



## *The Art of Alchemy and Healing*

PIGMENTS AND DYES, POTIONS AND OINTMENTS, ELIXIRS AND TRANSMUTATIONS



# *The Art of Alchemy and Healing*

PIGMENTS AND DYES, POTIONS AND OINTMENTS, ELIXIRS AND TRANSMUTATIONS

*A collection of recipe books and related prints and manuscripts from five centuries,  
offered for sale on the occasion of the IFLA Art Libraries Conference  
at the Rijksmuseum Amsterdam, August 2023*

Vienna, 2023

## *Earliest printing of Arabic physicians in a modern vernacular*

### 1. **Ortloff von Baierland (Ortolf of Bavaria).**

*Arzneibuch.*

Nuremberg, Anton Koberger, 17 March 1477.

€ 95,000



One of the earliest medical books in the vernacular and the first printed German pharmacopoeia. First dated edition: an undated edition was published at Augsburg in the same year, followed by four more printed editions before 1500. Of the utmost rarity, no copy of the present first edition traceable at auction or in the trade since 1950. Only Lathrop C. Harper offered a copy of the Augsburg edition in 1953, then described as “one of the earliest and rarest medical books of the fifteenth century”.

Drawing strongly on the Arabic physicians who dominated the mediaeval medical school, Ortloff's work contains not only countless references to Avicenna, al-Razi, Mansur and Ibn Rushd (especially in the part on the preservation of health from fol. 44 onwards), but even some of the earliest complete renderings of their tracts into a modern language, here printed for the first time: “leaves 7 to 13 contain ‘Meyster Isaacs Buch’, which is nothing less than Isaac Judaeus’ book on Uroscopy, by far the most elaborate medieval treatise on the subject” (Sarton). The final part of Ortloff's work is dedicated to the prescriptions for remedies used in professional medicine, making his *Arzneibuch* the “first German pharmacist handbook” (Schelenz) ever.

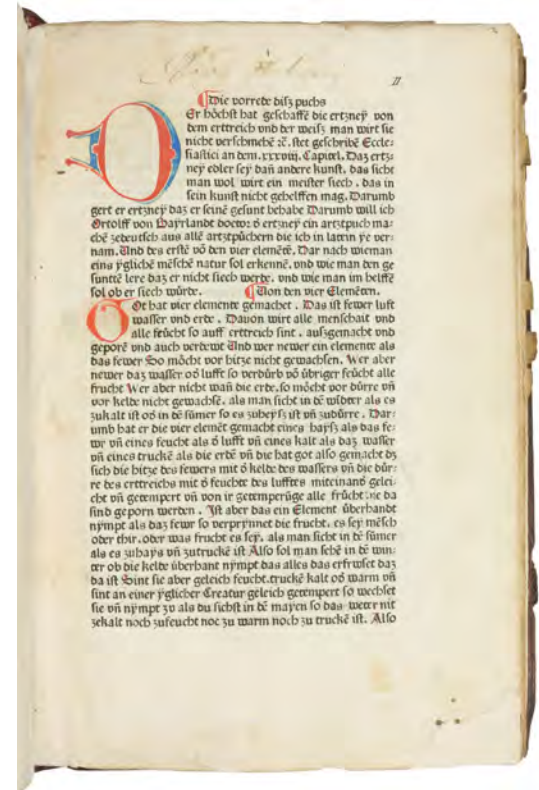
DESCRIPTION: Folio (210 × 315 mm). 87 (instead of 90) ff., including one (of two) blanks [#4-1, a10-1, b-e10, f8, g10, h8, i10-1]. Gothic type. 39 lines. Rubricated and with lombardic initials in red and blue throughout. Contemporary richly blind-stamped calf binding over wooden boards on three raised double bands; finely tooled brass fittings and brass remnants of two clasps.

Modern spine professionally supplied, preserving the original covers with fine gothic blindstamps (not recorded in Schunke, Schwenke-Sammlung). Inner hinges and gutters of the first and last few leaves reinforced with Japanese paper; a few professional remarginings, but tightly sewn. First leaf of the registrum and text of last leaf (with one printed paragraph of 7 lines only) both supplied in 19th century manuscript. Textually complete with the dated imprint on the last leaf of the registrum present. Complete copies are nearly unobtainable: even the reference copy stored at the BSB in Munich lacks seven leaves.

PROVENANCE: contemporary marginalia and foliation. 17th or early 18th century manuscript ownership of Ottobeuren Abbey ("monasterii ottenburani") in Bavaria at the head of the first text leaf; later in a Württembergian private collection.

REFERENCES: H 12112\*. Goff O-110. GW M28462. Proctor 1977. Stillwell 466. Osler 123. Sudhoff 22. ISTC i000110000. Schelenz 336 ("Das erste deutsche Apothekerbuch"). For the content cf. VL2 7, col. 80, and G. Keil, Ortolfs Arzneibuch, in: Sudhoffs Archiv 53 (1969), p. 124f. and Sartou III/2, pp. 1206/7.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn57823/>



*Unique, early Renaissance alchemical manual drawing on Rhazes and the Arabic tradition, a source for Hieronymus Bock and Western botany*

**2. Alchemical manuscript.**

*An alchemist's handbook, in German.  
Illustrated manuscript on paper.*

[Germany, ca. 1480/90].

€ 350,000



A Renaissance alchemist's handbook, quoting Al-Razi by name and deeply rooted in the Islamic tradition of alchemical art. An intriguing manuscript which bears witness to early practical chemistry in 15th century Germany, illustrated with talented watercolour diagrams of the associated apparatus.

The main body of the text opens with an introduction to the art of alchemy. Recipes for the various pigments, solutions, acids and alkalis are listed in groups, before descriptions are given of the planets relevant to the alchemist's art, and their effect on the elements, again with reference to the ancient authorities including Al-Razi, Origen, Aristotle, Albertus Magnus, and Hermes Trismegistus. There follow notes on the ease of obtaining various elements, before lists of alchemical compounds – including 'sal petri' and 'aqua lunaris' – are grouped according to their nature. Practical instructions begin with the manufacture of vermillion and 'spangrün'; the first of the illustrations depicts two vessels for the burning of cinnabar. Further recipes involve the burning of various substances – illustrated with drawings of furnaces, cucurbits and other vessels, and distillation apparatus – before moving on to the manufacture of acids, bases and oils, mentioning the use of quicksilver, then, finally, turning to the manufacture of gold.

A much later manuscript of the same text, apparently copied by no less an authority than the botanist Hieronymus Bock (1498–1554), survives in Heidelberg's University Library ("Alchemistisches Kunstbuch", Cod. Pal. germ. 294, dated to the middle or third quarter of the 16th century). Unlike the vividly coloured and deftly shaded illustrations in the present volume from the 15th century, the unsophisticated pen drawings in the later Palatina manuscript were clearly executed by the scribe himself rather than by a trained artist. Also, our manual contains additional illustrations at the end, showing some of the most necessary equipment on a double-page spread, as well as five additional pages of recipes for "lutum sapientiae", "postulatz golt" etc., some parts written in a secret cipher, all of which are lacking from Bock's copy.

A unique survival: the Schoenberg Database of Manuscripts lists no more than eight 15th century German alchemy tracts in institutional possession worldwide.

DESCRIPTION: Small 4to (140 × 195 mm). 91 leaves, 149 written pages in two hands, the main body of the text complete, up to 29 lines per page, ruled space 85 × 155 mm. Rubrics touched in red, calligraphic initials in red and some with flourishing, 25 watercolour illustrations of scientific apparatus, 10 mathematical and architectural pen diagrams. 15th century German calf over wooden boards, tooled in blind with vertical rows of hunting scenes within a triple-filet frame, remains of two fore-edge clasps. Stored in custom-made half morocco clamshell case.

Binding sound and intact, but shows significant losses to the upper cover; spine entirely lost. Two leaves loose at the end of the manuscript, outer margins waterstained and tattered, surface soiling most notable to f. 1. Occasionally loose and split at gatherings; presence of bookworm damage on some pages; very occasional wax stains.

PROVENANCE: 1) Zisska & Schauer, 4 May 2010, lot 6. 2) Braunschweig Collection, Paris.

REFERENCES: Schoenberg Database SDBM\_177979. G. Ferrario, Al-Kimiya: Notes on Arabic Alchemy. In: Chemical Heritage, 25 (2007), 32ff.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn57815/>



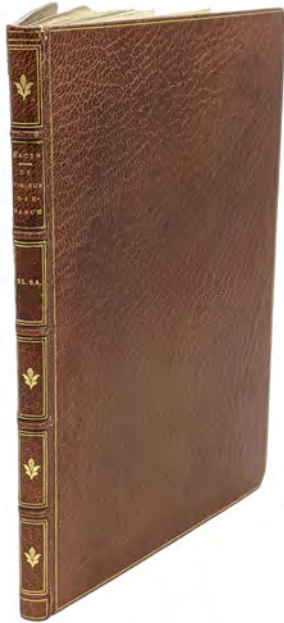
***“One of the earliest Western documents showing a revival of interest in botany” (Hunt): a magnificent, heavily annotated copy, ex-libris Fairfax Murray***

**3. Macer Floridus [i.e. Odo de Meung].**

*De viribus herbarum.*

[Geneva, Jean Belot, printer of the 1495 ‘Fardelet du temps’, ca. 1496].

€ 75,000



The Fairfax Murray copy of a landmark botanical incunable: the first or second illustrated edition of “one of the earliest Western documents showing a revival of interest in botany” (Hunt I, p. 4). Following unillustrated Italian printings in 1477 and 1482, the Genevan Jean Belot (printer of the 1495 *Fasciculus temporum*) issued two variants of the present work, each employing 66 woodcuts illustrating the herbs of mediaeval medicine followed by an appendix of 12 (unillustrated) chapters on the medical qualities of various spices. Fairfax Murray cites this as the earliest edition in his collection.

Belot’s two printings were imitated in a series of four further editions by his fellow Genevan printer Louis Cruse, also undated but easily distinguishable from the present ones due to their use of fewer woodcuts. Lökkös attributes the first edition to ca. 1495 and the present edition to ca. 1496, and claims that they must have been printed in quick succession.

Describing the medicinal properties of 77 herbs and spices, the work is written in 2,269 verses of Latin hexametre. “The text titled ‘De Viribus Herbarum’ (On Properties of Plants) has been traditionally attributed to Odo de Meung (Odo Magdunensis), who is believed to have lived during the first half of the 11th century and was from Meung on the Loire [...] The text was further expanded, including new data from the translation of Arabic texts into Latin in Salerno from the end of the 11th century onward. If this is the case, this text is good evidence of the continuity of scientific activity in the Middle Ages: its most ancient parts come from a period when there was a revival of interest in botany and a recovery of the classical tradition, while the most recent additions integrate the contribution of the Arabic world” (Hunt Botanical Library, online exhibition).

Having belonged to the celebrated collector, art dealer, and Pre-Raphaelite painter Charles Fairfax Murray (1849–1919), the present copy is in a magnificent state of preservation. It is much larger than the British Library copy, unwashed, and most of the annotations by a contemporary pharmacist have been preserved almost in their entirety.



DESCRIPTION: 4to (193 × 134 mm). (52 ff., with large woodcut on title-page of a physician in his study, surrounded by books and jars, repeated on verso, as well as 66 half-page woodcuts of plants. Gothic type, 33 lines per page. An exceptionally large, broad-margined copy, with frequent contemporary Latin annotations (often untrimmed). Bound in brown morocco ca. 1900, all edges gilt. Ex-libris Fairfax Murray (his numbered label on pastedown, this copy described as #669 in his Catalogue). Light spotting throughout; lower blank corner of title-page discreetly repaired. With a handwritten letter enclosed from a curator at the Cambridge University Library, addressed to “Dr. Fleming” and dated 7th March [19]49, discussing this copy.

REFERENCES: Fairfax Murray #669 (this copy). On the chronology of the Geneva editions of Macer Floridus cf. Delarue in *Genava* 2 (1924), pp.177–186, and Lökkös, *Catalogue des incunables imprimés à Genève*, #86 (citing this copy); ISTC im00003000, showing 22 copies (of which 7 defective), including just 3 complete copies in US libraries; cf. also Hunt, I, p. 4; Goff M-3; Klebs 637.2; Hain/C. 10418; BMC VIII 371.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn57451/>



## *A 15th century medical manual, used by a 16th century surgeon*

### 4. [Medical manuscript].

*“Ein bewert artzini bochelein”*. Medical manual and recipe book.

Germany, 15th and early 16th century.

€ 24,000



Unpublished German therapeutic manual containing a comprehensive body of recipes, owned by a 16th century German gallstone surgeon.

The main part of the manuscript, which paleographical evidence places as early as the 15th century, begins on folio 44r and comprises some 120 closely written leaves in a single hand, entitled: “her noch volget ein bewert artzini bochelein vor ein apostem oder geschwel oder geschwulcz zw erkenn oder waß es sy ussehalb des leibs oder inerhalb zw curirenn und zw heillenn und wi du dich vast zw halltenn”. A total of 22 chapters offer extensive recipes, rules of conduct and medicinal instructions, including a section on injuries (“kurtze doch eigentliche underwissung und leer alle wundenn strich un[d] dergelichen verletzung des leibs ... zw heilenn und curierenn mit vast schener gruntlicher und bewerter artzini hülf”, fol. 60v), a recipe against varices (“recept das bewert ist von denn krampff aderenn”, fol. 96r), or a therapy for damaged cranium (“bewert recept gruntlicher cur und heilung der haupt wondenn mit gebrochner oder beschaidigter hern schallen”, fol. 112v). This part is also notable for containing a good drawing of an alembic or still (fol. 104v).

Written by the same hand, this is followed by a section on rose and camomile oil as well as other vegetable oils (“olichen”), a recipe against smallpox (fol. 143r), and knowledge for barber surgeons, including instructions for treating bone fractures (fol. 147 ff.); the end is brought up by numerous assorted recipes for ointments and bandages.

The beginning of the book, written in a different hand apparently in the first third of the 16th century, comprises a brief section on syphilis (“Der rechter artt und brauch die frantzosen zu heilen und zum ersten die holcz ordnung lingnum guiaicum genant”, 7 pages) and a surgeon’s catechism in 38 questions and answers (“Frag und antwortt etlicher meister stuck einem jeden so sich der wunt artzney gebrauchen will nutzlich und nott turfftig zu wissen”, 41 pp., ending with “Finis”).

Structured by occasional blank leaves, but apparently complete. The handwriting is fluent and shows few abbreviations, but is not always easily legible. A handwritten ownership on the first page of the volume marks this as the property of “Severus Schöpell”, a “Steinn unnd bruch schnide[r]” (a surgeon specialising in the removal of kidney and gall stones), dated “Anno domini 1569”. The verso contains a brief recipe for an eye ointment and another early ownership; a torn recipe leaf is loosely inserted at the end.

DESCRIPTION: 4to (155 × 200 mm). German manuscript in black and brown ink on paper, mainly by two hands. 198 ff. with a total of 323 written pp. Watermark: writhing fish with flower (type Piccard 44418, Braunschweig 1565, but attested in very similar form as early as the mid-15th century in the Münster chronicles, Göttingen, Cod. Ms. hist. 540). Numerous decorative ink initials; one ink illustration (alembic). Contemporary brown calf with blindstamped rules and central ornament to both covers. Traces of ties.

Binding slightly rubbed with a small hole in the upper cover. Paper a little brownstained or ink-smudged in places, but generally finely preserved.

PROVENANCE: Erasmushaus Basel, sale 50 (1975), no. 363 (2000 Swiss Francs).

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn61537/>



*An early manuscript witness to the Rosarium philosophorum, compiled by the alchemist Michael Cochem*

5. **Arnaldus de Villanova (Pseudo-) et al.**

*Compilation of alchemical texts, including the Rosarium philosophorum.*

[Austria, possibly Schwaz], 1529 [and ca. 1600].

€ 48,000



This fascinating alchemical miscellany, compiled by the Tyrolean alchemist and humanist Michael Cochem in 1529, includes the earliest dated manuscript witness to the famous *Rosarium philosophorum*, an alchemical florilegium that was falsely attributed to the mediaeval physician Arnaldus de Villanova (ca. 1240–1311).

The compendium comprises: Lapis philosophorum (ff. 1–1v); Arnaldus de Villanova, Epistola Arnoldi de novavilla ad regem Neapolitanum (ff. 2–7); blanks ff. 8–9; Pseudo-Arnaldus de Villanova, Rosarium philosophorum (ff. 10–83v); blanks ff. 84–86. The later German manuscript is an alchemical treatise with chapters on the preparation of the Philosophers’ Stone from antimony (f. 87), on the calcination of lead (91v), the extraction of Cypriot sugar (f. 92), its purification (f. 93) and fixation (f. 96v), incineration (f. 104v), trituration (the reduction of substances to a powder) and projection (in which the stone or elixir is tossed upon the molten base metal, here lead or tin, to transmute it).

The text of the *Rosarium* in the present manuscript matches the famous florilegium traditionally attributed to Arnaldus de Villanova. Describing the preparation of the Philosophers’ Stone, the text would provide the foundation for the hugely influential 1550 Frankfurt publication of the *Rosarium philosophorum* in *De Alchimia Opuscula complura veterum philosophorum*. The only surviving illustration in the present manuscript on f. 13 is an exquisite example of the alchemical fountain, the first illustration of the Rosarium. Framed by the the six-pointed star, the Sun and Moon, and the two-headed dragon, the fountain pours forth the three substances that supposedly flow from the centre of the soul: “Lac Virginis” (the Virgin’s milk), “Acetum fontis” (the spring of vinegar,) and “Aqua Vitae” (the water of life). The confluence of these liquids that symbolize the male and female, solar and lunar forces, in the fountain’s basin creates the water of Mercury that is central to all further stages of the alchemical process described in the text.

DESCRIPTION: 8vo (157 × 105 mm). Decorated Latin and German manuscript on paper by two hands. (115 ff., with modern foliation in pencil (ff. 1–87): the earlier 16th century section ff. 1–86 with 17–20 lines of text, large initials and rubrics in red, capitals touched in red; the later German section with 18–19 lines of text, one full-page illustration for the Rosarium philosophorum. Contemporary blind-stamped calf. Worn and cracked, especially on spine.

PROVENANCE: 1) Michael Cochem, 16th century humanist and alchemist, his autograph colophon on f. 83v: “Explicit libello Rosella ph[ilosoph]orum i[n]titulata. Et unum per me Michaele[m] Coche[m] collectus atque appositus. Et scripta anno salute hu[m]ane 1529 Lucie virginis. De quo sit b[e]n[e]dicta s[an]cta dei t[ri]nitas. Amen. Amen”. Little is known about Cochem, but a small number of alchemical texts datable from 1522–33 written and owned by him can be found in St Gallen (Kantonsbibliothek Vadiana, MSS 403 and 430), and it is from one of those manuscripts that we know he was from Schwaz, Austrian Tyrol. 2) B. Magnus Fässle of the Benedictine Abbey of Monte Maria (Marienberg), near Malles, in Val Venosta, Italy, with his ownership inscription on f. 1: “Possessor B. Magnus Fässle Profess[us] Marie Montensis in Tyroli Ord. S. Benedicti, 1600”.

REFERENCES: For Cochem cf. U. Gantenbein, Das Kunstbuch des Michael Cochem [Ms. Vadiana 407] aus dem Jahr 1522. Seine Bedeutung für die medizinische Alchemie, in: Mitteilungen der Fachgruppe Geschichte der Chemie der Gesellschaft Deutscher Chemiker 15 (2000), pp. 32–61.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn59885/>



## *Medical sammelband, including the first edition of Brunfels's "Apothekerordnung"*

### 6. Brunfels, Otto.

*Reformation der Apotecken [...] Von edlen steynen, wie die zukennen [...]. Wie man Syrupen, Latwergen, und Confect machen soll.*

Strasbourg, Wendelin Rihel the elder, 1536.

(And): Ryff, Walther Hermann.

*Ein wolgegründet, nützlich und heilsam handtbüchlin, gmeyner Practick der gantzen leib artzney [...].*

(Strasbourg, Balthasar Beck), 1541.

€ 58,000



Very rare first edition of Brunfels's book on the equipping and managing of pharmacies. The pretty woodcut on the title-page shows the interior of a pharmacy, with one apothecary taking over a client's recipe, another fetching a can from a shelf, and a third at work with mortar and pestle.

The humanist, physician and theologian Brunfels (1490–1534), “first in time and importance among the German botanists of the 16th century” (Garrison/Morton 279), turned to Lutheranism in 1521, after which he had to flee; Ulrich von Hutten found him a parish near Frankfurt. Later, Brunfels turned to Basel, where he earned an M.D. degree, and Strasbourg, where he published several works on pharmacy and paediatrics.

Bound first is the first edition of Walther Ryff's copious medical manual. The woodcuts show babies in the womb, two Phlebotomy Men, the blood vessels of the head, and two different diagrams of the eye (one a cross-section such as it would be used three decades later in Alhazen's “Opticae Thesaurus”).

DESCRIPTION: (Brunfels): (4), LIV pp. With title woodcut and several woodcut initials. Slight brownstaining and waterstaining; a few occasional edge flaws. The lower margin of fol. 30 contains an extensive, roughly contemporary note on camphor.

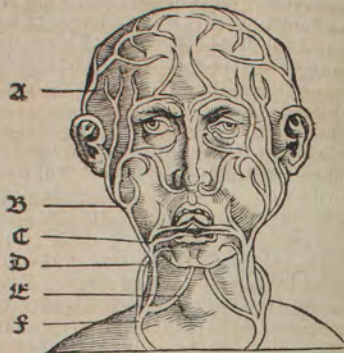
(Ryff): 4 parts. (224) ff. (last blank), (140), XC, (12) ff. (last blank). With 21 woodcuts in the text. 4to. Contemporary full pigskin over wooden boards with bevelled edges, blindstamped with evangelists' roll. 2 clasps. Old handwritten ownership on title-page deleted; some browning and waterstaining. Slight worming to front endpapers; endpapers at rear have additional recipes in a contemporary hand. The pretty binding shows slight worming, otherwise well preserved.

REFERENCES (Brunfels): VD 16, B 8567. Durling 730. IA 125.663. Muller 394, 6. Adlung/Urdang 83f. – (Ryff): VD 16, R 4007–4008. Benzing 115. Muller II, 312, 94. Ritter (Rép.) 2035. Waller 8350. Not in Bird, Durling, Lesky, Osler, Ritter (Cat.), STC, Wellcome etc.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn47865/>

Alle eüsserliche franchheyt des leibs

habest/ hab ich dir diß haupt sampt allen blüt adern/ so  
 iren vrsprung von der leber haben / hie vnden außge-  
 rissen/ vnd ein yede ader mit iren sonderlichen büchsten  
 ben verzeychuet.



Nach dem nu solche reynigung der schädlichen fräch-  
 ten durch bequeme artzney vnd die aderläß geschēcht  
 müßu auch eüsserlich artzney brauchen vnd aufflegen/  
 doch das vorhin das haupt gantzlich beschoren sei/ dan so  
 salb vñ schmier es im mit nuss öl/ oder vñ dem gesprenge  
 Flechten samen des wunderbaums bereyter/ oder Cass  
 millen

Wunden vnd Curieren / der iij. teyl.

Wunden vñ Diol öl eins teyle zusamen vermischer oder  
 in linderheyt gebrauchet / nach gelegenheyt des gebre-  
 chens/ vñ sollen solche öl vorhin gewermpet auff drei tag  
 täglich gebrauchet werden on vnderlaß/ auch den drit-  
 ten tag werde das haupt aber ein mal beschoren/ vñ mit  
 ein stieren oder schreyffisen tieff hawen vnd blütten las-  
 sen/ darnach werde das haupt wol gewaschen vnd beris-  
 sen mit der brül darin erdrauch (oder tauben tropff) vñ  
 die gelb menbel wurtz vnd Camillen in gesotten seindt.  
 Nach dem werde auch alle verferüg mit zertribnem vñ  
 zerlasinem weinsteyn an eyner feuchten stadt / oder mit  
 gemelter brül zertribt/ bestrichen Nach solcher bestreich-  
 ung werde das haupt wider gewaschen/ vñ mit reynem  
 leinen träch wol abgetruet/ salben vñ schmieren mit  
 dem ölen sampt der wäsung vnd bestreichung/ soll vñ  
 den tag lang geschēcht/ alle tag ein mal oder zwey/ Auff  
 den vierden tag werde dan das haupt abermal bescho-  
 ren vñ gewaschen/ were dan die haut noch mit gar sau-  
 ber vñ reyn/ soll die bestreichung mit dem zertribnem  
 oder zerlasinem weinsteyn wid gebrauchet werde sampt  
 der brül von erdrauch vñ stetigem beschoren/ als lang  
 biß die haut gantzlich gereynigt vñ gesäubert wirdt.  
 Darnach soltu das haupt täglich mit diesem säblin sal-  
 ben/ welches du also bereyten sollest. Nim das öl vom  
 eyer dortte bereyter (olium de Vitellis ouorum in der  
 Apotecē genant) drit halb lot/ Lin öl iij. lot/ mastix öl/  
 Lor öl, jedes ij. lot/ zerlasnen od zerschmelzte speck ein  
 C ij. stuch

## *Surgical instruments illustrated*

**7. Al-Razi, Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariyya (Rhazes) / Arcolano, Giovanni (ed.).**

*Omnes, qui proximis seculis scripserunt, medicos longe excellentis opera [...]. In quibus sunt & commentarii in Razis Arabis nonum Lib. ad regem Almansorem [...].*

Basel, Heinrich Petri, 1540.

€ 9,500



Rare edition of this commentary on the ninth book of the treatise dedicated by al-Razi (also known as Rhazes; 850–923 or 932) to Almansor, the Prince of Chorosan (with the text). “The manual, known as ‘Nonus Almansoris’, was popular among mediaeval physicians” (cf. GAL S I, p. 419). The work discusses special pathology but excluding pyrology and was one of the most popular textbooks at medical schools and faculties well into the Middle Ages (cf. Hirsch/H. I, 171).

Rhazes is considered the greatest mediaeval physician next to Avicenna; he also conducted alchemical experiments. According to his biographer al-Gildaki, he was blinded for refusing to share his secrets of chemistry.

A woodcut on the final page of the preliminaries depicts ten different surgical instruments, including a tongue depressor, a forceps, and various instruments for cauterization.

DESCRIPTION: Folio (225 × 331 mm). (12), 747, (1) pp. With 2 (repeated) woodcut printer’s devices to title-page and final page as well as a half-page woodcut of surgical instruments at the end of the preliminaries. Modern blindstamped brown calf on four raised double bands. Several minor waterstains throughout, but generally a fine copy.

PROVENANCE: Handwritten ownership of the Jesuit College of Louvain, dated 1637, on the title-page.

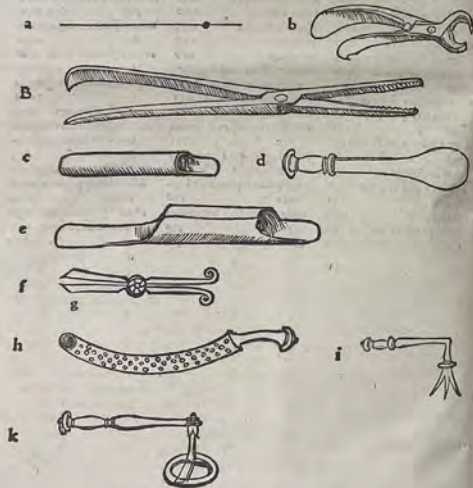
REFERENCES: VD 16, A 3222. Durling 249. Cf. Garrison/M. 3666.84; Poletti, p. 11; Wellcome I, 383; M. H. Fikri, Treasures from The Arab Scientific Legacy in Europe (Qatar 2009) no. 46, with double-page spread illustration on p. 82f. (1542 Venice edition).

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn48706/>



INSTRUMENTORVM CHIRVrgICORVM  
formæ, quibus autor per hunc librum passim vtitur.

- a Acus argentei forma habetur folio 233. lin. 35.  
b Forcipium pro extrahendis dentibus forma folio 137. linea 19  
B Forceps pro extrahendis fragmentis, quod Rosstrum Ciconiæ dicitur, folio 317. linea 19.  
c Cannula pro inflando pulvere ad uulvam folio 128. linea 6.  
d Speculum ad linguam comprimendam folio 330. linea 36.  
e Cannula pro uulua cauterio amputanda folio eodem.  
f Incisorium aureum uel ferreum ignitum: cuius auriculæ g sint ad angulos obtusos deflexæ folio eodem.  
h Instrumentum de plumbo folio 333. linea 8.  
i Cauterium à forma cuspidum triangulum constitutum, dictum triangulatum folio 733. linea 27. & folio 729. linea 12.  
k Cauterium formam rotæ habens folio 740. linea 34. & fol. 729. linea 11.



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IN NONVM LIBRVM ALMANSO.  
RIS EXPOSITIONES.



POSITVS nonum Almanforis relictis superfluis in librorum principijs inquiri solitis, duo tantum nostro proposito opportuna paucis expeditam. Primum quidem erit de laudibus & celebritate Rafis qui hunc librum edidit, quæ Regi Almanfori dedicauit. Haud enim dignum censuerim eorum qui humanum genus sibi obnoxium perpetuoq; deum cum ingentibus meritis æternisq; fecere beneficij nomina in obscuro iacere sine re. Ex quibus permaxime Rafim fuisse arbitror. Neminem enim pæce alioquin dixerin sine Graecos aut Arabes, siue Chaldeos aut Latinos mente negatio, fuisse exillimo qui tantum medicinx adiecerit, cuius uel minus assiduisq; laboribus tantum adoleuerit, siue rerum copiam, totiusq; negocij medicinalis in uno uolumine redacti immensitatē cōsidero, qualis est liber quæ continens appellauit, siue breuitatem, remq; medicinalem exiguo perfricta uo lumine summa cum elegantiæ & uerborum uenustate, qualis est hic liber nomine Regis Almanforis nuncupatus, quem optimis approbatissimisq; sententijs referunt cernimus. Quare nos sibi, totumq; genus humanum plurimum debere proficor. Ideo uniusquisq; pro uitri debet in sui laudes suisq; uoluminis celebritatem, quæ iuxta peripateticorū principem ad sui etiam detractionē gloriam se feceratē aliquid momenti allatura sunt, cum id in edicis multo plus referat quam in tragœdijs scelera patrata narrari: ut quasi iam patitur. Secundū est de subiecto huius libri, eiusq; immensa utilitate. Totius enim huius libri subiectum est corpus humanum arte sanabile, quod totius medicinx esse subiectum perhibetur. Fluus uero noni subiectum est corpus humanum arte sanabile secundum passionēs particulares singulis membris appropriatas. Ex quo huius libri immensa iam liqueat utilitas: cum per eum omniū aegritudinū à capite usq; ad pedes nobis notitia salusq; afferatur. Quis est ergo qui pro huius libri scientia capefcenda labores metiri debeat, quis nō omnia patientissime ferre incommoda. Cum decus, opes, gloriam, ceteraq; exteriora ornamenta sine quibus non cōtingit esse felicem per eum nobis polliceri ualeamus. Si enim pro questionibus Iacobi aut Vgonis Senensis tantum ocn temporisq; terimus summa cum animaduerctia, animiq; applicatione, quarum notitiā parum decoris aut lucri nobis allaturam speramus. Quanto magis pro huius libri scientia capefcenda inuigilare debeamus ex quo tantorum copiam bonorū affecuturos nos speramus. Crede mihi experto, credite quisquis honores opes, gloriam, apud homines gratiā consequi desiderat huic libro intendat: facile enim breui temporis decurū hic omnia assequetur. Sed de his satis, nunc agamus quod iustat.

Continuatur hic nonus ad præcedētes in hunc modum. Postquam Rafis in primo libro determinauit de iuuamētis membrorum & anatomia corporis humani. Et in secūdo notificauit complexionēs & humores & phyfionomiam. In tertio de uirtutibus medicinarū & ciborū. In quarto de conseruatione sanitatis, In quinto de decoratione. In sexto de regimine iter argentium. In septimo de aggregationibus & summis artis chirurgicæ. In octauo de uenenis eorūq; sanatione. Placuit sibi in hoc nono determinare de aegritudinibus particularibus singulis membris appropriatis à capite usq; ad pedes. Tandem in decimo determinaturus de febribus, crisi & diebus criticis ex quibus omnib; tota medicina integratur.

A Aegritudines

*The first edition to call Geber an Arab:  
profusely annotated throughout*

**8. Jabir ibn Hayyan (Geber).**

*(De alchemia). In hoc volumine de alchemia continentur haec. Gebri Arabis, philosophi solertissimi, rerum-que naturalium, praecipue metallicarum peritissimi [...].*

Nuremberg, Johann Petreius, 1541.

€ 48,000



The rare first edition of this extremely important and early collection of alchemical writings, which unites several first printings of works previously circulated only as manuscripts. This is first edition to call Geber an “Arab”, the first to use “Summa perfectionis magisterii” on the title-page, and also the first printing of the famous “Smaragdine Table” of Hermes Trismegistus.

“De Alchemia and the other works of the Geber corpus were of the greatest influence on Western chemistry, and whether they be translations or elaborations, they represent the amount of Arabic chemical knowledge made available to Latin reading people toward the end of the thirteenth century [...] they represent the best Latin knowledge on chemistry in that period” (Sarton).

The present collection, arranged by Chrysogonus Polydorus, contains four treatises by Geber: 1. Summa perfectionis; 2. Liber de investigatione perfectionis (the earliest description of the preparation of nitric acid and aqua regia); 3. Liber de inventione veritatis sive perfectionis; 4. Liber fornacum (a practical text on chemical operations). It also contains the following texts, of which at least four are printed for the first time: 5. Roger Bacon’s Speculum Alchemiae (the original text from which the 1597 English “Mirror of Alchemy” edition was made); 6. Richard of Wendover’s Correctorium Alchemiae; 7. Rosarius minor, de Alchemia, by an unknown author; 8. Khalid ibn Yazid’s Liber Secretorum Alchemiae; 9. Hermes Trismegistus’ Tabula Smaragdina; 10. Hortolanus’ commentary on the Tabula. Illustrated with 16 fine woodcuts of alchemical apparatus and alchemists at work.

A complete copy in good condition showing light browning to paper, with wide margins containing extremely extensive early marginal annotations throughout. While the second edition of 1545, also very rare, has made a few appearances on the market, this first edition is extremely scarce.

DESCRIPTION: 4to (165 × 213 mm). (20), 373 (but: 371), (5) pp. With 16 woodcut illustrations in the text. Contemporary full vellum with handwritten spine title.

Stains to outer margin of last several leaves. A tear to the gutter of leaf c2 professionally repaired; old vellum repair to upper cover. A good copy.

REFERENCES: VD 16, J 15. Ferguson I, 18 & 301. Sarton II, 1044. Lamoen, *Hermes Trismegistus* (Amsterdam 1990), no. 70. Brüning I, 220. Darmstaedter, Geber 7. Duveen 11. Mellon Collection (*Alchemy and the Occult*, Yale 1968) I, 10 (note). Cf. Hoover 445 (1545 edition only). Not in Caillet or Rosenthal.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn54420/>



## *Jabir's alchemy*

9. [Bracesco, Giovanni]. *Jabir ibn Hayyan / Lullus, Raimundus.*

*De alchemia dialogi duo. Quorum prior, genuinam librorum Gebri sententiam, de industria ab authore celatam, & figurato sermone inuolutam reteggit, & certis argumentis probat.*

Lyon, Godefroy & Marcel Beringen, 1548.

€ 8,500



First Latin edition of this alchemical work, first published in Venice in 1544 as *La Esposizione di Geber philosopho*. Written in the form of a dialogue, the first part contains a conversation between a certain Demogorgon and Geber (whom Demogorgon addresses as “most learned nephew of Mahomet”) about the latter’s works. In the second part Demogorgon interviews Raymond Lull about his “Lignum vitae” and the discovery of a remedy to prolong human life. Kopp suspects that the anonymous author Bracesco was a 16th century physician and alchemist from Orzinuovi near Brescia.

DESCRIPTION: 8vo (12 × 17 cm). 147, (1) pp. With woodcut printer’s device, 3 stipple-engraved initials, and a woodcut on the last page. Contemporary limp vellum.

Binding a little rubbed, lacking ties. Interior somewhat browned and stained throughout, the first leaves more so. Curiously, the first 26 pages in particular (but also a few later pages) have been mutilated by an early owner, who obscured and excised particular words from the text (apparently mainly concerning the word “vitriolum”); these lacunae have been rebacked with paper and the missing text supplied by the hand of a later owner. Some worming to lower gutter of the first 16 leaves, with slight loss. With contemporary ink marginalia in Latin throughout.

REFERENCES: Adams J 8. BM-STC French 238. Rosenthal 337. Brüning 247 (all s. v. Geber). Ferguson I, 123. CG XL, 1024. Baudrier III, 46. Palau 143878. Alchemy and the Occult 18.4. Bolton, Select Bibl. of Chemistry, p. 972. OCLC 18153918. For Jabir see GAL I 241; GAL S I 426ff.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn58002/>

nis & serpentis. Chaos uero sal illud terreum est quod supra Saturnum nominauimus, est enim materia confusa, & in ipsa continentur omnia sine forma, hoc est Sol, Luna & stellæ, hoc est planete supradicti, qui suam lucem non habent, id est elementa quatuor & omnes res uergetabiles, & animales, & minerales, & ut dicit Claudi- nus habitant cum Demogorgone figuræ diuersorum elementorum, & nos supra diximus in ferro omnia metalla philosophorum contineri. Primus ipse filius Litigium dicitur, hoc est ipsum sulphur Martis nomine appellatum, quod in putrefactione primum est, & tumultum facit in uentre Chaos in ipso sale, quia ipsum est materia prima metallorum, quam Hylen, hoc est sylvam uocant, nam hæc est pars uergetabilis, & ab ea nascuntur omnia elementa, istud sulphur autem potest separari, cum sit naturæ diuersæ, cum non habeat falsedinem, propterea aperit uentrem Chaos, hoc est, soluitur in aceto: Demogorgon autem extendens manum suam comprehendit Litigium ipsum sulphur, quod ferrum appellauimus: nam per manus Demogorgonis intelligitur aliud sulphur arsenicum dictum: nam, ut supra diximus, Mars eleuatur cum Arsenico, significatur autem per Vulcanum & Martem res eadem, quemadmodum Vulcanus subito natus, cum turpis esset & deformis, præcipitatus fuit in Insulam Lemnon: sic dicendum est quoque de Litigio nato subito: qui cum deformis esset propter sulphurritatem & unctuositatem adusitiam, proniebat in aërem, hoc est in aquam distillatam, ibi lauabat & solu- uebat se, & in altum subuolabat, hoc est, in ipsam aquam, quia profundius, descendere non poterat: nam ipsum ar- senicum ab eo extractum, hoc est separatum a uentre sa- lis in profundiori loco est cæteris rebus omnibus: nam  
in

in ipso centro terræ ipsius salis Chaos nomine appella- to continetur. DE M. Satis longa fuit disputatio hæc, quare non facile quis iudicium feret, sed pro explicatio- ne sufficiant mihi hæc, donec proximè ipse uidero ali- quando.

FINIS EXPOSITIONIS

ALCHEMIAE GERMANICÆ

## LIGNVM VITAE,

DIALOGVS SE-

CVNDVS.

DEMOGORGON, RAY-

MVNDVS.



EM. Salue plurimum doctissime Ray- munde. RAYM. Bene sit tibi uir opti- me, sed cupio scire quis sis aut ad quid huc ueneris. DEM. Tuæ sapientiæ fama egre- gia & celebris, & tua doctissima scripta aperte demonstrant habere te magnam cognitionem om- nium scientiarum, cum uero omnis homo, maxime uero senes unice cupiunt quam longissime uiuere, pro- pterea ego quoque etiam senio grauatus ex Italia meū- iter huc uergebam in Insulam hanc Maioricam, ut ue- nirem in conspectum tuum, & certum aliquod reme- dium à te acciperem, quo uitam meam ad aliquod tem- pus possem longius producere, & me à morte absque aliqua infirmitate defendere. RAYM. Ignoras tu, Deum unicuique terminum uitæ suæ constituisse,  
i 2 quem

## *The first book on smallpox*

**10. Al-Razi, Abu Bakr Muhammad ibn Zakariyya (Rhazes) / Alexander Trallianus.**

*[Kitab al-Gadari wa 'l-Hasbah – latine.]  
Libri duodecim; Razae de pestilentia  
libellus.*

Strasbourg, Rémy Guédon, 1549.

€ 7,500



First Latin edition of this collection, published in Greek by Stephanus in Paris the previous year (itself a translation from Syriac): the twelve books on medicine by Alexander of Tralles, the first parasitologist in medical history (and the younger brother of Anthemius, architect of the Hagia Sophia), issued with al-Razi's classic treatise on smallpox and measles ("Kitab fi al-Jadari wa al-Hasaba"), also known as "Peri loimikes" or "De pestilentia": the first book ever published on smallpox. Indeed, al-Razi was the first physician in the history of medicine to differentiate between smallpox and measles, and consider them as two different diseases. The influence of his diagnostic concepts on Muslim medicine was very clear, especially on Ibn Sina. This work gained great popularity in Europe and was also translated into French, English and German; Brockelmann states it saw some 40 Latin editions between 1498 and 1866.

Rare; only two copies in auction records internationally since 1950.

DESCRIPTION: 8vo. (48), 662, (2) pp. With woodcut printer's device on title-page, repeated on verso of final leaf. 18th century half calf with marbled boards and title giltstamped to spine. Binding lightly rubbed. Light brownstaining throughout, with a waterstain to the upper edge. A misprint has been overpasted with replacement text on pp. 40f. ("imo interdum mors talium potionem comitatur").

REFERENCES: VD 16, A 1786. Muller III, 448, 7. Ritter 36. BM-STC German 20. Wellcome I, 209. Durling 148. GAL S I, 419, no. 3. Cf. M. H. Fikri, Treasures from the Arab Scientific Legacy in Europe, No. 44 (Venice 1555 ed.). Not in Adams.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn49317/>

ALEXANDRI  
TRALLIANI MEDICI

ABSOLVTISSIMI LIBRI

DVODECIM,

Razæ de Pestilentia libellus.

Omnes nunc primùm de Græco accuratiffimè conuersi, multisque in locis restituti & emendati, per

Ioannem Guinterium Andernacum D. M.

OMNIA



ARGENTORATI,

Ex officina Remigii Guedonis.

Anno M. D. XLIX.

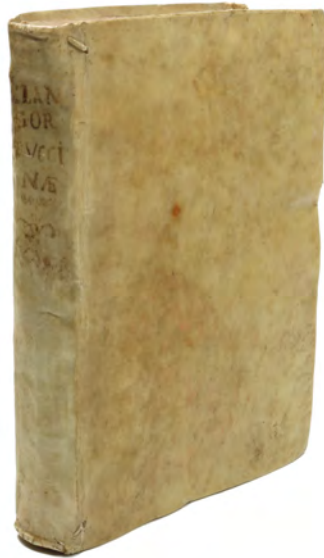
***16th century collection of nine alchemical tracts,  
including one by Ibn Sina***

**11. Ibn Sina (Avicenna), Raymond Lull (Lullius), etc.**

*De alchimia opuscula complura veterum philosophorum, quorum catalogum sequens pagella indicabit.*

(Frankfurt, Cyriacus Jacob, 24 March 1550).

€ 25,000



Extremely rare edition of this collection of nine alchemical tracts, including “De tinctura metallorum” (On the Colorations of Metals), attributed to the great Arab scientist Ibn Sina, who is known in the Latin tradition as Avicenna. Ibn Sina was one of the most significant thinkers and writers of the Islamic golden age, and his bibliography comprises nearly 270 titles, several of which fall into the category of the arcane sciences (cf. GAL I, 458 V and GAL I S, p. 828). “Ibn Sina studied the philosophical and scientific foundations of this subject [alchemy] and even undertook alchemical experiments” (DSB).

The collection further includes two works attributed to Raymond Lull, one of the most interesting scholars of the Middle Ages, another published under the name of Aristotle, and five anonymous ones. A second part was published in the same year, containing only one work: the famous *Rosarium philosophorum*. It can be regarded as a separate publication and is not included here. Curiously, a late 16th century manuscript copy of only this volume (a folio of 70 leaves) is held by the Wellcome Collection (MS.233, acquired in 1906).

DESCRIPTION: Small 4to (150 × 195 mm). Part 1 (of 2). (4), 168 pp. With a large woodcut illustration on title-page, hand-coloured by an early hand, and woodcut printer’s device on the last leaf verso. 17th century sheepskin vellum over thin boards.

Binding very well preserved. Contemporary handwritten marginal annotations and underscoring throughout, an early owner’s inscription (struck through) and some further notes on the title-page. Annotations slightly trimmed by the 17th century binder’s knife, somewhat browned throughout and dampstains in the first half of the book, otherwise in fine condition.

REFERENCES: VD 16, A 1632. BM-STC German 17. Adams A 574. Duveen, p. 11 (“excessively rare”). Ferguson, Bib. chem. I, p. 18. MacPhail I, 20. Schmieder, Geschichte der Alchemie (1832), p. 98, no. 3. For Ibn Sina see DSB XV, pp. 494–500.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn46492/>



## CLANGOR

*Similitudo vtra* dicitur de re in rem, & fit demū pullus volans sicut aliud a quo habuit radicem et principium. Et similiter omnia terræ nascentia, putrescunt & mutantur, & ingreditur super ea corruptio, deinde germinant & augmentantur sicut augmenta ex quibus habuerunt radicem & principium.

Et propter hoc mineralia non nutriuntur vt exeant a radice, sed redit ad id vnumquodque quod fuit, nec conuertitur ex hoc ad aliud. Et qui aliud dicit falsum dicit. Hæc est ergo conuersio & diuisio quam volunt sapientes.

*Sperma philosophorum* Item Sperma philosophorum est aqua viua, terra autem est corpus imperfectum, Quæ terra merito dicitur *matrix*, quia ipsa est mater omnium elementorum. Ideo quando Sperma Mercurij coniungitur cum terra corporis, dissoluitur in aquam spermatis, & fit aqua sine diuisione vna. Item totū beneficiū huius artis est in sole et Mercurio. Eteñ ipsa in vnū coniuncta, lapidē philosophorum constituent, & tincturam habent infinitam, nam in

*Notanda*

*Color sanguine rubicundior.*

corpore acquirit colorem sanguine rubicundior. Modicum quippe talis coloris in albū, id est, in lunam infusum, conuertit albi magnā quantitatem in citrinum colorem. Preparatio autem harum rerum a principio vsq; ad finem est aqua fixa honorata, nam illa manifestat tincturam in proiectione, et ipsa est mediatrix inter contraria, & ipsa eadem

## BVCCINAE.

39

eadem est principium medium & vltimum. Intelligens ista, apprehendit sapientiam. *qui intelligit hoc e. sapiens.*

Et nota quod illud quod non est bonum in corpore imperfecto, perficiatur per illud quod est bonū in corpore perfecto, quia corpus perfectum in sua grositate permanens, minime virtutem habere potest separandi terram sulphuream, a commixto imperfecto, & conuertendi ipsum commixtum imperfectum ad suam perfectam naturam. Necessè est ergo, quod corpus perfectum subtilietur ante quam habeat talem virtutem. Est autem subtiliatum quando ad argenteitatem viua est reductum, Et cum ipsa argenteitas viua corporis perfecti sit *De argenteitate duplici* fixa, figit argenteitatem viua non fixam ipsius corporis imperfecti. Sed argenteitas viua nō fixa quæ est in corporibus imperfectis, cum sua fuga et velocitate abstrahit argenteitatem viua fixam, a corporibus perfectis, & facit illam ilico penetrare, transformare, glorificare, & omnino perficere. Certū est enim quod omnis res est de eo, et ex eo in quo resoluitur, Sed omnia metalla reducuntur ad argenteitatem viua, ergo fuerunt argentum viuum. Et sic soluitur oppositio illorum qui dicunt species metallorum non posse transmutari, quod verum est vt asserunt ipsi, nisi ad primam reuducantur materiam, Tunc enim habetur propriū sperma metallorum, ex quo metalla artificialiter

*Argumentatio*

k iij

## *Classic work on distillation, with dozens of woodcuts*

### 12. [Gesner, Conrad].

*Thesaurus Euonymi Philiatri, de remediis secretis.*

Lyon, Balthazarem Arnouletum, 1554.

€ 5,000



Third edition in the original Latin, of the first part of Conrad Gesner's very popular book of secrets. It primarily concerns distillation and its use in making medicines, with most of the woodcuts illustrating furnaces, glassware and other equipment for distilling. It discusses the various kinds of distillation, the equipment and techniques, aqueous solutions, the making of medicines from a wide variety of plants, animals and minerals (including metal salts), extracting oils, etc.

“The work begins with a short historical introduction which says that the Greeks and Romans could not yet distil and claims that the art was invented by the Barbarians, Carthaginians and Arabs shortly after the famous Hellenistic physicians. He gives a few short notes on Arabian scientists like Mesue, Avicenna and Bulcasis, describing their methods of making rose-oil” (Forbes).

Conrad Gesner (1516–65), a Zurich scholar of remarkable breadth who wrote on bibliography, botany, zoology, medicine and pharmacology, published the first volume of his *De remediis secretis* in 1552 under the pseudonym Euonymus Philiatrus. It quickly went through many editions and was translated into French, German, Italian and English by 1559. A second part appeared posthumously, edited by Gesner's student Caspar Wolf (1532–1601) and Froschauer, who printed its first edition.

DESCRIPTION: 16mo (12.5 × 8 cm). [44], [4 blank], 499, [8], [5 blank] pp. With dozens of woodcut illustrations in text. Contemporary limp sheepskin parchment.

Binding soiled and a few stains and smudges throughout; a good copy.

REFERENCES: USTC 151668. Wellcome I, 2778. Not in Durling. Cf. Forbes, *A Short History of the Art of Distillation*, pp. 120–126.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn50201/>

Petrofelini, Perfil, Petrofello.



Petrofelini (hortensis nimirum) contriti in mortario aqua destillata, appetitum confirmat, & flatus omnes corporis & ventriculi dissoluit, concoctionem roborat, & pectoris (renun potius) prauos humores expurgat, Aegidius.

Plantago, Plantain, Piantagine.



Plantaginis aqua viceus fluentem undeque sanguinem sistere potest, Cardanus.

e Pulegū

## *First Latin edition*

### 13. Alessio Piemontese.

*De secretis libri sex mira quadam rerum varietate referti ex italico in latinum sermone e nunc primum translati per Ioannem Iacobum Weckerum, medicum.*

Basel, [Peter Perna], 1559.

€ 2,500



First Latin edition of Alessio's *De secretis*, still in six books. The author is commonly identified with the alchemist Girolamo Ruscelli (1520–66).

“Das Werk gehört nach Caillet zur ‘haute philosophie hermetique’. Es enthält außer alchemistischen auch viele kosmetische Recepte, ferner solche gegen Pest, Schlangengift, Ungeziefer, wie auch Konfekt, Einmachen von Früchten, Druckerschwärze, Putzmittel, Schlafmittel usw., des weiteren sehr frühe Beispiele zur Syphilis-Therapie und Arsenikverbindungen zur Haarvertilgung” (Horn/Arndt). “Une des premières éditions de ces célèbres secrets que l’on considère comme merveilleux. Quelques personnes qui ont fait l’essai de plusieurs affirment que les résultats sont prodigieux” (Caillet). Sections on making wine, ink, soap, toothpaste, etc. From 1569 onwards Perna also published a German translation.

Very rare; no copy in auction records of the past decades.

DESCRIPTION: 8vo. (16), 279, (23) pp., final blank f. Half vellum using a leaf from an antiphonary. Somewhat brownstained and waterstained throughout; a few contemporary marginalia; extensive notes by a contemporary hand on reverse of title-page and at the end.

REFERENCES: VD 16, R 3835. Durling 110. Wellcome 178. Ferchl 455. Ferguson I, 22 (note). Duveen 15 (note). Cf. Caillet I, 177ff. Rosenthal 754. Graesse (Bib. magica) 50. Simon 33.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn30052/>

D. ALEXII  
PEDEMONTANI  
DE SECRETIS LIBRI

SEX MIRA QUADAM RE-  
XVM VARIETATE REFERTI  
ex Italico in latinum ser-  
moné nunc primum  
translati.

PER IOANNEM IACO-  
bum weckerum, medicum

BASILEAE

ANNO M. D. LIX.

## *Renaissance alchemical manuscript showing a distillatory furnace, combining Paracelsian and Kabbalistic traditions*

### 14. [Alchemical manuscript].

*Alchemical manuscript on vellum containing a series of complex symbols, diagrams and cipher text.*

[Northern Italy, not before 1560s].

€ 45,000



An unusual and sophisticated alchemical manuscript showing a range of influences from Paracelsus to the Kabbalah.

Beginning in the middle of the single gathering, the manuscript contains a series of complex symbols and diagrams with cipher text, encoding alchemical processes. The illustrations start off with a symbol incorporating four watchtowers, a Star of David, and alchemical glyphs; later images include various furnaces, stills, and other apparatus, a seven stage ascent beginning with a flask and culminating in a throne (probably representing chemical processes), a fountain (similar to the opening image of the *Rosarium philosophorum*), an alchemical rebis, a tree growing on a tomb with seven mountains in the background, a fruit bearing tree growing from a male figure impaled on a sword, a bird (apparently an owl) with an alembic on its head, and a distillatory furnace, many of the images partly composed of lines of cipher characters and incorporating various glyphs, also with diagrams of geometrical speculation, tables with Hebrew letters (perhaps showing permutations of solar and lunar qualities), and related material (ff. 9–15v).

Paracelsian influence is in evidence in the manuscript's list of the three essential ingredients of the Philosophers' Stone (Mercury, Sulphur, Salt), while the geometric representations of these *tria prima* resemble those found in the works of the Belgian alchemist Gerard Dorn (1530–84). Jewish elements include the use of Hebrew characters and the appearance of a Menorah in the rebis figure. The accompanying text is entirely in a cipher which resembles that of the Aiq Bekr or Kabbalah of the Nine Chambers. This manuscript reveals an alchemist whose work combines in a unique way many features found in contemporary practitioners such as, in England, John Dee.

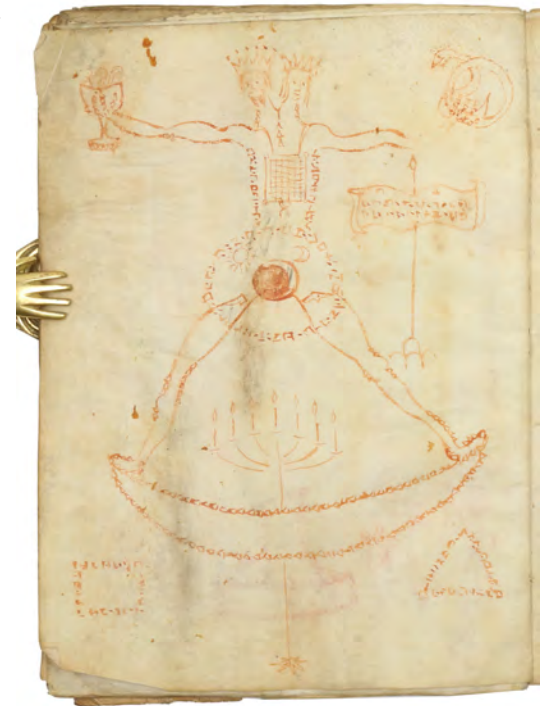
Prefixed to the alchemical section is a series of notarial records including land transactions and a will, dating from 1537 to 1561 (providing the terminus post quem for the succeeding part) and localisable to northern Italy, specifically the Veneto (there is mention of a church of "Sancti Floriani de Rippa", or Riva, and of Venice itself).

DESCRIPTION: 4to (159 × 218 mm). Latin and Italian manuscript on vellum. 16 leaves, the first part containing notarial records of land ownership paginated 1–15; the second half with 14 pages of symbols, diagrams and cipher text, in red ink. Stored in custom-made morocco-backed clamshell case.

Some staining, smudging to a few images and tears to outermost leaves.

PROVENANCE: Sotheby's, 26 November 2008, lot 7.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn57816/>



## *The very rare first edition*

### 15. (Grataroli, Guglielmo [ed.]).

*Verae alchemiae artisque metallicae, citra aenigmata, doctrina, certusque modus [...].*

Basel, (Heinrich Petri & Peter Perna), 1561.

€ 45,000



Very rare first edition. “One of the earliest collections of alchemical writers, containing 53 texts [...] A very important item” (Duveen). Among the authors of these treatises highly sought after by 16th century disciples of the hermetic sciences are Geber (Jabir ibn Hayyan), Avicenna, Roger Bacon, Arnaldus de Villanova, Albertus Magnus, Ramon Llull, Johannes de Rupescissa, Richardus Anglicus, Robertus Tauladanus, Giovanni Battista da Monte, Aristotle, Giovanni Braccesco, and Giovanni Aurelio Augurelli, as well as the editor himself. Grataroli (1510–68), a native of Bergamo, studied philosophy and medicine at Padua and lectured on Avicenna from 1537 to 1539. After his conversion to Calvinism he had to flee the Inquisition. He arrived in Basel in 1552, where he practiced and taught medicine and wrote and edited works on medicine and alchemy, of which this is his most famous effort. He also briefly held the chair of medicine at Marburg.

A substantial part of the first section is devoted to the works of the great Arab alchemist Abu Musa Jabir ibn Hayyan, known as Geber in the Latin tradition. Jabir, who was active at the court of Caliph Harun al-Rashid, was inspired to study alchemy by his master Ja'far al-Sadiq, one of the greatest authorities on the esoteric sciences. One of Jabir's most famous works is the *Kitab al-Zubra* (“Book of Venus”, or the Noble Art of Alchemy) written for Harun al-Rashid. His works are commented on by Braccesco, like Grataroli a Lombard, in his *Dialogus ... cui titulus est Lignum vitae*, and by the French alchemist Tauladanus in his *In eundem Braceschum Gebri interpretem, animadversio*, presented here in their only edition.

The second part contains four texts attributed to Arnaud de Villeneuve, whose *Practica ad quendam Papam* is published here for the first time. This is followed by several apocryphal treatises attributed to Albert the Great, to Raymond Llull, to Avicenna and to Aristotle. Of these, the most notable are the first edition of one of the most important texts of early alchemy, the *De perfecto magisterio* of Pseudo-Aristotle, and the first edition



of Johannes de Rupescissa's *Liber lucis*, as well as several medieval texts attributed to the monk Ferrarius or Efferarius, most importantly his *Thesaurus philosophiae*.

An uncommonly fine copy, sumptuously bound in the 18th century, probably in France.

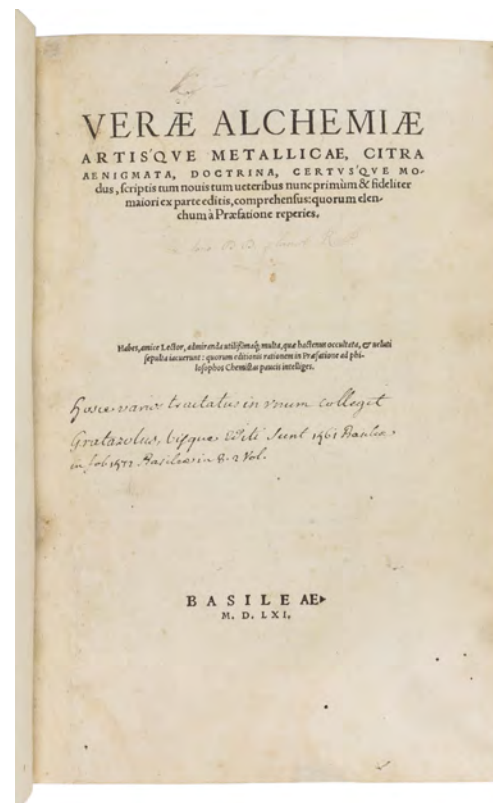
DESCRIPTION: Folio (208 × 307 mm). (16), 244, 299, (1) pp. 18th century full calf with double gilt rules to covers, giltstamped label and date to richly gilt floral spine. Leading edges gilt. Marbled endpapers. All edges gilt.

A few minute wormholes in the blank lower margin (some professionally repaired).

PROVENANCE: Near-contemporary faded ownership inscription "... ex dono D. D. Flanet R.P." on the title-page, with some 18th century bibliographical notes in more distinct ink.

REFERENCES: VD 16, G 2915. BNHCat G 379. BM-STC German 366. Adams A 575 (s. v. Alchemy). Wellcome I, 2920. Duveen 268. Ferguson I, 341. Neu 1747. Dorbon 1976. Rosenthal 403. Thorndike V, 545ff. & 600ff. Bolton I, 989. Caillet 4746 (Biogr.). Brüning 333. Manly P. Hall coll. 79 (first part only). Soltesz G 379. USTC 602851. Not in Machiels.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn52453/>



## *Medical recipes, arcane cures, Renaissance hippiatry, gold panning in Bohemia*

### 16. Otto, Sigismund (ed.).

[Medical manuscript]. *Artzney Buch. 1590. Opusculum non magnarum, sed necessarium rerum per Sigismundum Otthonem collectum.*

Germany, 1590.

€ 12,500



A wide-ranging compilation of medicinal recipes and treatments for a great variety of ailments, certainly drawing on various medical and pharmacological texts, although only one specific reference is made, namely to Melchior Sebisch's 1580 translation of Charles Estienne's agricultural treatise *L'agriculture et maison rustique* (Paris 1564). A medicine for the treatment of aphasia following a stroke ("Wann einen Menschen der Schlag gerühret und sprachlos liegť") is said to have been successfully used to treat Paul von Gröbel, princely hunter of Christian I of Saxony in the 2nd half of the 16th century (p. 11). The third personal mention in the manuscript, a "Doctor Longobart", who lends his name to a powder with several cold-related applications, seems to be folkloristic.

Many recipes are organized by illnesses or conditions like toothaches and gum disease, sleeplessness, epidemics affecting children and old people ("Zu heilen die schweren Seuch in Kindern und alten Leuten"), the plague ("In Zeit der Pest"); others stand for themselves like a miraculous rejuvenation tonic ("Ein wunderbarlich gleichsam göttliches und heimliches Wasser zumachen, welches alle alte verlebte Läuthe Verjüngen", p. 41), a "delicious stomach and chest powder" (p. 46 f.), or a tonic named after Emperor Charles ("Keyser Carll Kraftwasser", p. 47 f.).

On pp. 83–105 follows an unrelated copy of a short treatise on gold ore with a description of locations for gold panning in Bohemia. The title suggests that the text on "finding gold mountains and gold washing locations" had been sent by a Venetian named Gratianus Gündell to Jacob Schaden of St. Gallen in 1530 or 1560. Among the locations indicated are: "Frauenstein bey Freyberg [...] Das rothe Wetterhaus [...] Der Eisenberg im Böhmen [...] Brun in Böhmen [...] Radebergh [...] Neunmarck [...] Gera und Weida [...] Weidenstein [...] Hammerberg [...] Schnegrube [...]". Further recipes listed are a remedy for nose bleeds ("Wieder das Bluten aus der Nasen", p. 149) and a cure for worms in children and old people ("Für die Würme der Kinder und alten Leutt", p. 237). The curious final pages present advice on how to tell the age of a horse ("Wie man das Alter

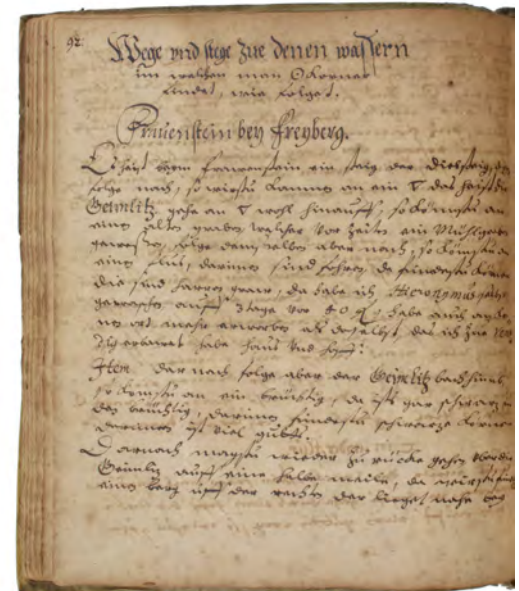
eines Pferdes erkennen soll”, pp. 335–337) with reference to Melchior Sebisch’s 1580 publication, an alchemistic “piece” that had supposedly been commissioned by a member of the Bohemian Rosenberg family (p. 340 f.), three spells to stop a fire, including one that demands a shirt that has been worn by a virgin when she had her first period (“ein Hemdt, so eine Jungfrau ahn ihrem Leib getragen, so sie erstmals ihre Zeit bekam”) and that is “used by all gypsies and is reliable” (p. 347 f.), a method for turning red roses partly white and instructions on how to keep beer from going stale due to contaminated kegs.

A fine survival.

DESCRIPTION: 4to (175 × 202 mm). German manuscript in brown ink with red underlinings on paper by two hands. Title, 356, (16) pp., of which 162 written. The final 8 leaves with an index added later, probably mid-18th century. Contemporary vellum with ms. title to spine.

Covers somewhat soiled and warped. Some foxing and browning throughout; occasional collector’s notes in pencil.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn59886/>



## *An Arabic work on alchemy, quoted by Goethe*

### 17. **Morienus (Romanus).**

*De transfiguratione metallorum,  
et occulta, summaque antiquorum  
philosophorum medicina, libellus.  
[Chrysorrhemon]: sive de arte chymica.*

Hanau, Wilhelm Antonius, 1593.

(And): **Mock, Jakob.**

*De causis concretionis et dissolutionis  
rerum quarundam, tam extra quam  
intra corpus humanum. Tractatio his-  
torica, philosophica et medica, secun-  
dum veterum ac recentiorum placita  
descripta, & in tres partes distributa.*

Freiburg im Breisgau, Martin Böckler,  
1596.

€ 6,500



Final and best 16th century edition of this alchemical work originally written in Arabic, the first edition having appeared at Paris in 1559. The legendary Byzantine monk Morienus is said to have gone to Alexandria to study with the Arabian scholar Adfar, whose favourite student he became. Subsequently settling in Jerusalem as a hermit, he devoted his life to the hermetic arts before he learned that Khalid, the Sultan of Egypt, “was desirous to find some one who could interpret for him the writings of Hermes and of Adfar” (Ferguson II, 109). Morienus supposedly went to Egypt and instructed Khalid in the art of creating the elixir for the philosopher’s stone. “The ultimate fate of Morienus is unknown, but his conversations with Kalid must have been committed to writing, and they may have come to the West about the time of the Crusades. They were in Arabic, but to make them available they were translated into Latin in February, 1182, by Robertus Castrensis, with a short preface” (Ferguson). No Arabic sources have been discovered, for which reason the attribution has been considered apocryphal, but the author does use chemical terminology with Arabic roots, such as “al-natron”. The book marks the beginning of Western preoccupation with alchemy, previously almost entirely unknown in mediaeval central Europe, and even Goethe quotes from it in his “Theory of Colours”.

Bound first is a rare medical work by Jakob Mock, professor at Freiburg and a good friend of Fabricius Hildanus. This would seem to be part I only (caption title: “De aquarum quarundam affectionibus ratione coagulationis vel indurationis & dissolutionis, & alias”); no more published.

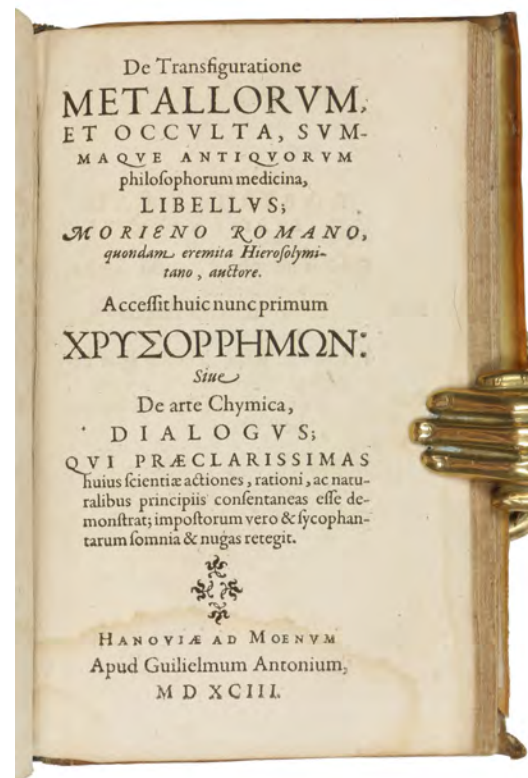
DESCRIPTION (Morienus): 79, (1) pp. (Mock): (16), 288, (14) pp., final blank leaf. 8vo. Contemporary full vellum; lacks ties.

Covers slightly warped; long yapp edge of the vellum binding trimmed away along lower half of the book. Interior lightly browned, some light, mainly marginal spotting and brownstaining, a few darker spots occasionally affecting letters.

PROVENANCE: Unidentified 19th century library stamp to front pastedown. Old handwritten ownership of "Claudius Cuppinus" on title-page of Mock's work, with an additional note in the same hand, dated 1691, on the flyleaf.

REFERENCES (Morienus): VD 16, M 6354. Wellcome 4458. Neu 2849. Duveen 413f. Schmieder, Geschichte der Alchemie, p. 123. Brüning 646. Mellon Collection 50 (illustrated p. 160). Cf. Ferguson II, 108f. Not in Adams or BM-STC German. – (Mock): VD 16, M 5707. BM-STC German 623. Adams M 1528. Durling 3199. Wellcome 4372. Jöcher III, 563.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn49326/>



## *First German printing of Roger Bacon's "Lapis philosophorum"*

### **18. Bacon, Roger / Hildenbrandt von Hildenbrandseck, Paulus (ed.).**

*Auriferae artis Das ist, Der Goldtkunst: Die man Chemiam nennt, Uhrälteste Authores und Anfänger. Oder: Turba philosophorum. Zum Andern, Ein vortrefflicher Tractat, deß [...] Philosophi Rogeri Bachonis, Den ich von einem guten Freundt Teutsch geschrieben bekommen (welcher zuvor niemals Teutsch gedruckt) Von der warhafftigen Composition deß Lapidis Philosophorum Theoricè & Physicè [...].*

Frankfurt a. M., Nikolaus Basse, 1597.

€ 7,500



Very rare first German edition of this collection of alchemical works. The preface ("Typographus lectori") by the Basel printer Peter Perna, who printed the first Latin edition of the *Auriferae artis* in 1572, mentions Geber (Jabir ibn Hayyan), Avicenna (Ibn Sina), Rhases (al-Razi), Arnaldus de Villanova, and Raymond Lull.

The present edition is of special importance for containing the first German printing of Bacon's *Lapis philosophorum* (pp. 109–168; not present in the Latin edition). Bacon believed that certain alchemical metals, produced under the influence of the stars and planets, were capable of prolonging human life. The book describes the various steps of alchemical art necessary for producing the Philosopher's Stone and for completing the *Opus Magnum*. The volume also contains the "Satzungen der Goldkunst" ("Propositions of the Art of Gold") and "Turba philosophorum" ("Philosophy of the Art of Gold").

DESCRIPTION: 8vo. (16), 168 (misnumbered: 167) pp. Title-page printed in red and black. With a woodcut in the text. Contemporary limp vellum with ties. All edges red.

Binding a little rubbed and rather stained; upper cover warped; light edge damage. Interior somewhat browned and stained throughout with occasional dampstaining in the margins; corners a little buckled. Title-page a little dust-stained and trimmed closely at the upper edge. Wants front free endpaper; corners torn from lower free endpaper.

REFERENCES: VD 16, A 4356. Kopp II, 344. Brüning 693. Cf. Ferguson I, 405 (1608 reprint). Not in Adams or BM-STC German.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn58029/>

**AVRIFERÆ ARTIS**

Das ist /

**Der Goldkunst:**

Die man **CHEMIAM** nennt / Vhr  
älteste **Authores** vnd Anfänger.

Oder:

**TVRBA PHILO-  
SOPHORVM.**

Zum Andern /

**Ein vortrefflicher Tractat / des Hoch-  
erleuchten vnd Sinnreichen Philosophi Ro-  
geri Bachonis**, Den ich von einem guten Freunde  
Teutsch geschrieben bekommen / (welcher zuvor niemals  
Teutsch getruckt) Von der warhafftigen **Compositio**  
des **Lapidis Philosophorum Theoricæ & Phycæ** gang  
lustiglich beschrieben / darinnen nicht allein die natürlichen  
Ursachen / sondern auch Theologische Exem-  
pel nach der Natur demonstrirt  
werden.

**Zu nutz vnd dienst allen waren Kunstliebenden der  
Natur / So der Lateinische Sprach vnerfahren /  
mit fleiß auff's best zusammen gelesen /  
vnd in Truck gegeben:**

Durch

**Den Edlen vnd Besten Paulum Hilden-  
brandt / von Hildenbrandseck.**

**Getruckt zu Franckfore am Mayn /  
durch Nicolaum Bassrum.**

**M. D. XCVII.**

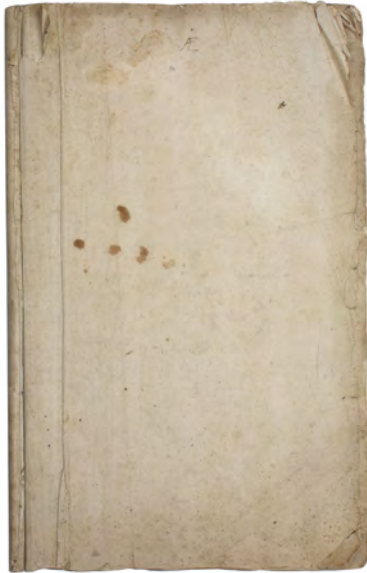
## *The recipe book of Magdalena of Hohenlohe, the daughter of Juliana of Stolberg*

**19. Nassau-Dillenburg, Magdalena von,  
countess of Hohenlohe-Weikersheim  
(1547–1633).**

*Autograph collection of perfumery and  
cosmetics recipes.*

Probably Weikersheim, Southern  
Germany, ca. 1604.

€ 9,500



Extensive recipe collection of the “book of secrets” or “Kunstabuch” genre, assembled by a southern German Renaissance noblewoman, containing a trove of instructions for the preparation of all kinds of fragrant powders and pills, lozenges, beard and hair oils, for aromatic smoke and hygienic glove treatments, various balms, soaps, varnishes, and candles, but also comprising ample medicinal and cosmetic material in a separate section at the end. Many of these latter recipes are of a specifically gynaecological nature (“for hot and sore breasts”; “how to prepare a drink to fortify and cleanse the mother, also to warm her, and to treat those who fail to have their natural period and cleansing; also it is certain to make fertile”); other ointments, wart remedies, face lotions etc. are intended to preserve or restore feminine beauty “beyond 30 or 40 years”.

Among the sources cited by Magdalena are the bishop of Arras, Dr. Wilhelm Rascolon, and the “old Jew of Wandowa”, but especially women: the electoress Anna of Saxony, Juliana of Nassau, the landgravine of Lichtenberg, the duchesses of Neuburg and of Bernstein, the ladies of Arnberg and of Dietrichstein, the Chief Court Mistress of the emperor’s children, etc. Various, the compiler notes when and from whom she learned a particular recipe, naming as her personal instructors and authorities “Salome von Oettingen” and “lady Fleckhenstein”, but also many close relatives: “my mother (in law) von Hohenloë”, “my sister of Nassau”, “my sister of Schwartzburg the widow” (1586), “my niece Juliana von Solms”; another preparation is said to have been tried by her sick daughter Maria Elisabeth von Hanau-Lichtenberg (1576–1605): “how to make the capon water of my daughter of Hanau, such as she would drink in her childbed, and now in her illness takes as her constant beverage, anno 1604”.

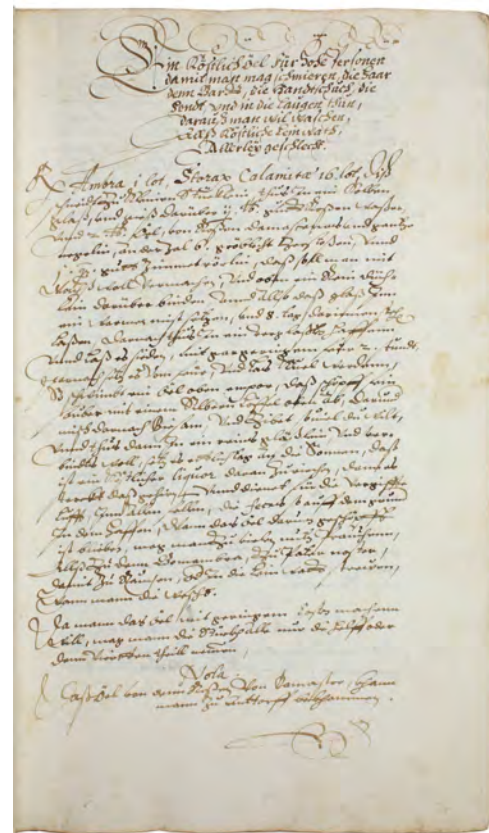
Magdalena of Nassau, countess of Hohenlohe since her marriage in 1567, lived mostly at Weikersheim Castle, the ancestral seat of her husband Wolfgang, who had taken residence there in 1587 and in 1595 undertook to convert the old moated castle into a splendid Renaissance palace. Wolfgang von Hohenlohe, a well-educated enthusiast of



the arts, took a keen interest in alchemy and operated his own laboratory, while his wife Magdalena personally oversaw the castle's pharmacy – a role often assumed by the noble lady of the house in the 16th and 17th century (cf. Schelenz, Geschichte der Pharmazie, p. 444). Magdalena was known as generous and charitable, and she freely dispensed drugs to the needy, as her medically adept mother Juliana countess Stolberg had done before her. Juliana's recipe manuscript is in Heidelberg's University Library (Cod. Pal. germ. 554, only 40 written leaves); the present recipe collection assembled by her daughter was previously unknown.

DESCRIPTION: Folio (212 × 334 mm). German manuscript on paper. 137 written pages on 80 ff. Sewn. First and last leaves a little frayed and stained, otherwise clean, well-preserved and well legible.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn59219/>



## *With a calligram in microscript and a portrait of Paracelsus*

### **20. Knauff, Stefan, barber surgeon (fl. ca. 1620).**

*Der Barmhertzige Samariter  
oder Warhafftige undt einfaltige  
Ahnweißung mit geringer Mühe undt  
Kosten herliche unndt offft bewerte  
Arzeney mittell wider innerliche undt  
eyßerliche Gebrechen deß Menschen  
zu zu richten [...].*

Probably Rhineland/Southern  
Germany, late 16th century and before  
1619.

€ 15,000



Charmingly illustrated medical manuscript by several hands, all belonging to the late 16th or the earliest decades of the 17th century. The first part of the manuscript is a compendium of surgeon's recipes, mainly comprising ointments, powders, and bandages against stabbings and other bleeding wounds, as well as preparations against cramps and other conditions. The arrangement into several segments, each followed by a few blank pages, as well as a few scribal lapses suggest that this part was copied from an earlier manual and was intended to be expanded. The anonymous author of this compilation, possibly written as early as the late 16th century, makes no secret of his admiration for Paracelsus, to whom he dedicates a coloured double-page illustration showing the portrait, arms, and coffin of the great physician and alchemist.

This is followed by an extensive section captioned “Der barmhertzige Samariter” (“The Good Samaritan”, fol. 55 ff.), signed at the beginning and end by Stephan Knauff – very likely the barber surgeon of this name based in Vianden near Trier, mentioned in 1634 in the miracle books of the Eberhardsklausen monastery (cf. P. Hoffmann, *Publikationen der Gesellschaft für Rheinische Geschichtskunde*, vol. 64, no. 824).

A full-page illustration at the end of the volume shows a priest with a cross and a Vanitas skull – apparently a self-portrait by Johann Martin Hecker, a native of Baden who served as chaplain in Fraulautern in the Sarre region. In a two-page postscript dated 29 December 1619 he dedicates the volume to his “good friend” Adam, very probably the Adam Eckhardt whose ownership is stamped to the upper cover. It may also have been the theologian Hecker who prefixed the volume with the highly decorative frontispiece: a single leaf from a slightly earlier catechetic manuscript, trimmed and pasted on fol. 3 (“Die sechs Hauptstück christlicher Lehre, in unten verfassete stuck geschrieben, durch Martinum Dornbergern”, dated 1608). The masterly calligram in micrography shows the Ten Commandments, Lord's Prayer, Apostles' Creed, etc. in the shape of a chalice, Eucharistic wafer, and Tablets of Law. The calligrapher Martin Dornberger is mentioned in the 1580 Book of Concord as a Lutheran verger in Hilpoltstein (Franconia).

DESCRIPTION: 8vo (100 × 150 mm). 187 written pages on 175 unnumbered ff. (numerous otherwise blank pages ruled in red ink). German and occasional Latin manuscript on paper by at least three different hands in brown and red ink, written in a regular cursive hand. With gilt calligraphic frontispiece in micrography, 2 full-page portraits and 1 coat of arms, all in watercolour and gilt. Contemporary blind-stamped calf, edges goffered and gilt. Wants ties.

Binding a little rubbed and warped, spine and hinges rubbed, upper spine-end a little chipped. Interior somewhat browned and stained with occasional light waterstains; several paper flaws to lower corners without loss to text.

PROVENANCE: Upper cover stamped "Adam Eckhart". Latterly in the library of the Antwerp banker and bibliophile Jan Baptist Vervliet (1855–1942) with his bookplate to front pastedown.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn57384/>



## *A lamp fed with a liquid made from human blood*

### 21. Burggrav, Johann Ernst.

*Biolychnium seu Lucerna. Cum vita eius, cui accensa est mystice vivens iugiter; cum morte eiusdem expirans; omnesq[ue] affectus graviore prodens.*

Frankfurt, Kaspar Rötzel for William Fitzer, 1630.

€ 750



Second edition thus, the first to contain Ribola's appendix. This work on sympathetic magic constitutes "a curious booklet, the first edition of which appeared in 1610 or 1611. It gives an account of a lamp fed with a liquid made from human blood, which burns as long as the person lives from whom the blood is taken, and goes out at his death" (Duveen, p. 109). "Ouvrage remarquable par la bizarrerie des idées qui y sont exposées" (Rosenthal 3082). Also contains Paracelsus's "Cura morborum magnetica, qua vera Theophrasti mumia significatur", as well as the "Alexipharmacum". The separately paginated appendix is the "Tractatus de facultate metallorum germinatrice secundum hermeticos" by the Munich Benedictine monk and alchemist Petrus Ribola.

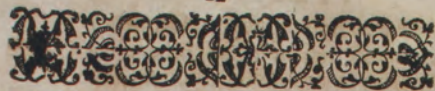
A good copy; rare.

DESCRIPTION: 8vo. 144, (3)–15 pp. All edges red. Unsophisticated wrappers.

Outer edge untrimmed; light worming to lower corner; insignificant browning. This copy lacks the blank leaf K1, as do those at the BSB Munich and in Prague.

REFERENCES: VD 17, 12:657571X. Brüning 1516. Ferguson I, 131 (note). Kopp II, 367. Rosenthal 188 (wanting appendix). OCLC 491751455. Cf. Caillet I, p. 264f., no. 1807.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn49019/>



IO. ERNESTO BVRGGRA-

VIO Philosopho & Medico

Τῷ ΦΙΛΟΦΙΛΑΤῷ.

LAMPADĒM VITÆ  
MORTISQVE INDICEM

edenti τῷ σφώνησις.

I.

Qvi Fatū tribus, atque tribus ter nomina Musis,  
Qui dedit Ajaci & Protefilæ, sibi;  
Qui Vestæ & Cereris Charitumq, almaq, Sibyllæ,  
Ille, Erneste, tui nominis esto parens.  
Idæmona qui vatem, medicum vel Iapida dixit,  
Indicium ingenii & morum vtriusq, dedit.  
Sic divinator Medica te Serium in arte,  
In Chymia & curas prodidit ille graves.  
Argumentum ingens num Vitæ Lampas abun-  
de est,  
Fatum hominis Monstro qua Face conditum  
habet!

II.

Sidere inextinctam aeterno quod Lampada prodit,  
Magnum, Erneste, tui nominis Omen habet.  
Æmula Perpetui ut te Luminis inclita fama

Sacra

Sacra per & gentis penna adamantina agas.

III.

Fatidico Lachesis rutilantem viderat Astro  
Lampada: quo Genio lucet hic Ignis ait.  
Balsameo cum Vita Oleo qua faderat Lychno;  
Vitam Homini, Lychni Spiritus unus alit.  
Quarta Soror nobis qua Pallade nata, Sorores  
Iam sua Peonia nent sibi Fata Manus.  
Atropos & Lachesis jam fabula, fabula Clotho.  
Ipsæ sua Parca est jam Fabricator Homo.

B 4 ALIVD

*Sammelband containing eleven medico-alchemical works  
by Rhumelius, with curious provenance*

**22. Rhumelius (Rummel), Johann  
Pharamund.**

*Compendium hermeticum. Prophylaxe  
medico-practica luis epidemiae  
enkephalonosou. Avicula hermetis  
catholica. Elixir vitae. Panacea aurea.  
Balsamographia. Basilica chymica.  
Katoptron arculae medico-pharma-  
ceuticae. Cura podagrica magica.  
Ginaecopharmaceutice. Thermarum &  
acidularum descriptio.*

Frankfurt, Tübingen, Nuremberg and  
no place, ca. 1630–1635.

€ 6,500



A pretty sammelband comprising eleven rare works by the physician, chemist, and hermetic writer J. P. Rhumelius (ca. 1598–1639?). A native of Neumarkt in the Upper Palatinate, Rhumelius matriculated at Altdorf at the age of 14. As a fervent disciple of the Paracelsian school, he was active in Nuremberg and Plötzkau, calling himself “mathematicus et chymiatrus” and “personal physician to a Prince of Anhalt”. John Webster’s *Metallographia* made him known in England as an alchemist, and his works, which appeared under his own name, anonymously, and under the name of “Salomon Raphael, in mundo R[humel]”, saw translations into English as well as French. In the 1630s Rhumelius also produced several magico-cabbalistic prognostication calendars.

DESCRIPTION: 12mo. A total of ca. 670 pp. Contemporary green-dyed wooden boards with bevelled edges, spine covered with gilt leather. Two working clasps.

Extremities of binding rubbed; spine wormed and chipped. Interior browned and stained due to paper stock; occasional remarginings. The end of the *Elixir vitae* contains a contemporary note in German manuscript (slightly trimmed at the beginning). Bound at the end of the volume are an additional 48 blank leaves, the first three pages of which contain an alchemical recipe in contemporary Latin manuscript (explicit: “Ecce frater fraterne tibi revelavi secretum magni. thesaurum”).

PROVENANCE: front pastedown has handwritten red ink ownership of Joseph Georg Stampersky (fl. ca. 1710), procurator at the Prague archiepiscopal consistory. A little later, the book was apparently owned by the Hungarian painter Ádám Mányoki (1673–1757), who signs on the first title-page (“Ex libris A. de Mányoki”). Subsequently in the library of the Hungarian noble family Szent-Iványi (their armorial bookplate on the verso of the first title-page) and then in that of the Pálffy-Erdödy family (a 19th century etched bookplate with handwritten inset label “Palfy m.p.”). Latterly in the Czech L’achki collection with their stamp to the lower pastedown.

REFERENCES: Ferguson II, 266f. Cf. Rosenthal 729. Duveen 506f. Biobibliographisches Handbuch der Kalendermacher von 1550 bis 1750 (Univ. Bremen/DFG, online). Cf. Klaus Matthäus, Zur Geschichte des Nürnberger Kalenderwesens, in: AGB IX (1969), cols. 965–1396, for Rhumelius see cols. 1145f.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn62174/>

Printe Miner unbr  
Sein D. Geylham in  
nach ad die sey led  
Lund hand über L. K. K.  
G. L. A. C. A. S. T. A. M. I. E. S. L. E. V. E. N.  
L. O. R. A. T. I. O. N. I. S.  
L. E. S. I. S. T. I. C. A. T. I. O. N. I. S.  
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L. E. S. I. S. T. I. C. A. T. I. O. N. I. S.

Herrn Clemens Buchhandels Mann augie in  
Francfurt alle sämtlich zu finden und  
abzuholen seyn. Und nach deme auch  
sonsten

JOHANNIS PHARA-  
MUNDI RHUMELII  
PANACEA AUREA,

Das ist:

Kurtze doch gründli-  
liche Philosophische bes-  
schreibung seines Auri  
potabilis.

Tiebet angehengter wahr-  
nungs instruction, und beweis / daß  
das waare aurum Potabile der Philo-  
sophorum, auß dem gemeinen Gold  
zuerhalten unmöglich / und daß  
alle Particularia falsch / Betrug  
und nichtig seyn.

Sampt beygefügtem gutem  
Bericht / wie man des Authoris Au-  
rum vitæ Tincturam solis und Bal-  
samum solis gebrauche  
nsolle.

Nemo sibi sed Deo & proximo  
vivat.

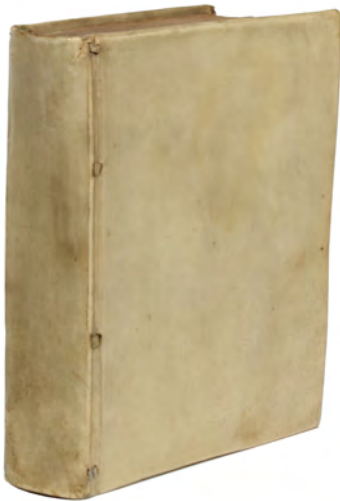
## *Recipes for ointments, tinctures, and the transmutation of metals*

### 23. [Philosopher's Stone].

*Ein Tractat von dem Lapide Philosophorum, darinnen kürztlich begriffen wirdt, was derselbe sey, undt seine prima materia? wie sie genennet, colligirt, eingesetzt, biß zur Vollkommenheit praeparirt, fermentirt u. augmentirt werden.*

Probably Germany, ca. 1650.

€ 6,500



Pretty pocket-sized alchemical manual by at least two different scribes, extensively discussing classic problems of alchemy: about the nature and composition of the Philosopher's Stone, on the transmutation of metals, the “vera et naturalis Via Tinctura universalis”, etc., with repeated reference to Paracelsian writings. Also copious recipes for ointments, tinctures, etc., with chemical symbols interspersed throughout.

DESCRIPTION: 12mo (87 × 115 mm). German manuscript by several hands on paper. Title-page and 82 written ff. (as well as 96 blanks). Contemporary vellum.

Light browning to paper; lower corner of title-page remargined, otherwise exceptionally well preserved.

PROVENANCE: The front flyleaf shows a 19th century provenance note according to which the volume was a gift from the Baltic physician and professor of natural history, Johann Gottlieb von Groschke (1760–1828) (“geschenkt erhalten von Prof. Groschke 1819”), with later pencil notes about the donor.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn59249/>



$\Delta$  oder  $\Gamma$  oder  $\Phi$  oder die materi, die  
so durch das  $\Delta$  als die in unvollständigen  
damit alles für ein gut zu machen ist,  
wollte die darben unvollständig werden  
haben ohne nicht wer so finis ist, son  
denn nur ist warm, so laste  $\Phi$   
mit  $\Phi$  oder die materi gut zu machen,  
denn das ist  $\Delta$  mit  $\Delta$ . Also ist das  
© mit allen metall gelöst, und  
ist unvollständig. Darum die metall  
ist  $\Phi$  mit  $\Phi$  mit ist  $\Delta$  u. Luft.  
Dieses ist corporium mit dem ©  
in der Erde, das ist © metall etc.  
Wann du ein Ding, A gemacht  
hast, die du kommst aber nicht viel  
auf ein mal, so rectificire ihn  
nach ein mal gelindlich. Das er  
nicht grob macht, so bleibe  
fines in utiles abicienda das ist

49  
lingu, als das ist die © resti-  
tution oder mittel, das die  
solche u. Tullius die Zeit ist, da  
die die Zeitige unvollständig  
das © für ein gelöst ist, als für  
 $\Phi$  u.  $\Phi$ , wolle es mit  $\Delta$  u.  $\Delta$  ist mit  
dem zu ein unvollständig  
brannt.

Wann die also die © rectificire  
hast, so ist Kling. © dieses Ding  
gelöst, u. ein Metall, solch  
wie es in der selbigen rectificire  
so wird es Blutrost od. Salzbleibrost,  
Amalium od. ein phisik. Zu der  
weil es in der Luft nicht aus ein  
sunder, darben bleibe mit das ©  
das ein gut zu machen werde, so  
es ein mal gelöst ist, so  
kömte auf mit zu ein die materi

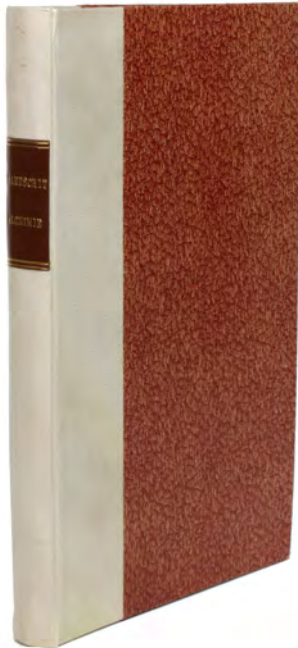
## *By and for the artisanal practitioner*

### 24. [Alchemy and pigment recipes].

*Præparationes variae aluminii calcinationis. [A collection of recipes for the preparation of pigments, gilding, etc].*

Probably Germany, ca. 1650.

€ 8,500



A pretty pocket-sized manual of early modern artisanal recipes, with much alchemical content but also strongly devoted to colours and gilding. Chapters include: “salis ammoniaci”, “aqua de albumine ovorum”, “nota de calcinatione”, “cinobrium fixum”, “how to make borras”, “aqua auripigmenti”, “how to make arsenic metallic”, “aqua ardens”, “de antimonio & sublimatio antimonii” (with two small drawings), “praeparatio antimonii”, “vitrum antimonii”, “de Jove”, “de Saturno”, “praeparatio plumbi”, “crocus martis”, “how to dealbate Mars”, “de venere & cupro purgatio”, “aqua purgans”, “a goldsmith’s album”, “tinctura pulcra ad album”, “alia tinctura and lapis philosophorum”, “how to colour something yellow”, “cousin Andrew’s yellow pigment”, “green”, “red pigment”, “brown red”, “dark brown”, “white paint”, “violet brown”, “dull brown”, “pretty rose red and permanent”, “fired yellow, or golden yellow”, “on paints”, “how to apply gold”, “argentum musicum”, “a gold pigment”, “sap green”, “how to etch with water”, “gold ink to be written with a quill pen”, “gold powder for writing and painting”, “how to make vermilion”, “how to make verdigris”, “how to make rubrica or minium out of white lead”, “how to prepare a scumble”, “rose paint”, “green twine”, “how to silver-plate brass” (with a small drawing), “how to assay saltpetre”, etc.

A separate section, inserted in a different hand, provides a detailed breakdown of the costs for setting up an alchemical laboratory with sublimating jars, flasks, and vials, as well as the expected profits (namely 12,208 guilders).

A rich array of instructions by and for the artisanal practitioner.

DESCRIPTION: 8vo (111 × 175 mm). German and Latin manuscript on paper. 58 ff. with a total of 97 written pages, some illustrations. Dark brown ink with chapter titles mostly in red ink. Modern half vellum over red marbled boards with giltstamped red spine.

The red ink of the chapter headings is often faded and poorly legible. Untrimmed leaves of various, slightly differing heights. Somewhat browned throughout; some dampstaining to the lower edge near the end.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn59250/>

NB Wenn man etwas mit silber schmelzt  
 und verbleib, so ist man zu sein schmelzen  
 mit dinsten lichte messing oder feinsten  
 gold, so schmelzt das schmelz dem dinst  
 man messing ganz weg

Das ist ein vord für polier mit ein  
 linden vord sein oder mit ein feinen  
 kleber, dem man überkopft werden

Wenn man das fechten mit dem linden  
 gold oder dinsten lichte messing nicht will  
 sein: so kan man linden, mit gelb  
 dinsten schmelz. dem schmelz schmelz  
 schmelz auf dem isten, oder feinsten,  
 ganz weg wird ganz.

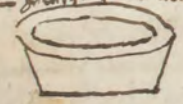
cupelle für die Kupfer  
 oder die geringe feigen



die geringe feigen, zehne  
 oder die geringe feigen



die dinsten feigen silber d  
 weg dem dinsten feigen wird.



zum fechten dinsten  
 zum fechten dinsten



**Salpater in probieren**

Die Salpater werden vord auf alle and  
 er salpater oder vordische und alatinische oder  
 ist man als probieren.

Wenn die werden, für ist ein vordische,  
 ganz weißer dinst. 3 ein feinsten fechten  
 darüber schmelz, leicht 2 oder 3 fechten  
 schmelz, feigen oder linden ab. dinsten  
 linden vord ab ein linden dinsten

die geringe feigen, für ist ein vordische  
 oder linden. fechten feigen ist auf ein  
 dinsten über mit kleber vord, ab  
 fechten dinsten ein fechten dinsten  
 fechten, so wird die linden in schmelz  
 leicht für allgemach ganz vord, so  
 wird vord gold fechten, fechten bald  
 fechten, und vord ist.

Wenn die der fechten für fechten ist, so  
 wird in fechten die Salpater fechten,  
 fechten und dinsten. dinsten  
 messing auf ein vordische.

Salpater wird als vordische, fechten  
 von der man: die ein fechten fechten

## *Sodium sulfate*

### 25. Glauber, Johann Rudolf.

*Tractatus de natura salium [...]. Item, tractatulus parvus, & compendiosus de salium, metallorum, & planetarum signatura.*

Amsterdam, Johann Jansson, 1659.

€ 850



First Latin edition, published a year after the German original edition. One of Glauber's most important publications, this contains among other items an account of his discovery of sodium sulfate in 1625 (cf. Dünnhaupt). The German alchemist and chemist Glauber (1604–70) has been described as one of the first chemical engineers. He here displays an early understanding of chemical affinity; Berzelius (in his *Lehrbuch der Chemie*) points out that Glauber was among the first to recognize how sulphuric acid replaces nitric and hydrochloric acid in compounds, while alkali replaces ammonia. It was in the process of this research that he “discovered the ‘sal mirabile’ that bears his name, ‘Glauber’s salt’” (cf. Schelenz, 481).

DESCRIPTION: Small 8vo. 2 parts in 1 volume. (16), 96 pp. (Second part has separate title-page): Tractatus de signatura salium, metallorum, et planetarum [...]. Ibid., 1659. 44 pp. With a few woodcut symbols in the text. Contemporary full limp vellum with handwritten author's name to spine and handwritten title to lower edge.

Light browning and occasional waterstaining, but a good, attractive copy. The engraved title mentioned by Brüning is not present in any traceable copy and is probably a ghost.

PROVENANCE: handwritten ownership “de La Roche” to title-page; 20th century bookplates of the bibliographer Guy Bechtel (b. 1931, “Le bibliophobe Bechtel”) and of René Alleau (1917–2013), friend of André Breton and director of the Bibliotheca hermetica collection at the French publishing house Denoël (loosely inserted before the flyleaf).

REFERENCES: Ferchl 188. Neu 1690. Hoover 365f. Wellcome III, 124. Osler 2752. Duveen 257. Dünnhaupt 18.II & 19.II. Brüning 1979f. Not in Ferguson.

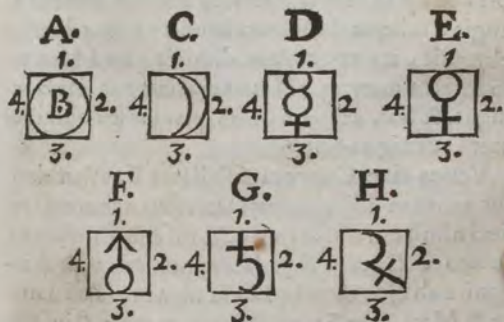
<https://inlibris.com/item/bn52877/>

effigiem Serpentis, se in rotundum Circulum incurvantis, & terrena cuncta, ex cœlesti origine producta Quadrati Figura, & ita Cœlestia, & Terrestria Circulo & Quadrato simul adumbrant.

Prout igitur observarunt, quantum in rebus signandis vel Cœlestis vel Terrestris naturæ esset, tantum etiam ex circulo & Quadrato aut addiderunt, aut subtraxerunt, ac figuras pro eo etiam variarunt. Non solum autem in Cœlestibus Luminaribus, Sole puta, Lunâ, & cæteris Planetis, sed etiam in omnibus terrestribus Creaturis, in terra Solis, Lunæ, Planetarum cæterarumque Stellarum operationibus, productis, Auro nimirum, Argento, Cupro, Stanno, Ferro, Plumbo, atque Argento Vivo, signandis ejusmodi modum adhibuerunt, omnes ejusmodi characteribus, & signis notando, quibus Cœlestia Luminaria, inferiorum harum creaturarum causas efficientes, notavere. Sic Sol & Aurum Terrestre, perfectissimæ Dei Creaturæ Circuli, punctum aut centrum in medio habentis, insigne gerunt: Luna & Argentum dimidii circuli seu duorum semicircularum haud longè à seinvicem distantium figurâ apparent, & sua corpora non absolutè perfectâ esse, sed aliquo saltem defectu adhuc laborare arguunt: Cæterorum Planetarum signa, ut ♄, ♃, ♀, ♁, & ☿, etiam cæterorum Metallorum sunt signa, Plumbi nempe, Stanni, Ferri, Cupri, & Argenti Vivi, quippe Auro & Argento multo villiorum, &

imperfectiorum, atque imperfectioribus characteribus notatorum, quales sunt ex dimidio Circulo, & dimidio Quadrato, significantes, vix dimidiâ parte ipsa Argento, & vix una quarta parte perfectionis Auro respondere.

Clarius rem ut proponam, operæpretium duxi Luminarium illorum cœlestium, ut ☉, ☽, ☿, ♀, ♂, ♃, & ♄, & Terrestrium Metallorum, ut Auri, Argenti, Argenti Vivi, Cupri, Ferri, Stanni, & plumbi characteres, quales ipsis Veteres Astronomi & Philosophi imposuerunt, quadratis eadem magnitudine constantibus includere, ut ex ipsis appareat, quibus à seinvicem perfectionis gradibus distent.



Hic quasi domunculis inclusæ sunt Characteristicæ illæ signaturarum Figuræ, quadrato domunculæ vicem gerente, cui Solis seu Auri signum littera B. notatum, circulum videlicet rotundum si

A 4

impo-

## *Unknown to Ferguson*

### 26. Digby, Kenelm.

*Eröffnung unterschiedlicher  
Heimlichkeiten der Natur [...],  
vornemlich von einem wunderbaren  
Geheimniß in Heilungen der Wunden,  
ohne Berührung, [...] durch die  
Sympthiam, discursweise gehalten  
in einer hochansehnlichen Versammlung  
zu Montpelier [...] Zum zweytenmal  
gedruckt [...].*

Frankfurt/Main, Balthasar Christoph  
Wust, 1661.

€ 500



Rare second German edition, unknown to Ferguson. The well-known treatise, reprinted far into the 18th century, describes the invention and application of the author's miracle "sympathetic powder" (ferrum sulfuricum siccum).

Sir Kenelm Digby was a man of many parts, including those of a courtier (he was a friend of Charles I and was known to Cromwell), poet, pirate, alchemist, book collector, and inventor. He travelled extensively, fighting Venetian galleys off Iskenderun and living successively in France and Italy. After the death of his wife he was drawn toward science and performed numerous chemical experiments. "In 1657 his increasingly poor health led Digby to take the waters at Montpellier, where he gave his famous account of the 'powder of sympathy', which cured wounds by being rubbed on the weapon that inflicted them. It was a strong solution of vitriol (copper sulfate) in rainwater, which could be improved by drying in the sun and by mixture with gum tragacanth" (DSB IV, 95). "The discourse on the powder of sympathy, one of the most famous of Digby's productions" (Ferguson VI, 22), first appeared in 1658 in Paris in French and then in London in English, before being translated into German by H. Hupka in 1660.

DESCRIPTION: 8vo. (6), 131, (5) pp. Modern marbled boards.

Browned throughout due to paper stock. Wants the engraved frontispiece (present in facsimile). Old handwritten ownership to verso of title-page.

REFERENCES: VD 17, 3:625237G. BL (German books) D 459. Ferchl 125. Cf. Krivatsy 3250 (3rd ed., also without the frontispiece). Ferguson (Books of Secrets) VI, 23 ("of the second edition, I do not know the date"). DSB IV, 96.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn22288/>

19.  
Eröffnung unterschiedlicher  
**Heimlichkeiten**  
der Natur /

Worbey viel scharpffsinnige /  
kluge / wolertwogene Reden von nützlichen  
Dingen / jederman dienlich / die gleiche Artung der Na-  
tur entdeckende / klar und ausführlich bengefüget / und  
vornemlich von einem wunderbaren Geheimniß  
in Heilungen der Wunden / ohne Verüh-  
rung / vermög des Vitrioli,  
durch die


**SYMPATHIAM,**

Discursweise gehalten in einer hoch-  
ansehnlichen Versammlung zu  
Montpelier in Franckreich /


Durch den  
Hochwolgebohrnen Herrn Grafen /  
**Herrn Kenelm Digby,**


Rittern / und der Königin in Groß-  
Britannien Canslern /c.

Ubersetzet von M. A. Hupka.

  
Zum zweyten mal  
Gedruckt und verlegt von Valthasar Ehris-  
toph Wust /

Frankfurt/M DC LXI.

  
An den günstig-verständigen  
Leser.

 Leser Discurs / so dir mit kur-  
zem allhier fürgestellet wird / be-  
darff keines weitläuffigen Lob-  
spruchs / sintemal Er der gleichen  
schöne und herrliche Sachen /  
nützliche Wege und Weise / zu unterschiedli-  
chen Geheimnissen zu gelangen / in sich be-  
greiff / (es folget hierinnen eine Materi der  
andern gleichsam Kettenweiß nach) daß du  
in dessen Lesung grossen Gnügen verspüren  
wirst / wiewol es ein bloß auffgefanger  
Discurs / nach des Hoch-Wolgebornen Hn.  
Verfassers Ausrede zu Feder gebracht / und  
also in der gehalten Sprache / wiewol ohn  
sein Begehren / gedruckt worden ist. Den Ti-  
tul betreffend / sind darinnen die fürnehmste  
Handlungen abgebildet worden: Vor das  
erste die geimpffte Nasen / 2. Die verletzte  
Hand und deren Heilung. 3. Der blutige  
Degen an dem Feuer. 4. Die Mutter Ma-  
le / 5. Das Gähnen / 6. Die Erdspinne Ta-  
ranculam und dero wunderfelgane Wir-  
kung. 7. Den geschwornen Ochsenfuß.  
8. Die verletzte Kuh-Eiter. 9. Die verbrand-  
te Hand gegen dem Feuer / bezeichnende.

N II Die

## *With the editio princeps of the Conica*

### 27. Coenders van Helpen, Barent.

*Thresor de la philosophie des anciens où l'on conduit le lecteur par degrez à la connaissance de tous les metaux & mineraux [...].*

“Cologne” (i.e., Groningen), Claude le Jeune, 1693.

(And): Apollonius of Perga.

*Conicorum lib[ri] V, VI, VII. Paraphraste Abalphato Asphanensi nunc primum editi.*

Florence, Giuseppe Cocchini, 1661.

€ 20,000



The final edition of the “Thresor de la philosophie des anciens”, a reference treatise for the theory and practice of alchemy, esotericism and hermetic philosophy that draws on Hermes Trismegistus, Paracelsus, and Sendivogius. Couched in the form of a dialogue, the book discusses the ten-step ascent to the single matter via two qualities, three principles, and four elements. The 17 remarkable allegorical plates depict alchemy, chaos, heat, love, the elements, sulphur, mercury, and salt. The Groningen politician Coenders (1601–78) first published this rare work in 1686.

Bound with the editio princeps of books V, VI and VII of the *Conica*, the most original part of Apollonius’s fundamental work on conic sections. The text survives only in the Arabic manuscript of Abu ‘l Fath of Ispahan, purchased by the Medici family in the first half of the 17th century and here translated and edited by Alfonso Borelli. “This was a valuable addition to the mathematical knowledge of the time, for whereas Books I–IV of the Conics dealt with information already known to Apollonius’s predecessors, Books V–VII were largely original. Book V discusses normals to conics and contains Apollonius’s proof for the construction of the evolute curve; Book VI treats congruent and similar conics and segments of conics; Book VII is concerned with propositions about inequalities between various functions of conjugate diameters” (Norman). “The fifth book is especially important treating of normals as minimum and maximum straight lines drawn from given points to the curve” (Honeyman). “The sixth book is on the similarity of conics. The seventh book is on conjugate diameters” (Cajori).

A fine, wide-margined copy.

DESCRIPTION (Coenders): (6), 240 pp. Title-page printed in red and black. With allegorical frontispiece (“Escalier des Sages”), woodcut ornaments, 12 allegorical plates, and 5 copper engraved plates with alchemical motifs.

(Apollonius): (36), 415, (1) pp. Title-page printed in red and black. With hundreds of geometric figures in the text.



Folio (228 × 330 mm). Contemporary smooth, deep auburn full calf with gilt ornamentation and traces of a label to spine.

Occasional light browning; title-page trimmed along top edge. Binding a little rubbed at extremities, spine-end professionally repaired, but an appealing volume.

REFERENCES (Coenders): VD 17, 7:651937N. Caillet 2419. Duveen 287. Verginelli 74. Brüning II, 2718. Brunet II, 1052. – (Apollonius): Norman 58. Honeyman 119. De Vitry 29. Sarton I, 173–175. DSB I, 179–193 (Apollonius) & II, 308f. (Borelli). Cajori, A History of Mathematics, pp. 40f. DBI XII, 546. Riccardi I, 158 (“bella edizione, ed assai ricercata”).

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn52063/>



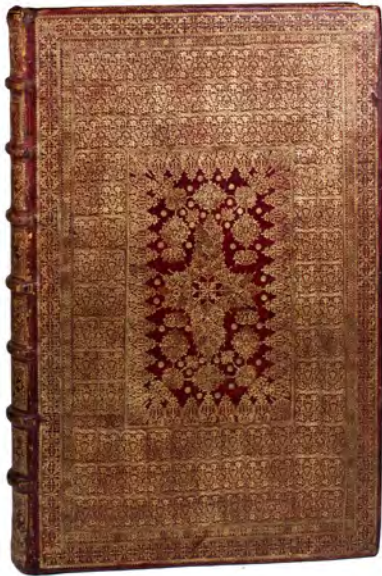
*Forerunner of computer science: author's presentation copy to the Superior General of the Jesuit Society*

**28. Kircher, Athanasius.**

*Ars magna sciendi, in XII libros digesta, qua nova & universali methodo.*

Amsterdam, Johannes Janssonius van Waesberge & widow of Elizaeus Weyerstraten, 1669.

€ 50,000



First and only edition of this work important for the theory of science. Its fundamental idea of connecting all branches of science in a common system is based upon the thoughts of Ramon Llull. “Represents the 17th century research for a universal language” (Merill) and is considered a “fascinating anticipation and precursor of computer science” for its treatment of the art of combinatorics. At the same time, it forms a manual of mnemotechnics and of a method of learning.

Janssonius van Waesberge, who published Kircher's books in Amsterdam from 1664/65 to 1682, arranged to have copies of several luxuriously bound for Kircher to present to leading figures, and this is almost certainly one of them, presented to Giovanni Paolo Oliva, Superior General of the Jesuit Society. The binding is nearly identical to that of the Morgan Library's copy of the same edition, using the same tools in a nearly identical arrangement.

In a 1948 Sotheby's catalogue, Anthony Hobson attributes the binding of the copy now at the Morgan to the most famous Dutch binder of all time, Albert(us) Magnus (1642–89), but this attribution has since been questioned: Foot distinguishes about a dozen different Dutch workshops that finished bindings in this style, noting that some “show the same high level of craftsmanship and are decorated with tools very closely similar to those used by” Magnus. The fact that few of these groups of bindings have so far been linked to named bookbinders takes nothing away from the quality of the work. The present binding represents a workshop of the highest order that has so far been barely studied, and its large number of tools, with more than 1500 impressions of about 14 stamps and 3 rolls, gives a good overview of the workshop's equipment. The paper is of royal format, probably indicating a large-paper copy.

DESCRIPTION: Folio (300 × 460 mm). 2 vols. in 1. (18), 245, (2), 247–482, (10) pp. With 2 richly engraved allegorical frontispieces, an engraved plate with a full-page portrait of Emperor Leopold I, an engraved plate showing all knowledge of the universe organised as a tree, 2 engraved volvelles (with 4 rotating dials), 20 further engravings on integral leaves and a couple dozen woodcut figures in the text. Contemporary richly gold-tooled red goatskin morocco, gold-tooled turn-ins, giving a total of more than 1500 impressions of about 14 stamps and 3 rolls, edges gilt over red and blue squiggles.

Browned and foxed as common, a few leaves more severely, with the ink of both the letterpress text and the engravings sometimes leaving a browned offset or showing through on the reverse, but otherwise good. Foot of spine has a crack in the front hinge and a few wormholes and repaired tears in the backstrip; head of spine also shows a few wormholes but only minor damage. Turn-ins have browned the outer edges of the marbled pastedowns; free endleaves more severely browned than the leaves of the book itself. Binding otherwise in very good condition, with only minor scuff marks around the extremities and nearly all of the tooling clear and well-preserved.

PROVENANCE: Contemporary owner's inscription of Giovanni Paolo Oliva at the foot of the title-page; armorial bookplate of the Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica in Amsterdam.

REFERENCES: De Backer/S. IV, 1066–1067, no. 28. Breslauer cat. 107 [1984?], p. 188 (this copy). Caillet 5771. Dünnhaupt, Kircher 23. Ferguson I, 467. Findlen, Athanasius Kircher, pp. 7, 35, 83–85 & passim. Fletcher, Athanasius Kircher (2011), pp. 415–417, 495, 557f. & 567 (no. 24). Honeyman 1827 (incpl.). Merrill, Athanasius Kircher 22 (2 copies, 1 lacking 1st frontispiece & 1 lacking portrait). Thorndike VII, 567.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn53114/>



## *An authentic 17th century barber surgeon's recipe book*

### 29. [Recipe book].

*An Austrian barber surgeon's recipe book.*

Probably Tyrol, ca. 1680.

€ 8,500



Very extensive collection of medical recipes compiled by a 17th century barber surgeon, as emerges from the two-page preface in verse. Inserted between part one (pp. 1–240, comprising more than 500 recipes) and part two (some 150 additional recipes, pp. 278–344) are two instructional texts in the same handwriting, explicitly addressed to barber surgeons: “Fragen von der Baders Profession” (pp. 241–261) and “Frag Stuckh, wie man sich nach denen Fragen freintlich beantworten soll” (pp. 265–270). These sections also discuss early modern anatomical problems, such as the structure and qualities of the brain: made of “soft and light-coloured tissue”, it is said to consist of three parts of various sizes, which respectively, from largest to smallest, govern reason, memory, and imagination.

The pharmaceutical section is followed by lists of chemical symbols (marked by a thumb tab), apothecaries’ weights, and a catalogue of various ointments and oils, plague herbs and roots. At the end are a table of contents with an alphabetical thumb index and a list of Latin plant names.

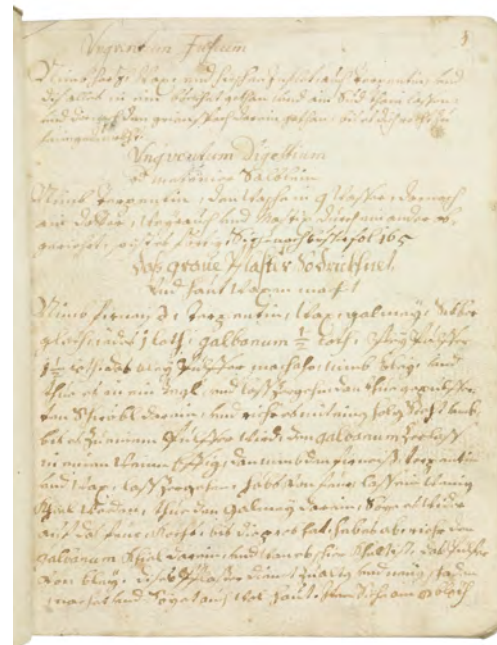
As the recipes’ titles reveal, the contents of the book was drawn from the practical experience of contemporary barber surgeons, some of whom are identified by name. The book offers a plethora of simple remedies for “drying wounds”, “bandages for old harms”, “to kill mites in the hair”, or “to drive out mice and flies”. But the treatment of more serious diseases such as jaundice, plague or cancer is not neglected. A particularly interesting – and potentially poisonous – remedy is an anticarcinogenic balm containing white lead, “so as that the cancer may not grow and devour”; other remedies are intended to help “those who cannot pass their water”. Some cures are recommended for humans as well as animals, others (such as wearing a verbena root) are believed to ward off sorcery.

The Tyrolean origins of the manuscript are suggested not only by the dialect, but also by one recipe that specifically refers to Duke Sigismund of Tyrol, who is said personally to have used a certain potion against wounds. Some recipes appear to have been supplemented by different, slightly later hands.

DESCRIPTION: 4to. German manuscript on paper. A total of ca. 358 written pages on 264 ff.: (1), (1 blank), (2), (6 blank), (1), (1 blank), 1–344 (of which 5 blank), (18 blank), (23), (26 blank), (1) pp. (of which 32 pp. are bound at the end with a total of 17 pp. of alphabetical index entries, mostly with thumb index). Contemporary vellum.

Light waterstain to upper margin, occasionally affecting legibility of a few lines; some browning and finger-soiling throughout. Binding stained and browned, rubbed and bumped, covers showing minor traces of worming as well as cut marks.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn57572/>



## *An Austrian lady's medical manual*

**30. Anna Maria Magdalena Winkler, née Seeauer, burgher of Ischl, Austria (1668–1745).**

*Ein sehr nützlichē unnd approbiertes Artzenney-Puech, inn welchem sehr guette Stuckh zu unndterschiedlichen Khranckheiten und Zuestannden zu fündten seinn.*

[Ischl], 1688.

€ 12,500



An extensive, privately compiled medical manuscript, owned and in all likelihood largely written by a patrician lady from Ischl in the Austrian Salzkammergut region. The recipes appear to some extent based on popular tradition, but more frequently on Paracelsian sources and generally on the Paracelsian-inflected pharmacology and chemical medicine of the Renaissance.

The first recipe is a frogspawn bandage on a basis of white lead, as was frequently applied by surgeons as early as the 16th century to advance wound healing. This is followed by “daß gerechte Fontonell Pflaster” (a bandage for the fontanelles) and “Jungfrau Milch” (virgin’s milk), then – after several blank leaves – a series of recipes concerning the head, including “the noble cephalic powder”, “for when blood rushes to one’s head”, “for children’s headaches”, “when a person is confused in his head”, “for the worm in the head”, “for the severe headache”, etc. Among the further recipes are “a delicious wound potion”, “strong water for a stroke”, “noble trisanet powder for strokes, weakness of the heart, and ailments of the stomach and the liver”, “great inner heat”, etc. Other recipes concern the internal organs and respiratory tract, gynecology and obstetrics, as well as dentistry; also, recipes for emetics and for various ointments, tapeworms, enemas, and “how to push the intestines back into the body when the bowels have fallen out”. Some recipes reveal the scientific limits of their age (one, intended to make children grow faster, is essentially a rose ointment to be soaked in a cloth which is bound on the child’s head); others fall into the province of the quasi-magical.

Although several hands appear to have contributed to this manuscript, a large part is unquestionably by the writer of the title-page, whom we may identify with its owner. Maria Magdalena Seeauer, born on 7 June 1668, was descended from the well-known dynasty of Ischl salt loaders who can be traced to the 14th century. She was a daughter of the local salt loader, alderman and judge Simon Seeauer (1615–1704) and sister of Johann Ignaz Seeauer (1661–1709), who succeeded his father in all his offices. Ten days after her 19th birthday Maria Magdalena married, in Ischl, the 36-year-old Johann Richard Winkler from Grieskirchen; she began compiling the present recipe book the following year. She died in her native city on 9 March 1745, having survived her husband by 27 years.

DESCRIPTION: German manuscript on paper (watermark: crowned double-headed eagle, counter-sign CH), probably by two or three different hands. 196 unnumbered ff. with 197 written pages. Contemporary half vellum with remains of ties, 4to (158 × 200 mm). Loosely inserted between the leaves are 9 slips of paper in various sizes, some folded and written on several sides, containing additional recipes (including the remainder of a letter, addressed to the book's owner in Ischl), as well as a strip of cotton cloth from the 17th or early 18th century.

Binding somewhat rubbed; paper insignificantly browned. Nine leaves in the book's interior show slight worming, occasionally barely touching letters, but altogether clean and unstained, uncommonly well preserved for a manuscript apparently kept in constant use. The piece of cotton cloth inserted between two leaves likely represents the authentic type of a cloth bandage used for applying ointments in the early 18th century.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn48462/>



## *On gemstones and dyeing, perfumes, and methods of making artificial pearls*

### 31. [Alchemical manuscript].

*Majmua' al-Sanaye' [A Treatise on  
Gemstones and Alchemy].*

India, 1105 H [=1693/94 CE].

€ 8,500



A highly interesting and wide-ranging treatise on metallurgy, jewels, stones, dyeing, perfumes, methods of making artificial gems and pearls, fireworks, etc. Two other copies of this work, sometimes also known as the *Jawahir al-Sanayi'*, are in the National Library of Tehran (inv. no. 5-15785 and 5-20102), one of which is dated AH 1238 (1822/23 CE).

DESCRIPTION: Tall 8vo (117 × 201 mm). Persian manuscript on cream-coloured oriental paper. 85 ff. 13 lines of black nasta'liq with some words picked out in red ink, written space within blue and double red rules, pages bordered with additional single blue rule. Slightly later blindstamped full auburn leather (spine professionally renewed).

Finely preserved. The pretty, somewhat later binding is signed by the bookbinder with an Arabic blind-stamp, "made by Muhammad Uthman Sahab Jalal Anari".

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn60468/>



کسرخ شود و آن یک فصل است **باب بیست و نهم** در نوشتن خط  
نوشتن بر عقیق و نوشتن بر سنگها و ساختن مس از آن و  
ساختن اقلیمای سیم و ساختن رو سخت چینه رنگ بلور  
و غیره و صنعت تخمه زلکین و تویدیا و نوشتن اکره پرنامای  
چند دانه دار و آن هفت فصل است **باب چهل و سوم** در صنعت  
اکره هر چه که بر جامه چکد ز روغن کچند در روغن و سیاهی  
از ابریشمی و کنجاب و اطلس و قطعی و صوف باستانی  
دور کنند و آن یک فصل است **باب چهل و یکم** در رنگ کردن  
موی و دراز کردن موی و داروی که موی بر ویاند و داروی  
که منع موی کند و سیاه کردن موی و سفید کردن موی  
و رنگ کردن پس این پنج فصل است **باب چهل و دوم**  
در آتش بازیها از هر رنگی و سیمی سبز و هفت رنگ و زنجک  
و سوائی طوطک انداختن کلهای غیر مکر و آن دو فصل است

نیز هر یک را با زغایم تا طالبان فایده گیرند و باند التوتیس  
**باب اول** در ساختن مروارید و آن هفت فصل است **فصل اول**  
عمل استاد محمد قلیوف مغربله رحمه الله میارند مروارید بزرگ  
با کوزه جمله صافی سفید و شوید آب نمک چند نوبت بعد  
در نوشت در معدنی مل کرده یک شب بد از آب شستن  
و نوشت در روغن صیغ حل کنند و آن چنان باشد که بستند  
ببیشه و در آب بچوشانند و پوست از وی بکنند و قدری از  
میشه از سر تخم مرغ با کار در دار و دوست بر آن اندازند  
بیکبار برودن جعد و تخم مرغ مانند بونه باند پس نوشتا در دار  
کرده کوفته و سخته در میان بیاض الیض مسکوف کند بر سر  
پاره گل تر بند و در میان آبی که در آن شایه نباشد  
بگذارد تا مل شود و بعد از آنکه چون مل شده باشد در ظرفی  
بکنند نوشتا در محلول را و دانههای شسته در سر آن و کشت

## Complete collective medical manuscript

### 32. Ibn Sina (Avicenna).

*Al-Urjuza fi l-tibb [Poem on Medicine] and other medical and alchemical treatises.*

Probably Ottoman Empire, late 17th century CE.

€ 40,000



A fine, complete composite medical manuscript, including pharmacological and alchemical material. The principal section is formed by the “Urjuza fi l-tibb”, or “Medical Poem” of Ibn Sina, which can be considered a poetic summary in 1326 verses of the author’s great encyclopedic textbook, the *Qanun*. The verse form made it popular as a mnemonic in the process of transmitting the Canon’s medical knowledge from master to student. The second part of the work is more directly concerned with anatomical matters, but also discusses the pulse and urine.

The following section is “Al-Maqala al-Amīniya fi ‘l-fasd”, a treatise in ten chapters on phlebotomy. It was written by Abul-Hasan Hibatallah ibn Said ibn al-Tilmidi (d. 1165 CE), the Christian physician to the Abbasid caliph Al-Muqtafi, hailed as one of the greatest medical men of his age.

A subsequent essay treats the refinement of chemical substances by burning and washing, also discussing the characteristics of the combustion of various metals, including gold, silver, steel, copper, and lead. Further parts concern the refinement of medicines (by Al-Hasan ibn Bahram al-Mutatabbib) and the treatment of poisonings in general, but also offering an alphabetical pharmacopoeia.

A fine Arabic medical manuscript comprising a wide range of relevant material.

DESCRIPTION: 4to (ca. 160 × 216 mm). Arabic manuscript on polished paper. 8 parts. 93 leaves, final blank leaf. Written in black ink throughout with red chapter headings, 19 lines, two columns and single column. Contemporary brown leather binding with gilt borders and recessed and gilt central ornament, stamped in relief.

Leather covers professionally restored; modern marbled pastedowns. Internally quite clean; a few leaves show edge tears but without loss to text.

REFERENCES: GAL I, 457, 81 (“Manzuma fi ‘t-tibb”); GAL S I, 823. For al-Maqala al-Amīniya see GAL I, 487.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn57153/>

دليس التبريم ولا السطحى ولا يدي يسر دليين معزط  
دليس بالتحال ولا بالمتلى فاضبه في الحال للعدول

**في معرفة المزاج الموى من النبض**

وان تجس نابض الانسان ثم تجرد غاخر في الانسان  
من قوة الضرب في الاملاء فهو دليل قوة وصحة  
وعكس هذا اسمه ضعيف وهو لربهم اهرع بخوف

**في معرفة المتلى وعكسه من النبض**

وان وجدت النبض مثل الزرق تزيط خطا حاصل في العرق  
فالجمه متملى من الاخرائط وطبه الافراغ باحتياط  
وعكس هذا ظاهر خييل ودواه في عرفنا التبدل

**في معرفة الجران السليم من النبض**

والنبض في الجران ان يئن له تبتت وقرنت قوته  
بئسر العليل بالسلامه واهله ولا تخف ملامه

**في معرفة الجران العرق من النبض**

وان يري ذا شرف عظيم وهو له توج عجم ر  
ينتهي جرانه بالعرق ويقلق العليل اي تائق

**في معرفة الجران الاسهال من النبض**

وان يكن ذا صغر دليين مع اخفاض مغرط بين  
فاضع الجران بالاسهال باحسن الاوجه والا حوال

وان يكن في ضربه يسيل لوسط ففيد جزيل  
**في معرفة الحامل من النبض** وتكون حملها بقر او انثى من النبض

فان يكن مع سرعة النبض عظم فاقض على الاثني بجوارف راتم  
ثم انظر النبض في ينهاها فان بين اعظم من يسراها  
وكان مع عظم سرعة الحركة ذو نبضتين لم تنزل مشتركة  
فانها قد حملت بزكرك كزاراوه على غير ما هو

**في معرفة من يتوهم من ضربه مرة ويربطه وجنه ومن يموت**

اسمع هذا من الله يا ذا العظم ان بعد خمس ضربات يقف  
وغيره الوقوف عندهم خبر مائة من السقام والضرب

ثم يعرج حافظا لدوره ولم يزل كذلك وقته  
وان تجرد بعد ربع يقف كذا بشرط حفظه للدور

وان يئن بعد ثلاثا قد وقف ان النبض في عرض فلا تخف  
لكن يطول عرض العليل ان حفظ الرور على التفضل

وان يئن من بعد ضربتين تدوقف النابض دون يمين

فاحذر تعالج من بين اوصد فون قريب موته وحفنه

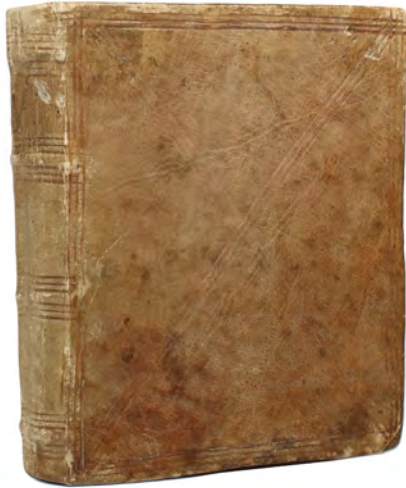
## *The alchemical manual of the chief physician to Emperor Leopold I*

### 33. Hertodt von Todenfeld, Johann Ferdinand, German alchemist and physician royal (1645–1714).

*Autograph alchemical manuscript notebook.*

Probably Austria or Moravia, later 17th century.

€ 35,000



Hertodt's working alchemical notebook, written in a fluid mixture of German and Latin. The manuscript contains detailed instructions on alchemical processes, including the transmutation of lesser substances into gold (with first-person remarks on experiments), alongside a cryptographic alphabet and a list of inauspicious dates for the practice of alchemy. It is signed on the final page by its author "Dr. Hertodt" (f. 158r).

The first of the numerous recipes, experiment records, and alchemical notes is: "Ein gutt Particular gold zu machen" (f. 1r–v). We also find recipes with instructions on "Ein oleum Philosophorum zu bereiten" (f. 7r), "Crocum Martis [alchemical symbol for iron]" – ferric oxide (f. 9v), "Oleum sulphuris" – or fuming sulphuric acid (f. 10v), "Augmentum auris [alchemical symbol for gold]" (f. 18v), the process of coagulation of mercury (f. 23r), a recipe for making bismuth (f. 34r), "Ein schön und treffliche Particular Tinctur ex [alchemical symbols for iron, copper and gold] aus Fratri Basilii Valentini" (f. 35r), "die Venus [alchemical symbol for copper] zu transmutieren (f. 38r), the separation of gold from antimony (f. 63r), "Modus faciendi Cinabari", in Latin (f. 63v), the transcription of a cryptographic cipher (ff. 53v–54r), a list of days and months on which the alchemical process should not be performed (f. 80r/v), a recipe for flowers of antimony (by roasting and condensing white fumes), "Weise Flores [alchemical symbol for antimony] zu machen" (f. 82v) and instructions for making rosemary spirit ("hungarisches Wasser"), a popular early modern perfume (ff. 143v–144r).

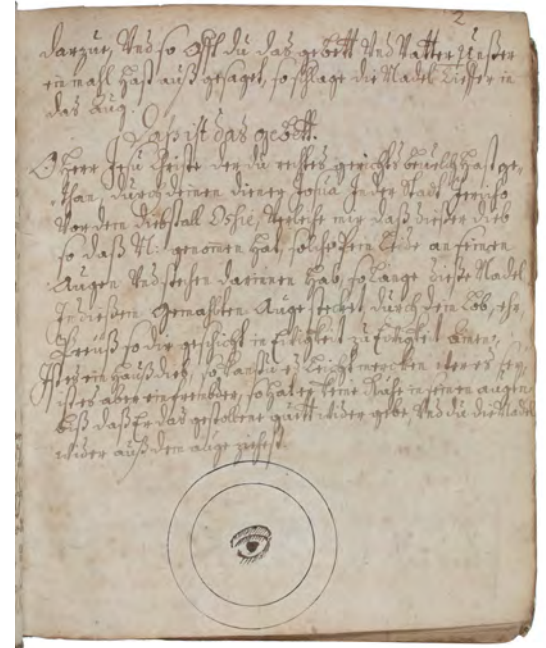
Johann Ferdinand Hertodt von Todenfeld was a German physician from Moravia (now in Czechia). He wrote a series of monographs on medical and natural philosophical topics, including a geological and botanical description of his homeland, the *Tartaro Mastix Moraviae* (1669), and the *Crocologia* (1671), a medico-scientific treatise on saffron, translated into English with a biography of the author as recently as 2020. He later became personal physician to Holy Roman Emperor Leopold I and a member of the German National Academy of Sciences "Leopoldina" (cf. Ferguson I, 400). As

a recognised authority in medical matters, it is no surprise to see Hertodt call on the learning of his colleagues in the present manuscript. Sigismundo Fueger, Swiss professor of alchemy, whose mines Paracelsus worked as a younger man, is mentioned on f. 25r, for example, as is the German alchemist Basilius Valentinus on f. 35r.

The manuscript offers a singular, hands-on perspective on the working life of a royal physician and scholar in the 17th century Habsburg lands.

DESCRIPTION: 4to (166 × 195 mm). German and Latin autograph manuscript on paper, signed at the end. (2), 158 ff. with 3 illustrations (on leaves 2r, 68v and 151v). Numerous contemporary manicules and pencil notes. Contemporary blind-tooled vellum over pasteboards. Apparently complete, with contemporary foliation (also used here), and an autograph signature of the author on the final page. Pages have varying numbers of lines, in a single hand switching fluidly between cursive German and humanist Latin scripts following switches between the two languages. Foxed and browned throughout.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn59887/>



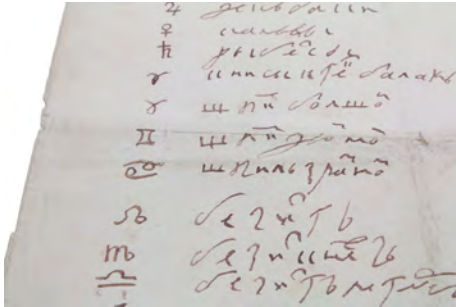
## *Alchemical manuscript by Czar Peter the Great*

### 34. Peter I, the Great, Czar of Russia (1672–1725).

*Autograph manuscript signed ("Petr").*

No place or date.

€ 85,000



List of alchemical symbols including the planetary metals (gold, silver, and mercury, among others) and alchemical processes (including distillation, dissolution, fixation and separation), all annotated with their meanings in Russian in the Czar's own hand and signed by Peter the Great, who had been introduced to alchemy by his head physician, the state councillor Robert Erskine (1677–1718).

“The extent of Erskine’s absorption in alchemical questions is demonstrated in a flurry of letters he received in August and September 1717 from Johannes de Wilde, a self-styled ‘Philochimicus’ in Amsterdam. De Wilde provides plentiful evidence of Erskine’s embrace of iatrochemistry. On 10 August 1717, for example, de Wilde wrote that ‘I have received by report that Your Excellency regards Arcana Medico-Chimica as of great value.’ The ‘philochimicus’ then seeks to promote his alchemical adeptness by providing Erskine with a recipe for potable gold (‘aurum potabile’). Rather than dismiss de Wilde as a charlatan, Erskine actually proposed to take him into service in St. Petersburg. According to de Wilde, the only reason he did not accept the offer was due to his suffering from ‘fluxum haemorrhoidum’. Interestingly, de Wilde promoted his alchemical services in a variety of ways, ranging from offering to produce Johannes Baptista van Helmont’s ‘aurum horizontale’, to bolstering the Tsar’s treasury with gold and silver and to providing a ‘delightful scent’ of an ‘aqua rosa’ for Catherine, Peter’s wife” (R. Collis, Introduction to: *A Curious Tsar. Peter the Great and Discovering Nature’s Secrets in Amsterdam*. Exhibition catalogue, 2013).

DESCRIPTION: 4to. 1 page (18 lines).

A few paper flaws in the folds, but altogether well-preserved.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn45821/>

С  
 0 Жешли  
 С шадотмипану прола машва  
 ♂ Реденись  
 1 ви.ченись  
 ♀ и  
 2 дсидаси  
 ♀ салвы  
 П ркиссд  
 Ч икисеи фс балак  
 Ч шпн болшо  
 II шпн дгомо  
 0 шпн дгомо  
 0 безиуб  
 ть безиубе  
 П безиубе  
 С машви ите  
 б роеи  
 0 при балаи  
 Ж икись по краб оманг

Ред

## *Undocumented work on chemistry*

### 35. Jabir ibn Hayyan (Geber).

*Al-Durrah al-Yatimah [The Orphan Pearl on the Precious Art of Chemistry].*

Syria?, 17 Rabi II 1169 H [= 20 Jan. 1756 CE].

€ 75,000



Undocumented work on chemistry and alchemy, highly important for being expressly attributed to Jabir ibn Hayyan, the elusive father of Arabic chemistry.

The manuscript's title reads, in full, "The orphan pearl in knowing the craft of precious chemistry, composed by the virtuous sage and complete teacher, the master of the men of this craft, Jabir ibn Hayyan al-Sufi, upon whom God may have mercy". The author states that he has written this book as a "brief and quick treatise" on the beneficial science of chemistry, divided into two Maqalahs (essays or treatises) of 12 chapters each. The first Maqalah is on the chemical "character" that combines the pillars of this science: making the "Great Red Water" (apparently an alchemical term); the recipe for making the special patina; managing the Large Door and its Crocus Martis (anhydrous ferrous sulphate,  $\text{FeSO}_4$ ); on burning with a "strong" fire; rotting and fermentation; washing and cleaning; soaking and cooking; filtration; distillation; escalation; solidification; and preservation. The second Maqalah discusses "shortened processes": the distillation of water and the "spirit" (here referring to the so-called "body" between oil and water or the air between fire and water); the extraction of liquid; the extraction of the spirit of absinthe; the extraction of the spirit of the so-called "qurd"; the extraction of the spirit from a tartaric drink; the extraction of the spirit from seeds and their water; the extraction of the water from the "aqawiyah" (as referenced in Ibn Sina's Qanun); the extraction of the spirit of Elderberry gum; the extraction of the spirit of the stag's horn; the extraction of the water and spirit of honey; the extraction of the spirit of minerals; and the weight of gems and precious stones.

DESCRIPTION: 4to (169 × 238 mm). Arabic manuscript on paper. 25 pp. on 13 numbered ff. 17 lines of black naskh, occasional words picked out in red, on French laid paper, watermarked PB with three crescents, polished in the oriental style. Title set within rough double rules. Bound in contemporary full dark morocco.



Margins ruled in blind diagonally for glosses. The polished paper is of contemporary Western, almost certainly French origin, bearing the three crescent moons that the French paper ordinance of 1739 required for paper destined for export to the Levant, as well as the initials of the paper-maker's name, as legally required in France since 1688 (cf. Churchill, *Watermarks in Paper* [Amsterdam, 1935], pp. 57f.). A short edge tear to most leaves and occasional light brownstaining to margins; upper cover slightly scuffed and marked, otherwise in excellent condition.

REFERENCES: For Jabir cf. GAL I, 241 (278).

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn60810/>



## Standard work

### 36. [Boutet, Claude].

*Anweisung zum Mignaturmahlen, vermittelst deren diese Kunst ganz leicht und ohne Lehrmeister zu begreifen, nebst vielen raren und geheimen hierzu gehörigen Kunst-Stücken; ingleichen ein Planier- und Muschel-Gold und Silber, wie auch den rechten Chinesischen Verniß selber zu machen.*

Leipzig, Johann Friedrich Junius, 1766.

€ 850



Third edition of this standard work on conservation and restoration techniques, providing very precise recipes and instructions. “Based on Boutet’s miniature book, published between 1672 and 1817 in at least 17 French editions [...] This edition corresponds in all parts to the German one of 1688” (cf. Schießl).

Quite rare; a single copy in the USA (Queens University Library).

DESCRIPTION: 8vo. (8), 112, (6) pp. With woodcut vignette to title-page. Contemporary calf, spine prettily gilt. Marbled endpapers. All edges sprinkled red. Somewhat browned throughout due to paper stock.

PROVENANCE: From the collection of the Viennese brewer Josef Wünsch (1843–1916) with his bookplate to the front pastedown.

REFERENCES: Schießl 587. OCLC 46262706. Cf. Engelmann (Bibl. mech.-tech.) 11 (4th ed. only).

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn20224/>

Anweisung  
zum  
**Mignaturmahlen,**

vermittelst deren

diese Kunst ganz leicht und ohne  
Lehrmeister zu begreifen, nebst vielen raren  
und geheimen hierzu gehörigen  
Kunst - Stücken;

Ingleichen ein

Planier- und Muschel- Gold und Silber,  
wie auch den rechten Chinesischen Berniß  
selber zu machen.

Dritte Auflage.



Leipzig,  
bey Johann Friedrich Junius 1766.

## *18th century Russian prognostication manual*

### 37. [Astrology – Chiromancy].

*Illustrated Russian manuscript.*

Probably Russian Empire, 18th century.

€ 28,500



A fully handwritten 18th century prognostication manual containing astrological tables and zodiacal charts, Sator squares and other magical tables, as well as ample matter on palmistry. Throughout the volume there are 14 working handcut volvelles with as many as four moveable discs, some with carefully cut windows. An appendix at the end contains an extensive topical manuscript.

Popular divination remained a fixture of Russian folk beliefs long into the 19th century, and the Sator Square was commonly used by the schismatic Russian Orthodox Old Believer communities since the 17th century. From the late 18th century onwards, printed sources discuss the magical folk rituals of Old Russia: as early as 1782, the Russian civil servant Mikhail Dmitrievich Chulkov published his *Slovar' ruskikh sueverii* ("A Dictionary of Russian Superstitions"), which was reprinted four years later as *Abevega ruskikh sueverii* ("The ABC of Russian Superstitions", Moscow, 1786) – undoubtedly drawing on some of the same principles that inform the present manual. Another four years later, Semen Komisarov published a fortune-telling compendium (*Drevnii i novyi vsegodashnii gadatel'nyi orakul*, Moscow, 1800) containing sections on dream divination, magic tricks, palmistry and physiognomy. While widely known and practiced by simple country folk and gentry alike, such arcane practices (culturally associated not exclusively, but especially with women) were frowned upon by the philosophers and administrators of 18th century Enlightenment: indeed, "under Catherine the Great dream interpretation was made a criminal offence, together with various kinds of magical practices and witchcraft" (Ryan/Wigzell, p. 666). The survival of so copious and wide-ranging a manual clearly designed by and for a practitioner rather than a theorist is highly uncommon.

DESCRIPTION: Small 8vo (105 × 159 mm). Illustrated astrological manuscript. Red and black ink in Cyrillic script on paper. 297 ff., written on rectos and versos, with 14 hand-cut and illustrated volvelles with between 1 and 4 moveable parts, 160 chiromantic diagrams, and numerous astrological charts. Engraved folding table of the Cyrillic alphabet inserted in front (“These are the print letters / These are the letters used in writing [sic]”, taken from *The Russian Catechism* [London, Meadows, 1725]). Modern green morocco stamped in blind. Housed in custom green cloth chemise and slipcase. Edges sprinkled red.

Some duststaining and fingerstaining from extensive use. Moveable volvelle discs appear to be lacking from two additional circular diagrams. Handsomely rebound in the 20th century.

PROVENANCE: Front matter has ink stamp (ca. 1800) by R. D. Combe, a Westminster gentleman whose library was dispersed in 1821 by Saunders of St James’s Street. Latterly in the library of the noted Russian-American photographer and biologist Roman Vishniac (1897–1990).

REFERENCES: Cf. W. F. Ryan & Faith Wigzell, “Gullible Girls and Dreadful Dreams. Zhukovskii, Pushkin and Popular Divination”, *The Slavonic and East European Review* 70 (1992), pp. 647–669.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn58955/>



## *Including a treatise on the philosopher's stone*

### 38. [Alchemy].

*"Opuscula Alchymica". Alchemical manuscript.*

Germany, 18th century.

€ 8,500



A German alchemical manuscript comprising five treatises in five different hands. The first part is an anonymous essay on the medical aspects of human excrement (“Auß den Microcosmischen excrementis oder Stercore humano können Medicamenta gemacht werden [...]”); the second, also anonymous, is a brief treatise on the Philosopher’s Stone (“Meine meinung den Lapidem Philosophorum zu erlangen ist diese [...]”). Part three is a commentary on the 1660 Amsterdam edition of Joachim Polemann’s “Novum Lumen Medicum”. Polemann was an adherent to the ideas of Johann Baptista van Helmont (1579–1644) and Ramon Lull. The “Novum Lumen Medicum” is Polemann’s elucidation of Helmont’s teachings on the secret of philosophers’ sulphur, which involved blood-stone, spirit of wine, and “alzali” (alkali?) to produce a sulphuric tincture. First published in 1659, the book enjoyed considerable success in many later editions and translations.

The fourth section is a commentary on Johann Gottfried Jugel’s “Prima Materia Metallorum”, first published 1754. It is one of several works on metals and chemistry by Jugel, and discusses the properties of various substances. The final section presents material from a work attributed to Herward von Forchenbrunn and to Joseph Kirchweger (d. 1746) titled “Aurea Catena Homeri”, which concerns sulphurs and metals and their various medicinal applications. The attempt to distinguish and separate true applicable science and medicine from the traditional occult arts is strongly indicated in the contents of this manuscript.

DESCRIPTION: Folio (200 × 318 mm). German manuscript, ink on paper. 81 ff., written on rectos and versos. Modern mottled quarter calf over marbled boards, spine stamped in blind and titled in gilt. Browned throughout due to paper stock; some foxing, but well legible. A late 19th century label mounted on the first leaf lists some of the contents. Attractively bound.

PROVENANCE: Emanuel Mai, *Catalog des Bücher-Lagers* (Berlin 1854), no. 264; later sold by James and Mary Laurie, Booksellers, of St. Paul, Minnesota. Last in the library of the noted Russian-American photographer and biologist Roman Vishniac (1897–1990).

REFERENCES: Cf. Thorndike VII, 231.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn58954/>



## *Pretty Persian alchemical treatise*

### 39. [Persian alchemy].

*Alchemical manuscript.*

Persia, ca. 1800 CE.

€ 9,500



A pretty alchemical treatise of Persian origin, illustrated in the margins with numerous small diagrams. A clean and well-legible manuscript.

Description: 8vo (125 × 208 mm). Persian manuscript on polished laid paper. (103) leaves. 11 lines, fluent naskh in black and occasional red ink. With several small ink drawings and numerous glosses in the margins. Contemporary leather binding with blindstamped, recessed oriental ornaments to both covers; blind-tooled and ruled borders (spine and edges repaired).

Extremities of binding somewhat rubbed and bumped; restored by an early owner using the original material. Light browning throughout with occasional traces of dampstains. Endpapers show numerous handwritten annotations; final leaf dated and stamped Khoja Umar ibn (?), 1282 H (= 1865/66 CE).

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn60293/>



زمانه مجلول میگردد **و دستور دیگر**  
 آنکه در ظرف مزج منبسط نموده و  
 ظرف را بهیئت کله قند بند مستحکم  
 پوشیده در جاه تعفین یا در  
 زبل و طبقه یا در خانه صحابه  
 در حمام ماریه گذارند تا از شدت  
 غدر طوبیت و حرارت لطیفه در آن  
 تاه تیره توانند نمود **حل سیخ** در بعض  
 آلات مخصوصه صناعت صفت  
 حمام ماریه و یک عمیق بر کوره نصب  
 سه پایه از چوب در و گذارند

ظرف مخصوص صل را بر سه پایه نصب  
 و آن بقدری در و یک بر نیزند که  
 چهار انگشت فاصله و تا حاجی ظرف  
 نمائند سر پوشش و یک را بالته و غیر  
 مستحکم کنند تا بخارات بیرون  
 نیایند و آتش نرمر از سر کسین و  
 امثال آن بر آفرودند بجدی که  
 آنرا جوش نیاید و در بخار کند و در  
 یکبار باید که روز یکد فوسر پوشش  
 برداشته آب کم بقدر یک میل  
 رفته باشد اضافه کرده بدستور

حمام ماریه



## Secret storage box

### 40. [Book Box].

*An apothecary's secret storage box, concealed in a 17th century folio.*

Probably Germany, 19th century.

€ 9,500



A curious late 19th century concoction, using an inconspicuous mid-17th-century volume of theology in a slightly later binding to conceal a miniature chest of drawers with space for four bottles measuring up to ca. 10 cms. The German-language drawer labels bear the names of poisonous plants: banewort, Devil's snare, hemlock, wormwood, henbane and foxglove, among others. The pastedown bears a large memento-mori illustration with a Latin quote from the Epistle to the Hebrews (9:27): "Statutum est hominibus semel mori" ("All men are destined to die once").

An appealing ensemble, probably an elaborate private prank.

Description: Using the binding and block of: Sebastião Barradas, SJ, Opera omnia, vol. III (Mainz, Mylius, 1640). 674 pages, all edges red, pasted together, hollowed out (interior space: 158 × 280 mm) and lined with red marbled paper, filled with 10 small drawers and a mirror-lined compartment holding four identical glass bottles. Early 18th century full leather gilt, spine richly gilt in seven compartments, spine labels reading "R. P. Barradii Opera", "Tomus III". Folio (230 × 348 mm).

Front cover slightly warped, but well preserved in all.

<https://inlibris.com/item/bn47492/>





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