

Nov. 21: Books, Manuscripts and Engravings at Il Ponte Casa d'Aste in Milan

- by Thomas C. McKinney

Highlight lots from Il Ponte Casa d'Aste's Nov. 21 sale

Il Ponte Casa d'Aste, based in Milan, is putting on an impressive sale on November 21st containing 253 lots of *Books, Manuscripts and Engravings*. This is a sale composed primarily of European material, though lots span six centuries nonetheless.

1. Lot 2434. Authentic and fascinating collection of important incunables and medicine treatise preserved in its original early 16th-century binding with contemporary annotations.

Here are some highlights with their complete descriptions:

[MEDICINE] - A collection of important medical incunables and treatises including: DE VILLANOVA, Arnaldo (1240-1312) - *Breviarium practicae medicinae*. Venice: Otinus de Luna, Papiensis, 21 ottobre, 1497. [Bound with:] BAVIERA, Baverio (c. 1405-1480) - *Consilia medica*. Bologna: Franciscus (Plato) de Benedictis, per i figli dell'autore, 5 novembre 1489. [And:] PORCASTRIS, Sigismundus de (1384-1473) - *De restauratione humidi*. Venezia: Peregrinus de Pasqualibus, Bononiensis, 25 ottobre 1490. [And:] CORDO, Simone (m. c.1300) - *Opusculum cui nomen claus sanationis simplicia medicinalia Latina greca e arabica*. Venezia: Gregorio de Gregoris, 1514. [And:] BENZI, Ugo (1360-1439) - *Preclara prestantissimi viri totoque orbe terrarum*. Venezia: Giorgio Arrivabene e stampato dagli eredi di Ottaviano Scoto, 1515.

5 works in one volume, folio (299 x 210mm). With blanks, woodcut initials and printer's devices to some works. At the end of the second work a bifolium with a text by Lodovico Ricchieri with in between the 6 leaves of Porcastris (in general some light soiling and waterstains, one just visible at outer edge, few small tiny wormholes) [number of copies held in Italian libraries recorded in ISTC and SBN: Villanova 6, Baviera 17, Porcastris 6, Cordo 7 e Benzi 12]. Early 16th-century vellum, manuscript title in red on spine (spine with loss, some staining, lacking ties). Provenance: At least three different hands are recognizable in the book and all are near contemporary to the printing of the various text. Some are written in the margins of the texts while others are more extensive and located between Porcastris (1490) and Cordo (1514). Among these a note (then copied a second time) is dated: "Ferrara 1507" and it would appear to be a letter whose recipient is Bartolomeo Crotti (a poet from Reggio). On Cordo's frontispiece an onwership note by Antonio Pictor (?), doctor of medicine in Reggio, states he paid 50 "soldi" for the book for his sons. The note is dated 2 march 1517, just after the publication of the work. HC 1802*-2712; Klebs 103.4-163.1-791.2; BMC VI 824; BSB-Ink A-742, B-242; GW 2529-3739-M35052; Goff A1074-B283-P936.
€8,000-12,000

2. Lot 2463. A good copy of an important work by a key figure in the early history of photography of Mecca and one of the first non-Arab photographers of the Hijaz.

HURGRONJE, Christian Snouck (1857-1936) - *Mekka*. The Hague: [s.e.], 1888-1889.

A respected Dutch orientalist, Hurgronje spent 1884-5 in Arabia, and published the result of his travels in Mekka and the accompanying atlas of photographs *Bilder-Atlas zu Mekka* in 1888-1889. Compiled on the eve of Western modernisation of Arabia, this important work is the largest single illustrated monograph on Mecca of its time. The first volume contains an historical survey of Mecca, the second describes the daily life of the inhabitants, based for the most part on the notes compiled by Snouck Hurgronje's Muslim informant from the East Indies, Abu Bakar. The plates are amongst the earliest published photographs illustrating Mecca and pilgrims from all parts of the Islamic world. The photographs were taken by Al-Sayyid Abd al-Ghaffar, a doctor in Mecca who was taught photography by Snouck Hurgronje in 1885.

Folio and 8vo. (245 x 163mm; 365 x 273mm). Text with half-titles, 2 folding plans, errata leaf at end of volume 1, modern black cloth (few leaves on modern guards, few occasional light small stains); atlas with printed contents leaf and 40 plates, comprising 65 mounted photographs on 30 leaves, 6 tinted lithographs, one double-page, and 4 chromolithographs, loose as issued in modern black cloth portfolio and preserving original cover (some plates with light foxing, contents leaf with tiny clean tear, few plates with small marginal repairs)

€7,000-10,000

3. Lot 2428. First editions of the first systematic study of the structure, distribution and position of venous valves, of the first record of the dissection of embryos, of the first printed illustrations of the development of the chick and of the author's earliest surviving treatise on embryology.

AQUAPENDENTE, Girolamo Fabrici d' (1533-1619) - *De formatione ovi, et pulli tractatus accuratissimus*. Padua: ex officina Aloisio Bencio, 1621. [Bound with:] *De formato foetu*. Padova: ex typographia Lorenzo