A Summer Short List

The Seventeenth Century

AUGUST 2020

No. 8 (detail)
1) ANTHONY of PADUA — HELIA DA CORTONA [i.e., NUCCI, Elia]. *Vita et miracoli di S. Antonio de Padoa*. Venice: Honorato, 1602. $7800

FIRST EDITION, THE DE THOU COPY, of an illustrated hagiography of the Paduan patron saint. Illustrated with a series of primitive but charming engravings, Nucci’s account emphasizes the Saint’s thaumaturgical prowess. This is the only recorded imprint of Nicolò Honorato, described as a bookseller in Padua.

4to. Engraved title and 20 full-page engravings. Contemporary hairsheep(?), sides with the central arms of JACQUES-AUGUSTE DE THOU and his second wife, Gasparde de la Chastre.

See more: [Helia da Cortona](#)

FIRST EDITIONS of a dialogue between Everyman and Truth on the art of dying, bound with a spiritual guide for the wealthy, both adapted from the Spanish AND SUBSTANTIALLY ADDED TO by the indefatigable Counter-Reformation translator and compiler Aegidius Albertinus; bound with a treatise on revolts and rebellions.

Albertinus published over 50 works, translated and adapted from Italian, French, and Spanish devotional texts, courtesy books, and even picaresque novels, which he introduced into Germany. The eclecticism of his sources, his profound erudition and exceptional grasp of the nuances of the Romance languages, which he transformed into an earthy, colloquial German, made him the most influential purveyor to the German-speaking lands of Counter-Reformation dogma and the literature of the Catholic countries.

3 volumes in one, 4to. Contemporary parchment.

See more: Medina
3) **RICHEOME, Louis.** *Trois discours pour la religion catholique: des Miracles, des Saints & des Images.* Rouen: Jean Osmont, 1604. $800

An important exposition of Jesuit emblematics by one of their most talented polemicists. The text, in three parts, treating miracles, saints, and images, is a response to Protestants’ claims that miracles had long since ceased to exist, and that both the veneration of saints and worship using images constituted idolatry.

Richeome argues that the line between permissible reverence of images and idolatry lies not in the images themselves but in the uses made of them. He methodically reviews historical Catholic imagery of God, both pictorial and metaphorical, and traditional symbolic imagery for Jesus, the Holy Spirit, angels, the devil, the virtues and vices, the Virgin, Saints, and so on. In doing so he sets forth a coherent theory of imagery that was to prove central to both the Jesuit mission and to emblematic theory itself.

12mo. Contemporary parchment.

See more: Richeome
Sharpening young tongues

4) [GILLES DE NOYERS, Jean], pseudonym NUCERIN. Proverbes communs, et belles sentences pour familièrement parler Latin & Francois a tous propos. Paris: Pierre Ménier II, [ca. 1605].

$3800

1000 French proverbs with Latin translations, alphabetically arranged. Cheaply printed for quick sales and little pockets, this edition, intended for juvenile readers, provides a convenient shortcut to wisdom and wit.

16mo. Morocco. From the library of the great Spanish bibliophile Joachim Gomez de la Cortina.

See more: Gilles de Noyers
A recusant best-seller

5) AUGUSTINUS, Aurelius. *Confessionum Libri tredecim*. Rouen: Romain de Beauvais, 1608. $650

Pocket edition of the Confessions of Saint Augustine, printed in Rouen, probably for the English Catholic market. The Confessions were a “recusant favourite,” but the first English translation (published in Saint-Omer) did not appear until 1620.

16mo. Contemporary parchment.

See more: Augustine
6) **PALEOTTI, Alfonso.** *Tableau de mortification.* [Paris]: Eustache Foucault, 1609. $1700

First Edition in French, enlarged from the original Italian, of an exhaustive illustrated treatise on Christ’s wounds, bound for a member of a confraternity.

16mo. Engravings. Contemporary calf (or sheep) with gold-stamped *Arma Christi*.

See more: Paleotti
An overlooked Americanum

7) **TOMÁS DE JÉSUS.** *Stimulus missionum.* Rome: Giacomo Mascardi, 1610. $3200

*Only Edition* of an important manifesto of missiology by a one-time Andalusian Carmelite hermit, who became an active founder of monasteries throughout Europe and one of the most important Carmelite theologians of the seventeenth century. His efforts paved the way for the Congregatio de Propaganda Fide.

The work includes a brief reference to Christopher Columbus and activities of the Franciscan missionaries in the Americas.

8vo. Contemporary parchment.

See more: [Tomas de Jesus](#)
Animals and painters loved her


*Only Edition* of an illustrated hagiography and miracle book of a well-loved Genoese saint, patron of travelers, coachmen and mule-drivers. A Cypriot from a noble family, Limbania supposedly fled her home at the age of twelve to avoid a forced marriage. Several miracles brought her to her final home in Genoa. She was a favorite subject of painters. No copies in OCLC.

4to. Four full-page engravings. 18th-century boards.

See more: Vannini
9) **BRUSCAMBILLE.** *Facecieuses paradoxes.* Rouen: Thomas Maillard, 1615. [And] *Les Oeuvres ... contenans ses Fantasies, Imaginations & Paradoxes.* Rouen: M. de La Motte, 1635.


A RARE QUARTET OF FRENCH SILLINESS, comprising most of the farcical discourses of the comic actor (probably Nicolas Deslauriers) known on stage as Bruscambille, whose witty harangues and amphigoric riffs were filled with alliterations, free associations, double entendres, and many nonsense phrases, and peppered with scatalogical and sexual jokes. With a joke book and a French rhymed version of the widely disseminated medieval guide to health and diet, the *Regimen Sanitatis Salernitanum.*

4 works in two volumes, 12mo, 18th-century calf gilt.

See more: [Bruscambille](#)
10) WAEL, Job van der. Schiedams Rood Roosjens spel, van David ende Goliath. Rotterdam: Bastiaensz, 1619. $1400

ONLY EDITION of a play drawing poetic parallels between the Dutch Republic and legendary Jewish history. The play was performed as part of a competition hosted by that town’s rhetorical chamber, the “Rood Roosjen” (red rose). David represents the popular stadtholder Maurits of Nassau, Prince of Orange, who had successfully defended the northern Netherlands against the Catholic Spanish, and Goliath stood in of course for the Spanish.

While the Old Testament history of the Jews was evoked widely in Calvinist and Puritan Europe, in the Netherlands it took on a particularly positive resonance, becoming a “foundational myth for all the Republic.” No copies in US libraries.

4to. Later wrappers.

See more: Wael
11) VAN DE VENNE, Adriaen, artist — CATS, Jacob. *Tooneel van de Mannelicke Achtbaerheyt*. Middelburg: Jan van der Hellen for Jan van de Venne, 1622. $1250

FIRST EDITION of Cats’ retelling of the Biblical tale of Queen Vasthi, the wife of Ahasuerus, who refused her husband’s summons to appear before his guests wearing only the royal crown, and who was duly punished.

In a Dutch version of the *querelle des femmes*, the first part of Cats’ word-playing verse version is a long speech in defense of the Queen, and of all women, followed by a speech against her and in favor of “Manly Respectability.”

Cats’ usual partner Adriaen van de Venne supplied the engravings of this work, which was published by Adriaen’s brother Jan. These prints, notably the scene of Candaules’ naked wife being surprised by Gyges, served as models for several painters.

4to. Four half-page engravings. Later parchment.

See more: Van de Venne
A high spot of Dutch illustration


*The way of eternal life* by the Jesuit Sucquet, provincial of Flanders and Belgium from 1619-1623, is “a sort of practical guide for the use of young novices of the Society of Jesus.” Translated by Gerardus Zoes, this second edition in Dutch is enlarged from the 1620 edition, published the same year as the first Latin edition. The book’s popularity is in part due to the hallucinatory and beautiful illustrations by the great baroque engraver Boëce van Bolswert.

The vernacular editions have a lower survival rate than those in Latin. OCLC locates no copies of this edition in American libraries.


See more: Sucquet
13) CAMPEGGI, Ridolfo; Girolamo TORTOLETTI. La destruttione di Gierusalemme... e la prigionia del Santo Sepolcro di Christo. Rome: Grignani, 1628. $850

Two politically loaded poems on Jerusalem: first edition of Campeggi’s heart-rending verse account of the siege and destruction of Jerusalem by the Romans in AD 70, with the second edition of Tortoletti’s poem, in which the personified Jerusalem, captive under Islamic rule, addresses Rome.

Small 8vo. Wrappers.

See more: Campeggi
“Culmination and summary” of Renaissance image theory (Gombrich)

14) GIARDA, Cristoforo. Bibliothecae Alexandrinae Icones symbolicae ... elogiis illustratae. Milan: Bidelli, 1628. $3000

FIRST EDITION, second issue, of a KEY EXPOSITION OF A NEO-PLATONIC PHILOSOPHY OF IMAGES. The text records a series of lectures delivered in 1626 by Giarda, a Barnabite cleric at the college of S. Alessandro in Milan, on the subject of the Liberal Arts, pictures of which adorned the reading room of the newly erected college library. Preceding Giarda’s descriptions of each of these allegorical figures is a eulogy of the art of symbolic images, developing a Neo-Platonic tradition which viewed visual symbols as paths to understanding of the divinity.


See more: Giarda
15) **CONFRATERNITY BINDING** — *Nouveau livre d’Eglise à l’usage de Rome*. Paris: Pierre Rocolet (and others), 1644. $1800

Personalized copy of a lavishly printed illustrated pocket breviary.

12mo. Red and black printing. Engraved frontispiece and 12 engraved plates. Contemporary calf with gold-tooled instruments of the Passion and the owner’s gold-stamped name (Charles de Meru).

See more: [Confraternity binding](#)
Previously unknown edition

16) MITELLI, Agostino. 24 etched designs for cartouches and other ornaments. [Milan: Giovanni Battista Paganelli, after 1650].

$2750

A rare and previously overlooked edition of a suite of 24 etchings reproducing Mitelli’s first series of decorative “cartouches” or frames.

Published descriptions of the various editions of this series of 24 cartouche designs, none of which were etched by Mitelli himself, have been wildly inaccurate, in part because sets often mix etchings from different editions. This copy consists of a uniform or “pure” series of plates. Only two other copies are recorded.

24 unnumbered plates of etchings after Mitelli by an unknown engraver, most printed in brown ink (bistre). Modern boards.

See more: Mitelli
Eminently quotable


A complete copy, with both parts, of One of the most cynical and entertaining of conduct books. Bound together here are a London copy (or counterfeit) of the considerably enlarged sixth edition of the first part; and one of three editions of undetermined priority of the Second Part.

2 volumes in one, 12mo. Contemporary blind-paneled calf.

See more: Osborne
A French engineer working against his countrymen


ONLY EDITION of a scarce treatise on fortress construction, with sections on military strategy and siege warfare, by a Burgundian military engineer who had settled in Milan.

In four books, illustrated with woodcuts and folding etched plates, Ruggiero’s treatise addresses the basic rules of geometry for surveying, the construction of fortifications, fortress defense, and general military tactics.

4to. Etched title, 15 folding etched plates, woodcut diagrams. Contemporary parchment.

See more: Ruggiero

ONLY EDITION of an eccentric treatise on female looks. Vaenius derives his canon of beauty from verses of the Song of Songs, and compares facial types to different animals. A BIBLIOPHILES’ COPY IN CITRON MOROCCO.

8vo. 28 engraved illustrations. 18th-century French morocco.

See more: [Vaenius](#)
Macarons and early dance notation

20) ARENA, Antoine de. *Ad suos compagnones studiantes, qui sunt de persona friantes, bassas Dansas & Branlos practicantes, nouvellos quamplurimos mandat* [and other poems]. [Lyon?]: “Stampatus in Stampatura Stampatorum,” 1670. $1800

Most complete edition of one of the earliest collections of macaronic poetry. Arena was a dance teacher and several poems relate to dance. The work is celebrated for his valuable descriptions of and coded choreographic notation of the “basse-danse,” the most popular dance form in France and England from the mid-15th to mid-16th century.

12mo. 18th-century French morocco.

See more: Arena
FIRST EDITION of an important proverb collection by the naturalist and theologian. Many of the proverbs were expurgated from subsequent editions. Ray analyses the proverbs’ origins, and the validity of those relating to health, husbandry, and other practical matters. He traces many proverbs to Latin, Italian, Greek or French sources, making the book a fascinating read still today.

8vo. Contemporary sheep, printed waste pastedown with a flap from the same text.

See more: Ray


*FIRST EDITION* of an account of the Imperial Holy League’s Hungarian campaign against the Turks, couched as a series of letters to a lady. The writer describes the Battle of Mohács, and subsequent movements of the armies, incongruously lacing troop movements with reflections on love. No copies in US libraries.

Bound at end is a poem celebrating the birth of a new Visconti.

2 works in one volume, 12mo. Contemporary Italian calf gold-tooled to a fan design.

See more: [Cattaneo](#)
Hidden splendor


FIRST EDITION of this translation of St. Augustine’s *De spiritu et littera*, by the Academician Philippe Dubois.

The sober goatskin binding opens to reveal flashy German brocade floral endpapers.

12mo. 18th-century French dark blue Jansenist morocco.

See more: [Augustine](#)

End