

Contemplating the Contours of Existence



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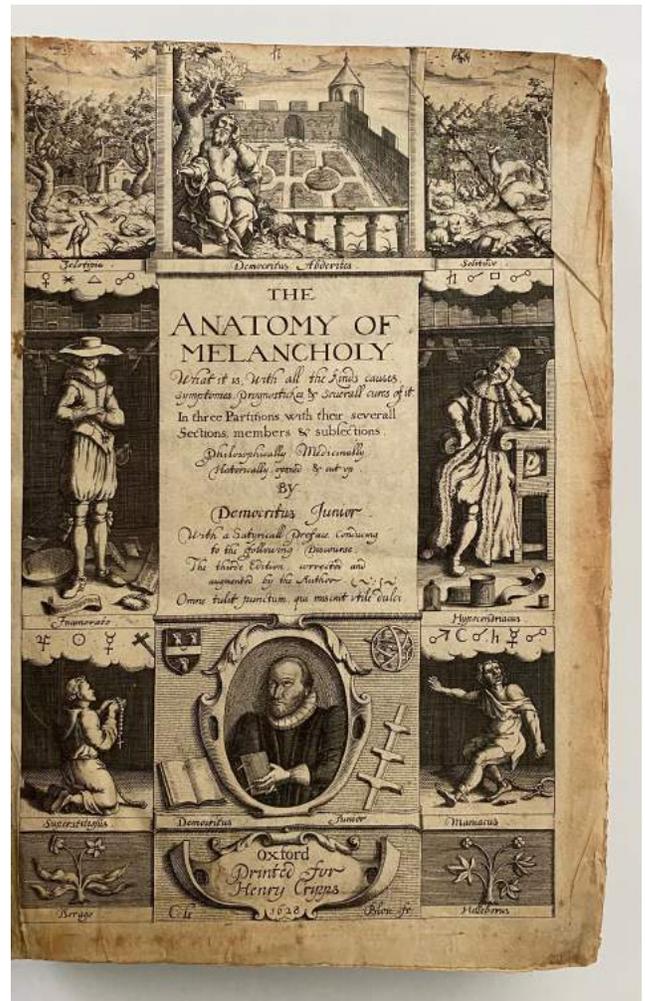
A Damned Soul

Europe, 16th century

21.4 x 14.3 cm. Executed in red chalk. A compelling 16th century study of a damned soul and a skeleton(verso). Some discoloration at the top portion of drawing. Minor marks elsewhere. Overall Very Good. Partially mounted on modern paper. A seemingly Florentine inspired design - evocative of skeletal studies done by the likes of Alessandro Allori(1535-1607). The paper has a watermark of a bird in a shield found on Neapolitan paper from the first half of the 16th century.

A rather mesmerizing and emotive work of art that leaves one in contemplative awe.

\$4,950



"He desires a fine frontispiece, enticing pictures..."

The Anatomy of Melancholy

Robert Burton

Oxford, 1628

Folio(278 x 185 mm). Third Edition, corrected and augmented by the author - it boasts the first appearance of the famed engraved title-page executed by Christian Le Blon.

[4], 77, [11], 79, 78-208, [4], 209-374, [2], 375-584, 583-646, [10] pp. Signature 2*2 misbound, colophon leaf lacking. Contemporary full calf, raised bands, red gilt leather label. Some cracking to joints, binding still sound. Title-page expertly reinforced, small tear to one image near gutter. Modest browning mainly on some early and later leaves, but

overall largely clean and bright text. Numerous decorative woodcut headpieces and initials. Armorial bookplate.

Overall, a Very Good copy of an important edition featuring the frontispiece showing Burton and images relating to melancholy: jealousy, loneliness, hypochondria, superstition, madness, and two medicinal plants - borage and hellebore.

The classic study on depression by the Oxford clergyman scholar - but the book is much more than that. It's a rich work that touches upon so many facets of life with great humor, compassion, and empathy. Burton leveraged every bit of ancient and contemporary knowledge he could from the fields of literature, philosophy, and science to create an encyclopedic tour de force. He dispenses practical, sage advice on keeping melancholy at bay that's also simply a good way to live - don't remain idle, keep up with friends, practice moderation, etc. We take this advice for granted today, but he was ahead of his time. Enormously popular in its day and released in numerous editions (Burton continually edited and expanded the work), it was a favorite of Keats, Byron, and Samuel Johnson (helping Johnson with his own relentless depression). The book evokes the poignancy of engaging in a deep, humorous, soothingly life-changing conversation about the various depressing aspects of existence with an empathetic, witty, learned friend. It's one of the greatest achievements in the English language, an eminently quotable handbook of life, and simply a wonderful book.

\$5,950

Ref: *Robert Burton's Frontispiece*, William R. Mueller
Robert Burton's The Anatomy of Melancholy, Isla Macfarlane

Peau Noire, Masques Blancs (Black Skin, White Masks)

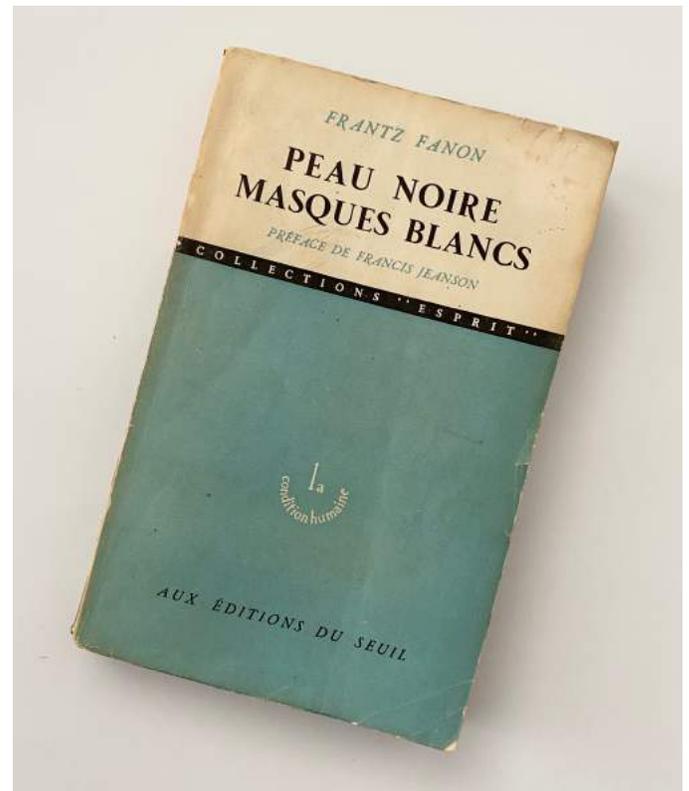
Frantz Fanon
Paris, 1952

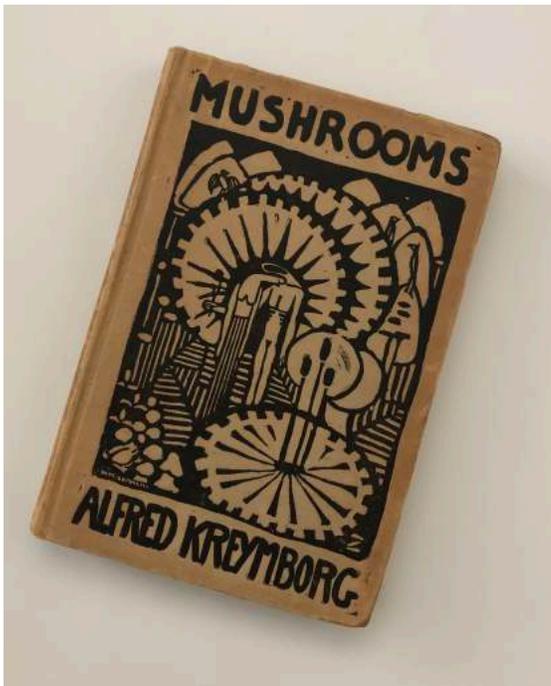
First edition, first printing of Fanon's first book. Chip to lower spine, cover edges worn with a moderate split to lower rear hinge. Usual textblock browning due to poor paper quality. Interior clean, some leaves still unopened. Overall, a Very Good copy of an uncommon and influential book.

"Though just 27 at the time of its publication, the work displays incredible literacy in major intellectual trends of the

time: psychoanalysis, existentialism, phenomenology, and dialectics, as well as, most prominently, the early Négritude movement and U.S. based critical race work in figures like Richard Wright. Modest in length, the book is notable for its enormous ambition, seeking to understand the foundations of anti-Black racism in the deepest recesses of consciousness and the social world. The book is Fanon's major work on blackness. In fact, his focus shifts in the years following the publication of *Black Skin, White Masks*, moving away from blackness as a problem—perhaps *the* problem—of the modern world and toward a wider theory of the oppressed, colonialism, and revolutionary resistance to the reach of coloniality as a system." (Stanford Philosophy)

\$975





Mushrooms

Alfred Kreymborg
New York, 1916

First edition. Illustrated tan boards, stamped in black, scattered wear to boards, unevenly toned, pages lightly toned but very clean. Overall a Very Good, sound copy. Captivating cover art by William Zorach, winner of the Logan Medal of Arts.

Inscribed by Kreymborg on front free endpaper - 'To Harry Norman Gottlieb Jr./From Alfred Kreymborg/"Then don't jot it down"/3/21/19.'(Gottlieb likely being the New York artist who did much work for the WPA in the 1930s)

Extremely rare inscribed.

Kreymborg's first full-length book of poetry. Though largely panned by his contemporaries, this and his other avant-garde works were important foundations in American modernist literature.

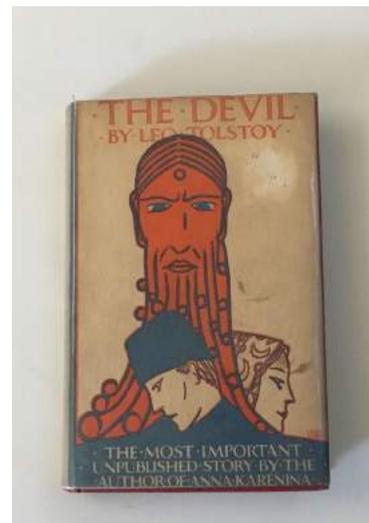
'In his prologue to *Kora in Hell* in 1920, William Carlos Williams positions Alfred Kreymborg as a central figure in the development of experimental American poetry, asserting, "The best thing that could happen for the good of poetry in the United States today would be for someone to give Alfred

Kreymborg a hundred thousand dollars. In his mind there is the determination for freedom brought into relief by a crabbedness of temper that makes him peculiarly able to value what is being done here.'"(*An American Troubadour*, Norris)

\$1,650

The Devil

Leo Tolstoy
New York, 1926



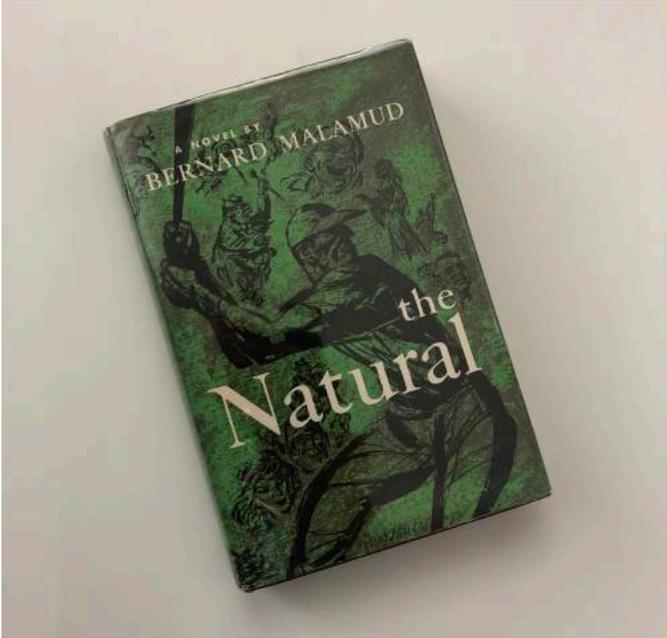
First edition in English. A semi-autobiographical work based on Leo's own sexual temptations. The unclipped jacket is rare - a scuff mark to the cover and minor miscellaneous rubbing else Near Fine. The book has a touch of lean, general dustiness to the edges, and a Shroud of Turin effect on the front cover, else Very Good. A nice example of a rare book.

"[Tolstoy] thought it so scandalous, in fact, that he hid the manuscript in the upholstery of a chair in his office so his wife wouldn't find it, and he would never allow it to be published in his lifetime."(MH Books)

\$275

The Natural

Bernard Malamud
New York, 1952

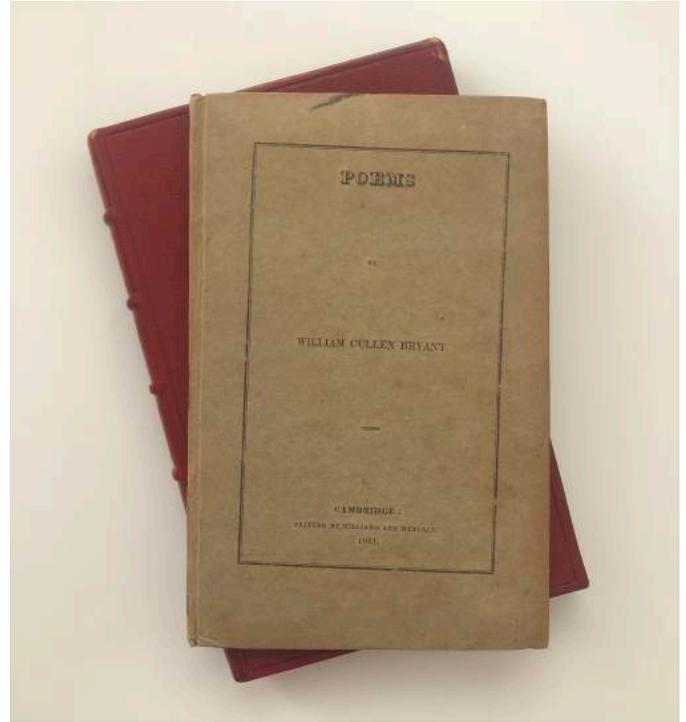


First edition, first printing. Near Fine, bright jacket - minor crinkling to spine ends and the upper portion of rear panel, spine just a touch toned. Fine red cloth book with minor bumping to spine ends and tiny dent to top edge. Inscribed and dated in the month of publication (July, 1952) on the front free end paper. This copy for his high school English teacher, the poet Florence Ripley Mastin, whose classes he described as unusually exciting. This book remained with her estate since she received it from Malamud. An important provenance involving a person uniquely influential in the author's writing development. And as you know, this book was the basis for the 1984 Robert Redford movie of the same name.

\$6,950

Poems

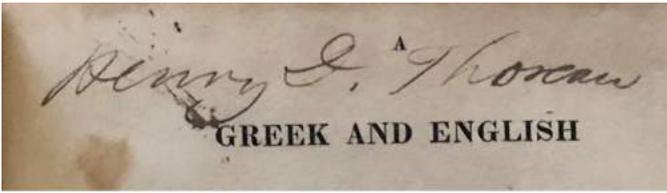
William Cullen Bryant
Cambridge, 1821



First edition, first printing - one of a mere 750 copies. Original drab printed boards, uncut. Front cover printed askance. Small mark at the top of the front cover. Very light general wear. Light scattered foxing, but still quite internally clean. An otherworldly, unrepaired, Fine copy of a book not oft found in boards and when it is, the spine is typically perished into oblivion. Chemised in custom red morocco gilt slipcase. Ex-libris Frederick W. Skiff and Estelle Doheny, legendary early 20th century book-collectors.

Contains the first complete edition of Bryant's moving rhapsody on death, *Thanatopsis*, which is generally considered to be the first great poem written by an American: "*Thanatopsis*, if not the best-known American poem abroad before the mid-19th century, certainly ranked near the top of the list, and at home school children were commonly required to recite it from memory." (Poetry Foundation)

\$3,450



A Greek and English Lexicon; adapted to the Authors Read in the Colleges and Schools of the United States, and to Other Greek Classics

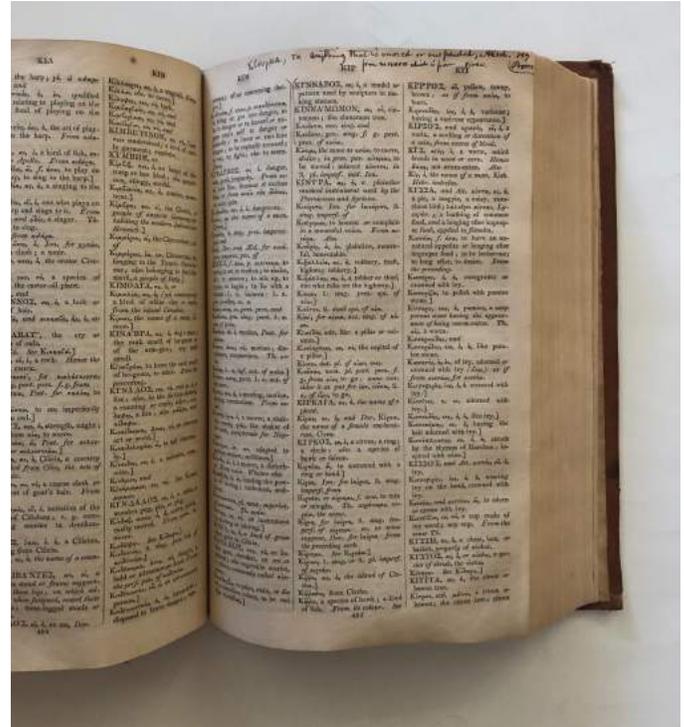
John Pickering
Boston, 1829

Second edition. Remboitage in contemporary leather binding of the same book. Concord Library stamp to title page, fore-edge a bit chipped. Pages quite clean, Very Good. HDT's ownership signature and annotations in bold ink.

The signature is an early one, sometime around 22 years of age. Thoreau had studied Greek and the Classics at Harvard, graduating in 1837 and began translating *Aeschylus* in his journal circa 1839 - his translation of Prometheus Bound would appear in the third installment of *The Dial* in 1843. This is a young Thoreau still developing as a person and an intellectual. He obviously used this book heavily, as it contains lengthy annotations on 16 pages - his additions of Greek words with definitions.

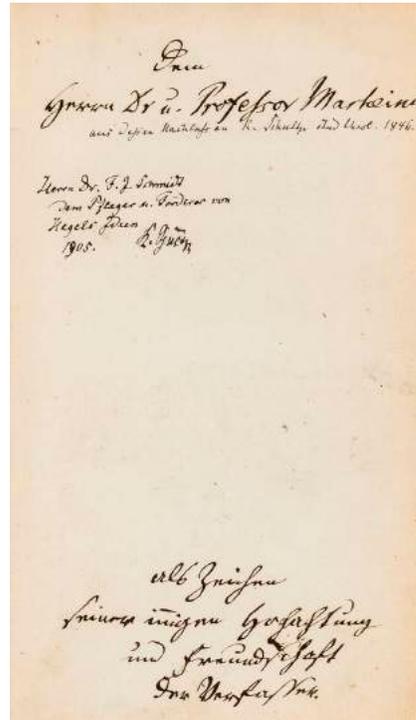
This book was gifted in 1874 by his devoted sister, Sophia, to the Concord Library and later de-accessioned by the library in 1906 and purchased by the celebrated collector Stephen H. Wakeman. It doesn't need any trinkets of imaginative dressing from me, but to go full bore, it's more than conceivable that he brought this along to Walden Pond

along with other pieces from his library. Wakeman was amongst the greatest collectors of all time in a golden era of bad and boujee collectors who continuously one-upped each other by gobbling up the choicest pieces. He was the OG Thoreau collector, amassing the largest, most comprehensive assortment of HDT items - even furniture made and used by Thoreau.



It's now over 200 years since the icon's birth, and his place in the literary firmament is fully established. What is pertinent to convey is that pieces like this will continue to be more impossible to procure the longer time expands the void between us and him. You can often pick up nice copies of HDT's books, even fragments of his manuscript leaves - though they often lack significance. This piece does have lofty significance(a book heavily used by an American legend to shape his mind) and now is your shooting star-esque window of time to own a museum piece.

\$148,000



Encyclopädie der philosophischen Wissenschaften im Grundrisse [Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences in Basic Outline] - INSCRIBED

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel
Heidelberg, 1830

An inscribed copy of Hegel's last book - a potent elucidation of his whole philosophical system.

The third and definitive edition - with improvements and a new foreword by Hegel. Preceded by two smaller editions in 1817 and 1827, he and his contemporaries considered the *Encyclopedia of the Philosophical Sciences* to be his most important work. Hegel prepared it for use during his lectures, turning the numerous thesis paragraphs into points of exploratory discussion.

Contemporary paper-covered boards with manuscript label to spine. Corners bumped, some scattered rubbing, else Very Good. Gothic letter text - the pages quite clean with just occasional light browning. A nice copy of this key work of German Idealism.

Inscribed to theologian, Philip Marheineke on front free endpaper:

"Dem Herrn Dr. u. Professor Marheineke als Zeichen seiner innigen Hochachtung und Freundschaft der Verfasser"

["To Dr. and Professor Marheineke as a mark of the author's deepest respect and friendship"]

Presentation copies from Hegel are a generational rarity - I can locate only one other inscribed work at auction in the last 30 years and none in the several decades preceding.

Philip Marheineke (1780-1846) was a prominent colleague of Hegel's, an editor of his collected works, and an eminent member of the Hegelian Right - those seeking to utilize their master's philosophy to justify Church orthodoxy. Marheineke had been a professor since 1805, and in 1811 accepted a position at the newly founded Humboldt University of Berlin, where Hegel would accept a professorship in 1818. The two were so close that Marheineke was chosen to give one of the two benedictions after Hegel's death.

After Marheineke's death in 1846, the book was inherited by theology student K. Schultze (his inscription on the endpaper and title page); in 1905 he gave it to the Berlin philosopher

Ferdinand Jakob Schmidt(1860-1939) with a gift inscription on the endpaper: "dem Pfleger u. Förderer von Hegels Ideen"["the custodian and supporter of Hegel's ideas"]. Schmidt had done his doctorate on Hegel in 1888 - a neat text correction on page 42 of this copy is made in his hand.

Whether one supported or rejected his philosophy, Hegel's significance was incontestable - he stands firmly within the pantheon of Western philosophy as one of its greatest systematic thinkers.

'Writing in 1946, [French philosopher]Merleau-Ponty declared that "all the great philosophical ideas of the past century – the philosophies of Marx and Nietzsche, phenomenology, German existentialism, and psychoanalysis – had their beginnings in Hegel."(Merleau-Ponty, *Hegel's Existentialism*, p. 63) ...

Hegel's work provides the background against which the major developments in European ideas since 1831 have emerged, and for many of the philosophers to be discussed in this book, only once they had come to terms with Hegel could their own thinking begin ... he decisively influenced the thinking of those who came after him ... so much European philosophy has been written by developing different aspects of his thought, and by providing competing approaches to problems in his terms.'(*An Introduction to Modern European Philosophy*, Stern)

A truly scarce and remarkable biblio-treasure with an electrifying provenance.

\$39,800

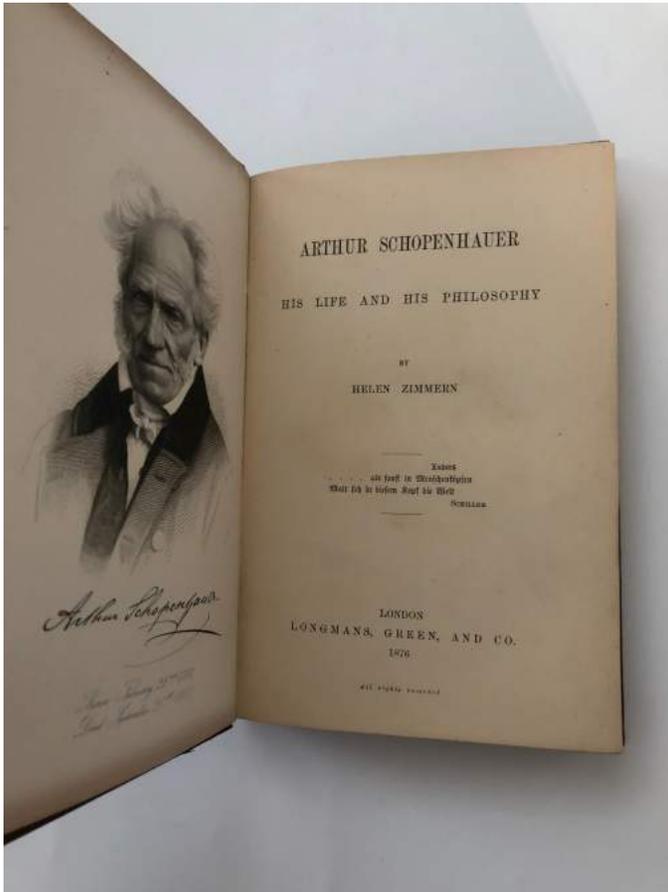
Arthur Schopenhauer: His Life and His Philosophy

Helen Zimmern

London, 1876

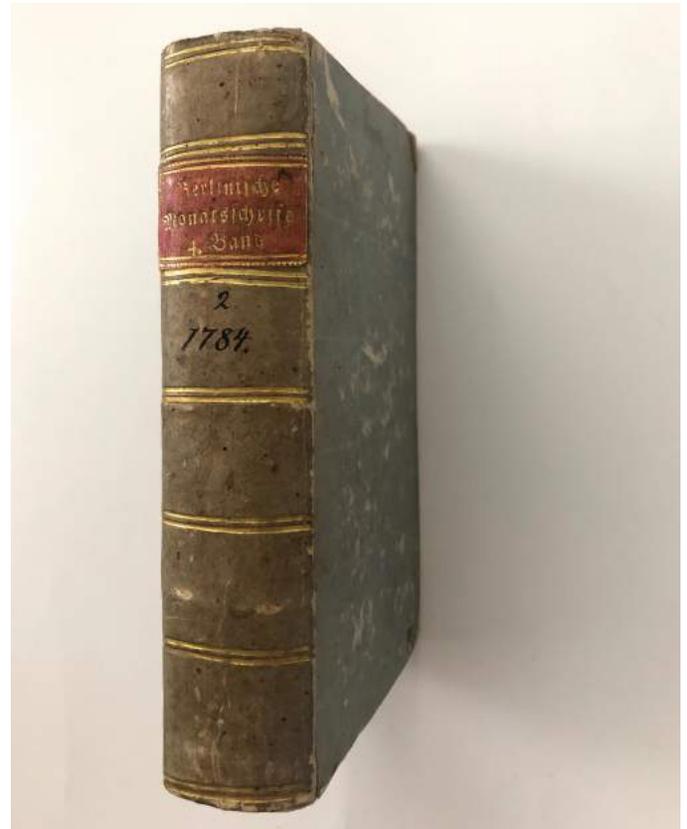


First edition, first printing. Publisher's brown cloth with black and gilt decorations. Binding a bit rubbed and bumped, textblock edges dusty. Internally quite clean. Frontispiece of Schopenhauer's trademark photo. A Very Good, bright copy. *Scarce* - no commerce records since 1902(rebound at that), and only two copies found in WorldCat.



Published just 16 years after his death, this book helped introduce Schopenhauer's still internationally little known philosophy to a wider audience. Helen Zimmern was a naturalized British writer and translator born in Germany. She had a very lengthy and robust career making European works, mainly German and Italian, accessible to English speakers. She also befriended Nietzsche, and would translate two of his works. Though not commonly remembered, she was a rather important figure.

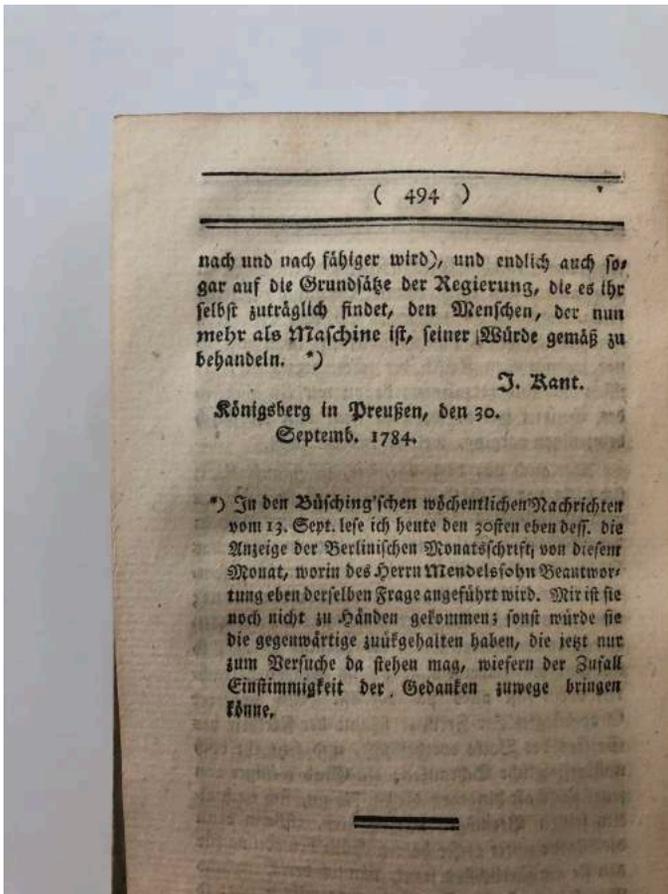
\$875



"Enlightenment is man's release from his self-incurred immaturity."

Beantwortung der Frage: Was ist Aufklärung?(Answering the Question: What is Enlightenment?) in *Berlinische Monatsschrift* magazine
Immanuel Kant
Berlin, 1784

12mo. July to December, 1784. The first appearance of Kant's most famous essay. Here, he responds to critiques from the previous year by Reverend Johann Friedrich Zöllner: "What is enlightenment? This question, which is almost as important as what is truth, should indeed be answered before one begins enlightening! And still I have never found it answered!"

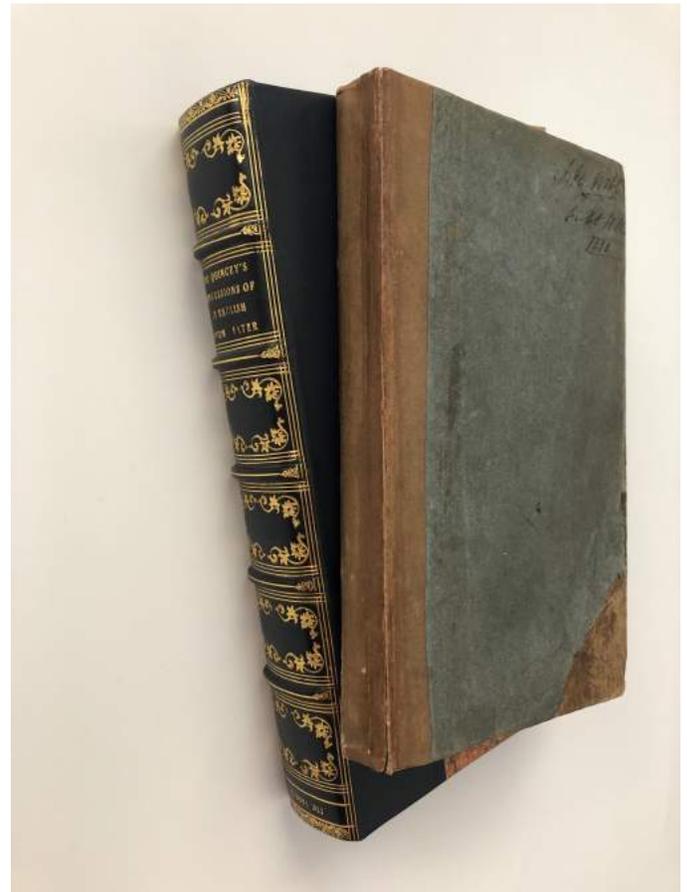


consequences of enlightenment.'(Schmidt) This group included Kant, Mendelssohn, Zöllner, and others. Members were sworn to secrecy about the meetings and the discussions therein.

Contemporary paper binding, spine toned, covers rubbed, corners bumped. Internally quite clean and crisp. A sound, Very Good copy of an exceptionally scarce piece - none in the auction records, and rare in the trade.

\$6,950

Ref: James Schmidt, *Journal of the History of Ideas*
Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy
 Paul Krause



In his essay, Kant argues for intellectual courage and freedom of expression as key components for advancing individual humans and society. One of the key texts for modernity.

Within this volume is Moses Mendelssohn's September response to Zöllner where he argues for a need to set limits on enlightenment so as to maintain the fabric of society.

Also within, is the first printing of Kant's important *Idea for a Universal History from a Cosmopolitan Point of View* in the November issue. Here, he argues that incessant warring will lead nations to value peaceful cooperation, expand freedoms, and eventually enter into a federal union of nations. All of this would be born from rational thinking, which reveals the best way of living harmoniously.

'The *Berlinische Monatsschrift* functioned as the public organ of the "Wednesday Society," a secret society of "Friends of the Enlightenment" founded in 1783 and consisted of 12-14 people who met regularly to discuss the prospects and

Confessions of an English Opium Eater.

Thomas De Quincey
 London, 1822

First book edition - UNCUT IN ORIGINAL BOARDS with both the oft-missing half-title and advertising leaves. Rubbed and slightly chipped, excellently rebacked, upper joint neatly repaired, lacking final blank leaf. The pages are very fresh, just a few stray spots on some leaves and neat pencil underlining of some passages. A beautiful, Very Good copy and quite rare in boards. Housed in a super lovely custom clamshell case.

Provenance:

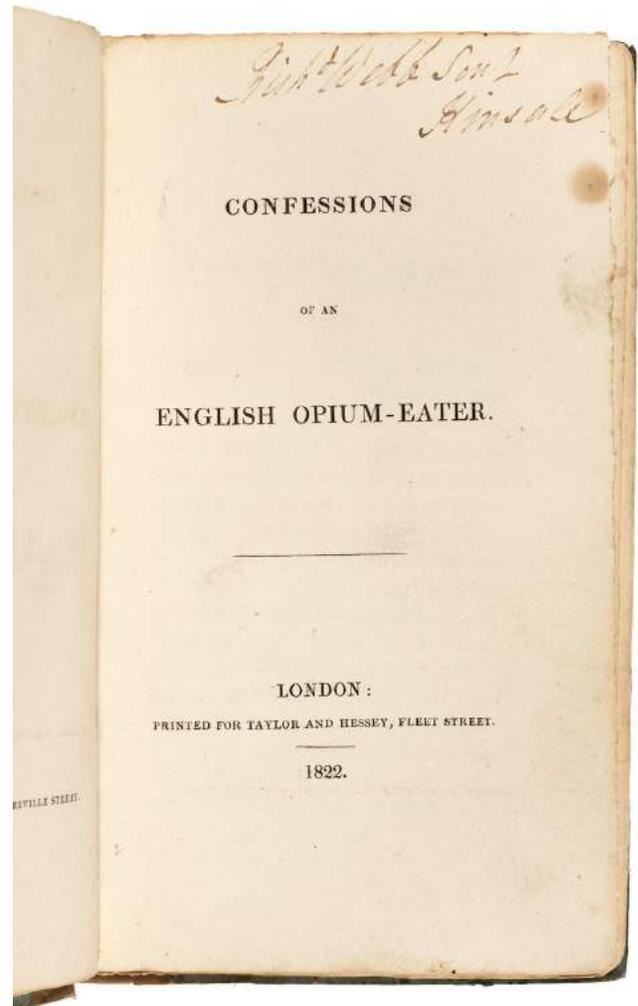
- J. Bolster bookseller's ticket - active in Cork, Ireland from 1814-1845
- J.B. Webb ink inscription to cover, dated 1822 and (?) Webb Sons, Kinsale inscription on title page - a Cork family
- "Professor Dowden's Copy" pencil notation on front pastedown - likely the late 19th century Irish academic
- Heavy hitter collector, Alfred B. Perlman's book label

De Quincey experienced an amazingly tragic life filled with death, loneliness, and the full panoply of suffering, but unlike many others, it ultimately led him to great empathy.

"For a philosopher should not see with the eyes of the poor liminary creature calling himself a man of the world, and filled with narrow and self-regarding prejudices of birth and education, but should look upon himself as a catholic creature, and as standing in equal relation to high and low, to educated and uneducated, to the guilty and the innocent."(*Confessions of an English Opium Eater*)

His iconic text would go on to influence the likes of Poe, Dickens, and the Beat Generation.

'...he transformed our perception of drugs. De Quincey invented recreational drug-taking, not because he was the first to swallow opiates for non-medical reasons(he was hardly that), but because he was the first to commemorate his drug experience in a compelling narrative that was consciously aimed at – and consumed by – a broad commercial audience. Further, in knitting together intellectualism, unconventionality, drugs, and the city, De Quincey mapped in the counter-cultural figure of the bohemian. He was also the first flaneur, high and anonymous, graceful and detached, strolling through crowded urban sprawls trying to decipher the spectacles, faces, and memories that reside there. Most strikingly, as the self-



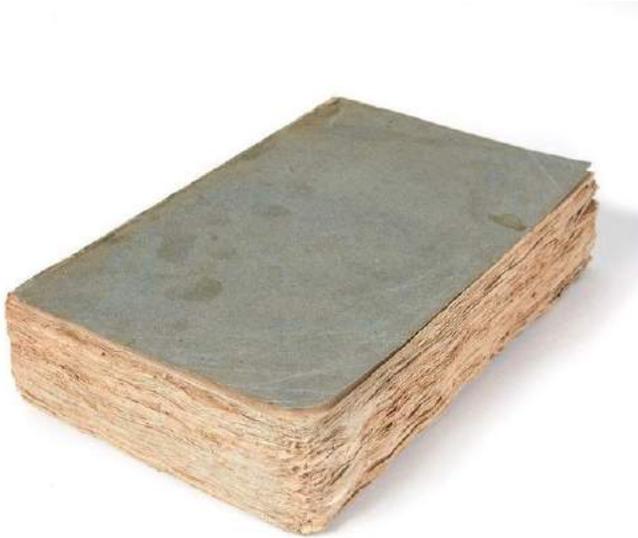
proclaimed "Pope" of "the true church on the subject of opium," he initiated the tradition of the literature of intoxication with his portrait of the addict as a young man. De Quincey is the first modern artist, at once prophet and exile, riven by a drug that both inspired and eviscerated him."(Robert Morrison)

\$5,650

An unbelievable survival of a landmark work

**System der Wissenschaft. Erster Theil, die
Phänomenologie des Geistes.(The Phenomenology of
Spirit)**

Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel
Bamberg & Würzburg, 1807



First edition, first issue - identifiable by leaf A1, the sub-title, stating "Erster Theil. Wissenschaft der Erfahrung des Bewusstseyns(Science of the Experience of Consciousness)." During the printing process, Hegel requested this be changed to "Wissenschaft der Phänomenologie des Geistes(Science of the Phenomenology of Spirit)."

UNCUT in publisher's wrappers. Front cover with some stains, spine toned and moderately chipped. Interior with sporadic minor foxing, but still extremely fresh. Small stamp on the title page of the Schloss Buldern Castle library, founded in 1955 by the heir of Gisbert von Romberg III. Overall, an awe-inspiring Near Fine copy that's survived as it was off the press, housed in a custom blue chemise and slipcase. Rebound copies do appear on the market with some regularity, but this copy is the pinnacle - the best that one could hope to possess. A once-in-a-generation, or even lifetime, occurrence, I've not seen any other wrapped copies in the commerce records. This is a copy truly deserving of the superlatives that are so often bandied about in the rare book world. The first edition, which comprised the

two aforementioned issues, was a mere 750 copies, and released in April 1807.

Hegel finished the manuscript in October of 1806 under extreme pressure - his friend was on the financial hook to the publisher should the submission deadline not be met, and Napoleon had just captured his city. *Phenomenology* was Hegel's first major work, and an introduction to his philosophical system - containing the famous analyses of the master/slave dialectic, the unhappy consciousness, and Sophocles' *Antigone*. It 'provides what can be called a "biography of spirit," i.e., an account of the development of consciousness and self-consciousness in the context of some central epistemological, anthropological and cultural themes of human history.'*(Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy)*

Hegel's dialectical method would reverberate through the history of philosophy and most famously influence Karl Marx, who thought of economic and social history in terms of the Hegelian dialectic.

There are times in the journey of a book collector when magnitude and opportunity supersede their collecting focus. If you aren't a philosophy buff, this is one of those moments. If you are a philosophy buff, this was a no-brainer acquisition the moment you saw the title and photos.

\$33,800

Ref:

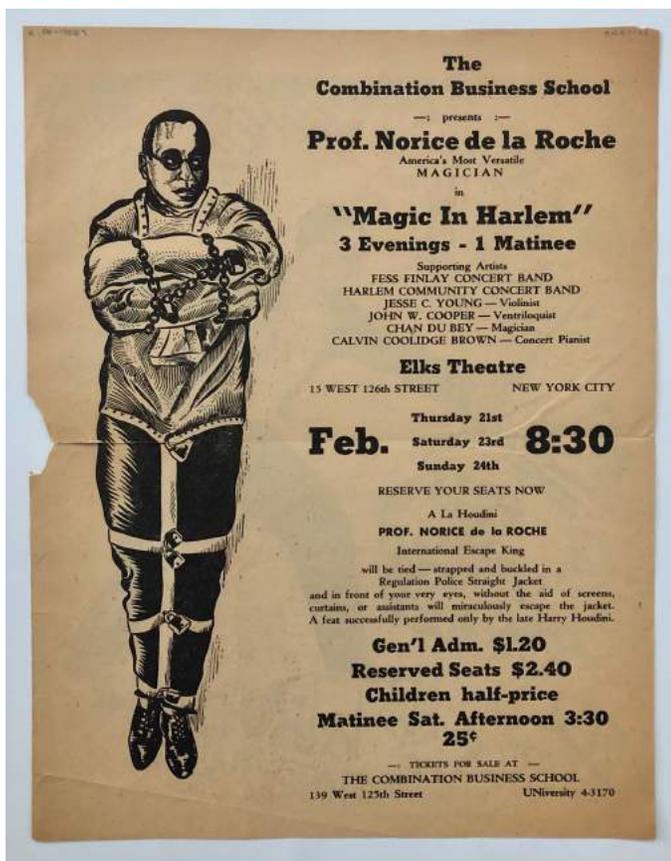
Hegel: A Biography, Terry Pinkard

ThePhilosophy.com

Phenomenology of Spirit, Stephen Houlgate

Hegel, Robert Stern

The Birth of Romanticism, 1790-1815, Morse Peckham



miraculously escape the jacket. A feat successfully performed only by the late Harry Houdini." A great illustration shows the Professor bound in a straitjacket, chains, and leg bindings. The verso features an illustration of the magician in white tie holding a magic wand, conjuring a snake and rabbits. The Feb. 16, 1946 issue of *The New York Age* contains this verso image.

A really cool piece of Harlem and American history!

\$1,350



Magic Show Handbill for Professor Norice de la Roche

Norris F. Roach, illustrated by F. Perry
New York City, 1946

A dynamic advertisement for a remarkable figure. Norice de la Roche was the stage name of Norris F. Roach, the founder and president of the Combination Business School, as well as the Roche Magic Studio. He was the only Black member of the International Brotherhood of Magicians in his day. Roach served with the British West Indies Regiment in WW1. In 1921, a penniless and alone 24 year old Roach immigrated to the U.S. through Ellis Island. He would go on to put himself through school and launch the Combination Business School in 1934, which he called a "school for working folks."

11" x 8.5" paper, tanned, some splitting on an old crease with a small chip to one edge, else Very Good.

The recto features the "Magic in Harlem" show information and boasts that de la Roche "in front of your very eyes, without the aid of screens, curtains, or assistants will

The first systematic denunciation of the Spanish Inquisition, by Spanish heretics

Sanctae inquisitionis Hispanicae artes aliquot detectae, ac palam traductae.[The Arts of the Spanish Inquisition]

Reginaldo Gonsalvio Montano[pseudonym for Casiodoro de Reina and Antonio del Corro]
Heidelberg, 1567



Scarce editio princeps - fairly well-represented in European libraries, but only one other copy found in sales records. Octavo, 15x9 cm, pp. [36] 297 [2]. Woodcut printer's device at end and numerous finely ornamented initials. Contemporary overlapping vellum - some browning and staining. Upper spine with a small chip. Pages quite fresh with very minor browning at the margins. Two speckled edges. A beautiful, Fine copy with an impressive engraved heraldic bookplate of apparent Iberian vintage on the verso of the title page.

The book was published in the summer of 1567 and the printing process was rough - replete with errors and ongoing minor textual corrections throughout. There are three known states of the title page - this copy contains the third state. It also contains the final blank lacking in many copies.

"*The Inquisitionis Hispanicae Artes*, written by exiled Spanish Protestants, is the first systematic denunciation of the Spanish Inquisition. Its first part is a description of the Inquisition's methods, making use of the Inquisition's own instruction manual, which was not publicly known. Its second section presents a gallery of individuals who suffered persecution in Seville during the anti-Protestant repression(1557-1565). The

book had a great impact, being almost immediately translated into English, French, Dutch, German, and Hungarian. The portraits very soon passed into Protestant martyrologies, and the most shocking descriptions(torture, auto de fe) became ammunition for anti-Spanish literature." Reina and Corro were both Catholic monks who fled Spain in the beginning of 1557 and converted to Protestantism. They were two of only twelve monks who were able to escape the monastery of San Isidoro del Campo outside of Seville. The discovery of clandestine Protestant communities that year, comprising a wide range of classes from clerics, laypeople, aristocrats, merchants, and more, brought shock to Seville's ruling powers - who had assumed Spain to be uncorrupted by the Reformation. They reacted swiftly and harshly - jails overflowed and four massive autos de fe("acts of faith" entailing public sentencing and execution of convicted heretics, including burning at the stake) were occasioned from 1559-1563.

Reina and Corro were part of burgeoning protestant Spanish communities abroad, large enough to periodically organize themselves as a Spanish church in Geneva and later London. The exiles were motivated to share the suffering of the remaining Protestants in Seville. Both theologians were condemned in absentia, burned in effigy, and were constantly the objects of intrigue to spies intent on capturing them. Reina would go on to publish a Spanish translation of The Bible in 1569, revised by Valera in 1602, and henceforth known as The Reina-Valera Bible - which is to this day the most popular Protestant version in the Spanish-speaking world. Corro would go on to teach at Oxford University(where John Donne was his pupil) and write the first Spanish grammar book in English. A historically weighty and very rare book.

\$7,650

Ref:

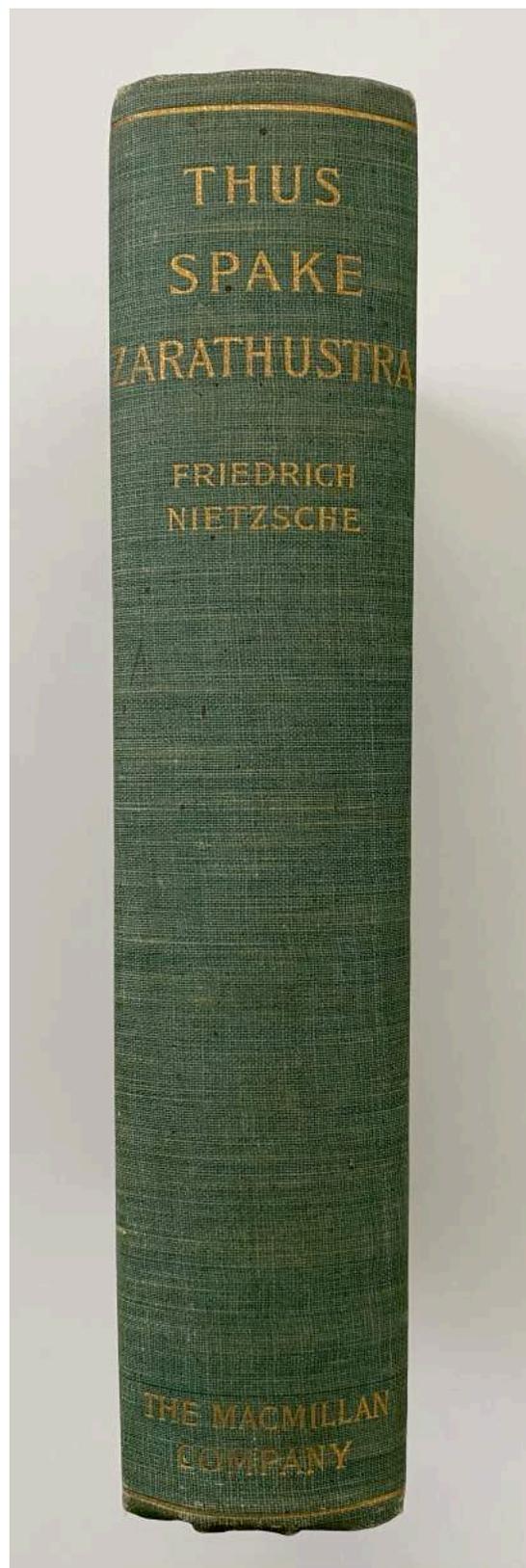
- *A Critical Edition of the Sanctae Inquisitionis Hispanicae Artes Aliquot(1567) with a Modern English Translation*
- *The Spanish Inquisition. A Historical Revision*
- *The Spanish Reformation and Christian Teaching: Timeless Educational Principles from Antonio Del Corro and Constantino Ponce De La Fuente*

Thus Spake Zarathustra

Friedrich Nietzsche
New York, 1896

First edition in English. Published in concert with a U.K. printing by Henry & Company. The exact publication dates have been difficult to track down. I've seen contemporary British book publication catalogs listing the British issue as occurring in August, which would place it after this American edition, and I've also seen other documents reversing the priority. Nevertheless, the editions appeared within months of one another. The best copy around - unrepaired and complete with all ads. Sharp and sound with bright gilt. Clean interior with owner's name on the front endpaper. Half-title and title page carelessly opened resulting in two ~1.5 inch closed tears, front joint a touch rubbed otherwise a nice, Fine copy. Nietzsche's most famous work, in which he expounds his views on eternal recurrence, the death of God, and the Overman(Superman) - tremendously influential across a wide segment of writers, artists, musicians, and others.

\$3,650

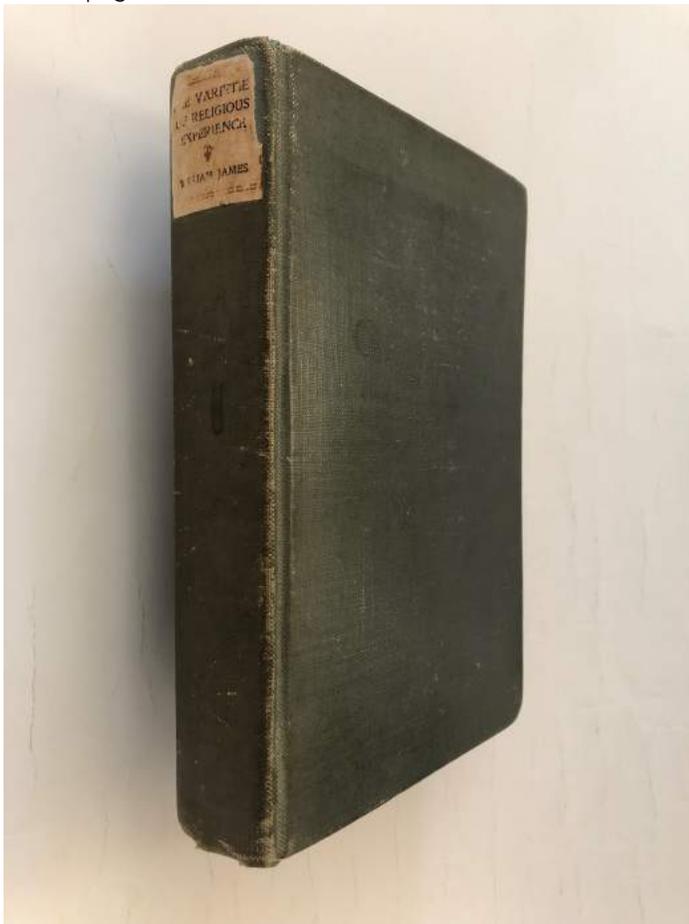


The Varieties of Religious Experience. A Study in Human Nature. Being the Gifford Lectures on Natural Religion delivered at Edinburgh in 1901-1902.

William James
London, 1902

One of the most influential works on the psychology and philosophy of religion.

First edition, first printing. Precedes the American edition - the hallmarks being: no "First Edition June 1902" on the verso of the title page, misspelled "Nietsche" on page 38, and 32 pages of ads in the rear.



Original publisher's cloth, top edge gilt. Covers and spine moderately rubbed with light scattered stains. Corners lightly bumped, spine a shade faded. Paper label chipped and rubbed, but still largely legible. Textblock professionally strengthened. Old owner signature on first leaf with various pencil/pen notes at margins throughout. Discreet English bookseller's label inside front cover. Withal, a nice copy of an important book - Very Good.

'One of the many spiritual confessions that William James records in Varieties is one on the "sick soul"... The "French correspondent" in this section describes being in a generally pessimistic mood, unsure what to do with himself. Then suddenly, one evening, he goes into his dressing room and "there fell upon me without any warning, just as if it came out of darkness, a horrible fear of my own existence." It is followed by a vision of "an epileptic patient whom I had seen in the asylum, a black-haired youth with greenish skin, entirely idiotic." He feels that he might become that patient, and further, that it is entirely out of his control whether that would happen. "I became a mass of quivering fear," he continues. A general feeling of insecurity clung to him for months...

It turns out that this particular account of existential collapse, though anonymous, was actually written by James himself. It describes one of the depressive episodes to which he was prone. (He confessed the fact a couple of years after the publication of Varieties, the book version of his Gifford Lectures of 1901.) The incident provides us with a window into the soul of the American philosopher and psychologist.'(Vernon)

'James responded to the cultural and social ferment of the late 19th century with the Gifford lectures, given in Edinburgh during 1901-02. When he turned these talks into a book, James placed himself at the crossroads of psychology and religion to articulate an approach to religious experience that would help liberate the American mind at the beginning of the 20th century from its puritan restrictions by advancing a pluralistic view of belief inspired by American traditions of tolerance...he was obsessed by the problem of expressing individual consciousness through language; this is just one of the principal themes of Varieties...

Using potted biographies of well-known writers and thinkers, including Tolstoy and John Bunyan, William James concludes a long and fascinating exploration of the "healthy mind," the "sick soul," and the "divided self," with closing chapters on mysticism, saintliness, atonement and conversion. Here, too, he presented an account of God as a finite being, inextricably caught up in world affairs, and linked to human activity and ambitions.'(McCrum)

\$1,450

**Bhagavad-Gita, id est Thespesion Melos Sive almi
Krishnae et Arjunae Colloquium de Rebus Divinis,
Bharateae episodium.**

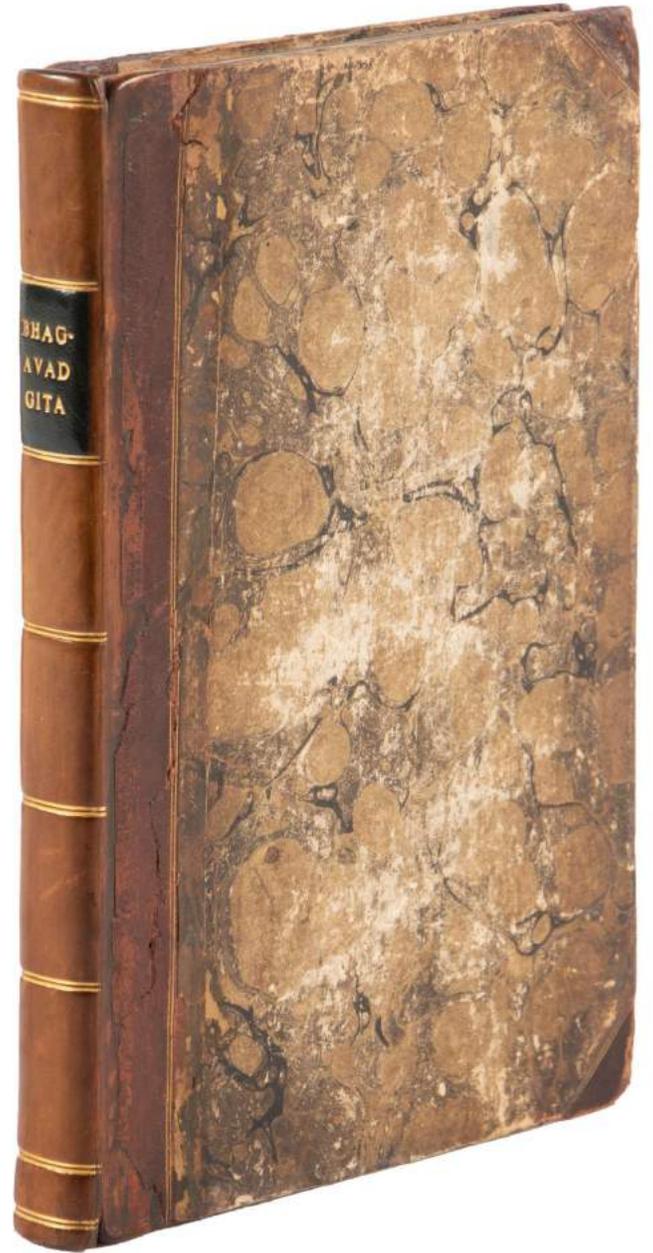
August Wilhelm von Schlegel, translator
Bonn, 1823

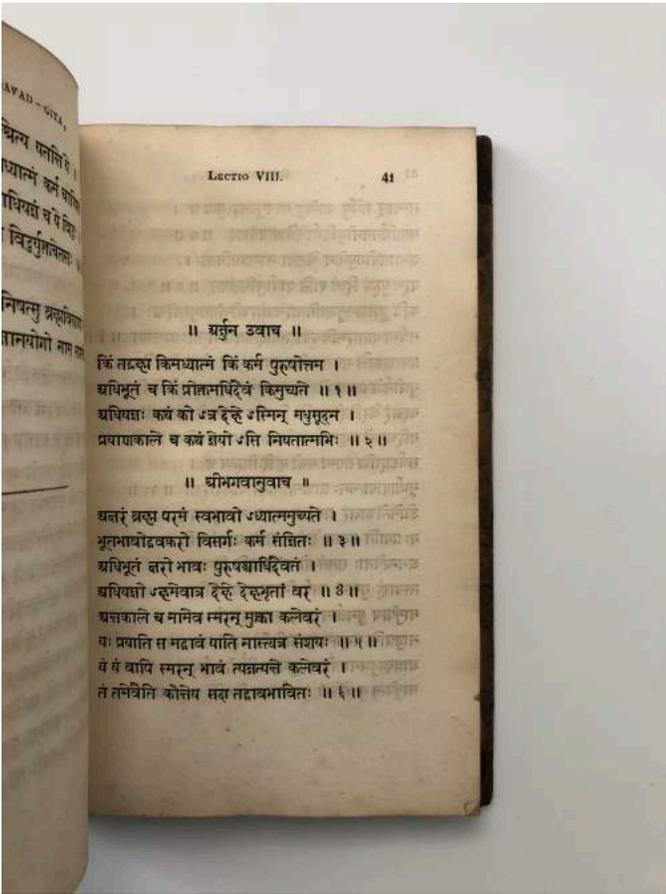
The first Western appearance in Sanskrit of a world literature crown jewel.

Text in Sanskrit with Latin translation and commentary by August Wilhelm von Schlegel. 22.6 x 14.6 cm., xxvi(lacks half-title leaf), 189, [1, errata]. Rebacked half-calf, contemporary marbled boards, later marbled endpapers. Light wear to boards, corners bumped, inner hinges professionally reinforced with archival tape, textblock edges dusty, pages lightly age-toned otherwise largely crisp and clean. Overall, a sound, Very Good copy. A book well-represented in libraries, but exceptionally scarce in commerce with only this copy appearing in over 100 years of records.

"Schlegel had an outstanding knowledge of art, history, literature, architecture, anthropology, and foreign languages, which made him a decisive figure in the early development of comparative literature and modern linguistics, and with the creation of the journal *Indische Bibliothek*, he inaugurated the domain of Sanskrit studies in Germany. He also wrote poetry and drama; but he is mostly known for his critical writings and his brilliant translations into German of Shakespeare, which are still used today."(Stanford)

Charles Wilkins' 1785 English translation is notable, but this Latin translation would influence intellectual heavyweights like Wilhelm von Humboldt(his effusive praise quoted at beginning) and Hegel(who spurned much of Hinduism, yet still spent considerable energies studying and contemplating India), as well as spur other printings in multiple continental European languages.





The *Bhagavad Gita*, meaning "Song of God," is a 700-verse Hindu scripture of immense poetic and philosophical depth and beauty that's part of the epic, *Mahabharata*. Written circa the 2nd century BCE, it has served as the spiritual guidepost for Hindus, and since the 19th century, has influenced many in the Western world, including legends like Thoreau. But to return eastward, here are Mahatma Gandhi's words:

"I find that solace in the *Bhagavad Gita* which I miss even in the *Sermon on the Mount*. When disappointment stares me in the face and when I am all alone and I do not see even one ray of light, I go back to the *Bhagavad Gita*. I find a verse here and a verse there and I immediately begin to smile in the midst of overwhelming tragedies - and my life has been full of external tragedies - and if they have left no visible or indelible scar on me I owe it all to the teaching of *Bhagavad Gita*."

\$6,950

(transc)END.