman church. He gives extensive polemical criticism of Luther's Bible and works of the early Protestants. Besterman 5043-44 considers it to be the first bibliography of printing in Strasbourg, describing about 500 early printed books.

Very good copies.

5. SANKT MANG, Füssen. *Verzeichniss alter Druckdenkmale der Bibliothek des uralten Benediktiner-Stifts zum H. Mang in Füessen*. Mit litterarischen Anmerkungen begleitet von Joseph Maria Helmschrott. xxviii, 236, 123 pp. Two parts in one vol. Small 4to, somewhat later marbled boards with green paper spine & corners (corners a bit worn). Ulm: Stettin, 1790. \$950.00

First edition of this catalogue of the 687 incunabula, arranged chronologically, in the library of the Benedictine monastery of St. Mang in Füssen in Bavaria, founded in the first half of the 9th century. The library building, in which the books were housed, was designed by Johann Jakob Herkomer (1652-1717), and is considered one of the most remarkable Baroque interiors in Bavaria.

This was an important collection of early printed books. After the secularization following the Napoleonic Wars, the monastery was dissolved and the library became the property of the princes of Oettingen-Wallerstein; the books are now in the library of the University of Augsburg.

The author, Helmschrott (1759-1836), was a Benedictine and librarian at St. Mang (or Magnus). He wrote this work in response to the considerable scholarly interest in the contents of the libraries of monasteries during the second half of the 18th century. Helmschrott's notes are quite scholarly and detailed.

Very good copy. One preliminary leaf sprung but present.

• Besterman 5047. Bigmore & Wyman, I, p. 323.

6. ([SMITH, Joseph]). *Catalogus Librorum Rarissimorum, ab Artis Typographicae Inventoribus, aliisque eiusdem Artis Principibus, Ante Annum Millesimum Quingentesimum excusorum. Omnium optime conservatorum*. Title printed in red & black. 1 p.l., 70 pp., 1 leaf. 8vo, cont. vellum over boards, black morocco lettering piece on spine (label abraded). [Venice: J.B. Pasquali, 1737]. \$5000.00

The very rare second edition, enlarged by 21 additional incunabula (the first edition of ca. 1735 lists 227 titles and was printed in an edition of only fifty copies) of Consul Smith's privately printed catalogue of his magnificent collection of incunabula. Only a few copies of this edition were printed (an early note on the title-page of this copy states only 25 copies were printed).

Smith (1682-1770), was British Consul at Venice and, in 1765, sold his superb library to George III for £10,000. It thus became the nucleus of the "King's Library" and of the British Museum (now Library). Horace Walpole sneered at Smith as "the merchant of Venice" who knew nothing of his books save their title-pages, but the censure is quite undeserved.

Fine copy with the Bibliotheca Lindesiana bookplate. With an early note on the front

paste-down endpaper "Sale by Wheatley March 1833."

• Gustave Brunet, *Dictionnaire de Bibliologie Catholique*, col. 625. De Ricci, pp. 54-55. Taylor, *Book Catalogues*, pp. 261-62.

III: Three Literary Books by Albrecht von Haller:

7. [HALLER, Albrecht von]. *Usong. Eine Morgenländische Geschichte, in vier Büchern*. 6 p.l. (first leaf a blank), 420 pp., one leaf of errata. 8vo, fine cont. polished mottled calf, flat spine nicely gilt, red morocco lettering piece on spine. Bern: "In Verlag der neuen Buchhandlung," 1771. \$1250.00

First edition, and a very fine copy, printed on superior paper. In his old age, Haller also turned to fiction and wrote three philosophical romances — *Usong* (1771), *Alfred* (1773), and *Fabius und Cato* (1774) — in which he drew upon his political experience and expounded his ideas of government.

In *Usong*, Haller describes a Persian monarchy ruled benevolently by an enlightened despot. In this utopian novel, Haller outlines the merits of despotism.

A very fine copy.

8. [HALLER, Albrecht von]. *Briefe über die wichtigsten Wahrheiten der Offenbarung*. 4 p.l., 223, [1] pp. 8vo, cont. polished mottled calf, spine nicely gilt, red morocco lettering piece on spine. Bern: "In Verlag der neuen Buchhandlung," 1772. \$750.00

First edition of one of Haller's works, written late in life as he became more and more conservative, defending religion against the ideas of the Enlightenment.

A very fine copy.

9. [HALLER, Albrecht von]. *Fabius und Cato, ein Stück der Römischen Geschichte*. Engraved vignette on title. xvi, 286 pp., one leaf of errata. 8vo, fine cont. polished mottled calf, flat spine nicely gilt, red morocco lettering piece on spine. Bern & Göttingen: E. Haller & Widow of Vandenhök, 1774. \$1000.00

First edition, and a very fine copy, printed on superior paper. In his old age, Haller also turned to fiction and wrote three philosophical romances — *Usong* (1771), *Alfred* (1773), and *Fabius und Cato* (1774) — in which he drew upon his political experience and expounded his ideas of government.

In *Fabius und Cato*, Haller describes the system of government of the Roman Republic. A utopian novel, Haller makes clear in it the merits of a limited monarchy.

A very fine copy.

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