THE GENIUS OF ARABIC CIVILISATION
SOURCE OF RENAISSANCE
Spring Catalogue 2015
Two great works of Islamic medicine by Ibn Zuhr and Ibn Rushd

1. **AVERROES & AVENZOHAR.** Colliget Aver. Habes in hoc Volumine...Abhomeron Abinzoar librum theysir...Habes et Averrois Libri Colliget.

   *Venice, Heirs of O.Scotius 1530*

Folio, 29.8 x 21.0cm, limp vellum with yapp edges, 108 leaves, title page with fine woodcut of an Arab scholar seated on an eastern rug reading a manuscript and printers woodcut device, printed in double columns, printed marginalia, woodcut initials, annotations in ink in Latin in the margins in a contemporary hand on ff.71 and 82, last few leaves frayed on outer margin with old damp stains unaffected the text.

*Printing & the Mind of Man, see 24 [1st printing of Colliget of Ferrara 1482]*


£19,500

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**TWO GREAT WORKS OF ISLAMIC MEDICINE** **BY IBN ZUHR AND IBN RUSHD,**
known in the West as Avenzoar and Averroes, edited by Hieronymus Surianus.

Firstly on ff.2-44 is Ibn Zuhr’s *Kitabal-taysirfi’-mudawat wa’-tadhir* [The Book Facilitating the Study of Therapy and Diet] which is among the most celebrated products of Islamic medicine in Andalusia and is here translated into Latin.

Abu Marwan Abd al-Malik Ibn Zuhr, یزه بن الملك عبدهمواء أو was born at Seville, Spain in 1091. He graduated from Cordova Medical University. After a brief stay in Baghdad and Cairo, he returned to Spain and worked for Almoravides as a physician. Later, Ibn Zuhr
worked for 'Abd al-Mu'min, the first Muwashid ruler, both as physician and a minister. He devoted his career in Seville and died in 1161. The Ibn Zuhr family established itself as a leading medical family in the 11th and 12th centuries and Abu Marwan was the most famous of its members and the greatest physician of the Western Caliphate. He described the itch-mite, serious pericarditis, mediastinal abscess, pharyngeal paralysis and otitis media. He was the first to attempt total extirpation of the uterus. He anticipated the modern stomach tube and advocated rectal feeding. He carefully described, but did not perform, lithotomy and apparently is the first to mention lithotrite.

Secondly from ff.45 is Averroes Kitab al-Kulyat fi al-Tibb [The Book of General Principles] which was to become famous in the West. It is an attempt to found a system of medicine upon the neo-Platonic modification of Aristotle’s philosophy. Ibn Rushd was the last of the great Islamic physicians.

Abu’l Walid Muhammad ibn Ahmad ibn Muhammad ibn Rushd was born in 1128 in Cordova and died in 1198. He has been held as one of the greatest thinkers and scientists of the 12th century. He made remarkable contributions in philosophy, logic, medicine, music and jurisprudence. He is renowned for his great studies and commentaries on Aristotle which earned him the name ‘The Commentator’. In medicine his well known book Kitab al-Kulyat fi al-Tibb was written before 1162. Its Latin translation was known as 'Colliget'. In it, Ibn Rushd has thrown light on various aspects of medicine, including the diagnoses, cure and prevention of diseases. The book concentrates on specific areas in comparison to Ibn Sina’s [Avicenna] wider scope of al-Qanun, but contains several original observations.
Introductory Manual to *Lingua Arabica*

2. **DOMINICUS GERMANO** of Silesia. Fabrica Overo Ditionario Della lingua volgare Arabica, et Italiana, Copioso de voci; & locutoni, con osseruare lafrase dell’una lingua.

*Rome, Congregationis de Propag.Fide 1636*

Quarto, contemporary vellum, pp.(10) + 102, Arabic and Italian throughout, title with printers woodcut device, some browning throughout, an excellent copy


£2,250

*FIRST EDITION* of this rare Arabic manual printed in Rome at the Propoganda de Fidei Press. Dominicus was the editor of the famous Arabic-Latin dictionary printed in the same press in 1639. Father Germanus [1585-1670] succeeded Obicini as Lector of Arabic and as a collaborator on the Arabic Bible project. He later stayed for a time in Persia and ended his life as a scholar in Madrid. There he left his manuscript of an unfinished Qur’an translation and grammatical treatises of Persian and Turkish. The Propaganda Press was founded in 1622 and in 1626 a true printing house was established together with a foundry named after the Congregatio. To its stock were added exotic types from the Stamperia Vaticana. The Press printed missals, grammars, dictionaries and *Alphabeta.*
Syriac-Arabic Dictionary of Elias of Nisibis

3. **ELIAS BAR SHINAYA OF NISIBIS**, edited by **OBICINI, Thomas**. Thesaurus Arabico-Syro-Latinus.
   *Rome, Congregationis de Propag.Fide* 1636.

Octavo, contemporary vellum; pp. (6), 447, pp. (44), Syriac, Arabic and Latin text throughout, woodcut printers device to title, woodcuts to chapter endings, some paper browning throughout, a good copy.


£1,650

FIRST EDITION of the Syriac-Arabic dictionary arranged according to subjects originally compiled in the 11th century by Elias bar Shinaya, Metropolitan of Nisibis, edited with a Latin translation by Obicini. It was published by Obicini’s pupil Germanus de Silesia, author of an Arabic Grammar and an Italian-Arabic dictionary. It is dedicated by Achilles Venerius to Cardinal Barbarini. The Syriac types are the 20pt Maronite types and the Arabic of the text Granjon’s *arabe du kitāb al-Bustān*.

Thomas Obicini (1585-1632) from Novara, was abbot of the Franciscan convent at Aleppo. In 1621 he returned to Rome and became first lector of Arabic in the St Peter Convent. He was responsible for the supervision of the type designs of Oriental types at the Propaganda Press. The author warns the reader against irregularities in the text, owing to the difficulties
in printing Arabic texts, and the new type. The Propaganda Press was founded in 1622 and in
1626 a true printing house was established together with a foundry named after the
Congregatio. To its stock were added exotic types from the Stamperia Vaticana. The Press
printed missals, grammars, dictionaries and *Alphabeta*.

‘Perhaps the most elaborate French treatise
on arithmetic published in the 16th century’

4. FORCADEL, Pierre. *L’Arithmeticque de P. Forcadel, de Beziers. En laquelle sont
traictes quatre reigles briefues, qui contiennent les deux cents quarante anciennes: &
plusieurs autres reigles, pour l’exercice des nombres entiers, par lesquels on peut
facilement paruenir à la connoissance de l’Agebre. Le tout de l’inuent[ion dudiĉt
Forcadel...Le Second Livre...Le Troyesiesme Livre...*Paris, Chez Guillaume Cauellar, à l’enseigne de la Poulle grasse, deuant le college de
Cambray 1557, 1557, 1558

Three volumes bound in one volume, quarto, 20.0 x 14.5cm, contemporary blind stamped
calf, spine with four raised bands, skilful old repairs to head and tail of spine, ff.[6], 93, [1]
errata on recto of final leaf; pp.(6), 310, (1); ff.4, 111, (1), full title page to each volume with
printer’s device of a cockrel within an elaborate decorated border, larger printer’s device of a
cockrel within an oval border to last leaf of each volume [the final one hand coloured],
historiated woodcut initials, many woodcut diagrams and typeset mathematical formulae, *iii
and *iv in volume I misbound to the end of volume I, skilful paper repair to lower blank
margin to title of volume I, faint dampstain in the lower margin of some leaves, privilege is
in volume III dated June 1557, text in Middle French throughout, an excellent copy.
*Very rare NUC, RLIN and OCLC record copies only at Columbia, Brown & Harvard.
£4,500

First edition, second state, complete with the very rare third volume [first state is dated 1556,
1556, 1557] Dedicated to Michel de l’Hospital dated 27th February 1555 in volume I, 15th
July in volume II and to Cardinal de Lorraine 2nd July 1557 in volume III.
Pierre Forcadel of Beziers [died 1574], protégé of Ramus, was professor of mathematics in
the Collège Royal, Paris in 1560. He was the first to teach mathematics in the French
language. He also wrote on astronomy and translated the works of several Greek
mathematicians, notably producing the first French Euclid, published by Cavellat in 1564. Smith describes this work here ‘perhaps the most elaborate French treatise on arithmetic published in the 16th century’. Relying on the recent algebra of Cardano and Stifel’s calculus, Forcadel gives a theoretical account of arithmetical calculations and rules, comparable to Tunstall and Tartaglia. A sophisticated work in the theory of arithmetic, the book is an unusually fine example of 16th century French book design, with complicated equations laid out in fine configurations.

Early printing of Galen’s medical works with annotations in a contemporary hand throughout.


*Basel, [Andream Cratandrum] 1529*
Thick folio, 320 x 201cm, contemporary blind stamped vellum over boards, head of spine skilfully repaired, pp.(64) + 553 + (1) colophon + (2) with woodcut printers device to verso of final leaf and to title, the first page of text printed with historiated woodcut border signed I F, woodcut initials to chapter openings, **neat annotations in ink in the margins throughout nearly all the leaves in a contemporary hand**, unidentified early ownership in ink in the upper right blank margin of the title, title skilfully remargined at an early period, 19th century library stamp of *Birmingham Hospital Library* on title and in blank lower margins of some leaves, some soiling and damp stains, engraved armorial bookplate of *Johnstone* to inner board, a large copy with wide margins.


£4,850

Provenance: Early ownership in ink on title; *Johnstone*, armorial bookplate, either Edward Johnstone [1757-1851], physician, first President of the provincial Medical & Surgical Association, one of the original physicians of the Birmingham General Hospital; or his brother John Johnstone [1768-1836] physician at the General Hospital. Gifted to Birmingham General Hospital, founded 1779, whose books were gifted to Birmingham Medical Institute Library, founded 1875.
First edition of this early printing of Galen’s medical works, edited by Andreas Leenius, includes three texts translated by Erasmus, and texts by Thomas Linacre, William Koch, Nic.Leonicenus of Vicenza, Antonius Fortolus, as well as Latin versions of Hippocrates; Aphorismi and Prognostica.

Our copy is annotated throughout in ink in a contemporary humanist hand, the annotations extending to virtually every page of the book and the annotations are entirely untrimmed. It was later owned by an 18th century physician who gifted it to his hospital.

From the 11th century onwards, Latin translations of Islamic medical texts began to appear in the West, alongside the Salerno school of thought, and were soon incorporated into the curriculum at the universities of Naples and Montpellier. From that time, Galenism took on a new, unquestioned authority, Galen even being referred to as the "Medical Pope of the Middle Ages". Constantine the African was amongst those who translated both Hippocrates and Galen from Arabic. In addition to the more numerous translations of Arabic texts in this period, there were a few translations of Galenic works directly from the Greek, such as Burgundio of Pisa's translation of De complexionibus. Galen's works on anatomy and medicine became the mainstay of the medieval physician's university curriculum, alongside Ibn Sina's The Canon of Medicine, which elaborated on Galen's works. Unlike pagan Rome, Christian Europe did not exercise a universal prohibition of the dissection and autopsy of the human body and such examinations were carried out regularly from at least the 13th century.

However, Galen's influence was so great that when dissections discovered anomalies compared with Galen's anatomy, the physicians often tried to fit these into the Galenic system. An example of this is Mondino de Liuzzi, who describes rudimentary blood circulation in his writings but still asserts that the left ventricle should contain air. Some cited these changes as proof that human anatomy had changed since the time of Galen.

Taking Hippocrates’ notions of the humours and pathology, Galen incorporated the anatomical knowledge of noted Alexandrians such as Herophilus of Chalcedon (335-280 B.C.E.). A supporter of observation and reasoning, he was one of the first experimental physiologists, researching the function of the kidneys and the spinal cord in controlled experiments.

Galen’s works in many ways came to symbolize Greek medicine to the medical scholars of Europe and the Middle East for the next fifteen centuries. His message of observation and experimentation were largely lost, however, and his theories became dogma throughout the West. In the mid-16th century, however, his message that observation and investigation were required for through medical research began to emerge, and modern methods of such research finally arose.

“Galen [AD 130-201] was the most voluminous of all ancient medical writers. For nearly fifteen hundred years his authority was unassailable...His disciples throughout the centuries disregarded his work as an experimentalist, but admired him as a philosopher and regarded his works as infallible dogma...He wrote in Greek, but his works were early translated into Arabic, thence into Hebrew and Latin and thus reached the West.” PMM
‘The Father of Medicine’ – a physician’s copy

6. **HIPPOCRATES.** (c.460-c.375 BC) Octoginta volumina.

*Rome, Franciscus Minutius Calvus 1525*

Folio, 280 x 205 cm, late 18th or early 19th century morocco, stained, spine gilt, darkened, lettered gilt, contemporary marbled endpapers, 410 leaves, woodcut title page border entirely unshaved at the top and rarely found thus, Roman, italic and gothic types, table of contents in double columns, index in three columns, printed shoulder notes, large woodcut initials, some browning and old damp staining to upper margins throughout, insignificant wormhole to upper margin of last few leaves, engraved armorial bookplate of *Johnstone* to front pastedown, library stamp to lower blank margins of nine leaves, complete with colophon and final blank, an excellent large copy.


£40,000

Provenance:*Johnstone*, armorial bookplate, either Edward Johnstone [1757-1851], physician, first President of the provincial Medical & Surgical Association, one of the original physicians of the Birmingham General Hospital; or his brother John Johnstone [1768-1836] physician at the General Hospital. Gifted to Birmingham General Hospital, founded 1779, whose books were gifted to Birmingham Medical Institute Library founded 1875

**FIRST EDITION OF THE FIRST COMPLETE LATIN EDITION OF THE WORKS OF THE GREATEST OF CLINICAL PHYSICIANS.**

An important and interesting copy, *with the woodcut title entirely unshaved* and a copy belonging to an 18th century English physician who gifted it to his local hospital.
The Greek physician Hippocrates was regarded as the ‘Father of Medicine’ because he was the first to insist that the art of healing depended on scientific method and ethical observation. Probably born on the island of Cos, where there was some sort of medical school linked with the cult of Aesculapius. There he is said to have taught under a plane tree. The so-called Hippocratic collection, which almost certainly comprises not only his own work but that of pupils and followers, consists of more than seventy books on medicine, of which the *Aphorisms* and the *Airs, Waters and Places* are among the most important: the section on epidemics is of great interest as are the clinical descriptions such as pneumonia, malaria and mumps. Descriptions of the ancient instruments are an interesting part of the surgical writings. Hippocrates proscribed a code of medical ethics for his disciples, summarised in the traditional Hippocratic Oath still administered today to physicians on qualification.

“The ‘Hippocratic collection’...contains eighty works. They include contributions by various authors and schools but all are inspired by Hippocratic ideals...The first Greek edition was published by Aldus in 1526” PMM

Marcus Fabio Calvo of Ravenna, a friend of Raphael, prepared a complete Latin translation of the Hippocratic corpus, collating and writing out his own manuscript of the Greek text, depending on mainly a 14th century manuscript, but also consulting a 12th century codex that is one of the oldest and most important Hippocratic manuscripts. The source manuscripts and Calvo’s Greek text and Latin translation are preserved in the Vatican Library. The bookseller and printer Francesco Calvo printed Marcus Fabio Calvo’s Latin translation of Hippocrates in Rome in 1525.
original green printed paper covers bound in; pp.(4) + 100 + 657; (4) + 460 + (4); (4) + x + 24 + 293, large folding engraved plate of a horse and harness, text in French with some Arabic, index in volume 3 in Arabic and French, two woodcuts in the text, a few stains, a fine copy.


£4,000

FIRST FRENCH TRANSLATION OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ARABIC AND MEDIEVAL TREATISE ON AGRICULTURE by Ibn al-‘Awwam, Hispano-Muslim agriculturalist who flourished in Seville about the end of the 12th century. Topics covered in detail include medicinal plants, species of plants, soil, farming techniques, husbandry, methods of cultivation, tillage, irrigation, agronomy, share-cropping, gardening and landscaping, plant sex life, and fertilization.

“It is divided into 34 chapters, of which the first 30 deal with agriculture proper, and the last four with cattle and poultry raising and apiculture. It is based on Greek and Arabic writings, but also practical knowledge. The main source was probably Ibn Wahshiya [first half of the 10th century]; in fact, Ibn Khaldun speaks of Ibn al-‘Awwam’s work as if it were only a summary of Al-falaha al-nabatiya, but this is wrong. Ibn al-‘Awwam’s treatise deal with 585 plants, and explains the cultivation of more than fifty different fruit trees. It contains striking observations on the different kinds of soil and manure and their respective properties, on various methods of grafting, on sympathies and antipathies between plants. The symptoms of many diseases of trees and vines are indicated, as are also methods of cure.” Sarton

“Ibn al-‘Awwām’s Kitāb al-filāḥa is, without doubt, the most comprehensive agricultural treatise in Arabic. He gathers all the knowledge of his time concerning agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry into a huge compendium of excerpts from all the previous agronomical traditions and treatises. From 112 named authors (Ibn al-‘Awwām, Banqueri 1802, I, pp. 61-2) he includes one thousand nine hundred direct and indirect citations – 615 or 32.5% from Byzantine sources, especially from Cassianus Bassus, 585 or 31% from Near Eastern sources, 85% of which are from Ibn Wahshīya, and 690 citations or 36.5 % from earlier Andalusi agronomists (Glick 2005, pp. 12-13). To these he often adds his own observations and experiences, about which he says: “As for my own contribution, I put forward nothing that I have not first proved by experiment on repeated occasions” (Ibn al-‘Awwām, Clément-Mullet 1866, I, p. 9). He records, for example, his experiments in grafting the wild olive of the mountains with the domesticated olive of the plain, and his successful cultivation of saffron, under irrigation, in the mountains.” Filāḥa Texts Project

The original text was found in a manuscript in the Escurial Library in the 18th century, it was published in Spanish translation in Madrid in 1802, and subsequently here in the French translation.
Justinian’s Codification of Roman Law
“the most notable and enduring achievement of the age”,
8. JUSTINIAN I. Codex Justinianus [with the Glossa ordinaria of Accursius and the
Summaria of Hieronymous Clarius]
Venice, Bernardinus Stagninus de Tridino 16 Sept 1495
Folio, 15.5 x 10.3 inches, 16th century blind stamped alum-yawed pigskin with the clasps,
skilful repairs to hinges and top of spine, leaf edges blue, 318ff. printed in two columns
within two columns of glosses, 72 to 82 lines, printed in black and red, discreet library stamp
on first leaf, a few contemporary annotations in ink the margins on ff.37, 41, 42, 58, 182,
184, 185, 198, 199, early ownership in brown ink on first blank of Schwarz, a fresh copy.
USA Univ of Illinois only [Goff J585]. UK no copy. GW 7743 Hain 9618, BSB-Ink C573 see
Printing & the Mind of Man no.4. Not in the BL but see BL, XVth century books, V, p.xxx,
p.363 for the printer.
£9,500

INCUNABLE PRINTING OF EMPEROR JUSTINIAN’S CODEX.
The Codex Justinianus [first printed in Mainz 1475] was the first of four parts of what
became known as the Corpus Juris Civilis, a collection of fundamental works on Roman law
that was issued from 529 to 534 AD by order of Justinian I, Eastern Roman Emperor. It has
been called “the most notable and enduring achievement of the age”, in which “the old
(Roman) imperium displayed its full powers” (George Ostrogorsky, History of the Byzantine
State). The codex was a compilation in Latin of the existing imperial constitutiones (imperial
pronouncements having the force of law), back to the time of Emperor Hadrian in the second
century. Although the other parts, the Digest [Rome 1476] and the Institutes [Mainz 1468]
and the Novellae [Mainz 1477], were arguably more original, containing an important
anthology of jurisprudence, a handbook for teaching and a list of the most recent decrees,
everything rested on the laws contained in the Codex; indeed at the time of the publication of
its first version all imperial laws not included were repealed.
The collections of Justinian provided the basis for law thereafter in the eastern Roman
[Byzantine] empire. They were rediscovered in the West in the late eleventh century.
Because the emphases in the Codex were both Christian and Imperial, it provided source
material for church lawyers, in the greatest period of the development of canon law, and for civil lawyers, at a time when the Holy Roman Emperors were keen to develop their authority. It appealed, therefore, to a wide range of lawyers, the most famous on the civil side being Accursius [c.1182-c.1260], a professor at Bologna, the greatest law university of the middle ages, and a leading jurist. “For the next 500 years the Glossa [or annotations] of Accursius remained an indispensable complement to the texts of Roman law. His work made Roman law a popular course of study during the Renaissance period. Accursius’s interpretations of Roman law also influenced the development of later European legal codes, among them the Code Napoléon, or French Civil Code, enacted in the early 19th century.” Encycl Britannica.

The printer was Bernardinus Stagninus, de Tridino, [died 1537]. The earliest authenticated book from his press is Rhazes Liber...ad Almansorem 1483. Although the BL does not have a copy of this 1495 printing of the Codex, they have a printing by the same printer of Justinian’s Digestum with commentary by Accursius. “His output was so irregular...that it is evident he was...primarily a bookseller rather than a printer”.

In recent years complete copies of incunable printings of Justinian’s Codex have been very infrequently for sale in commerce.

Halae, Impensis Orphanotrophei 1784
Quarto, contemporary quarter continental calf and boards, pp.viii + 299, folding table, printers woodcut to title page, woodcut on page 1, Latin with Syriac type throughout in the text, contemporary ownership in ink on front blank ex libris Bonaventura Guillaume, discreet small oval library stamp on recto of title, the colophon on the final leaf reads: Goettingae, Fr. Andr. Rosenbusch, Acad. Typogaphi, a fine copy.

For a history of Syriac typography see: Dr J.E.Coakley: The Typography of Syriac: A Historical Catalogue of Printing Types, 1537–1958
£500

FIRST EDITION printed at the expense of the Hallesches Waisenhaus (Halle orphanage), which was also an educational institution. Michaelis [1717-1791] was a German theologian and orientalist at Halle. He is regarded as the founder of Syriac philology. This elegant grammar includes Alphabetum vulgare, Mutata literarum, Vocalibus, Ribui, consonants, abjunctives, participles, verbs, plurals, paradigma nominum, suffixes, syntax, etc.
The first exposition of double-entry book-keeping

10. PACIOLI, Luca. Summa de Arithmetica.
   [Toscalano, Paganino de Paganini 1523]
Part one only of two, folio, 29.5 x 21.0cm, [8] + 224 numbered leaves; very fine strapwork
title-border, white on black, repeated with the first page of text; the first leaf of text with a
large woodcut initial L depicting Pacioli standing with a book before him and a pair of
compasses in his hand, identified in ink in a contemporary hand; full-page woodcut ‘tree of
proportion’ printed in red and black, full-page woodcut showing finger symbolism for
numbering, partly highlighted in contemporary colour, mathematical and geometrical
diagrams in margins, and woodcuts showing instruments and methods of measuring; printed
marginalia to one leaf just shaved (sense fully recoverable); title page and final leaf a little
frayed, a dampmark to the gutter at the head and to the outer margin throughout, stronger at
the end, scarcely entering the text; one leaf with portion of lower blank margin cut away,
another with the blank lower corner torn away, two leaves strengthened in the gutter without
touching the text, one or two minor marginal tears and a few small stains, marginal
annotations to a few leaves (see below); in all a fine copy, attractively bound in seventeenth–
century vellum, spine lettered in MS in ink, holes suggestive of clasps or chain binding to
both boards, minor cracking of vellum to upper portion of lower board, bookplate to front
pastedown; preserved in a cloth box.

Adams P8; Goldsmiths’ 15; ICA, p. 1; Kress 33; Mortimer, Italian 16th Century Books II
347; Smith, Rara Arithmetica, p. 56; not in Herwood or Montgomery.
£14,500

Second edition of Pacioli's treatise on mathematics, an exact reprint of the first edition of
Venice, 1494, containing the first printed exposition of double-entry book-keeping.
Paccioli’s name heads the several dedicatory prefaces.
‘The text is in two parts. The treatise, on geometry [excluded from the present copy] has separate signatures and foliation and a caption title. There is a brief colophon at the end of part 1 referring to the full colophon at the end of part 2’ (Mortimer). **Given the early binding on this copy, it is reasonable to consider that this first part, complete with its own colophon, was separately available from the publisher.** The treatise on double–entry book–keeping, ‘Distinctio nona, tractatus xi, De Scripturis’ which occupies leaves 197v–210v, seems to have been of particular interest to its owner; there are several manuscript marginal notes highlighting or emphasising the text, an indication, perhaps, that the book was acquired for this particular section. Certainly, the copy evidences annotation almost exclusively to section nine, ‘De Societatibus’, the divison incorporating the entry on accounting, each part of which treats of some aspect of mercantile practice, with the majority of manuscript marginalia being confined to Tractatus xi, ‘De Scripturis’.

Prior to its first publication in 1494, Pacioli had been working on the Summa de Arithmetica for a period of thirty years. Pacioli regretted the low ebb to which teaching had fallen and he thought that the fault lay in the use of improper methods and in the scarcity of available subject matter. He sought to correct these faults in the Summa. He divided the material as follows: 1. Arithmetic and algebra. 2. Their use in trade reckoning. 3. Book-keeping. 4. Money and exchange. 5. Pure and especially applied geometry.

‘Pacioli in Venice was putting the book-keeping section of the Summa in shape for publication towards the end of 1493, but that portion was certainly written some time before the date of publication... At no place did Pacioli claim originality for the double-entry system of book-keeping which he described. He specifically stated that he was merely writing down the system which had been used in Venice for over two hundred years...

‘Pacioli recommended that all business transactions should be recorded in a systematic way consisting of the debit (debito - owed to) and the credit (credito - owed by). After the merchant takes his inventory, he uses three books, the memorandum for general information on the business transactions, from which daily such information is entered briefly in the journal using debit and credit. In Venice they used Per indicating the debtor (debitore) and A denoting the creditor (creditore). A journal entry might then be Per Cash//A Capital, the...
debit being first and the two lines separating it from the credit. This information could then be transferred to the ledger, the debit being placed on the left under a Cash heading and the credit to the right under a Capital heading. At a given time a total of the amounts of the debit should equal a total of the amounts of the credits, giving the book-keeper in effect a trial balance’ (R. Emmett Taylor, Luca Pacioli in Studies in the History of Accounting, London, 1956).

The important first French translation by du Ryer


*Paris, Chez Antoine de Sommaville, au Palais dans la Salle des Merciers, à l’Ecu de France 1647*

Quarto, contemporary French mottled calf, a little worn, spine with five raised bands richly gilt in compartments and label lettered in gilt, head and tail of spine worn, covers with triple gilt fillets and an inner panel of triple gilt fillets embellished at the corners with fleurions in the contemporary 17th century syle *à la Duseuil*, title with engraved woodcut, pp,(10), 648, (4), with the errata leaf, dedication and privilege, woodcut initials, old faint water stain in the upper outer margin, an attractive copy.


£5,000

RARE FIRST FRENCH TRANSLATION OF THE QUR’AN AND THE FIRST COMPLETE TRANSLATION TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE VERNACULAR by André du Ryer. It inspired the later translations into English of 1649, Dutch of 1658, German 1703 and Russian 1776. André Du Ryer was French vice-consul in Egypt from 1623 to 1626, and both adviser and interpreter to the French ambassador in Istanbul and ambassador extraordinary of the sultan to France in the early 1630s. He assembled a fine collection of Turkish, Persian, and Arabic manuscripts most of which are now in the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.

Amsterdam, Jan Rieuwertz 1658

Two parts in one volume, twelvemo, contemporary vellum, engraved title frontispiece + (7) + 692pp; (2) + 125pp, a few woodcut initials, printed marginilia.

£1,150

Second printing of Qur’an in Dutch, the first translation into Dutch of du Ryer’s French translation of the Qur’an. The second part contains an account of the Life of the Prophet.

Twelvemo, contemporary vellum, (6) + 486pp + (2), title printed in red and black with printers woodcut device, some woodcut initials, some printed marginilia, ownership in ink on the title of *Robt. St.George*. 
*British Library, Arabic Books, I, Willems 1472.* £550

The third printing of the Qur’an in French. The translation is by Andrew du Ryer who was Resident in Alexandria.

14. [QUR’AN]. The Alcoran of Mahomet, Translated out of the Arabick into French. By the Sieur Du Ryer, Lord of Malezir, and Resident for the King of France, At Alexandria. And newly Englished, for the satisfaction of all that desire to look into the Turkish vanities. To which is prefixed, the Life of Mahomet, The Prophet of the Turks, and Author of the Alcoran. With a Needful Caveat, or Admonition, for them who desire to know what Use may be made of, or if there be danger in Reading The Alcoran. *London, Randal Taylor 1688*

Octavo, contemporary speckled calf, upper hinge weak but holding, blind ruled fillet, (10) + xviipp + (12) + (4) + 511pp, title within double ruled border. 
*Wing K748. British Library, Arabic Books I,887* £750

Reprint of the first English translation of the Qur’an of 1649. It was translated into English from Andrew du Ryer’s French edition of 1647. This edition contains *The Translator to the
Christian Reader; The French Epistle to the Reader; A Summary of the Religion of the Turks; the Privileges of Marseilles; and from Sultan Amurat at Constantinople; The Life and Death of Mahomet; Alexander Ross’s A needful Caveat and the whole text of the Qur’an in English.

Masterpiece of Arabic medicine on smallpox and measles


London, Guillemus Bowyer 1766

Octavo, quarter calf and contemporary marbled boards, rebacked, morocco label, spine richly gilt, pp.xiv, [2] errata, 176, Arabic and Latin text, faint library stamp to title of Birmingham Medical Institute, ownership in ink on front blank of T.Blackall, and presentation bookplate from Dr Blackall to the Birmingham Medical Institute an excellent copy.


Provenance: Dr Thomas Blackall 1814-1899, trained at St George’s Hospital, visiting physician to the Dreadnought Hospital, practiced in Mayfair; gifted to Birmingham Medical Institute Library

FIRST EDITION IN ARABIC with Latin translation, prepared by the great scholar John Channing, who did so much for editing the Arabic medical writings in the 18th century. This is the famous book on measles and smallpox, Kitab al-Jadari wa’l-Hasbat, one the masterpieces of Arabic medicine.

“The first great Moslem physician was the Persian Al-Razi, who lived from 850 to 912...an outstanding surgeon, he was the first to differentiate smallpox from measles and to write about them...” Ali Kettani.
“Ar-Razi became the greatest clinician, pathologist, medical educator, and philosopher of his time. His writings advanced the contemporary understanding of internal medicine substantially, and many of his ideas and original concepts...remain valid to-day. His discourse on smallpox and measles gained him worldwide recognition... Ar-Razi dealt with the causes of smallpox, its diagnosis and treatment...He listed the more evident symptoms of measles in addition to the appearance of spots, as perturbation, distress, and faintness – concepts in present day pathology.” Sami Hamarneh.

Arabic Grammar from Wittenberg

16. SENNERT, Andrea. Arabismus, h.e. Precepta Arabicæ Linguæ, In harmoniâ ad Ebræa, eademq; Universalia, nec non Chaldæo-Syra, (feofum antehac edita illa ab autore) conscripta, exemplis sufficiinti-busq; confirmata illustrataq;. Accessit in fine Compendium Lexici Arbici, Radicum & Vocum notabiliorum prae cæterisq, maxime usitatatum, in gratiam tyronum.

Witteberg, Jobi Wilhelmi Fincelii 1658

Quarto, 18 x 14.5 cm, old cloth boards, black morocco label lettered gilt, spine chipped, pp.8 + 166, including the errata on the last two pages, woodcut initial, decorated woodcut to chapter heading and ending, Latin with Arabic in the text throughout, extensive manuscript annotations (slightly trimmed) in an early hand in Latin and Arabic in the blank margins on many pages, leaves lightly browned, faint small old oval library stamp on recto of title, discreet old small circular stamp on title, an excellent large copy.


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FIRST EDITION OF THIS VERY RARE ARABIC GRAMMAR FROM THE WITTENBERG SCHOOL OF ORIENTALISM. Andrea Sennert (1606-1689) was a pupil of M.Trostius, became Professor of Hebrew in Wittenberg in 1636 and paid special attention to the study of Arabic.