

CHARLOTTE
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RARE BOOKS

SUMMER LIST 2022
LANGUAGES

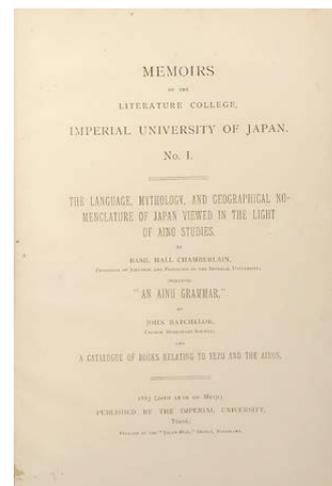
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1 [AINU]

CHAMBERLAIN, BASIL HALL: *The Language, Mythology, and Geographical Nomenclature of Japan Viewed in the Light of Aino Studies. Including An Aino Grammar by John Batchelor and A Catalogue of Books Relating to Yezo and the Ainos.* Tokyo, The Imperial University, Printed at the Japan Mail Office in Yokohama, 1887. € 2 200

4to. Pp. 174. Contemporary half morocco on marbled boards, lightly rubbed. Bookplate. Occasionally slightly stained. First edition of the first substantial work on the Aino language. Rare in the trade.

Chamberlain was the first scholar to introduce European philology to Japan, and he began the first substantial comparison of the Aino and Japanese languages. He believed that Aino had no affinity with Japanese, based on his analysis of word structure and numbers. He concluded: "Ainu is a completely different language from Japanese, Korean, and Altaic languages and is an isolated language of the world". However, several linguists have later disagreed with Chamberlain. But the research has still not come to the true origin of the language. See: William Fitzhugh and Chisato Dubreuil, "Ainu Spirit of Northern People", Smithsonian Institution, (1999) pp. 62-5. (Included in *Memoirs of the Literature College, Imperial University of Japan*, no. 1). Cordier BJ 640-1. Wenckstern I: 301-2.



2 [ANNAMESE]

NORDEMANN, EDMOND: ... Hai cham mu'oi bôn bô chu nho de lam tâp dô. Les 214 radicaux chinois. En modèle d'écriture ... Accompagnés de deux gravures et de divers index. Hanoi 1898. € 400

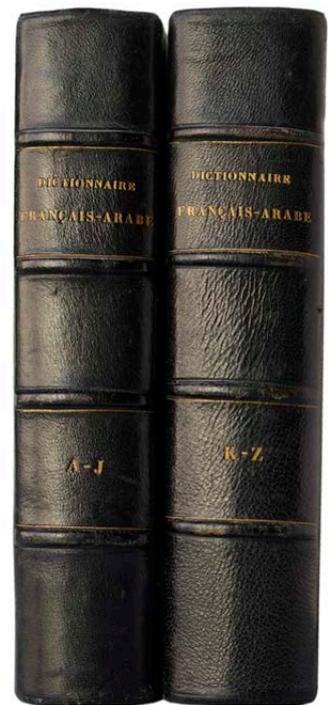
Small 8vo. Lvs. (35), double folded in the Oriental fashion. Text in French, Chinese and Annamese (Quoc-ngu script) printed in red and black. Original printed wrappers, sewn as issued, upper front right corner cut off, small stain to lower cover. Old ownership signature on title. Devoted to the Annamese language. Using Chinese characters for different writing styles, pronunciation etc. Several indexes are included.

Edmond Nordemann, French linguist and founder of "La Société tonkinoise d'Enseignement mutuel".





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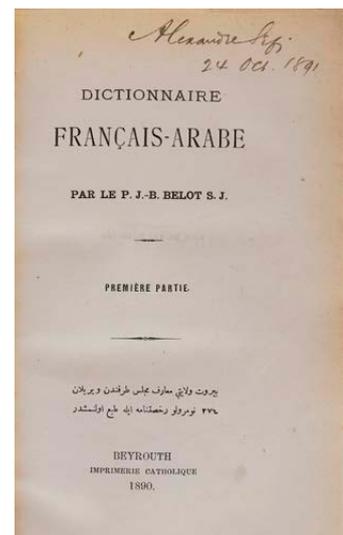
3

3 [ARABIC]

BELOT, JEAN-BAPTISTE: Dictionnaire français-arabe. Two volumes. Beyrouth, Imprimerie Catholique, 1890. € 500

Pp. x, 724, 26; (iv), 725-1609. With text in two columns. Old ownership inscription on titles. Contemporary cloth, blue calf spines, nicely rebacked, spines lettered in gilt. First edition of an important work which was reprinted many times.

Jean-Baptiste Belot (1822–1904) a French Jesuit and director of the famous Catholic Printing House in Beirut. He founded Al-Bashir, the first Catholic Arabic language periodical. Zaunmüller 15 (later editions).

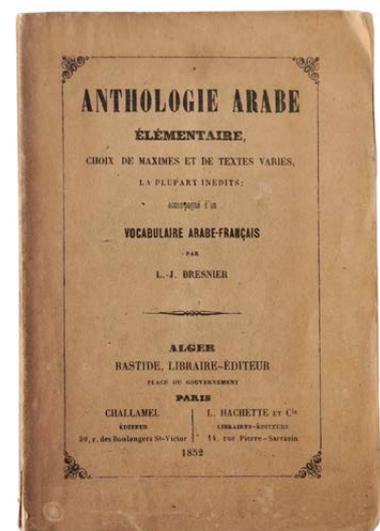


4 [ARABIC]

BRESNIER, LOUIS-JACQUES: Anthologie arabe élémentaire, choix de maximes et de textes variés, la plupart inédits; accompagné d'un vocabulaire arabe-français. Alger, Bastide, & Paris 1852. € 350

Small 8vo. Pp. (iv), 392 with French text and pp. (ii), 136 with Arabic text. With Arabic-style frontispiece decorated in gold and colours. As issued, uncut and unopened in original printed wrappers. First edition.

Bresnier, French orientalist and pupil of Silvestre de Sacy who resided in Algeria for more than thirty years. He was the first professor of Arabic in Algiers. Zenker BO ii, 377.



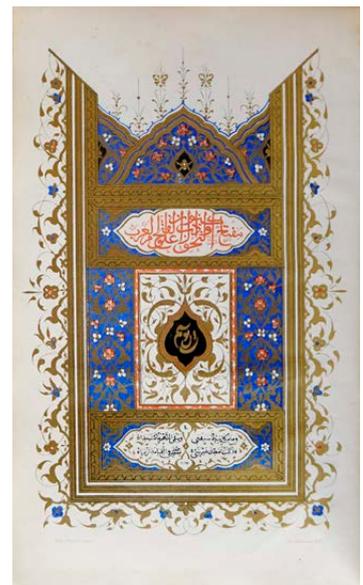


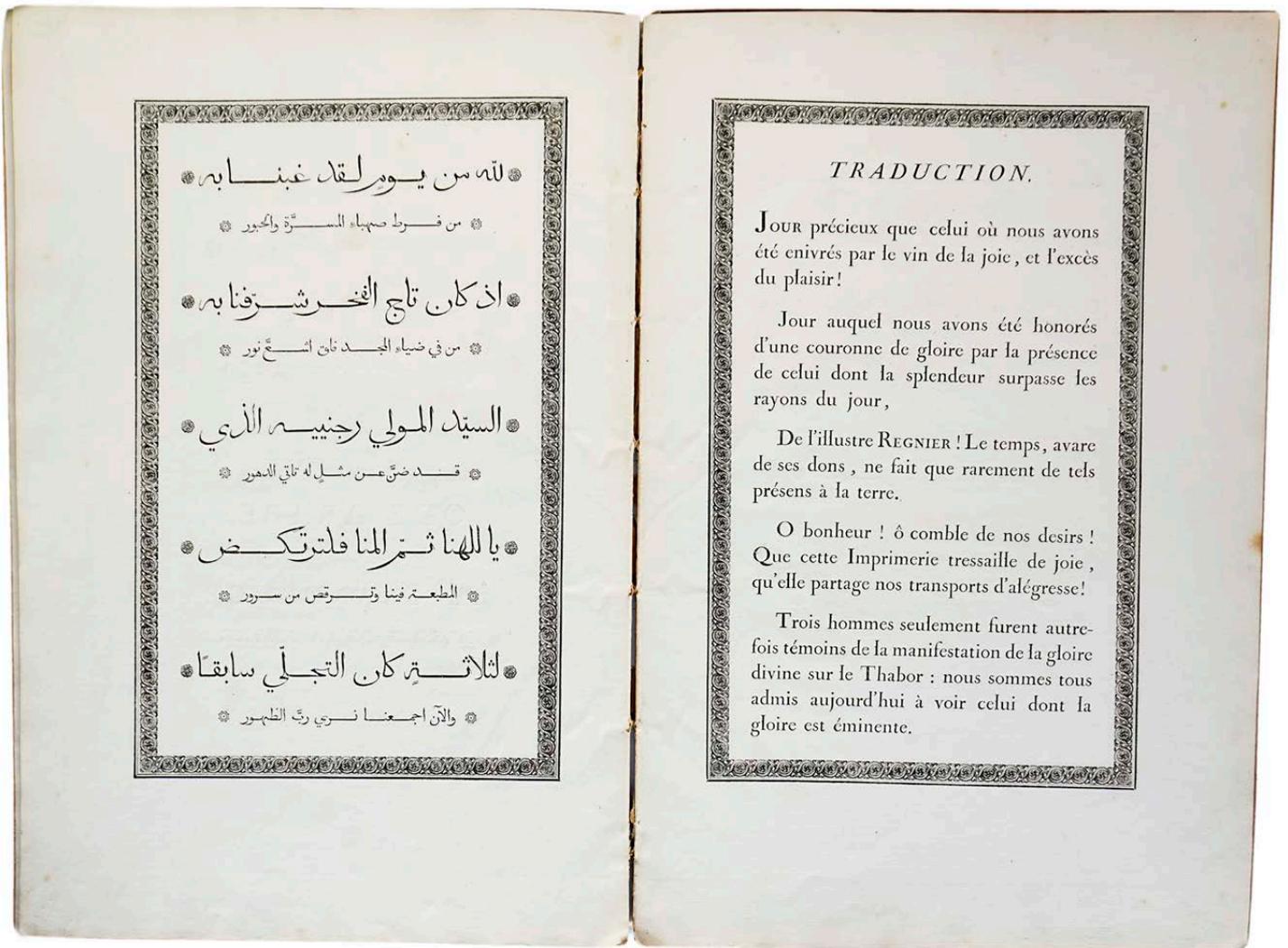
4

5 [ARABIC]

BRESNIER, LOUIS-JACQUES: Cours pratique et théorique de langue arabe renfermant les principes détaillés de la lecture, de la grammaire et du style ... accompagné d'un traité du langue arabe usuel et de ses divers dialectes en Algérie. Alger, Bastide, 1855. € 300

Pp. xvi, 668. With lithographed Arabic-style frontispiece printed in gold and colours. Contemporary half morocco, spine gilt in compartments and with title lettered in gilt, slightly rubbed and extremities worn. Occasionally some minor browning. First edition. Bresnier, French orientalist who lived in Algeria from 1837 until his death in 1869. Not in Zenker.



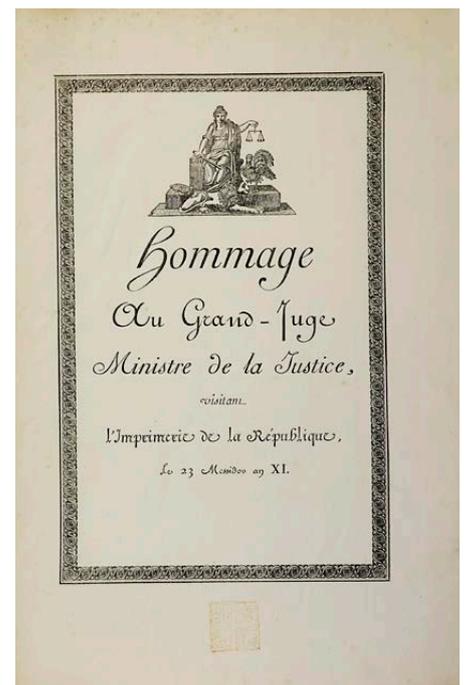


6 [ARABIC – TOUR DE FORCE]

[MARCEL, JEAN JOSEPH] / [SABBAGH, MICHEL]:
 Hommage au Grand-Juge Ministre de la Justice, visi-
 tant l’Imprimerie de la Republique le 23 Messidor an
 XI (= Oct. 9 1803). [Paris 1803]. € 2 500

Folio. Pp. (12). Comprising title, a three pages dedication by
 Marcel, one page “Insigne typici musæi attributum”, and
 an “Ode Arabe, à son excellence le Grand-Juge Ministre la
 Justice” in Arabic and with a French translation. Text printed
 within wood cut decorated border. Contemporary boards,
 worn. Inscriptions on front paste down: “ex libris D’ Marcel”
 and the signature Belin, dated 1831.

A typographical “Tour de force”. According to Schnurrer the
 author is Michael Sabbagh. Jean Joseph Marcel was in charge
 of the Imprimerie Nationale at the time and superintendent
 the production of an “Oratio Dominica” including numerous
 exotic types cut by himself. Schnurrer, *Bibl. Arabica*, p. 493.



7 [BERBER]

VENTURE DE PARADIS, JEAN-MICHEL /
JAUBERT, PIERRE AMÉDÉE EMILIEN PROBE:
Grammaire et dictionnaire abrégés de la langue
Berbère, revus par P. Amédée Jaubert. Paris,
Imprimerie Royale, 1844. € 1 800

4to. Pp. (iv), xxiv, 236. With French and Arabic text. Uncut copy bound in recent half calf, spine ruled in gilt and with title label. Some foxing throughout, mainly in margins. First edition of this rare work which had been preserved in MS form at the Bibliothèque Nationale after Venture's death (1799). In 1844 Amédée Jaubert arranged with printing and it was included in "Recueil de voyages et de mémoires, Société de Géographie" (volume 7).

Venture, renowned French orientalist and the king's interpreter for oriental languages. He held various positions of dragoman in Syria, Egypt, and North Africa and was chief interpreter to Napoleon on his expedition to Egypt. However, he had not studied Arabic in academic circles. Venture advocated for the need to study oriental languages in order to promote commercial and political relations. The Berber languages are spoken by groups on the North African coast and far down into the Sahara. Venture incorrectly treats it as a single language but nevertheless his work seems to be one of the earliest of importance on the Berber language(s).

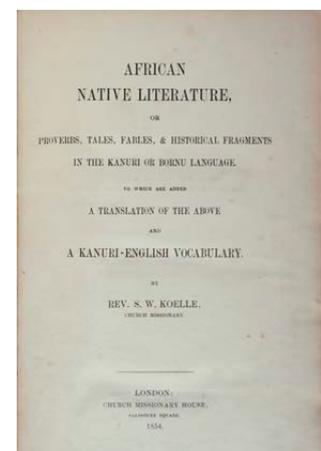
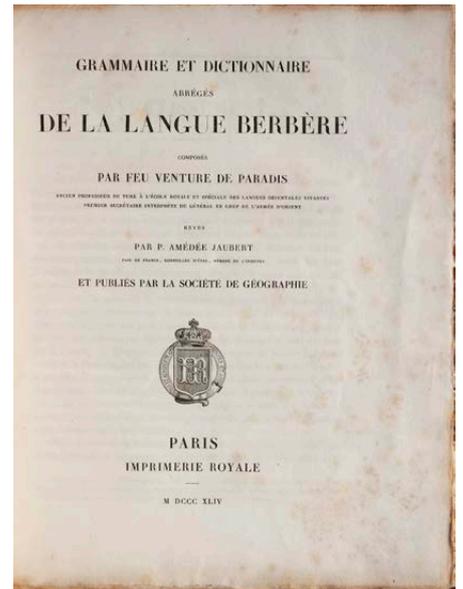
Comprises an advertisement by Jaubert and a bibliographical note on Venture by Edme François Jomard (a travel companion in the Egyptian expedition). At end a chapter including Venture's itineraries from North Africa in 1788 which are part of Raynal's papers in the Bibliothèque Nationale. They are mainly devoted to geographical observations. Playfair, Algeria, no 1031. Playfair, Morocco, no 660. Irwin, p.138. Not in Vater, Zaunmüller or Zenker.

8 [BORNU]

KOELLE, SIGISMUND WILHELM: African Native Literature, or Proverbs, Tales, Fables, & Historical Fragments in the Kanuri or Bornu Language, ... and a Kanuri-English Vocabulary. London, Church Missionary House, Salisbury Square, 1854. € 650

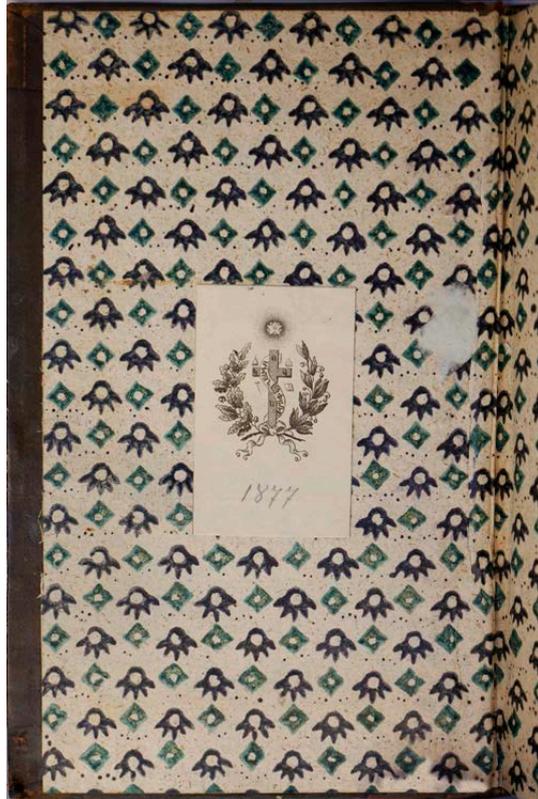
Pp. xiv, errata (ii), 434. Contemporary blind-stamped cloth, title lettered on spine, small marks on spine, small splits to hinges. First edition.

Kölle (1820-1902) was a German missionary and pioneer scholar of African languages. His major work "Polyglotta Africana" (1854) initiated serious study of a large range of African languages by European scholars. Zaunmüller p. 219.





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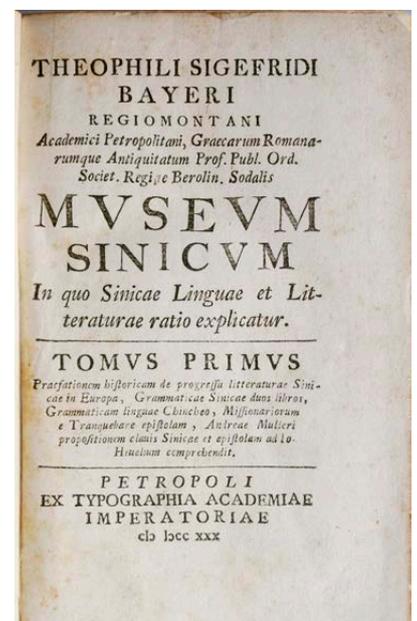
12 [CHINESE]

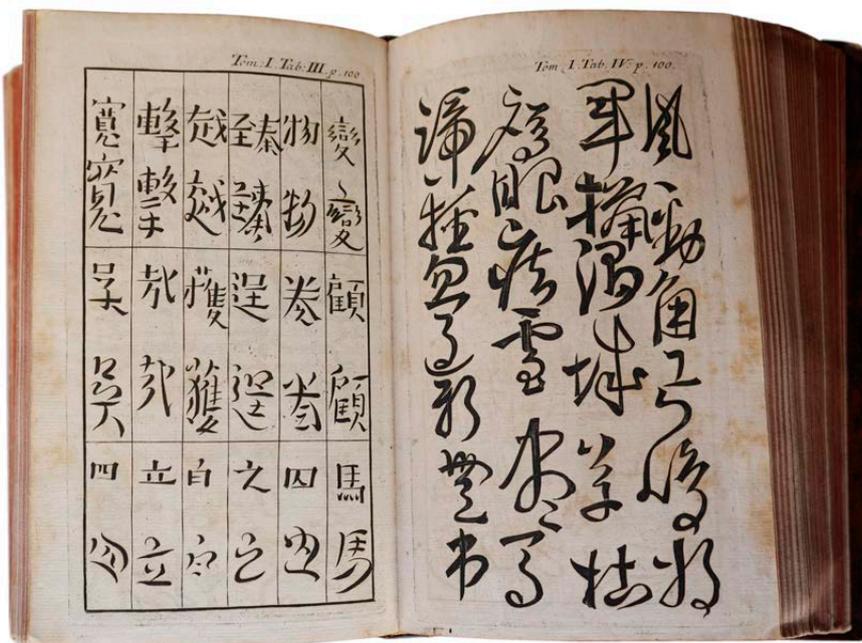
BAYER, GOTTLIEB SIEG-

FRIED: *Museum sinicum, in quo sinicae linguae et literaturae ratio explicatur*. Two parts in one volume. Petropoli, ex typographia Academiae Imperatoriae, 1730. € 8500

Pp. (xxiv), including first leaf blank, 146, (ii), 74, (ii), pp. 75-190; (ii), 264, 263-372, (i) errata. Pagination irregular but complete. With 74 engraved plates of Chinese characters, many included in the pagination. With some foxing. Contemporary calf, worn, front cover detached. Housed in a specially made half blue morocco box. First edition.

The first grammatical account of the Chinese language published in Europe (Löwendahl). Bayer was a German historian and philologist who at an early age became interested in oriental languages. In 1725 he was appointed Professor of Greek and Roman Antiquities in the recently founded St Petersburg Academy of Sciences. He intensified his study of the Chinese language. He learned about existing works by Müller, Mentzel, Martini and others and had rich correspondence with famous sinologists and linguists. Bayer's extensive library of Chinese and Oriental MSS and books is held at Glasgow University Library (Hunter Library). It "was the beginning of a great tradition of Chinese linguistics in Russia, a tradition





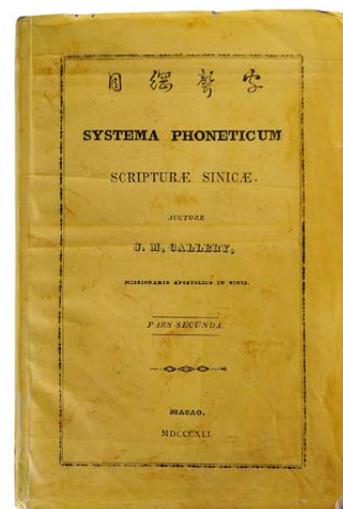
which was to have a very profound influence on modern linguistic developments in the People's Republic of China [...]. Bayer's introduction to his *Museum Sinicum* contains a most remarkable document; a detailed history of sinology from its beginnings to 1730" (Harbsmeier (1995), p. 329). Ref. Cordier BS 1658, 1399 & 1799. Löwendahl 366. See K. Lundbaek, T.S.Bayer, 1694-1738: Pioneer Sinologist, London 1986. Walravens (1987), 150a. See Weston: The Bayer Collection ... Univ. of Glasgow 2018. Zenker 6679.

13 [CHINESE]

CALLERI (CALLERY), GIUSEPPE GAETANO MASSIMO PIETRO MARIA: [...] *Systema phoneticum scripturæ sinicæ*. "Ordines phonetico-alphabetici quibus sinensium litteræ circumscribuntur" Volume II (of 2). Macao 1841. € 2 800

Tall 8vo. Pp. (ii), 500, (i) errata. Includes several slip cancels. With one double page table: "Tabula synoptica phoneticarum omnium". Uncut copy, as issued, in original yellow printed wrappers. Title page restored at inner margin (no loss). Volume two only, but comprising the complete dictionary: "Ordines phonetico-alphabetici quibus sinensium litteræ circumscribuntur" with 12 753 characters arranged under phonetics instead of under their radicals. Text in Chinese, Latin and French. First edition, rare.

Calleri (1810–76) arrived at Macao in 1836 where he resided for some years and studied natural sciences and Chinese under the renowned sinologist Joachim Alfonso Gonçalves. Calleri set up his own printing press, bought a small set of types, and with the help of six natives he was able to produce this important work. The first volume (not present here) comprises a guide to writing Chinese characters. Cordier BS 1597–98. Löwendahl 960. Lust 1009. Zenker ii, 6655.



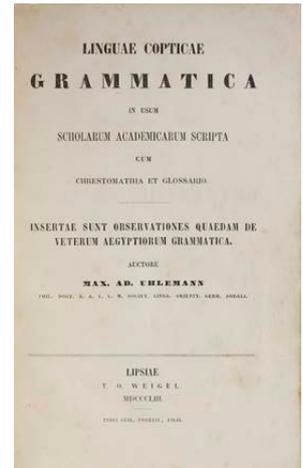
14 [COPTIC]

UHLEMANN, MAXIMILIAN ADOLPH: *Linguae copticae grammatica in usum scholarum academicarum scripta cum chrestomathia et glossario.*

Insertae sunt observationes quaedam de veterum aegyptiorum grammatica. Leipzig, T.O. Weigel, 1853. € 350

Pp. viii, 167, errata (1). Contemporary (or slightly later) half morocco on marbled boards, corners rubbed. Spine with raised bands and title lettered in gilt. Some staining in the text.

First edition of a Coptic grammar by the renowned German Egyptologist M. Uhlemann (1829-62). He published the third Latin translation of the Egyptian hieroglyphic text of the Rosetta stone inscription. Thonnelier, *Catalogue de Bibl.* 1796. Zenker BO ii, 1614.

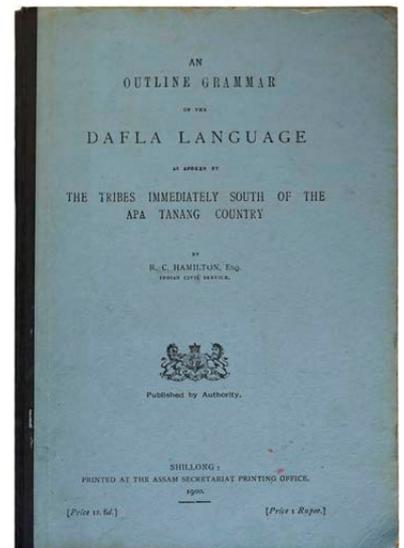


15 [DAFLA]

HAMILTON, ROBERT-CLIFTON: *An Outline Grammar of the Dafla Language as Spoken by the Tribes immediately South of the Apa Tanang Country.* Shillong, The Assam Secretariat Printing Office, 1900. € 480

Tall 8vo. Pp. (iv), 6, 127, (1). Small damage to upper right corner in parts (no loss). Original blue printed boards, cloth spine. Presentation copy to Ralph Lilley Turner (British Orientalist and linguist).

First edition of a grammar of the Dafla or Nishi language. This is a Tibetan-Burman language spoken by groups in Assam on the North-East frontier of British India. The author describes the Eastern rather than the Western dialect of the Dafla language. A limited edition of 300 copies.

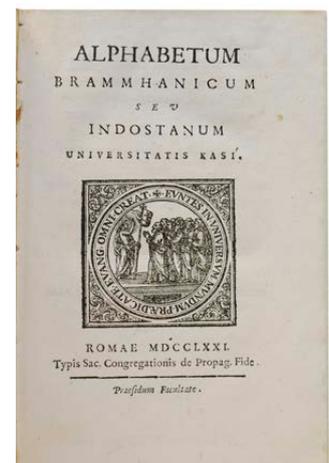


16 [HINDUSTANI]

AMADUZZI, GIOVANNI CRISTOFORO (Ed.): *Alphabetum brammanicum seu Indostanum Universitatis Kasi.* Romae, Typis Sac. Congregationis de Propaganda Fide, 1771. € 1000

Pp. (xx), 152. Text in Hindi with interlinear Latin text. Old half green morocco, flat gilt spine.

First edition of an important type specimen of the Hindustani language. It includes the Lord's Prayer, the Ave Maria and the Apostles' Creed and treats the language and script used at the University of Kasi or Benares, in the Indian province of Bihar. The script is rendered in Kaithi characters, a more current form of the Nagari characters, and was

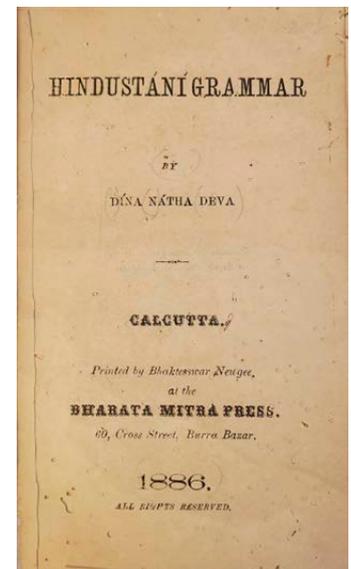


written by Cassianus da Macerata Beligatti (1708-91). The types were cut already at the start of the Propaganda Press but not used until a century later. They were first displayed in Georgius' "Alphabetum Tibetanum" of 1759. Birrel & Garnett 12. Updike, *Printing Types I*, (1951), pp 181-3. Smit-skamp PO 206.

17 [HINDUSTANI]

DEVA, DÍNA-NÁTHA: *Hindustání Grammar*. Part I (all publ.) Calcutta, printed by Bhaktesswar Newgee at the Bharata Mitra Press, 60 Cross Street, Burra Bazar, 1886. € 450

Pp. (iv), viii, 225, errata (4). Text in English and Hindustani (Persian and Devanágari characters). Modern half calf, spine lettered in gilt. Paper very brittle, title page loose. Affected by small wormholes throughout. First edition. Dedicated to Alfred Woodley Croft, Director of Public Instruction in Bengal. Comprises the orthography, the etymology, and the syntax of Hindustani. A very rare work.

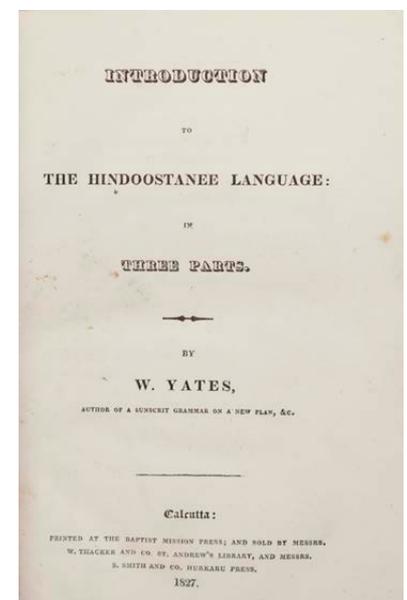


18 [HINDUSTANI]

YATES, WILLIAM: *Introduction to the Hindostanee Language: in three parts*. Calcutta, the Baptist Mission Press, 1827. € 950

Pp. xiv, (ii), 307. With English and Urdu (Perso-Arabic) script. Contemporary calf, spine decorated in gilt and with green title label. Binding rubbed and with some staining. Bookplate. With inscription to Henry Pelham Burn (1853-935). First edition of this important work on the language of Hindustani, scarce. Comprises a grammar, a vocabulary and a selection of reading lessons. The vocabulary comprises nouns, adjectives and verbs giving both the Roman and Perso-Arabic characters.

William Yates (1792-1845), British Baptist missionary and linguist who first came to India in 1815 where he worked together with William Carey at Serampore. In 1817 he moved with the Baptist Missionary Society to Calcutta where he founded a school and was involved in building chapels and other religious establishments in Calcutta and its vicinity. Yates composed many linguistic works and manuals of Sanskrit and Hindustani as well as handbooks of natural science and history for Indians. Vater p. 168.



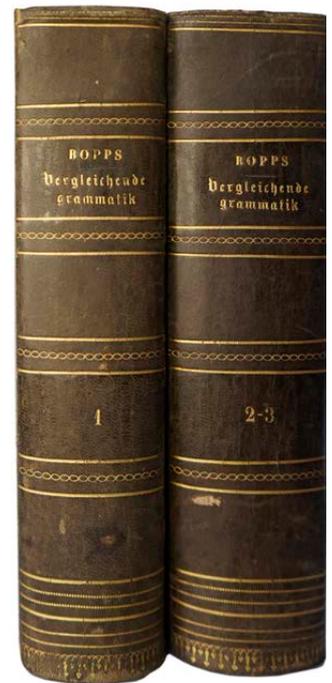
19 [INDO-EUROPEAN]

BOPP, FRANZ: *Vergleichende Grammatik des sanskrit, send, armenischen, griechischen, lateinischen, litauischen, altslavischen, gothischen und deutschen*. Parts I-III:1-2. Berlin 1857-60.

AND: ARENDT, CARL: Ausführliches Sach- und Wortregister zur zweiten Auflage von Franz Bopp's vergleichender Grammatik. Berlin 1863. € 700

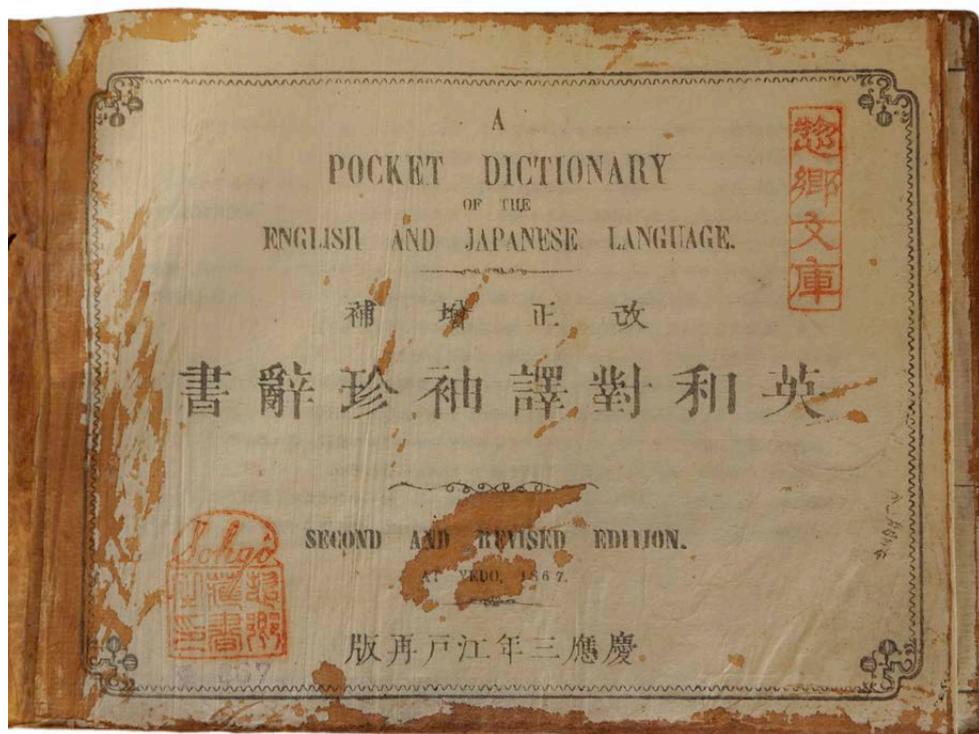
Tall 8vo. Five parts in two volumes. Pp. xxiv, 552, adv. 32; (ii), 562, (2), adv. 8; (ii), 272, (2); 271-534 + Index pp. xii, 272. (The index is bound in the first volume). Contemporary marbled boards, calf spines ruled in gilt and with title printed in gilt, slightly rubbed.

Second completely revised edition of Bopp's important work on the major Indo-European languages. In this work Bopp tries to describe the original grammatical structure of languages, discover their phonetic laws, and investigate the origin of their grammatical forms. "Bopp's importance lies in the fact that he was no mere grammarian but considered philology to be an essential part of the history of civilization: out of their vocabulary he drew an accurate picture of the material and intellectual life of the earliest Indo-European people." *Printing and the Mind of Man* 275. Thonnelier 1038. Vater p. 333.



20 [JAPANESE]

TATSUNOSKAY (TATSUNOSUKE), HORI & HORIKOSI KAMENOSKAY: A Pocket Dictionary of the English and Japanese Language. Ei-Wa taiyaku shuchin jisho. Second and revised edition. Yedo (Tokyo) 1867. € 4 800



Thick oblong 8vo. Size: 15 x 22 cm. Pp. (iv) with title and preface + lexicon lvs (499), arranged alphabetically, ending with a Japanese title. Japanese red stamps on title. Thin paper leaves folded in the oriental manner. Title with brown staining. Original blue cloth, worn and soiled, back cover almost detached. Housed in a specially made cloth box. Rare work.

Originally compiled by Tatsunosuke in 1862 (200 printed copies) and here revised by Kamenoskay. This is probably a second issue of the second improved edition. Cordier gives the date 1866 and the preface is also dated 1866. This dictionary is the first substantial English-Japanese vocabulary, the first edition of which predates Hepburn's Japanese-English dictionary by five years. According to the preface the first edition contained a number of errors regarding the Japanese and Chinese names of animals, plants and minerals that needed to be corrected. This has been done in the second edition with the assistance of Yanagawa Sunsam, Tanaka Yosiwo and others. Cordier BJ 672 (states 1866). Not in Astor Catalogue, Collison, the Trubner Catalogue, or Zaunmüller.

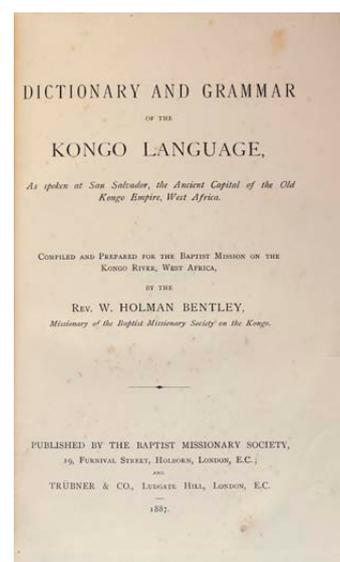
21 [KONGO]

BENTLEY, WILLIAM HOLMAN: Dictionary and Grammar of the Kongo Language, As spoken at San Salvador, the Ancient Capital of the Old Kongo Empire, West Africa. Compiled and Prepared for the Baptist Mission on the Kongo River, West Africa. London, the Baptist Missionary Society & Trübner & Co., 1887. €580

Pp. xxiv, 718. With one folding table of concords. Original blue cloth, gilt lettering on spine, stained and with some wear. Light foxing to first few leaves otherwise fine internally. Old ownership signature on front endpaper.

AND: APPENDIX. London 1895. Pp. iii-vii, 721-944, (1), 945-1052. Original cloth gilt, faded and worn. Title page cut off at the bottom, no text loss. Without half title (?). First edition.

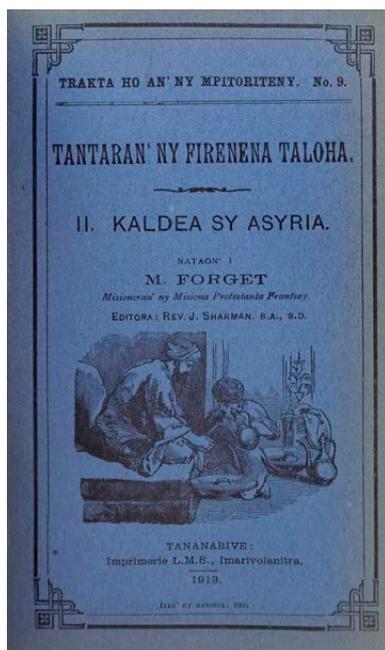
The first comprehensive dictionary and grammar of the Kongo language, compiled under the auspices of Leopold II of Belgium. The Reverend William Bentley, missionary of the English Baptist Society resided for five years in the region of West Africa where the Kongo language is spoken. Zaunmüller 227 (later edition).



22 [MALAGASY – COLLECTION OF TWENTY TRACTS]

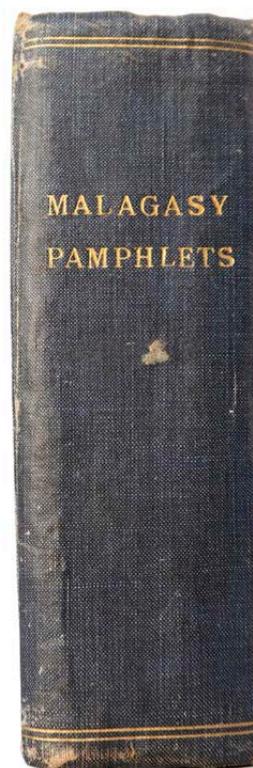
Malagasy pamphlets [Title on spine]. Tananarive, London Missionary Society, 1911-18. € 2 800

A set of twenty Malagasy missionary tracts. Titled: "Trakta ho an'ny mpitoriteny" part nos. 1, 2, 5-7, 9-13, 15-21, 23 and two unnumbered tracts. Small 8vo size: 10.5 x 17.5 cm. Pp. 48; 48; 48, 49-96; 48; 48; 48; 48; 49-96; 48, 44; (iv), 45-88; 48; 48; 48; 48; 48; 99, (1, blank); 63, (1, blank). A few of the tracts have some textual illustrations and maps. Bound in contemporary cloth, rubbed.



With original printed wrappers with bound. Text printed in an orthographic system developed by Protestant missionaries in the 1820s. Many are translated from French and English.

Most of them are biblical translations or commentaries on the Bible. A few are devoted to Assyrian Christianity, the pharaohs of ancient Egypt, and early Christian reformers including Savonarola, Huss and Wycliffe. A very unusual collection, a rare survivor.



23 [MALAY]

FAVRE, PIERRE ÉTIENNE LAZARE ABBÉ: Grammaire de la langue malaise. Vienne, Imprimerie Impériale et Royale, 1876. € 650

Pp. (iv), xxiv, 242. Contemporary green pebbled cloth, calf spine richly decorated and lettered in gilt, boards and corners rubbed. First edition, republished many times.

Abbé Favre, French Catholic priest and linguist who spent many years in Malaysia (1845-58). Later he was appointed professor of Malay and Javanese at l'École Imperiale des langues orientales. Printed at one of the most important publishing houses for linguistic works at this time. Cordier BI 1406.

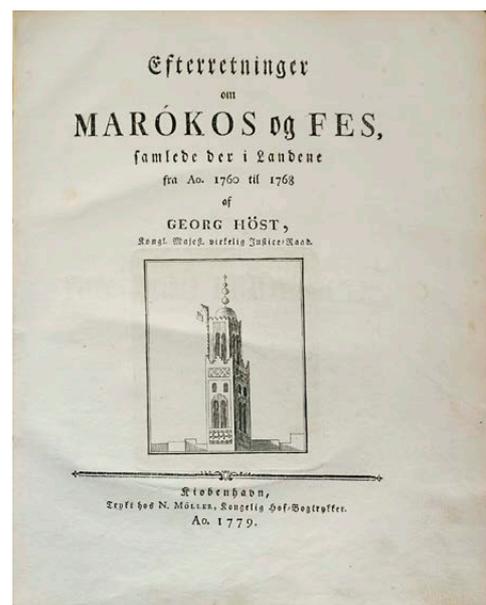


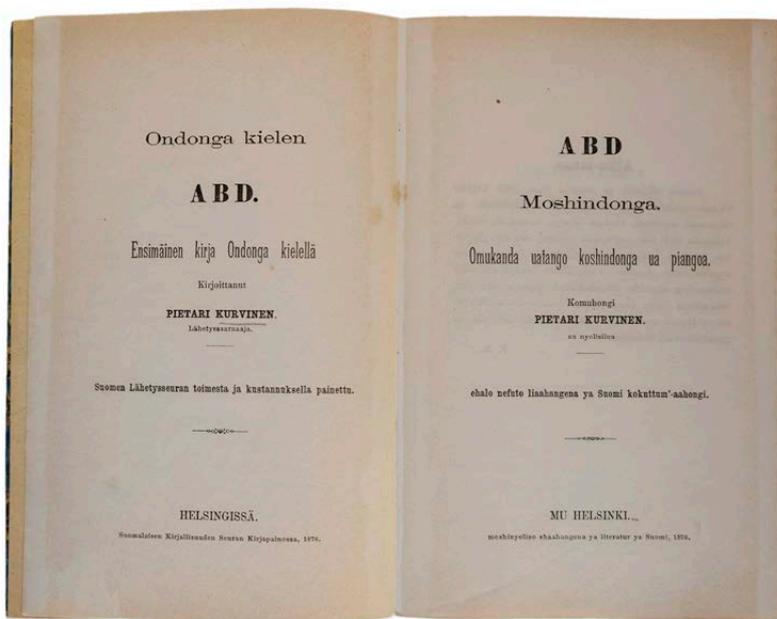
24 [MOROCCAN-ARABIC]

HÖST, GEORG: *Efterretninger om Marókos og Fes, samlede der i Landene fra Ao. 1760 til 1768*. Kiøbenhavn, N. Möller, 1779. €1500

4to. Pp. (xx), 291, (23) register + (1) errata. With engraved front portrait, one engraved map, two engraved vignettes and 33 engraved plate, of which many folding. Occasionally some light staining and a few leaves with small marginal tear. Contemporary half calf on marbled paper boards, worn, hinges cracked.

First edition of an early informative account of Morocco devoted to the government, commerce, geography, religion, the various inhabitants (Arabs, Brebers, Mauri people, etc.) and their language and customs. Probably the first Western work dealing with the Moroccan-Arabic dialect. George Höst served as Danish Consul at Mogador for about eight years in the 1760s. The beautiful plates depict costumes, views, sights, music, weapons and coins. Bibl. Danica ii, 558. Cf Lipperheide Ma4 (German edition 1781). Cf Schnurrer, 125 & 139.





25 [NDONGA PRIMER]

KURVINEN, PIETARI: ABD Moshindonga. Omukanda uatango koshindonga ua piangoa. / Ondonga kielen ABD. Ensimmäinen kirja Ondonga kielellä. Helsinki, Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seuran Kirjapainossa, 1876. € 1200

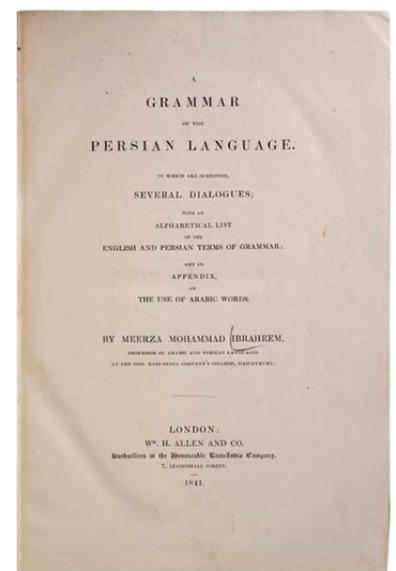
Pp. (v), pp. 3-32. Titles and preface in both Ndongo and Finnish languages. Contemporary marbled paper-covered boards, spine chipped. Library stamp (Jyväskylä Scientific Library). The first known printed work in the Ndonga language.

The Ndonga or Oshidonga language is a Bantu language spoken in the kingdom of Ondonga, in present northern Namibia and southern Angola. The written language was created by the Finnish missionaries who served in Ovamboland. Pietari Kurvinen was one of the first Finnish missionaries to arrive in 1870. Rare. Published by the Finnish Literary Society in Helsinki. Not in Mendelssohn.

26 [PERSIAN]

IBRAHIM, MIRZA MUHAMMAD: To which are Subjoined Several Dialogues; with an Alphabetical List of the English and Persian Terms of Grammar; and an Appendix, on the use of Arabic Words. London, W.H. Allen & Co., 1841. € 750

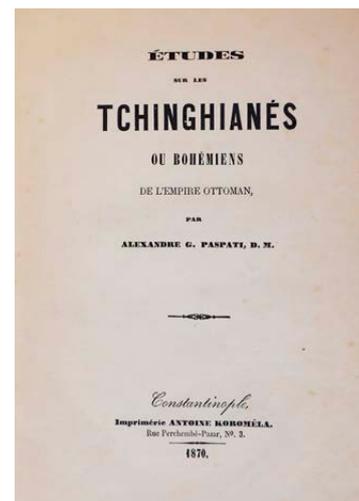
Tall 8vo. Pp. (vi), 10, 268 + errata slip. Text in Persian and English. Contemporary half calf, worn with spine ends chipped. Some staining to endpapers. First edition. Muhammad Ibrahim (ca 1800-57) came to Britain in 1826. He was appointed professor of Arabic and Persian languages at the East-India Company's College in Haileybury. After his return to Persia in 1844 he became tutor to the future Shah. Schwab ii, 860 (London 1843). Zenker BO i, 264 (1843 edition). Vater p. 281.



27 [ROMANY LANGUAGE]

PASPATES ALEXANDROS GEORGIOUS: Études sur les Tchinghianés ou Bohémiens de l'empire Ottoman. Constantinople, Antoine Koroméla, 1870. € 950

Large 8vo. Pp. xii, 652. Contemporary half cloth, rubbed, spine restored. Rare, first edition of an important work on the Roma people by a Greek medical doctor. The main part of the work is devoted to the Romany language including grammar, dictionary and wordlists. Zaunmüller p. 408: "Enthält gutes Wörterbuch über den sehr reinen Dialekt der türkischen Zigeuner". Black, Gypsy Bibl. (1914), 3084.

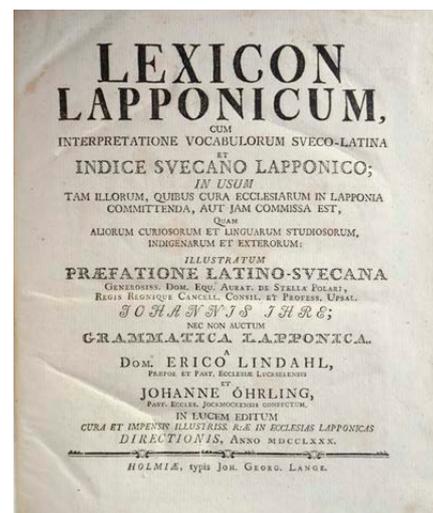


28 [SÁMI]

LINDAHL, ERIK & ÖHRLING, JOHAN: Lexicon lapponicum, cum interpretatione vocabulorum sveco-latina et indice svecano lapponico; in usum tam illorum, quibus cura ecclesiarum in Lapponia committenda, aut jam commissa est, ... illustratum præfatione latino-svecana; nec non auctum grammatica lapponica. Holmiæ, typis Joh. Georg. Lange, 1780. € 1200

4to. Pp. (ii), lxxx, 584, (2), index pp. 585-716. Contemporary half calf on marbled boards, flat spine decorated and lettered in gilt, binding rubbed. First edition of this important dictionary of the dialect of the Southern Swedish Sámi people with translations into Latin and Swedish. Preceded by a grammar (pp. xxx–lxxx) compiled by Johan Öhrling. Ends with a Swedish-Sámi index.

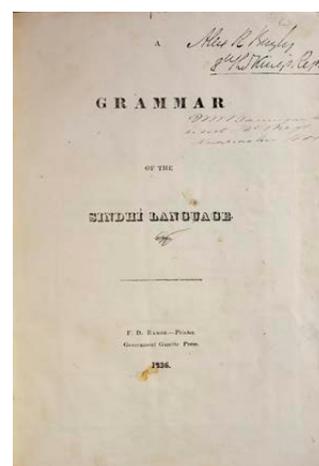
The dictionary is compiled by Johan Öhrling and Erik Lindahl, both pastors who served in the northern parts of Sweden. The extensive preface is by Johan Ihre, renowned Swedish historical linguist. Vater p. 215. Zaunmüller 234.



29 [SINDHI]

WATHEN, WILLIAM HENRY: Grammar of the Sindhi Language. [Bombay], printed by F.D. Ramos at the Government Gazette Press, 1836. € 2750

4to. (iv), 70 + vocabularies pp. (32). Includes devanagari and nastaliq characters. With some annotations in the text. With one folding lithographed map of Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Contemporary half calf over marbled boards, rubbed. Two old ownership signatures on title. ("Alex R. Bayly, 8th The King's Regt." and "M. Barrington Lieut. 23rd Regt. Kurrachee 1851").



First edition of the first published grammar of the Sindhi language. Includes vocabularies: English-Sindhi and Sindhi-English. Sindhi is an Indo-Aryan language of the historical Sindh region in the western part of South Asia. It's the official language of the Sindh province in Pakistan.

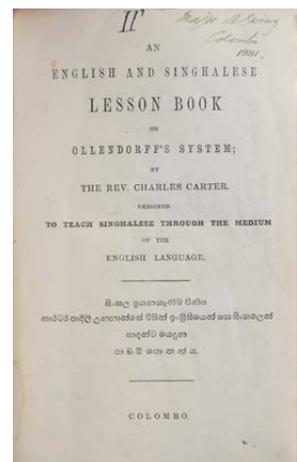
Wathen was the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay. "In consequence of the opening of the River Indus, by the Treaties concluded with the several Powers through whose Dominions, that stream and its tributaries flow; the Compiler of this work, was induced to take advantage of the materials in his possession, to frame a Grammar of the Sindh, a language, which is generally spoken in the Countries through which, the navigation of his River must lead Travellers to pass; in the hope, that as they are now laid open to the enterprize of Europeans, much advantage may be derived from a work like the present, calculated to facilitate their intercourse with the Inhabitants of Sindh, and the adventurous Merchants of Shikàrpùr and Mùltàn." (Preface). Rare. Vater p. 362.

30 [SINHALESE]

CARTER, CHARLES HENRY: An English and Singhalese Lesson Book on Ollendorff's System; Designed to teach Singhalese through the medium of the English language. Colombo (ca 1880). € 450

Pp. 167, interleaved copy. First part of the book filled with scholarly annotations on the blank leaves. Contemporary half calf, worn, hinges cracked. Ownership inscription on title page: "Major A. Ewing Colombo". Library stamps. Bookplate.

Rare, short useful manual in Sinhalese, comprising 84 lessons followed by an index. It was first published in 1860 by William Skeene at the Government Press. Carter (1828-1914) served as a Baptist missionary in Ceylon for many years. He published an important English-Sinhalese dictionary in 1891.

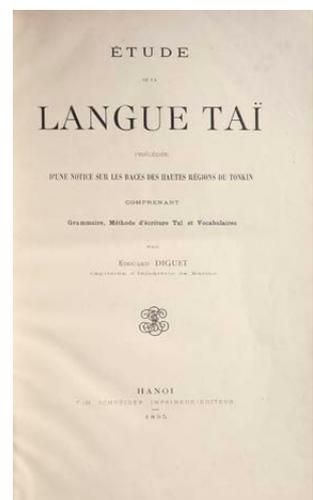


31 [TAÏ]

DIGUET, EDOUARD: Étude de la langue Taï précédée d'une notice sur les races des hautes régions du Tonkin comprenant grammaire, méthode d'écriture Taï et vocabulaires. Hanoi, F.-H. Schneider, 1895. € 580

Tall 4to. Pp. (vi), 88, iv, 192, errata iv. With four tables and seven full page plates depicting different tribes (one with tear). Occasionally some minor staining. Contemporary marbled boards, cloth spine, rubbed. First edition.

The first part contains a detailed description of the Tai people living in the north western part of Vietnam. The second part is devoted to the grammar; the third to writing; and the fourth and fifth parts comprise vocabularies, also giving the phonetic of Taï words. Scarce. Cordier BI 1779.





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 Groupe de femmes Malais du village de Tchamouc Tai.
 (D'après une photographie de M. Thaut, sous-officier d'Infanterie de marine).
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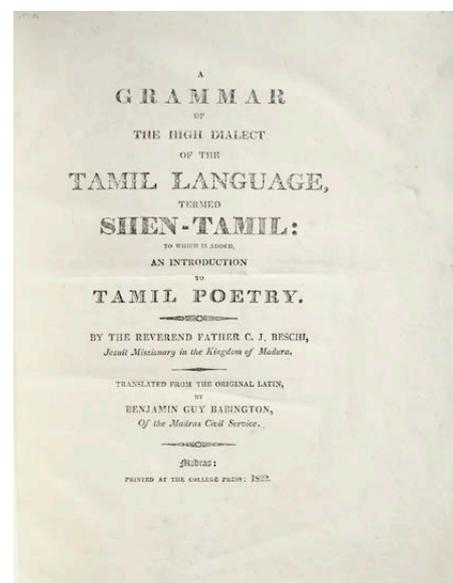
31

32 [TAMIL]

BESCHI, CONSTANZO GIUSEPPE: *A Grammar of the High Dialect of the Tamil Language, termed Shen-Tamil: to which is Added an Introduction to Tamil Poetry.* Translated from the original Latin, by Benjamin Guy Babington. Madras, The College Press, 1822. € 3 200

4to. Pp. (ii), xii, 117 + 5 content. Wide margins. Contemporary calf, blind-stamped border on the covers, spine gilt with red title label, rubbed, hinges starting. Library markings on front endpapers. Some leaves with small marginal wormholes (no text loss). Occasionally some light staining. Rare first printed edition, translated into English from the original Latin completed in manuscript form about 100 years earlier but not printed at that time.

Beschi was born in Italy in 1680 but spent most of his life as a missionary in India. He was the founder of the Madura mission and became one of the earliest and most distinguished pioneers in the field of Tamil studies. He composed several linguistic works but is perhaps best known as a Tamil poet. He produced a grammar of Low Tamil (the common dialect) in Latin which was printed at Tranquebar in 1728. The present grammar of Shen-Tamil (the high dialect) was composed the following year but for an unknown reason never printed. This English version was based on a collation of texts, transcriptions and copies. It remains a pioneering study of an ancient and complex language by a sensitive and meticulous scholar and a talented translator. The translator Benjamin Guy Babington was an English physician and Oriental scholar who spent about ten years in India. Vater p. 240.

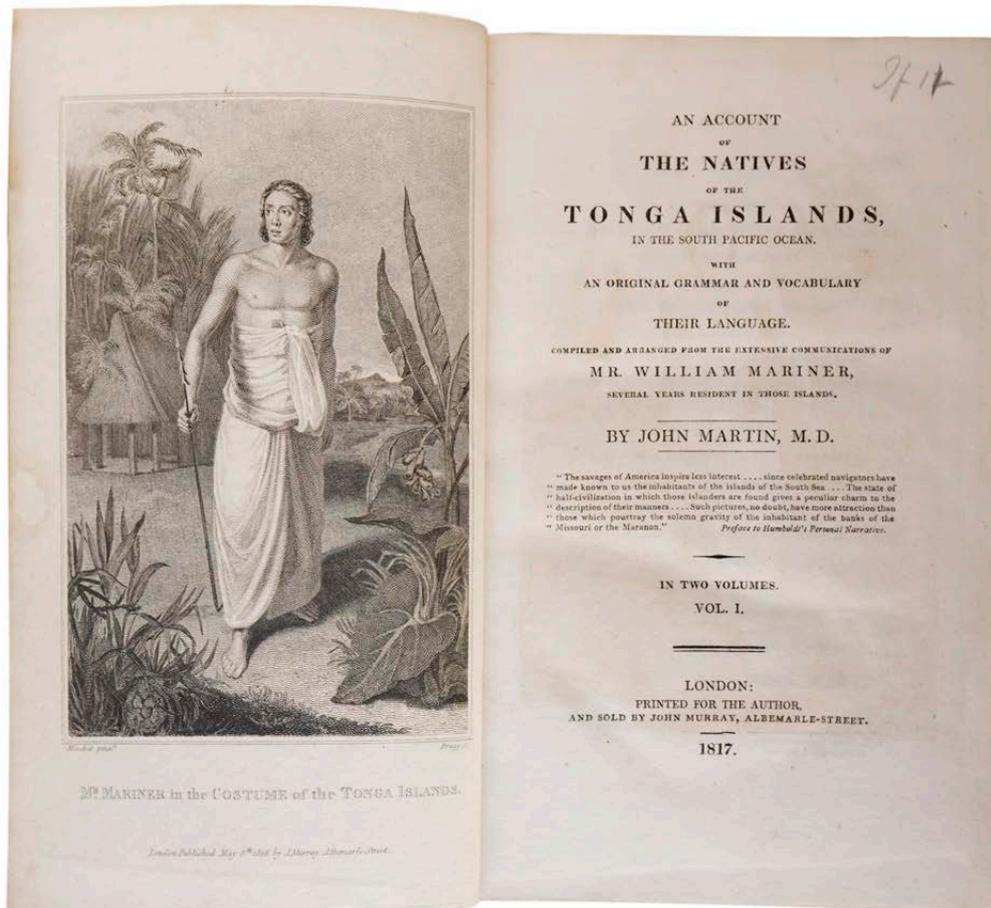
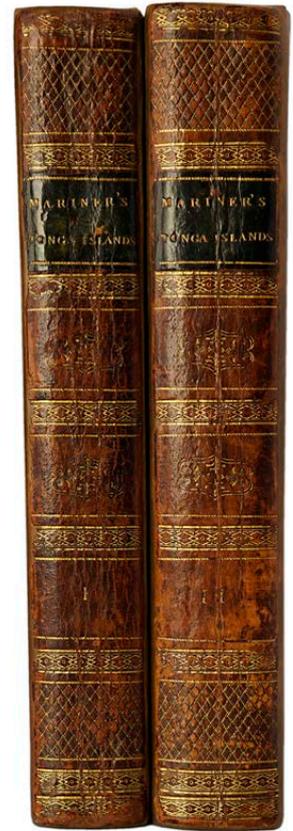


33 [TONGA]

MARTIN, JOHN / MARINER, WILLIAM: An Account of the Natives of the Tonga Islands, in the South Pacific Ocean. With an original grammar and vocabulary of their language. Compiled and arranged from the extensive communications of Mr. William Mariner, several years resident in those islands. Two volumes. London, printed for the author, and sold by John Murray, 1817. € 900

Pp. lix, (i), 460; (ii), 412 + vocabulary pp. (212). With engraved frontispiece. Contemporary full calf, flat spines decorated in gilt and with title labels, expertly rebaced with original spines preserved. Corners slightly rubbed. Bookplate. First edition of this important work on the Tonga Islands.

William Mariner was a British sailor on the Port au Prince that was attacked and destroyed on arrival on the Ha'apai Island in Tonga. Mariner, the only survivor, was adopted as the King's son. He spent four years on the islands learning about life, customs and language of Tonga. He returned to England in 1810. His account is "considered the best report of Tongan life and culture before the arrival of Christianity" (Hill). Hill 1075. Cf Kroepelien 819 (second edition).



34 [TUNGUSIC]

CASTRÉN, MATTHIAS ALEXANDER: Grundzüge einer tungusischen Sprachlehre nebst kurzem Wörterverzeichniss. Herausgegeben von Anton Schiefner. St. Petersburg, Buchdruckerei der Kaiserlichen Akademie der Wissenschaften, 1856. € 450 Pp. xvi, (iv), 140. Contemporary half cloth, original green printed wrappers withbound. Library stamps. A few leaves with some spotting. First edition.

Castrén, renowned Finnish linguist, made several journeys to Siberia, Russia and Lapland for linguistic and ethnographical studies. His scientific works were published after his death by Schiefner supported by the Scientific Academy in Petersburg under the series title “Nordische reisen und Forschungen” (1853-62). Important work dealing with the Tungusic languages spoken in Eastern Siberia and Manchuria. Löwendahl Supplement 1786. Zaunmüller p. 125.



35 [WOLOF LANGUAGE]

Guide de la conversation français-volof. Dakar (Sénégal), Saint Joseph de Ngasobil, Mission Catholique, 1907. € 780

24mo. Pp. xvi, 167, (i). Original printed boards, cloth spine. Faint stamp on upper cover and title.

A rare, small guide treating the Wolof language, the most common language spoken in Senegal, but also spoken in the Gambia and Mauritania. It is mainly an oral language and therefore there are many different variants of spelling. This guide includes a dictionary, a small treatise on conjugation and a selection of basic phrases. It was printed at the mission of St. Joseph Ngazobil, south of Dakar.

