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Allard Schierenberg and Jeanne van Bruggen

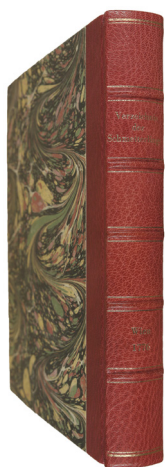
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[1] **(DENIS, M. & SCHIFFSMÜLLER, I.)**
Systematisches Verzeichniß der Schmetterlinge der Wienergegend herausgegeben von einigen Lehrern am k.k. Theresianum. Wien, A. Bernardi, 1776. Large-4to (277 x 210mm). pp. (2), 322, (2), with 1 engraved title-page, 1 engraved vignette, 1 handcoloured engraved frontispiece and 2 folded handcoloured engraved plates. Recent red half calf, gilt lettered spine and marbled boards. € 2.500

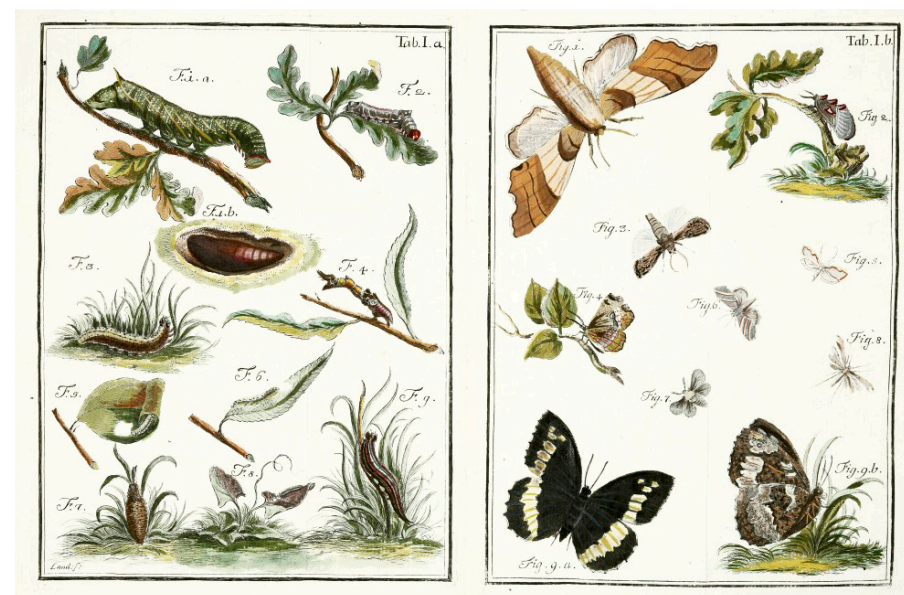
♥ A charmingly produced work on the butterflies of the Vienna region. The fine allegorical frontispiece shows the gardens of Schönbrunn/ Vienna within a lovely garland of flowers, birds, and butterflies. Michael Denis and Ignaz

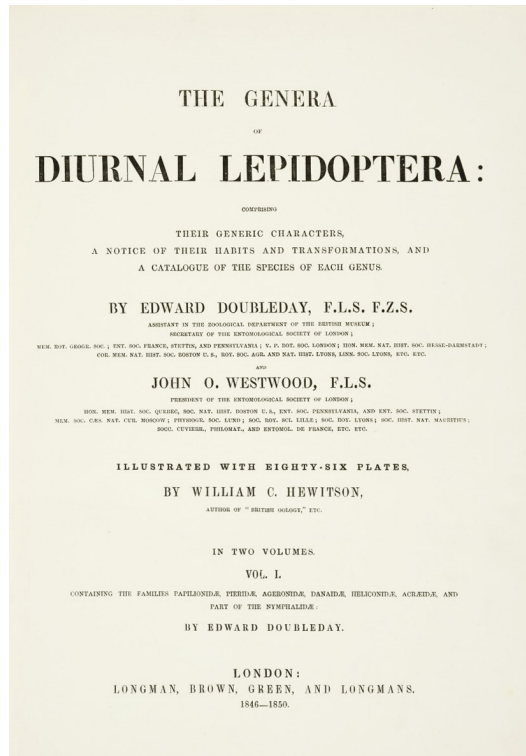
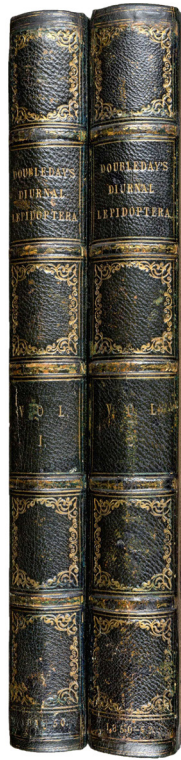
Schiffermüller were two Austrian naturalists mainly focused on Lepidoptera. Denis, a Jesuit priest and Professor at the Theresianum College, pu-

blished together with Schiffermüller, also a teacher at the same College in Vienna, the first index of the Lepidoptera of the Viennese region.

Nissen ZBI, 1074.

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[2] **DOUBLEDAY, E. & WESTWOOD, J.O.**

The genera of Diurnal Lepidoptera: comprising their generic characters, a notice of their habits and transformations, and a catalogue of the species of each genus.

London, Longman, Brown, Green, and Longmans, 1846-1852. 2 volumes. Folio (375 x 270mm). pp. xi, (1), 1-250; (2), 251- 534, with 86 lithographed plates of which 85 splendidly handcoloured. Contemporary green half morocco, richly gilt decorated spines in 6 compartments, marbled sides (minor skilful repair to bindings). € 19.000

♥ One of the rarest and most beautiful iconographies on butterflies. The





magnificently handcoloured plates were drawn and lithographed by William C. Hewitson. Hewitson was a very wealthy naturalist and formed the most complete collection of diurnal lepidoptera of the world (now in the British Museum). “Hewitson was a most accomplished artist and scrupulously accurate draughtsman, and his figures, whether of birds’ eggs or butterflies, are drawn and coloured with conscientious care ... In his own line, as a pictorial describer of butterflies, Hewitson stands unrivalled” (DNB. IX pp. 758-59). The work was published in 54 parts. The first 31 parts by Doubleday and due to his early death the work was continued by Westwood. The work is fully discussed by F. Hemming in the “Journal of the Soc. for Bibl. of Nat. Hist. Vol. I,11. pp. 335-464”. ‘The number of new species figured by Doubleday is very considerable, and is even larger than appears at first sight’ (Hemming).

“Westwood remarked that the butterfly collection of the British Museum was ‘one of the finest ever formed’, and Doubleday based his work on that collection, gaining other information. Particularly on butterfly habits, from manuscripts and drawings also in the British Museum. The famous collection of drawings by John Abbot painted in America and sent to England, plus those of General Hardwicke’s collection of Indian drawings gave much of this information”(Gilbert. Butterfly Collectors and Painters p. 82). The first plate, an anatomical plate, was never coloured. A fine copy without any foxing.

Horn & Schenkling 5034: “Sehr selten”; Nissen ZBI, 1150.

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[3] **ESPER, E.J.C.**

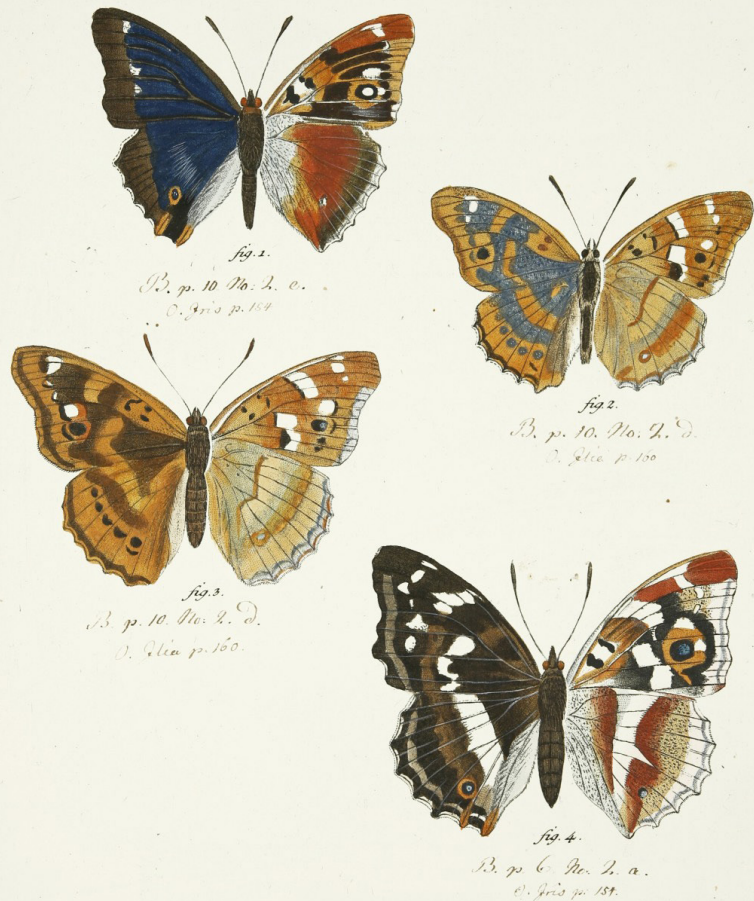
Die Schmetterlinge in Abbildungen nach der Natur mit Beschreibungen.

Erlangen, W. Walther, 1777-1794 (-1830). 5 parts and supplements (bound in 10 volumes, including the 'Ausländische Schmetterlinge'). 4to. (280 x 210mm). With 407 (of 441) beautifully handcoloured engraved plates (and:) IDEM. Die ausländische Schmetterlinge in Abbildungen nach der Natur mit Beschreibungen. Erlangen, W. Walther, (1785-1801). 4to. With 50 (of 66) beautifully handcoloured engraved plates. Contemporary boards (text vols.) & contemporary marbled boards (atlas vols.) with red gilt lettered label. € 5.500

♥ First edition of this beautiful lepidopterological classic together with the volume of the 'Ausländische Schmetterlinge'. Most of the text volumes are complete, however the supplements are lacking pages towards the end, as well as the text of the 'Die ausländische Schmetterlinge'. Sets of the first edition, are of utmost rarity. "With Esper a real scholar arrives on the scene, and while so far we have seen a constant rise in the artistic quality of illustration, we are now aware for the first time of the so-called scientific approach, which did so much damage to Europe's culture in the nine-



Tab. LXXI. Cont. XXI.



Papil: europ:

N. Ph. Iridis Varietates. Fig. 1. immaculati aberratio. (Tab. XLVI. Suppl. XXII.)
Fig. 2. mas. Fig. 3. foem. Iris rubescens. Fig. 4. foem. vulgaris. (Tab. XI.)
J. G. Sturm scul



Fig. 1. N. Phalen Freja; Fig. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6. larvat. fig. 7, 8. chry-
salides Pap. Celsi (Tab. LXXXV. Cont. 37)
J. G. Sturm sc.

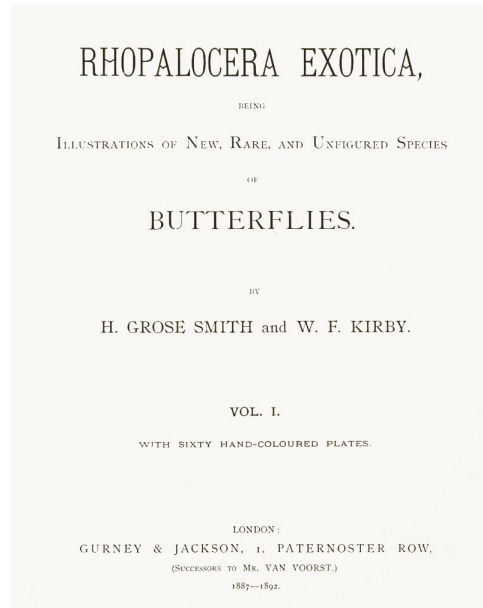
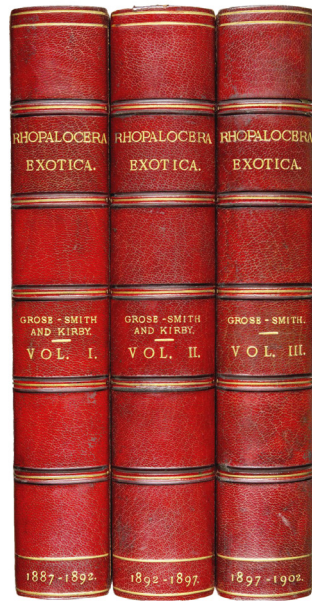
teenth century. Esper did not hesitate to show one wing of inherently beautiful butterflies as seen from above, and the other one as seen from below (Pfeiffer). Still, even Pfeiffer admits that this method offered new possibilities of comparative evaluation to the scholar, and Esper cannot be denied a strong artistic gift, which was greatly helped by the Nuremberg engraver Johann Carl Bock (fl. 1757-1806). During a stay in the Low Countries Bock was encouraged even more by artists of the school of Maria Sibylla Merian, who had formerly worked in Nuremberg” (Nissen, Bestiaries

pp. 71-72).

Its fine plates are exceptionally delicately handcoloured and engraved by Bock, Sturm, Tyroff, Volkart, Walbert, and others after Esper’s own drawings. Eugen Johann Christoph Esper (1742-1810) was a German entomologist and phycologist, professor at Erlangen and director of the Natural History Museum. His other major works are ‘Icones Fucorum’ published from 1797-1808 and ‘Die Pflanzthiere’ published from 1788-1830. Most of the plates with Latin names added in a neat contemporary handwriting.

Nissen ZBI, 1316-1317; Horn & Schenkling I, 6085 & 6088.

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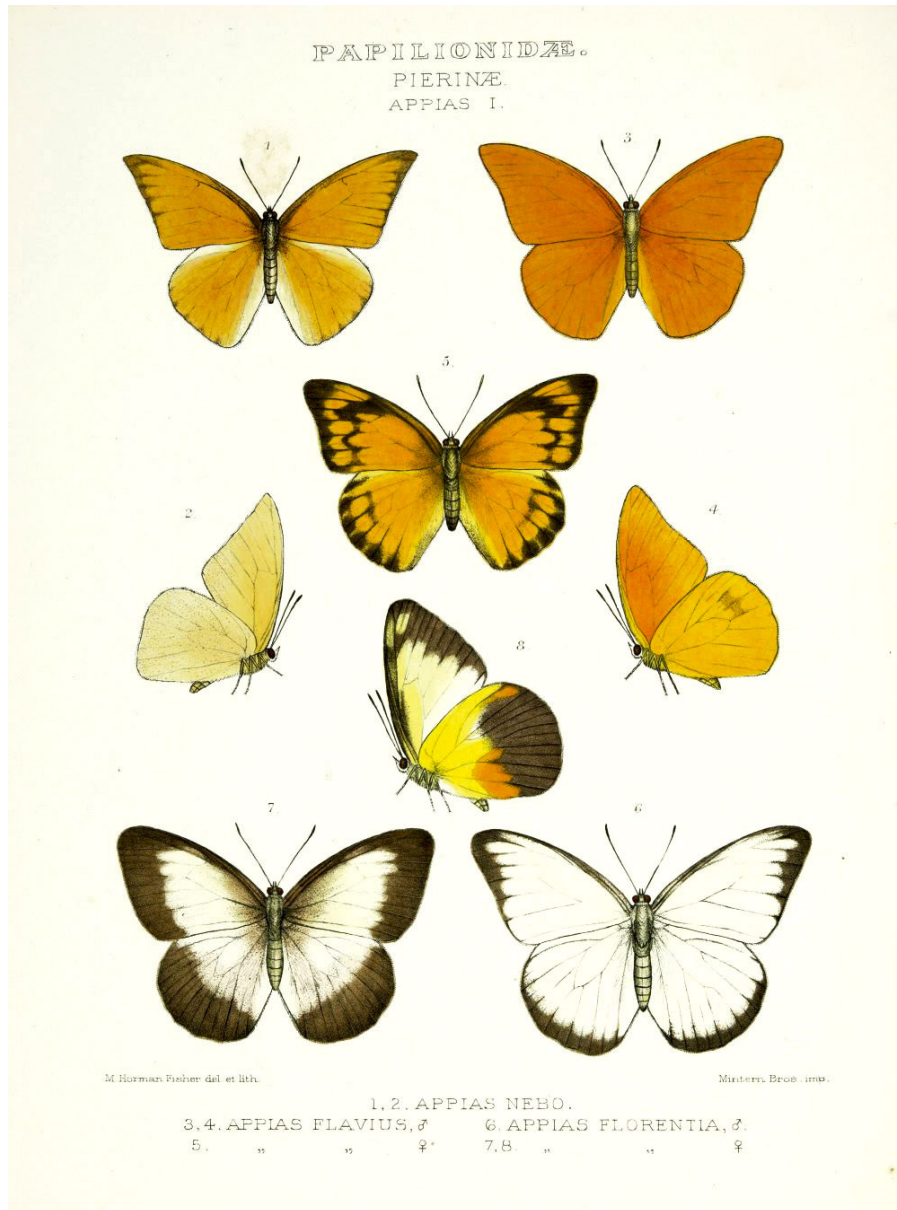
[4] **GROSE SMITH, H. & KIRBY, W.F.**

Rhopalocera Exotica, being Illustrations of New, Rare, and Unfigured Species of Butterflies.

London, Gurney & Jackson, 1887-1902. 3 volumes. Large-4to (284 x 220mm). With 180 hand-coloured lithographed plates and descriptive text. Contemporary red half morocco, spines in 6 compartments with gilt lines and lettering, top edges gilt. € 9.500

♥ A beautifully illustrated and rare work on exotic butterflies. As the work was issued in 60 parts over a period of 15 years complete copies are scarce. "The present work is designed to illustrate some of the rarer and more beautiful new species of butterflies which are continually being sent to Europe from all parts of the world by travellers and missionaries, as well as professional collectors, and it may be regarded as supplementary to late





Mr. Hewitson's 'Exotic Butterflies', and 'Illustrations of Diurnal Lepidoptera' ... The insects figured and described in this volume are chiefly selected from the Collection of Mr. Grose Smith, and with a very few exceptions

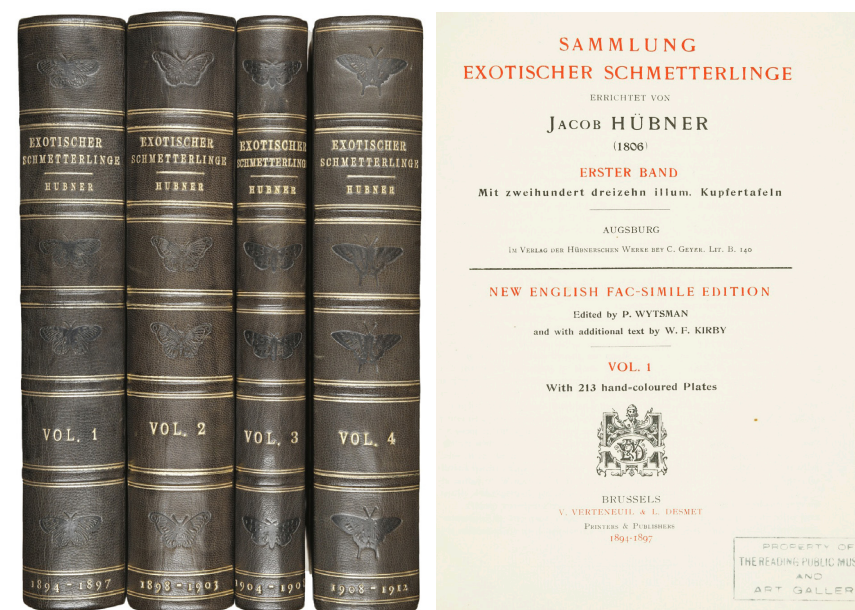


have not been previously figured” (From the Preface). Butterflies were also selected from the collections of W. Rothschild, Staudinger and a.o. Hewitson. All original printed wrappers are bound in. A very fine copy.

Provenance: Armorial bookplate of William Bree, Archdeacon of Coventry.

Nissen ZBI, 1728.

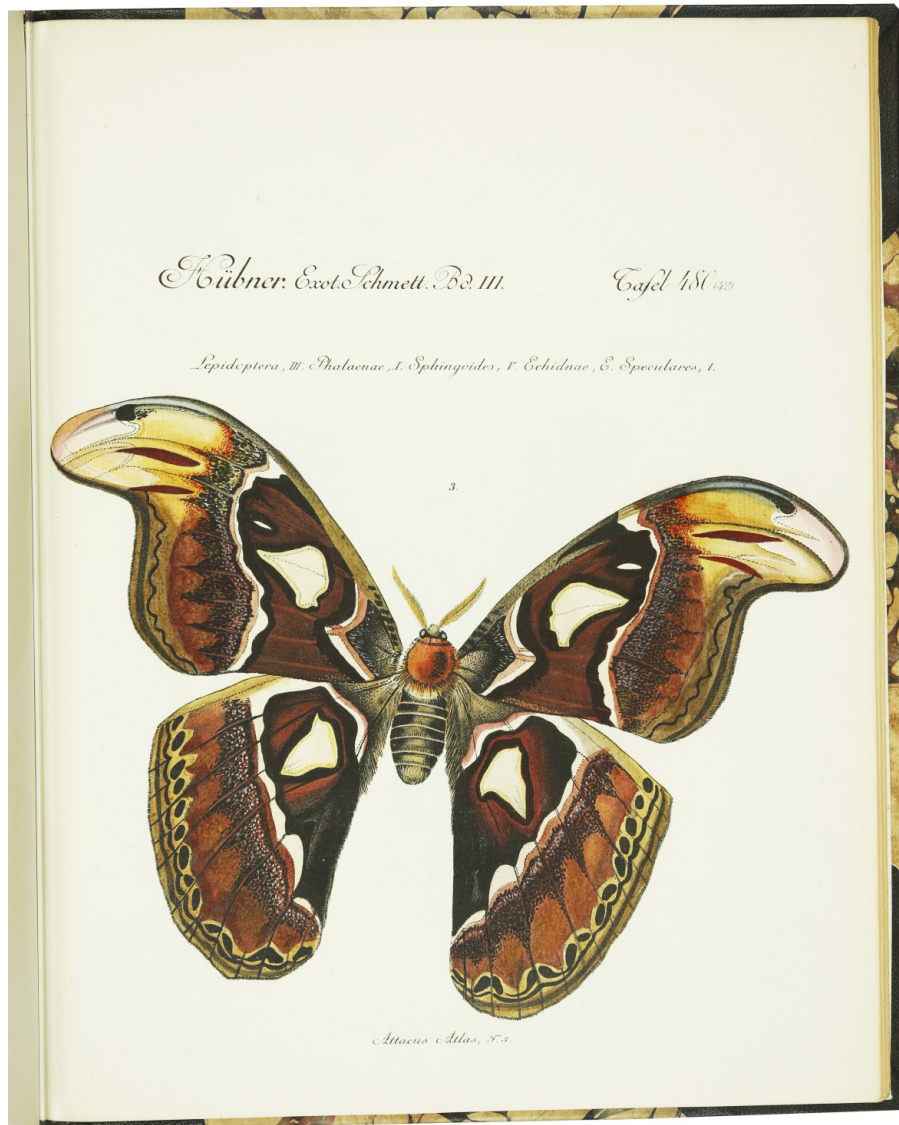
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[5] **HÜBNER, J.**

Sammlung exotischer Schmetterlinge (Lepidoptera Exotica). New English fac-simile edition. Edited by P. Wytstman and with additional text by W.F. Kirby.

Brussels, V. Verteneuil & L. Desmet, 1894-1897. 3 volumes. Large-4to (282 x 222mm). pp.(10), (8), (10),172, with 491 hand-coloured lithographed plates. Contemporary brown half calf, spines with gilt lines and lettering, marbled sides (and:) HUEBNER, J. & GEYER, C. *Zuträge zur Sammlung exotischer Schmetterlinge bestehend in Bekundigung einzelner Fliegmuster neuer oder rarer nichteuropäischer Gattungen*. New English fascimile edition with 172 coloured plates with Introduction, and Systematic and Alphabetical Indices. Brussels, V. Verteneuil & L. Desmet, 1908-1912. Large-4to (282 x 222mm). pp. (4), 2, 100, (2), with 172 hand-coloured lithographed plates. Contemporary brown half calf, spines with gilt lines and lettering, marbled sides. € 16.000



☛ Rare complete and uniformly bound set, of the English issue, of this beautifully hand-coloured new edition of one of the finest and most important works on exotic butterflies, which was edited in a very limited edition. It comprises Hübner's complete works on exotic butterflies, the 'Sammlung exotischer Schmetterlinge' published from 1806-24 and his



Hübner: Exot. Schmett. Bd. 1.

Tafel 55.

Lepidoptera, 1. Papiliones, 1. Nympheales, VII. Hamadryades, 1. Undata, a.



Hamadryas Undata Odr. Pl. 1. 2.

‘Zuträge zur Sammlung exotischer Schmetterlinge’ published from 1818-37, of which the last part was published by Geyer. Both these two original works are extremely rare and we have not offered copies since many decades. The new edition of these works on exotic butterflies by Wystman and Kirby is superbly produced. The plates are printed on thick, wove paper and exquisitely handcoloured. Also this edition is a great rarity and the number of copies produced minute. Wystman published 3 issues, one with German text, one with English text and one with French text. Probably no more than 50 copies were published. Mr. Kirby says “In writing letter press to Hübner’s ‘Sammlung exotischer Schmetterlinge’, I have paid special attention to the correct identification of the species figured, and in one or two cases I have found it necessary to propose new names. I have not given descriptions, but sufficient synonymy and explanations to bring Hübner’s plates into range with later publication” (Entomological Society News 1911). Very little is known about Hübner’s life. The rarity of his works is due to the great upheaval caused by the French Revolution and the Napoleonic Wars and the long period of publication. Hübner was a man of modest means, more or less tied to his native town Augsburg. He was a designer in one of the leading cotton factories of the town.

His true love and inclination were Lepidoptera. He published a number of beautifully illustrated iconographies on the subject which he published for his own account and he drew and engraved all the illustrations himself. “Nehmen wir als Beispiel die berühmten drei Schmetterlings-Iconographien des Augsburger Insecten-Malers und Muster-Zeichners in einer Kattun-Fabrik J. Hübner (1761-1826), welche als die schönsten Abbildungswerke der Entomologie gelten. Deren 1900 colorierte Tafeln sind als künstlerische Leistungen erst-rangig. (Und in der Reihe solcher

Hübner: Exot. Schmett. Bd. I.

Tafel 132.

Lepidoptera, I. Papiliones, II. Gentiles, II. Príncipes, B. Dominantes, c.

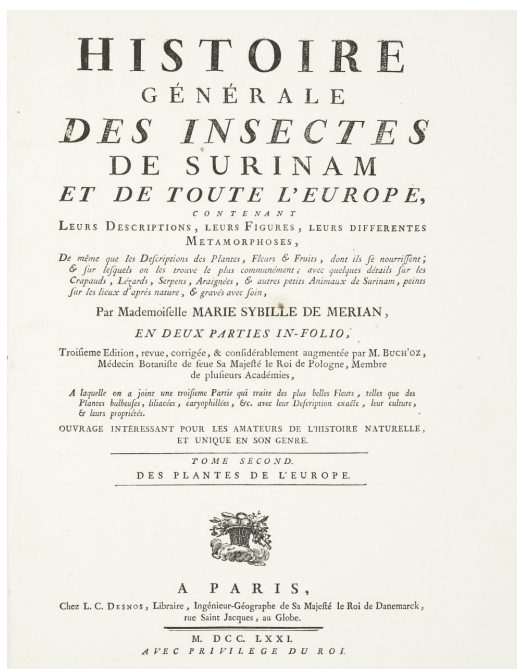
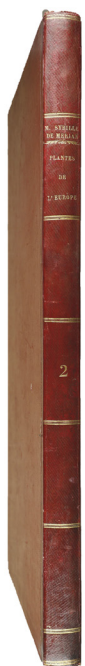


Príncipe Dominans Hypolitus. F. 3.

Abbildungswerke, die sich die Bibliophilie und die Wissenschaft streitig machen, ist das Hübner'sche Opus eines der wenigen, bei dem der Fall eintritt, dass ihm die Wissenschaft einen höheren Preiss zubilligt, als die Bibliophilie; obzwar sonst infolge der weitaus grösseren Kaufwilligkeit und Kaufkraft, die nach der Kunst hin orientierten Sammlern innewohnt, die Preise solcher auf dem Ueberschneidungs-Gebiet wachsenden Werke eben von der Bibliophilie bestimmt werden)" (Junk. Rara p. 244). Small stamp on half-titles and titles. The work describes among others species from the East Indies, China, India and Australia. A very clean and nice set.

See Horn & Schenkling 10905 & 10908 for the original edition and Nissen ZBI, 2040 & 2041 for the original edition as well as the present issue. Also see F. Hemming. 'Hübner. A bibliographic and systematic account of the entomological works of Jacob Hübner...'

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[6] **MERIAN, MARIA SYBILLA.**

Histoire générale des Insectes de Surinam et de toute l'Europe. Contenant leurs descriptions, leurs figures, leurs différentes metamorphoses.

Tome Second: DES PLANTES DE L'EUROPE (second title:) HISTOIRE GÉNÉRALE DES PLANTES ET INSECTES DE L'EUROPE.

Paris, chez L.C. Desnos, 1771. Folio (520 x 340mm). pp. (4), 72, with 184 splendidly hand-coloured plates printed on 47 leaves. Contemporary red half calf, spines with gilt lines and lettering, red boards. € 25.000

♥ An unusually fine coloured copy of the last edition of Merian's work on European insects. The book is a French translation of Merian's 'Der Rupsen Begin, Voedzel en Wonderbaare Verandering' (1713-1717), which was issued in 3 parts in 4to. The present work includes her earlier published



'Blumenbuch'. Maria Sibylla Merian was one of the first to observe and describe metamorphoses of European insects, portraying, describing and publishing them with painstaking precision. Her 'Der Rupsen Begin' is





a pioneer study. It is dedicated to 'explorers of nature, art-painters and garden lovers'.

Maria Sibylla Merian was one of the most remarkable naturalists of the 17th and 18th century, daughter of the renowned publisher Matthäus

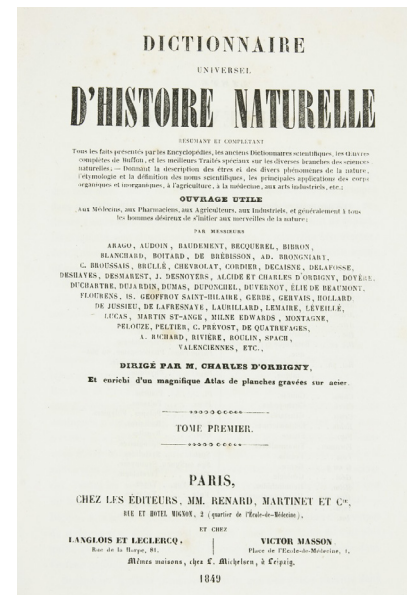
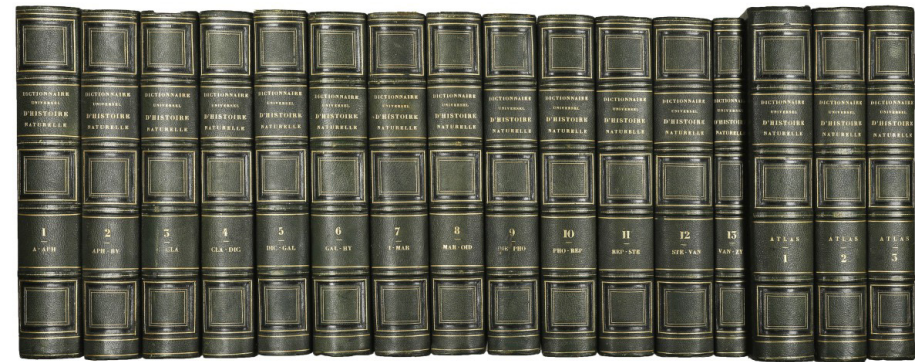
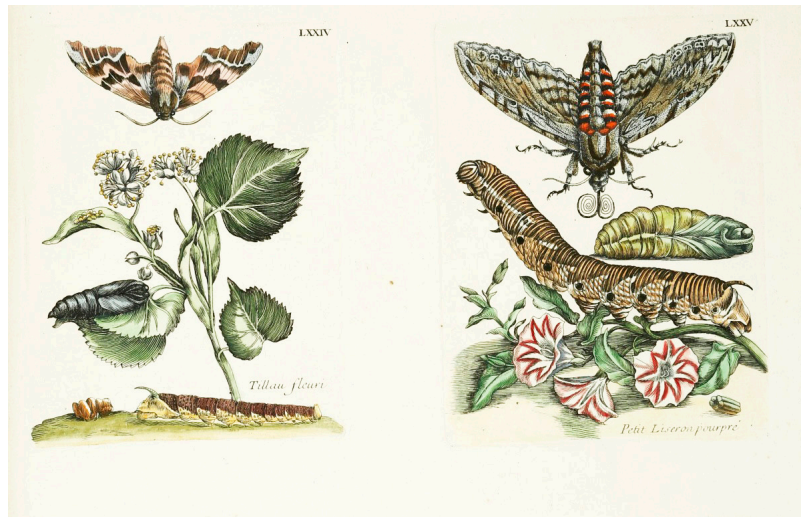


Merian of Frankfurt. Already at the early age of thirteen she began studying insects. She became the most celebrated woman artist of her time and many of her drawings were acquired by Tsar Peter the Great. “The work of these years consisted of both scientific and artistic activity: Merian collected and raised insects, fed them with their host plants, observed them, described and drew their metamorphoses from egg to caterpillar and from pupa to butterfly imago. She then compiled her individual observations and studies in pictorial compositions” (Maria Sibylla Merian, *Artist and Naturalist 1647-1717*, p. 103).

The text printed on inferior paper has some browning, the plates however printed on superior paper are not affected.

Pfeiffer, M.A.. Die Werke der Maria Sibylla Merian, no. 10; Nissen BBI, 1342.

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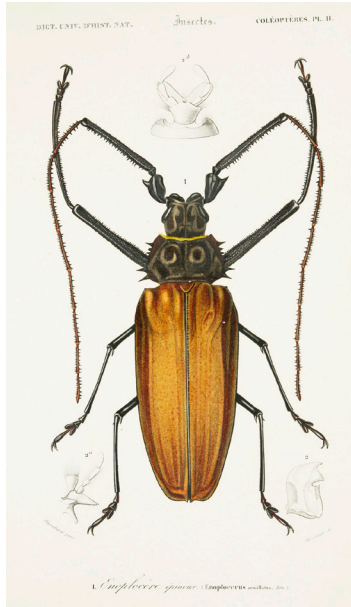
[7] **ORBIGNY, C. d'.**

Dictionnaire universel d'histoire naturelle... dirigé par M. Charles d'Orbigny, et enrichi d'un magnifique Atlas de planches gravées sur acier.

Paris, au Bureau Principal des Éditeurs..., Langlois et Leclercq, Victor Masson, 1849. 16 volumes (13 text- & 3 atlas-volumes). Royal-8vo (240 x 160mm). With 288 (274 hand-coloured & 14 tinted) engraved plates. Contemporary half green morocco, richly gilt decorated spines in 5 compartments.

€ 3.800

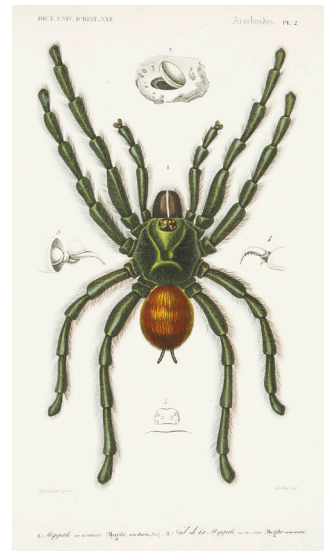
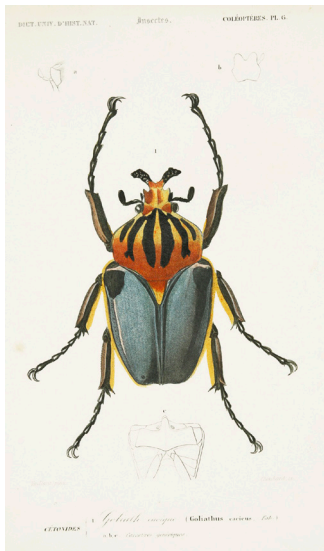
♥ A fine uniformly bound set. Wood quotes as follows: “The plates in this remarkable work render it the best illustrated encyclopaedia of natural history. The articles were contributed by leading French savants: Arago, Brongniart, D’Orbigny, Milne-Edwards, Geoffroy-Saint-Hilaire, Deshayes, Lucas, Montagne, Prevost, Quatrefages, Valenciennes, and others”.

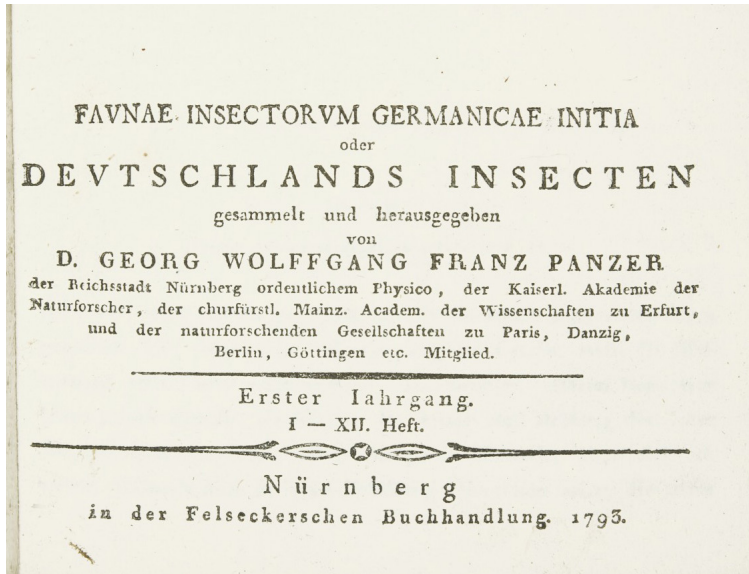
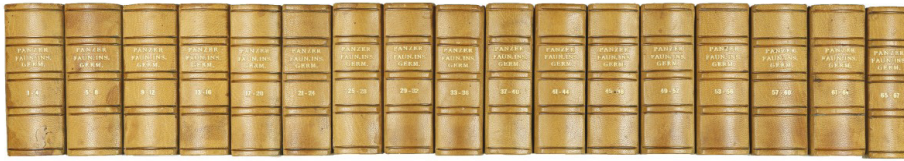


The plates are after drawings by Susemihl, Travier, Oudart, Vaillant and others. A fine copy of one of the most attractive natural history encyclopaedias of the 19th century. The 3 atlas volumes are slightly bigger and measure 248 x 170mm.

Nissen ZBI, 4617; Wood 323.

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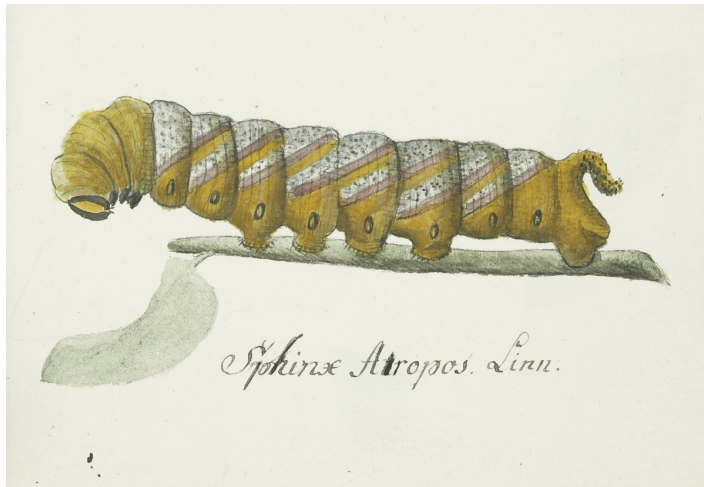


[8] **PANZER, G.W.**

Faunae Insectorum Germanicae Initia oder Deutschlands Insecten.

Nürnberg, in der Felseckerschen Buchhandlung, 1793-1799. parts 1-67 (of 100), bound in 17 volumes. Oblong small-8vo (120 x 95mm). With 1 allegorical hand-coloured engraved frontispiece and 1599 (of 1608) fine engraved hand-coloured plates, each plate with a leaf of descriptive text and 7 extra original drawings. Later uniform half calf, spines with gilt lettering. € 6.000

♥ A very fine uniformly bound set of the first 67 parts of the most beautiful miniature entomological work ever published. The first 109 parts were



published by Georg Wolfgang Franz Panzer (1755-1829). “There does not exist a more accurate or useful work. The figures are drawn and etched by the famous Sturm, the best entomological artist on the continent; ... while the descriptions, although frequently too short, are written by hand of a master. The system of Fabricius is followed and the work altogether is highly essential to every one who writes upon the entomology of Europe” (Swainson). Part 110 was published by Geyer, and Herrich-Schaeffer published parts 111-190. The continuation of Panzer’s work is very scarce due to a decreasing number of subscribers.

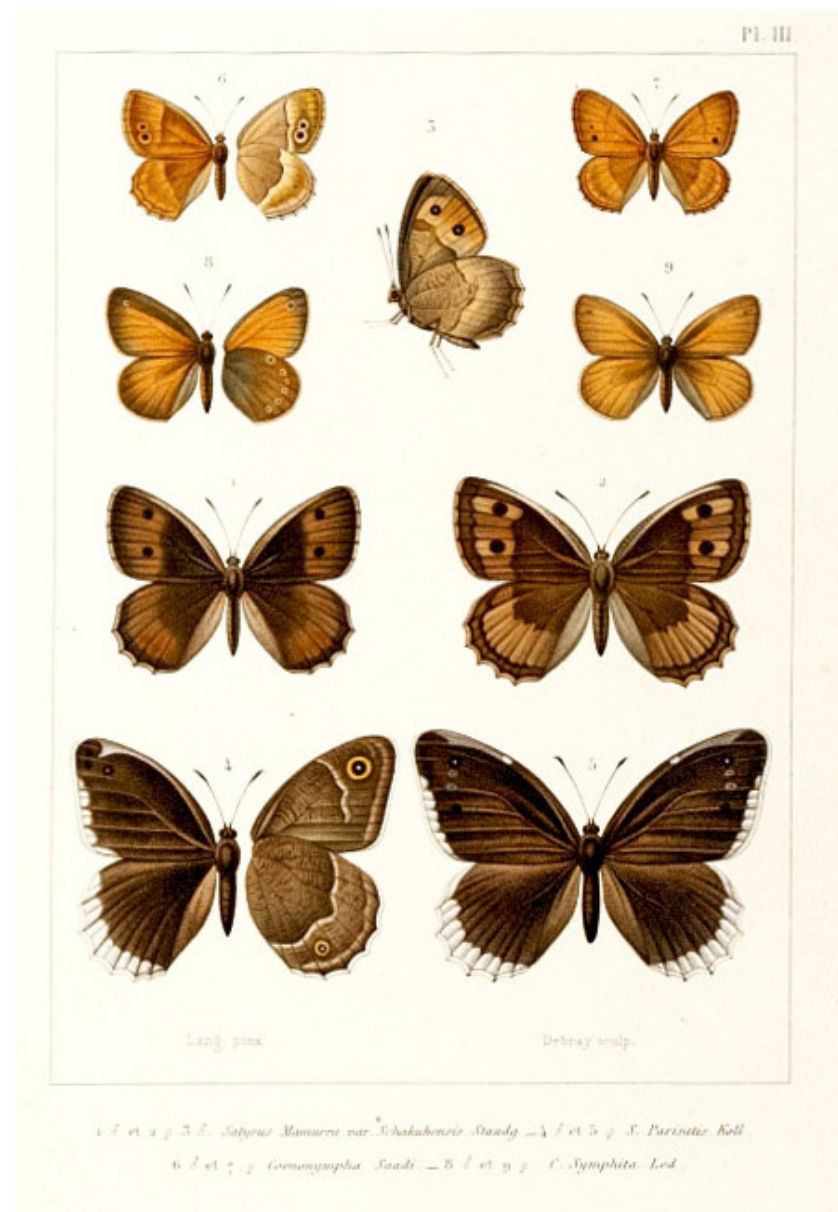
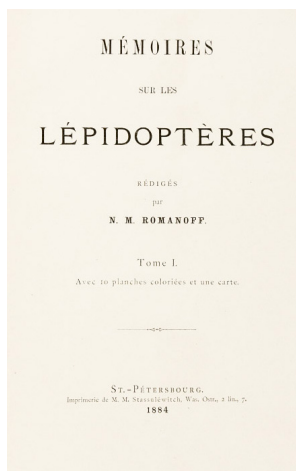
“Die alte bayrische Schule der naturwissenschaftliche Illustrationen hat sich unsterbliche Verdienste besonders um die Entomologie erworben. Sie hat die schönsten Abbildungswerke dieser Wissenschaft geliefert” (Junk. Rara II, p. 142).

Jacob Sturm (1771-1848), who illustrated and engraved parts 1-109, was born in Nuremberg. His father Johann Georg Sturm was an engraver. Jacob Sturm was the editor and illustrator of several natural history works such as his ‘Deutschlands Flora in Abbildungen nach der Natur mit Beschreibungen’. Apart from this he illustrated a great number of the finest natural history works published at that period in South Germany. “This is one of the most prodigious of the illustrated tomes in entomology ever to have been produced and shows the progress of taxonomy that took place during that span of years because Panzer included the most up-to-date synonymical history for each species, sometimes predating publication of works in preparation by colleagues who gave him information and specimens from their respective works” (Evenhuis p. 600). Added 39 duplicate plates with descriptive text.

Provenance: Bookplates of Herbert Frey and Georg Frey.

Nissen ZBI, 3084; Junk Rara II, 141.

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[9] **ROMANOFF, N.M.**

Mémoires sur les Lépidoptères.

Rédigés par N.M. Romanoff. Tomes I-VII & IX. St. Pétersbourg 1884-1897. 8 volumes. 4to (295 x 185mm). pp. (8), 181; (6), 262; (6), 419; xvii, 575, (2); (6) 248; (4), 700, (2); (8), lvi, 658, (2); (4), 365, (1), with 130 engraved plates of which 70 finely hand-coloured, some figures in the text and 3 (of 4) coloured maps. Recent half calf, spines with gilt lettering. € 10.000

♥ This excellently illustrated work is one of the rarest publications on Lepidoptera. It was published in a very limited edition, and the number of plates which are coloured vary in most of the copies. Copies with all the plates coloured exist but mostly copies are found with less than 70 plates coloured. The monographs included are fundamental contributions on the butterflies of regions of the Russian Empire and Asia, by specialists as the Grand Duke Nicolai Michailovitch Romanoff himself, Christoph, Staudinger, Snellen, Grum-Grshimaïlo, Heylarts and others. Amongst others the work comprises large monographs as: N.M. Roma-



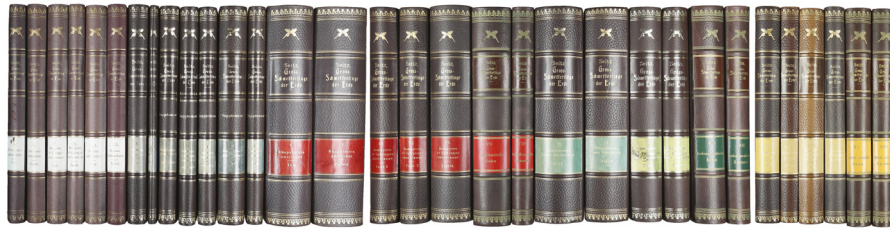
noff, Les Lépidoptères de la Transcaucasie; H. Christoph, Lépidoptera aus dem Achal-Tekke Gebiet; Gr. Groum-Grshimailo, Le Pamir et sa faune Lépidoptérologique; S. Alphéraky, Lépidoptères rapportés de la Chine et de la Mongolie par G.N. Potanine; E.L. Ragonol, Monographie des Phycitinae et des Galleriinae.

As usual, the 8th volume is not included; it is excessively rare since this volume was destroyed by fire shortly after publication and only a very few copies have been distributed. A few plates of the 4th volume have the outer margin cut short, 2 with a tiny loss of illustration. It is unusual to find a copy with all 4 maps. Grand Duke Nicholas Mikhailovich Romanoff was born on 26 April 1859 at Tsarskoye Selo, the eldest child of the seven children of Grand Duke Michael Nicolaievich of Russia and his wife Grand Duchess Olga Feodorovna. He was the only naturalist of the Czar family. He was later imprisoned by the Bolsheviks in Petrograd and shot outside the St Peter and St Paul Fortress on 28 January 1919.

Provenance: name of Kikumaro Okano on inside frontcover.

Junk, Bibl. Lepidopterologica 2268; *Nissen ZBI*, 4678

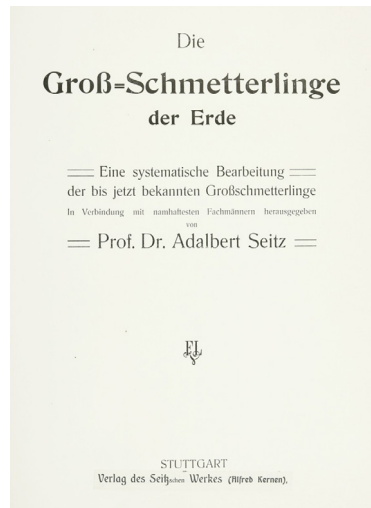
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[10] SEITZ, A.

Die Gross-Schmetterlinge der Erde. Eine systematische Bearbeitung der Gross-Schmetterlinge der ganzen Welt.

Stuttgart, Kern Verlag, 1909-1954. 20 volumes (bound in 32). 4to (315 x 250mm). Text and 1458 chromolithographed plates. Publisher's uniform half calf (first 6 vols. publisher's half cloth), spines with gilt lettering and decorations. € 19.000



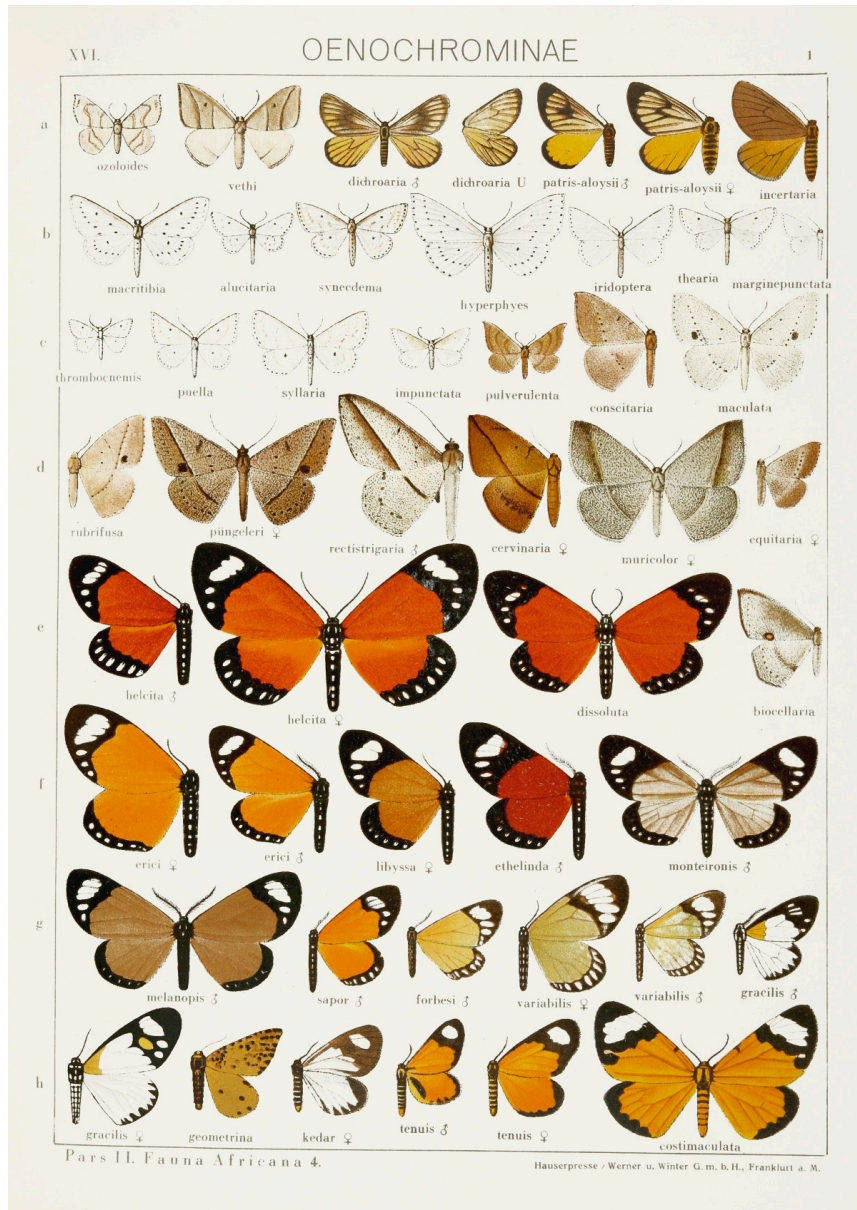
♥ A complete and uniformly bound set of this rare work. The fine plates are made by process of 10-14 colour lithography, and its excellent quality has remained unsurpassed. The editor Seitz planned to finish the whole work in 1912. This proved to be quite unrealistic as publication stopped in 1954, and several volumes remained unfinished. The most important collections of butterflies were consulted including those of L.W. Rothschild of Tring, the British Museum, the Paris Natural History Museum, the Senckenberg Museum at Frankfurt, as well as collections in Tokyo, Hong-Kong, Australia, South- and North- America etc. The German edition is textually larger than the English one as it has the complete





supplement of volume 4 (publ. in 1954), which remained unfinished in the English edition. The unfinished volumes 7 and 15 of the German edition also have more text. Apart from the 4th supplement-volume the same volumes remained unfinished as in the English edition. The work was published in 16 volumes with 4 supplements and is composed as follows: volumes 1-4, Palaearctic Fauna with 4 supplements; volumes 5-8, American Fauna (volumes 7 and 8 remained unfinished); volumes 9-12, Indo-Australian Fauna (volumes 11 and 12 remained unfinished); volumes 13-16 African Fauna (volumes 15 and 16 remained unfinished). A splendid set.





The collation of the set is as follows:

Palaearktische Fauna

Vol. I: Tagfalter. pp. 384 and 89 coloured plates.

Vol. 2: Spinner und Schwärmer. pp. 480 and 56 coloured plates.

Vol. 3: Eulen. pp. 520 and 75 coloured plates.

Vol. 4: Spanner. pp. 480 and 25 coloured plates.

Supplement zur palaearktischen Fauna

Suppl. I. pp. 400 and 16 coloured plates.

Suppl. 2. pp. 314 and 16 coloured plates.

Suppl. 3. pp. 332 and 26 coloured plates.

Suppl. 4. pp. 766 and 53 coloured plates.

Amerikanische Fauna

Vol. 5. Tagfalter. pp. 1144 and 203 coloured plates.

Vol. 6. Spinner und Schwärmer. pp. 1452 and 198 coloured plates.

Vol. 7. Eulen. pp. 508 and 87 coloured plates.

Vol. 8. Spanner. pp. 136 and 16 coloured plates.

Indo-australische Fauna

Vol. 9. Tagfalter. pp. 1200 and 177 coloured plates.

Vol. 10. Spinner und Schwärmer. pp. 912 and 104 coloured plates.

Vol. 11. Eulen. pp. 496 and 57 coloured plates.

Vol. 12. Spanner. pp. 356 and 41 coloured plates.

Afrikanische Fauna

Vol. 13. Tagfalter. p. 613 and 80 coloured plates.

Vol. 14. Spinner und Schwärmer. pp. 600 and 80 coloured plates.

Vol. 15. Eulen. pp. 358 and 41 coloured plates.

Vol. 16. Spanner. pp. 160 and 18 coloured plates.

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11] **SEITZ, A.**

The Macrolepidoptera of the world.

Stuttgart, Kernen Verlag, 1909-1954. 20 volumes (bound in 29). 4to. With 1458 chromolithographed plates. Publisher's half calf, gilt and unbound in portfolios (21 volumes in publisher's half calf and 8 volumes unbound in portfolio). € 12.000

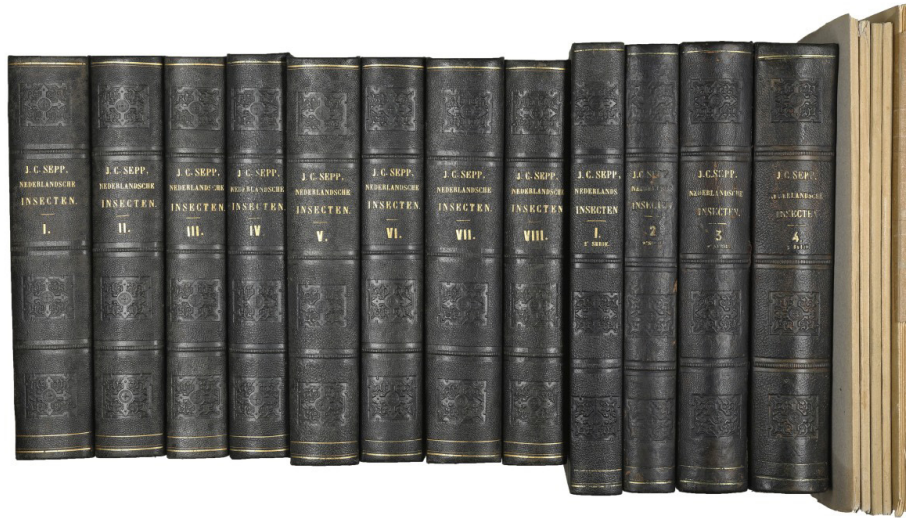
♥ A complete copy of this rare standard work on Macrolepidoptera of which no complete sets have appeared at auction. The fine plates are made by process of 10-14 colour lithography, and its excellent quality has remained unsurpassed. The editor Seitz planned to finish the whole work in 1912. This proved to be quite unrealistic as publication stopped in 1939, one year after the death of the author. Several volumes remained unfinished. The most important collections of butterflies were consulted such as the one of L.W. Rothschild of Tring, the British Museum, the Paris Natural History Museum, the Senckenberg Museum at Frankfurt, as well as collections in Tokyo, Hong-Kong, Australia, South & North America etc. The work was published in 16 volumes with 4 supplements and is composed as follows:

Volumes 1-4, Palaearctic Fauna, with 4 supplements (supplement vol. 4 remained unfinished);

Volumes 5-8, American Fauna (volumes 7 & 8 remained unfinished);

Volumes 9-12, Indo-Australian Fauna (volumes 11 & 12 remained unfinished);

Volumes 13-16, African Fauna (volumes 15 & 16 remained unfinished).



[12] **SEPP, J.C.**

Beschouwing der wonderen Gods, in de minst geachte schepzelen.

Of Nederlandsche Insecten, naar hunne aanmerkelijke huishouding, verwonderlijke gedaante-wisseling en andere wetenswaardige bijzonderheden ... Amsterdam, J.C. Sepp, 1762-1860. 8 volumes. 4to (230 x 185mm). With 8 handcoloured engraved or lithographed frontispieces and 400 handcoloured engraved or lithographed plates. Contemporary black calf, spines with blind pressed ornaments and gilt lettering, black sides. (and continuation: Second Series): SNELLEN VAN VOLLENHOVEN, S.C. Beschrijvingen en afbeeldingen van Nederlandsche vlinders. Amsterdam, J.C. Sepp/ 's-Gravenhage, M. Nijhoff, 1860-1900. 4 volumes. 4to (252 x 195mm). With 200 lithographed handcoloured plates. Contemporary black calf, spines with blind pressed ornaments and gilt lettering, black sides. (and continuation: Third Series): BRANTS, A. Nederlandsche vlinders beschreven en afgebeeld. Aflevering I-X (all published), bound in 5 parts. 's-Gravenhage, Martinus Nijhoff, 1905-1928. Large-4to. With 10 handcoloured lithographed plates. Contemporary wrappers. € 25.000





♥ One of the finest works on butterflies ever published. Cobres I, 381: “Ein Werk ohne seines gleiches, in der ungemein sauberen Ausführung, daher höchst schätzbar’; “... eines der prächtigsten Abbildungswerke der Lepidopterologie ...” (W. Junk). Its really marvellously executed plates are the culminating point of entomological illustration. Complete copies as the one offered are of great rarity. The publication of this work which according to Nissen probably started as early as 1728, stopped two hundred



NACHT-VLINDERS van 't Tweede Gezin der EERSTE BENDE.



years later, when in 1928 the author of the third series, A. Brants, deceased after having completed only the first ten parts of the first volume. The famous publishing house Sepp & Zoon, was a firm which exercised the utmost care in producing colour-plate books of outstanding quality. In the present case Sepp was the author as well as the publisher. "First series started by Christiaan Andreas Sepp together with his son Jan Christiaan (1739-1811) published in issues and in the format after the model chosen



NACHT-VI. IN DER SVAN 2 EERSTE GEZINDO EERSTE BENDE.

P. VI.

Tab. XXI.



by Roesel von Rosenhof; Sepp followed his own path for the descriptions of butterflies and their illustrations. It has become the most important work on Dutch lepidoptera” (Landwehr 182).

Added to our copy: SNELLEN, P.C.T. Determinatie der Lepidoptera afgebeeld in het werk getiteld: Beschouwing der wonderen Gods... door Jan Christiaan Sepp 1ste Serie, deel 1-8. Amsterdam, J.C. Sepp & Zoon, 1862. 4to. pp. (4), 43. Half cloth.

A fine uniformly bound set, apart from the 10 fasc. (bound in 5) of the third series which are bound in publishers printed wrappers.

Provenance: Old stamp on free endpapers of J.C.J. de Joncheere, Dordrecht.

Nissen ZBI, 3808 & 3808a; Horn & Schenkling 20145; Landwehr 182 & 202.

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[13] SEPP, J.C.

Beschouwing der wonderen Gods, in de minst geachte schepzelen. Of Nederlandsche Insecten, naar hunne aanmerkelijke huishouding, verwonderlijke gedaantewisseling en andere wetswaardige bijzonderheden ...

Amsterdam, J.C. Sepp, 1762-1860. 8 volumes. 4to (250 x 190mm). With 8 hand-coloured engraved frontispieces and 400 hand-coloured engraved plates. Contemporary uniform half calf, gilt lettered spines (vols. 1 & 2) & remaining vols. contemporary

uniform full calf, with red gilt lettered label (some minor restorations to spines). € 12.500





♥ A fine complete set of the first series. “First series started by Christiaan Andreas Sepp together with his son Jan Christiaan (1739-1811) published in issues and in the format after the model chosen by Roesel von Rosenhof; Sepp followed his own path for the descriptions of butterflies and their illustrations. It has become the most important work on Dutch lepidoptera” (Landwehr 182). The author of the second series (1860-1900) was Snellen van Vollenhoven and of the final third series (1905-1928) Brants. Towards the end of the 7th volume the plates become lithographs. “Christiaan Sepp assured his public that the publishing house of Sepp would not copy any other author. When he made this assurance he had in



NACHT-VLINDERS van 't Eerste Gezin der EERSTE BENDE.



mind the successful work published in Germany by Roesel von Rosenhof which went to several editions, including a Dutch edition. The Sepp house had high standards and refused to publish any plates that they did not think were perfectly finished, employing only the best artists; the Dutch printing houses were at this time the leaders for publishing fine colour works. The plates of this book are finely engraved and perfectly coloured. The book was once described as one of the most beautiful books ever published on Lepidoptera. When starting the work, the intention was to include all insects, but it became a work on Lepidoptera only. After the death of his father in 1775, Jan Christiaan continued the work, using many descriptions from his own personal observations. He started to collect insects and embarked on many collecting expeditions. He built a very fine insect collection and was an excellent entomologist, in addition to his skills as an artist. Jan Christiaan had inherited his father's skill as an artist and engraver, but his own son Jan (1778-1853), who helped him and continued the series, although a good artist, had not the same talent" (P. Gilbert. Butterfly Collectors and Painters p. 70). The Sepp family were the publishers as well as the authors of the present work. They published some major natural history works. The here offered first series is the most attractive part of the whole work.

Nissen ZBI, 3808; Horn & Schenkling 20145; Landwehr 182.

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