

RBMS 2023 List

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1. **AMITABHASUTRA (in Sanskrit);** [Ch.: *Fo shuo amituo jing yao jie*; K.: *Pulsol amit'a kyong yohae*; *The Smaller Sukhavativyuha Sutra* [or] *The Amitabhasutra*]. Trans. by Kumarajiva. Commentary by Ouyi Zhixu. Four splendid full-page woodcuts. 54 folding leaves. Large 8vo (318 x 198 mm.), orig. yellow-brown patterned wrappers, new stitching. Naewon'am, "The Inner Courtyard Nunnery," Sangaksan: 1853.

\$9500.00

A rare reprint of the 1753 edition of *The Smaller Sukhavativyuha Sutra*, one of the three most important Mahayana sutras of the Pure Land tradition, printed in 1853 (Xianfeng 3), at Naewon'am, "The Inner Courtyard Nunnery" at Sangaksan, a peak of Pukhansan mountain north of Seoul.

[Item No. 7022](#)

2. **CARRIÓN, Ulises.** *Second Thoughts.* 70 pp. Small 4to (210 x 160 mm.), pictorial semi-stiff wrappers, title on spine. Amsterdam: VOID distributors, 1980.

\$500.00

The essential compendium of Ulises Carrión's polemical essays; printed in an edition of 500 by Hetty Huisman's VOID Distributors. His trailblazing theories and beliefs about artists' books and mail art remain influential to this day. "The New Art of Making Books," first published in *Plural* no. 41 (1975), is frequently cited by contemporary book artists. Fine copy.

[Item No. 8444](#)

3. **CHARLES ALEXANDRE, Duc de Lorraine).** Manuscript on vellum, calligraphically entitled on first leaf "Remarques sur les desseins des Oeufs couvés par la chaleur artificielle avec une description du fourneau et du couvoir nouvellement inventés pour faire éclore les poulets, par une méthode aussi sure, mais plus commode que celles qui ont été en usage jusqu'à présent." 14 superb orig. color gouaches by Delafond (the first is signed by him), depicting the different stages of the formation of a chick within its shell, each painting elegantly framed within rococo scrolls. Small 4to (143 x 117 mm.), orig. olive morocco, covers finely decorated in a richly gilt pattern using crowned gilt stamps of Charles Alexandre de Lorraine, spine richly gilt, red leather lettering piece on spine. [Brussels?]: apparently after 1749.

\$35,000.00

A magnificently bound vellum manuscript, calligraphically written and beautifully illustrated for Charles Alexandre de Lorraine (1712-80), contains 14 original gouaches by Delafond, painter of the court living in Brussels, where the duke was governor of the Austrian Low Countries from 1749 to 1780.

[Item No. 9132](#)

4. **CHŎNG, Hŭi-dŭk.** *Wŏlbong haesangnok* [*Wŏlbong's Records from Out at Sea*]. 84 folding leaves (4 numbered leaves, 3 leaves numbered 4-6, 1 numbered leaf, 12 leaves numbered 1-10, 12 & 13 [complete], 11 numbered leaves, 52 numbered leaves); 81 folding leaves (1-71 numbered leaves plus an extra leaf numbered 51, 9 numbered leaves). Two vols. Large 8vo (339 x 208 mm.), orig. yellow-brown patterned wrappers (some soiling to wrappers), new stitching. [Korea]: Preface dated 1846.

\$17,500.00

Second edition (first ed.: 1798), printed by wooden movable type, of this extremely rare and interesting book; it is one of the few records of Korean captives during the Japanese invasion of Korea (1592-98), known as the Imjin War. Our edition is **not found in WorldCat**.

[Item No. 9133](#)

5. **DU, Fu.** *Du Gongbu ji* [*Collection of "Board of Works" Du* [i.e., Du Fu].] Ten vols. 8vo, orig. wrappers (wrappers a little frayed), old stitching. [Guangzhou]: Luo Haoquan's Hanmo Yuan, 1876.

\$15,000.00

A beautifully executed **hexachrome woodblock-printed edition** of the annotated poetry of Du Fu (712-70 CE), one of the most famous poets in Chinese literary history.

[Item No. 8979](#)

6. **(FELDMANN, Hans-Peter).** *45 Bilder*. Black & white photographic illus. [12] pp. Square 4to (205 x 209 mm.), stamped semi-stiff wrappers (edges a trifle sunned), staple-bound. Hilden: Self-published, 1971.

\$950.00

One of 80 copies, a rare and early Hans-Peter Feldmann (b. 1941) photographic artist's book. Feldmann has photographed 45 pairs of shoes, loafers, boots, etc., with nine images per page and printed on rectos only. In near fine condition; faint sunning to the edges, internally fine. We locate just two copies in North America.

[Item No. 9063](#)

7. **FINCH, Spencer.** *A Cloud Index*. Illus. throughout on blue paper. [60] leaves. Small folio (356 x 203 mm.), printed wrappers, loose as issued & held by silver rubber band. Brooklyn, NY: Trying to Press, 2020.

\$150.00

A handsome artist's book recreating Spencer Finch's massive canopy installation at a London train station.

[Item No. 7704](#)

8. **GAGLIONE, Bill.** *Typewriter Stamp Poems*. Stamped illus. throughout on rectos. [7] leaves & colophon. Small 4to, stamped wrappers, staple-bound. Zoersel, Belgium: Guy Schraenen éditeur, 1978.

\$550.00

One of 50 numbered copies (+ 5 “de luxe”) of this rare stamped artist’s book, signed by the artist on the colophon leaf. Gaglione (b. 1943) created a series of stamped poems with rubber stamps using blue ink and red ink type. WorldCat locates just two examples in North America

[Item No. 9233](#)

9. **HAYASHI, Shihei.** [*Seiko*] *Kaikoku heidan* [*Military Defense of a Maritime Nation*]. Many woodcut illus., some full-page & double-page. Ten columns per page; 20 characters per column. Eight vols. 8vo, orig. blue (now partly faded to pale green) patterned wrappers, orig. block-printed title labels on upper covers, new stitching. Japan: Prefaces dated 1786; title-page with the date “1854.”

\$7500.00

A privately printed edition of this famous text and an extremely rare example of a *mokkatsujiban*. *Kaikoku heidan* caused a sensation and was banned by the government in 1792, on the grounds that national security matters were being discussed without official consent. Almost all copies and the woodblocks were confiscated (apparently, only the Library of Congress copy survives, acquired in 1949).

[Item No. 8650](#)

10. **ICHIKAWA, Danjuro, the Seventh, author; KATSUKAWA, Shuntei, artist.** *Mamakodate onna gyoretsu* [*The Josephus Problem, the Stepmother’s Solution*]. Many fine woodcut illus. throughout. .5, 30 folding leaves. Six parts in two vols. Small 8vo, modern wrappers, new stitching. [Edo: 1815].

\$4250.00

First edition of this rare and richly illustrated novel (**no copy in WorldCat**), a fine example of the uncommon genre *yakusha gokan* (illustrated prose narratives involving and depicting actors). The story of this novel uses mathematics as a device to propel the narrative and was written by the famous Kabuki actor Danjuro Ichikawa VII (1791-1859).

[Item No. 9257](#)

11. **IKEDA, Tori, author, & HISHIKAWA, Kiyoharu, artist.** *Amanogawa soshi* [or *Gingazoshi*, but this is wrong] [*Book of the Milky Way*]. Ten double-page & two single-page woodblock color-

printed illus.; two-page preface & colophon with color-printed borders, & several leaves with color-printed backgrounds. 14; 13; 11.5 folding leaves. Three vols. 8vo, orig. patterned semi-stiff wrappers, orig. block-printed title labels on upper covers (all three a little defective), new stitching. From the colophon: Kyoto et al.: carved by Inoue Jihei for Daimonjiya Tokugoro, 1835. \$6500.00

First edition of this beautifully illustrated introduction to the story and customs of the Tanabata Festival, today celebrated on July 7th. The Tanabata Festival traces its origins to the Chinese Qixi Festival and marks the meeting of the deities Orihime and Hikoboshi, represented by the stars Vega and Altair, respectively.

[Item No. 8827](#)

12. JIZO SUTRA FOR THE ILLITERATE. An extremely rare type of woodblock-printed sutra — “Mekura-kyo” or “Monmo-kyo” (“Sutras for the Illiterate”) — created for the illiterate population of Japan. Manuscript title label on upper cover: *Jizo tange* [*Sutra for Worshipping Jizo Bosatsu*]. 53 woodcut scenes on 12 panels (each panel 165 x 63 mm.), all joined in accordion style (*orihon*). Total length: 750 mm. Orig. decorated wrappers pasted on versos of first & final leaves. [Japan]: late Edo.

\$4750.00

An unusual, provincially printed “Mekura-kyo,” with a simplified version of the *Ksitigarbhasutra* [J: *Jizo bosatsu*]. “In Japan, where Ksitigarbha is known as Jizo, the bodhisattva...Jizo became immensely popular as a protector of children, patron of travelers, and guardian of community thresholds.”—Buswell & Lopez, eds., *The Princeton Dictionary of Buddhism*, p. 448. The woodcuts are entirely different stylistically from those in other “Mekura-kyo” we have handled: the carver used fine thin lines, and the impressions are deep and rich.

[Item No. 8853](#)

13. KAMI FUMI-E (SACRED IMAGE MADE TO BE TRAMPLED ON)? Printed broadside (344 x 459 mm.), with an image of the Passion of Jesus Christ. Woodcut image printed in black & red. Japan: 17th century or a later period (see below).

\$1500.00

In a fascinating recent British Library blog post (31 January 2020, edited 26 May 2022), Dr. Pia Maria Jolliffe of the University of Oxford and Mahli Knutson, a student at Middlebury College, Vermont, describe and discuss the BL’s recently acquired *kami fumi-e*, which was possibly printed about 1697. In their post, they describe the paper image made to be stepped on by Kirishitan apostates as a demonstration of the sincerity of their rejection of Christianity.

Our *kami fumi-e* is clearly printed from the same woodblocks as the BL’s copy, with the same printed text on the right side. However, there are two important differences:

1. ours has no Kuroda provenance;

2. we have a printed rectangular seal in black at the bottom indicating a district of Nagasaki called Kikitsu.

[Item No. 8844](#)

14. KATO, Kensai & Genjun. *Wakan ninjinko* [*Thoughts about Ginseng & Other Medicinal Plant Roots*]. Eight full-page woodcuts & two large woodcuts in the text. 24 leaves & 4 leaves of ads. 8vo, orig. brown semi-stiff wrappers (minor rubbing), orig. block-printed title label on upper cover, new stitching. Edo & Osaka: Yuki Jirobei et al., 1774.

\$2950.00

Second edition, revised with additions and corrections (1st ed.: 1748), of this uncommon work on medicinal plant roots found in Japan, China, and Korea, and their cultivation and health benefits. This work consists of three sections and two addenda, written by Kensai Kato (1669-1724), and revised by his son Genjun (1699-1785). Both were medical doctors.

[Item No. 9213](#)

15. KOCMAN, Jirí Hynek. [*The Book of Tea*]. [10] hand-pulped & tea leaf-infused leaves (incl. covers). 16mo (117 x 90 mm.), self-bound, purple paper over spine. [Czech Republic: 1979].

\$950.00

A small-format version of this compelling bookwork by the Czech bookmaker and conceptual artist. Kocman (b. 1947) crafted a series of books made of hand-pulped leaves that were infused with tea leaves. Every stage of book production has been executed by Kocman himself.

[Item No. 9286](#)

16. KOCMAN, Jirí Hynek. *E. A. Poe's The Raven Reduced by JHK*. [22] handmade thick, black leaves. 8vo (185 x 125 mm.), orig. stained leather. [Czech Republic]: Self-published, 1982.

\$2250.00

An early version of this haunting bookwork executed by Kocman (b. 1947); we could not find any copies in North America. The artist has, with deep impressions on the handmade black paper, excerpted the final words of each stanza in Poe's celebrated poem: "Nothing More," "Evermore," and "Nevermore." Kocman produced a total of 11 unique versions of this work between 1982 and 1990. The title of our volume and the date of its creation ("MCMLXXXII") are embossed on the third to last leaf.

[Item No. 9285](#)

17. **LI, Kan.** *Chikufu shoroku* [C.: *Zhupu xiang lu*; *Detailed Treatise on Bamboo Painting*]. 66 full-page woodcuts & a few woodcuts in the text. 37; 22 folding leaves. Two vols. 8vo, orig. pale blue semi-stiff patterned wrappers, new stitching, orig. block-printed title labels on upper covers (one label quite defective). From the colophon in Vol. II: Kyoto: Hayashi Ihei, 1756.

\$6500.00

First Japanese edition of this classic painting book. *Zhupu xiang lu* was regarded as the medium's major canon for the first half of the 14th century. No early Chinese edition has survived.

[Item No. 8828](#)

18. **LOTUS SUTRA.** Eight *orihon* (accordion format), finely woodblock-printed, of the complete *Lotus Sutra* [S.: *Saddharmapundarikasutra*; J.: *Myohorengekyo*]. 23-33 characters per column; 6 columns per page. Text-block height: 230 mm. Eight vols. (190 x 8600; 10,000; 9300; 8200; 8900; 8600; 8000; 7000 mm.). Tall narrow 8vo, orig. semi-stiff dark blue boards (minor rubbing), orig. block-printed mica-dusted title labels on upper covers, each entitled “*Shinpan Myohorengekyo*” [“new [carved] boards for the *Myohorengekyo*”] & volume number. [Japan]: early to mid-Edo?

\$19,500.00

A very rare — **apparently unrecorded** — edition of the complete *Lotus Sutra*, handsomely carved throughout in *hiragana*, allowing those unskilled in reading *kanji* to study the text. The vast majority of sutra printed in early Japan were carved in *kanji* (*kanbun* style) or a mixture of *kanji* and *hiragana*.

[Item No. 8675](#)

19. **MATERIA MEDICA, JAPANESE.** Illustrated scroll on paper, with six well-executed paintings, each measuring 203 x 288 mm., of edible fish & herbs. Scroll (263 x 2490 mm.), the six paintings mounted on scroll paper & framed with fine brown silk brocade, inside front endpaper with patterned white paper, outside covered with blue silk brocade, wooden core roller. [Japan]: late-Edo.

\$9500.00

A handsomely illustrated scroll, with images and notes very much in the conventions of traditional Chinese medicine. The quality and accuracy of the paintings is very fine. Several of the images show the all-important pairings (*kuiawase*) of foods that, in combination, were good for health.

[Item No. 8810](#)

20. (MESSAGER, Annette). *Annette Messenger* (25 April-2 June 1974). Black & white illus. throughout. [12] leaves. Small 8vo, stiff printed wrappers, staple-bound. Paris: Musée d'art moderne de la Ville de Paris, 1974.

\$300.00

Rare Annette Messenger (b. 1943) exhibition catalogue, published for her exhibition *Messenger Collectionneuse*. This was her first solo show at a major French museum, and the first of many at the Musée d'art moderne in Paris. The book presents her "collections" of "babies with eyes crossed out," "how my friends would draw my portrait," "voluntary torture," "bodyguards," "my jealousy," "my needlework," "my clichés temoins," "collection to find my best signature," with a list of further collections assembled but not depicted herein. Near fine copy.

[Item No. 9184](#)

21. MORNING GLORIES ALBUM. Finely illustrated album, entitled on manuscript label on upper cover "Asagao fu" ["Pictures of Morning Glories"], a collection of 55 highly accomplished & beautifully rendered brush & color-wash paintings of morning glories. 15 folding leaves. 8vo (290 x 2000 mm.), orig. yellow semi-stiff wrappers (wrappers a little soiled), new stitching. [Japan: late Edo].

\$9500.00

The anonymous artist who executed the skilled drawings in this album has depicted many varieties of the morning glory flower in great detail, painted in rich colors. The artist has labelled each flower with its name (and alternate names) and a brief description. The artist has frequently used ground-shell white pigment to give the paintings a three-dimensional quality.

[Item No. 8848](#)

22. ONO, Ranzan. Manuscript on paper, entitled on first leaf of text: "Kojinsetsu" ["Theory of Ginseng"]. 25 folding leaves. 8vo (280 x 199 mm.), orig. wrappers, orig. stitching. [Japan]: Preface dated 1810; this is a copy made later in the Edo period or early Meiji.

\$2750.00

The final work by Ranzan Ono (1729-1810), who was considered the "Linnaeus of Japan." We know that on his deathbed, Ono was preparing this text. According to WorldCat, the only surviving copy of the 1810 first printing of "Kojinsetsu" is located at the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich. The 1810 edition immediately became rare, and manuscript copies were made, of which this is one.

[Item No. 9220](#)

23. PENDLETON, Adam. *Becoming Imperceptible*. Many black & white illus. [96]; 30 pp. Small 4to, semi-stiff covers & orig. pictorial dust-jacket. New Orleans: Contemporary Arts Center & Siglio, 2016.

\$250.00

One of 1000 copies, an Adam Pendleton (b. 1984) artist's book published for his exhibition *Adam Pendleton: Becoming Imperceptible* (1 April-16 June 2016) at the Contemporary Arts Center, New Orleans. It is filled with found images and photographs selected by Pendleton and the artist's original texts.

[Item No. 9158](#)

24. ROOK, Gerrit Jan de, editor. *Stempelkunst, stamp – art.* Black & white illus. throughout. Unpaginated. Large 4to, printed wrappers, staple-bound. Utrecht: exp/press, 1975.

\$350.00

Second edition (published in the same year as the first), a scarce and important compendium of stamp artists and their stamps.

[Item No. 8370](#)

25. SATO, Churyo (or TO, Shigehiro; pen-name: ONKOSAI). Manuscript on paper, entitled on manuscript label on upper cover "Shinsei hiroku" ["Secrets about Ginseng, Listed"]. Ten fine brush & ink drawings in the text. 8.5; 13; 2 folding leaves. Three parts in one vol. 8vo, orig. wrappers, orig. stitching. [Japan]: from final leaf (in trans.): "Spring 1792"; this is a later copy, probably early Meiji.

\$1950.00

Sato (1762-1848), a leading *honzo* scholar and writer on agricultural matters, advised a number of fiefdoms throughout Japan on modern agricultural techniques.

This is a collection of unpublished texts on the cultivation and processing of ginseng. The first part concerns with the various kinds of ginseng (Chinese, Korean, and Japanese), their various names and qualities, where grown, medicinal benefits, how to use as a medicine, etc. Part Two describes the cultivation techniques of ginseng in Japan. This section is well-illustrated, showing the leaf and roots of the ginseng plant. The final part discusses how to dry and mature ginseng for pharmacological use.

[Item No. 9223](#)

26. TANG, Bingjun. *Ninjin ko [Study of Ginseng]*. 17 folding leaves. 8vo, orig. printed wrappers, orig. block-printed title label on upper cover, new stitching. [Japan]: Rekijuen [Ishizaka Sotetsu], first preface, by Sokei Ishizaka, dated 1830.

\$1500.00

First edition, a variant issue with a three-page second preface at end and no addenda (our copy agrees with a copy at Kyoto University). Tang was a physician who lived and practiced near Suzhou, a major market for the trade in ginseng. His *Ren Shen Kao* (Ch.), here in the first

edition published in Japan, is a practical guide to the medicinal uses of ginseng and gives valuable insights into the massive trade in ginseng during the 18th-century Qing dynasty.

[Item No. 9227](#)

27. UTAGAWA, Toyokuni I. *Ehon imayo sugata* [Picture Book of the Forms and Figures of Today]. 24 double-page woodcut color-printed illus. 25; 20 folding leaves. Two vols. in one. 8vo (215 x 155 mm.), orig. blue blind-stamped paper wrappers (rubbed), orig. block-printed title label on upper cover (label partly perished), new stitching. Tokyo: Izumiya Ichibei, 1802.

\$17,500.00

First edition, later issue (see below) of one of the most notable masterpieces of the Utagawa School, founded by Utagawa Toyoharu (1735-1814). The colors in our copy have remained remarkably vibrant.

[Item No. 8985](#)

28. ZOLLER, Rahel. *Title / タイトル*. [24]; [24] pp. Small 8vo (200 x 125 mm.), orig. printed dust-jacket, perfect-bound. London: Self-published, 2020.

\$100.00

An excellent meta-artist's book, unrecorded by WorldCat. Rahel Zoller and Asami Murakami created a two-volume set, one book in English, the other in Japanese, that inherently mirrors itself due to the inverse orientations. Bibliographic terms are printed on the respective physical elements of the books and their texts, à la Carter's *ABC's*.

As new. In the original printed paper slipcase.

[Item No. 8872](#)