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BIBLIOMANIA

AT

THE PRESENT DAY.



















# BIBLIOMANIA

IN

THE PRESENT DAY

IN

FRANCE AND ENGLAND;

OR,

SOME ACCOUNT OF CELEBRATED RECENT  
SALES,

GIVING THE PRICES AT WHICH THE MORE IMPORTANT  
BOOKS WERE SOLD, TOGETHER WITH THE  
PRICES BROUGHT BY THE SAME BOOKS  
IN PREVIOUS SALES.

FROM THE FRENCH OF

PHILOMNESTE JUNIOR.

*Pierre-Gustave Garnet*

WITH A NOTICE AND PORTRAIT OF TRAUTZ-BAUZONNET.

NEW-YORK :

J. W. BOUTON, 706 BROADWAY.

1880.





## ADVERTISEMENT.

*THE publisher believes that he need offer no apology for placing the present little volume in the hands of the American public. His experience, for the last twenty years, as a bookseller has placed him in a position to appreciate the constant augmentation in number of American book-collectors, and at the same time rendered him aware of the fact that their tastes are by no means limited to English literature. Indeed, French is a language of adoption here. The firm alliance between the two nations during our struggle for independence forged a bond of sympathy which has never been broken. It is not to be wondered at, therefore, that the French nation should have made*

*its influence powerfully felt upon our civilization. In fact, it will often be found that where our manners and customs depart from those of our English forefathers, they approach those of the French in corresponding degree. It is scarcely a matter of surprise, therefore, that the grace of a La Fontaine, the elegance of a Fenelon or a Bossuet, the dramatic force of a Corneille, a Molière, or a Racine, should find as ardent admirers here as in the land of their birth.*

*The title of this little work, however, admonishes us that it is not with the standard French literature that we have here to deal, but rather with what may be appropriately termed its luxuries. The books, whose varying fortunes in the auction-room are herein recounted, owe their interest to a something outside of the contents of the volumes themselves. Here our interest in a volume is awakened by its having belonged to a Mary Stuart, a Madame de Pompadour, a Grolier, or a Maioli ; here our cupidity is excited by the beautiful binding of a Derome or a Du Seuil, or the brilliancy of a gilding by a Le Gascon ; here, on the other*



hand, it is owing to its bearing the autograph of a Bossuet or a Beaumarchais on its fly-leaf. This one interests us as an early edition of a great French author, with variations from the text of subsequent issues. This one again by being one of two or three copies on vellum. All these qualities are appreciated by the American collector as fully as by his French confrère. Many a treasure which has passed through the publisher's hands during the last decade attests this fact. Indeed, he could designate private collections of the illustrated books of the sixteenth century, and of specimens of binding which could vie, in point of choiceness, with any in Europe. Should this little book be instrumental in adding to their number, or in infusing a little more enthusiasm among our collectors in general, its aim will have been fully met.







## INTRODUCTION.

**I**N all ages, men of taste and cultivation have paid homage to books. Striking examples of the truth of this may be found in antiquity, the middle ages, and times subsequent to the Renaissance. Our intention, however, is not to write a history of book-collecting, that having already been done by such men as Dibdin,<sup>1</sup> Jules Janin,<sup>2</sup> G. Mouravit,<sup>3</sup> and many others, with a breadth of scope which we shall not attempt to rival. Our purpose is merely to exhibit the *status quo* in 1878,

<sup>1</sup> "Bibliomania" and "Bibliographical Decameron."

<sup>2</sup> "Le Livre," 1870.

<sup>3</sup> "Le Livre" and "La Petite Bibliothèque d'Amateur," 1870.

and, with this end in view, we have collected together the results furnished by two sales refulgent in the annals of bibliomania.

The catalogue of an old sale is rarely preserved, unless it be by a few amateurs, who get it priced; we deem it opportune, therefore, to recapitulate the more important lots in the Turner and Didot sales—those fetching a thousand francs and over, and ranging up to twenty and even thirty thousand francs at times. A few brief notes are added, and, in some instances, a list of prices, brought by the same books at preceding sales, is appended. Striking instances will be found here of the constant rise in value of rare books.

The enthusiasm of bibliomania, though at times exaggerated and perverted, we have no desire to condemn. We can comprehend the feverish rivalry of the auction-room, and share the transport of the amateur, who, placing on his shelves some long-coveted volume, exclaims: "I have paid a little too dearly for it, perhaps, but, at all events, it is at length mine." Indeed, nowadays, it must be owned that, to possess a really precious book, in exceptional condition, you must be a man of fortune—in fact, a prince of finance.

The choice of books, like the toilet of gentility, is governed by fashion, whose laws

admit of no appeal. For several years, and more particularly at the present time, she has taken under her wings certain classes of books, which we shall now proceed to pass briefly in review.

First, we have the books illustrated by the clever artists of the eighteenth century: Eisen, Gravelot, Marillier, and Moreau. Long treated with contempt, these volumes are to-day the object of the most eager research. The plates are everything; the text nothing. The verses of Dorat, the prose of Marmontel, are placed in the choicest libraries, always provided they are accompanied by the plates, however.

We will give a few examples of this infatuation, which, by the way, prompted the production of a capital book from the pen of Henry Cohen<sup>1</sup> which was so well greeted by the public that three successive editions, each further enlarged, have rapidly seen the light;<sup>2</sup> a fourth, still further enlarged and revised, is already a *desideratum*.

To show what a *furore* exists for this class of books, let us instance the "Temple de

<sup>1</sup> "Guide de l'Amateur de Livres à Figures et à Vignettes du XVIII<sup>e</sup> siècle."

<sup>2</sup> "The third edition, Paris, Rouquette, 1876, large 8°, xix and 617 pp., in double columns, revised by Charles Mehl.

Gnide" of Montesquieu. Twenty years ago, the engraved edition of 1772 was worth six or eight francs. The supplement to Brunet<sup>1</sup> informs us that a copy was put as high as four thousand francs in Morgand and Fatout's catalogue. Another copy brought seven thousand nine hundred francs at E. Martin's sale in 1877. A third copy, with Moreau's designs, fetched ten thousand francs.

The original editions of our classic authors, too long suffered to lie in neglect, have now become indispensable to a select library. Nodier was one of the first to interest himself in their collection. He owned the "Télémaque," the "Provinciales," the "Maximes" of La Rochefoucauld, the "Caractères" of La Bruyère, the "Satires" of Boileau, and uttered the truth when he said: "the collection of this class of books, though now little in vogue, will attract sooner or later the attention of the most fastidious collectors." He added, with justice: "Who could disdain these vouchers of our literary glory, the slightest variation in which, inestimable in the eyes of men of taste, discovers the most

<sup>1</sup> "Edited by P. Deschamps and G. Brunet. The first volume was recently published by Firmin-Didot & Co. It comprises the letters A-M. Large 8°, double columns.

interesting secrets of composition, and the development of genius, enlightened by experience and matured by time."

To-day, the original editions of Montaigne, Corneille, Molière, Racine, Bossuet, La Bruyère, and others, bring enormous prices. They often possess, indeed, merit far superior to mere rarity. The "Essais," the "Maximes," the "Caractères," were at each re-impression largely re-written, loaded with corrections and additions and many suppressions made. These variations have been restored by later editors who have given them the attention they deserve.<sup>1</sup>

The editions of the French poets printed in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries have also attained exorbitant prices. Of this we shall now proceed to give some examples. The supplement to Brunet, which we have just cited, asserts that a fine copy of the poems of Louise Labé, the edition of 1555,<sup>2</sup> was sold to Baron James de Rothschild for about fifteen thousand francs—we say about, as the volume was included in a lot of books sold in a lump.

Among the books most coveted now-

<sup>1</sup> See, among others, the editions of La Rochefoucauld and La Bruyère, published by L. Hachette & Co., under the skillful supervision of Ad. Régnier.

<sup>2</sup> Lyon, J. de Tournes.

adays we may mention the old edition of the "Contes" of Perrault.<sup>1</sup> Brunet, as early as 1863, cited high prices for it, which, since that time, have been considerably exceeded. The original edition of 1697 brought fourteen hundred and seventy-five francs, at the Double sale. Holland paper copies of the Lamy edition of 1781 are worth their weight in gold. A copy formerly belonging to La Bédoyère, bound in red morocco by Derome, sold for eleven hundred and twenty francs at the Pichon sale, the same copy having been purchased for seventy-two francs, in 1839. Another copy brought two thousand six hundred francs at the Brunet sale, and still another was priced at three thousand four hundred francs, in Auguste Fontaine's catalogue for 1871. For another copy, not quite so fine, Mr. Fontaine is satisfied with twelve hundred francs.

The Abbé Prévost's "Manon Lescaut" has ardent admirers. The original separate edition of 1753 was successively sold for a hundred and nine francs, Pixérécourt, 1839; three hundred and fifty-five francs, Potier,

<sup>1</sup> See an article by Génin, in the "Illustration," reprinted in Quérard, vol. 2, p. 251; an article by E. Delorme, in the "Revue Contemporaine," Dec. 10, 1861, Sainte-Beuve, "Causeries du Lundi," vol. 5, and "Nouveaux Lundis," vol. 1.



1870; and thirteen hundred and thirty-five francs, Benzon, 1875. This progressive advance in price is remarkable. This celebrated romance first appeared in 1751, in volume 7 of the "Mémoires d'un Homme de Qualité," which is put at twelve hundred francs in a catalogue of Morgand and Fatout, the 1753 edition being priced at two thousand francs. The 1797 edition, though far cheaper, is still valuable. A copy on large paper, in morocco binding, brought two hundred and twenty francs at the Chedeau sale, and one on vellum fetched five hundred and ninety-five francs at the Desq sale.

Mr. HARRISSE, to whom we are indebted for that excellent work, the "Bibliotheca Americana Vetustissima," published, in 1875, through Lemerre, an interesting work on the original editions of "Manon Lescaut."<sup>1</sup>

The romances of chivalry printed in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries occupy a prominent position among the most valuable books. We shall revert to them in describing those collected by Mr. Didot. Let us merely remark here that, held in contempt till the commencement of the fifteenth cen-

<sup>1</sup> 8°, 61 pp., 127 copies. See, in regard to Prévost, G. Planche, "Revue des Deux Mondes," Nov. 1, 1838; Sainte-Beuve, "Causeries du Lundi," vol. 9, and "Portraits littéraires," vol. 1.

tury—not a single one is to be found in De Thou's library—they became an object of research to Du Fay, whose books were disposed of at auction in 1725. They then brought only ten or twenty francs apiece. Later on the Duke of La Vallière collected a large number of them.

Volumes commended by illustrious origin, attested by authentic coats of arms, are nowadays worth their weight in gold. Books bearing the emblems of Henri II. united to those of Diana of Poitiers; those carrying the emblems adopted by Henri III., or those of Louis XIII., sell for exorbitant prices.

Among a multitude of book-collectors whose names will be mentioned again further on, we may designate Grolier, De Thou, Longepierre, Count Hoym, and Girardot de Préfond. The morganatic queens, Madame de Pompadour and Madame du Barry, are cherished by the book-collector. He overlooks much in the lives of these naughty beauties on account of their fine books.

It is unnecessary for us to enter into particulars or to repeat what may be found in the works of E. Fournier<sup>1</sup> and G. Brunet.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> "La Reliure," 1864, 12°.

<sup>2</sup> "Etude sur la Reliure," 1873, sm. 8°.

We will merely state that the rage for fine bindings of the last century was not developed till after 1850. J. C. Brunet, the distinguished author of the "Manuel du Libraire," was one of the first to set the example in this "*douce manie*," which manifested itself in an unmistakable manner at the sale of the choice collection of his friend Parison. Then took place, in 1853, an uncompromising struggle between an opulent financier and the fervent bibliographer for an edition of "Télémaque,"<sup>1</sup> bearing the arms of Longepierre. Mr. Brunet came off victor, paying for the two little volumes seventeen hundred francs. Such a price seemed absurd, and yet, put up at auction again, in 1868, the same copy brought twenty-two hundred francs. We come across it again in Auguste Fontaine's catalogue for 1871, offered for four thousand francs. It only cost Parison thirty-six francs!

Among the old binders who dressed these volumes which are looked upon to-day as so many precious jewels, we may mention Nicolas Eve,<sup>2</sup> binder to Henri III.; Le Gascon,

<sup>1</sup> Paris, 1717, 2 vols. 12°.

<sup>2</sup> He was also a publisher. He issued, in 1578, a translation of a work by Boccaccio, the "Traité des Mésadventures." It had for device an engraving on wood, representing Adam's better half, holding in her

contemporary with Louis XIII.; later, Du Seuil and Boyet, whose work possesses great durability and strength. Padeloup, binder to Louis XV., and the Deromes, confer upon the volumes which passed through their hands a special value.<sup>1</sup> The art disappeared during the revolutionary tempest, lawless epoch, when books were bound, it is said, in human skin. Then, and under the empire, flourished Bozérian, now much fallen from the esteem in which he was held by his contemporaries. Amateurs were reduced to the necessity of sending their books to London, in spite of the obstacles then in the way of communication. Renouard states,<sup>2</sup> that he adopted this course for his own satisfaction,

hand the forbidden fruit, a device since reproduced in Brunet, vol. 1, p. 989. Nicolas Eve followed his craft till 1610, and his son Clovis till 1618.

<sup>1</sup> The finest specimen of the binding of the eighteenth century, the masterpiece of Derome, is a copy of the "Contes" of La Fontaine, 1762, 2 vols. 8°, bound in citron morocco, with compartments in colors, representing fruits and flowers. For this copy, Mr. Brunet paid six hundred and seventy-five francs at the La Bédoyère sale. It was bought for seven thousand one hundred francs at his own sale, by Auguste Fontaine. A Bordeaux book-collector gave ten thousand francs for it, and afterwards sold it to an American banker established in London. Sent to auction a little while after, these two volumes were sold for thirteen thousand francs. Is this the last of them? We think not.

<sup>2</sup> "Catalogue d'un Amateur," 1819, 4 vols. 8°.

as well as for the sake of placing good models in the hands of the Parisian workmen.

The Restoration offers, among other names, those of Simier, the royal binder, and Thouvenin, to whom Nodier confided his most valuable books, but who died before carrying out the improvements he meditated making in his art.

Later on, we shall speak of the celebrated book-collectors, Grolier, Maïoli, Canevari, Longepierre, and others, whose arms confer extraordinary value upon an old book.

An impetuous rage for books bearing the arms of Madame de Chamillard has all of a sudden seized upon our collectors. They are beautiful volumes, in excellent bindings of the beginning of the eighteenth century. Their value, formerly very slight, rose with a bound. At the Brunet sale, the "Provinciales," 1700, 2 vol. 12°, brought sixteen hundred and twenty francs; the "Théâtre" of Corneille, 10 vols. 12°, four thousand one hundred francs (purchased for five hundred and fifty francs, at the Soleinne sale, in 1844). At the Pichon sale, the "Œuvres" of Voiture, 1702, 2 vols. 12°, brought one thousand and ten francs; Boileau, 1701, 2 vols. 12°, two thousand one hundred francs; the "Lettres" of St. Augustine, 1701, 6 vols. 8°, five thousand and twenty-five francs.

At the commencement of one of Morgand and Fatout's excellent catalogues,<sup>1</sup> several interesting pages are devoted to old and modern binding. We borrow a few passages from this sketch, which is worthy of being resuscitated from the catalogue in which it lies buried :

“Binding is an art, essentially French, and, it may be added, exclusively Parisian. It has undergone all the alternations of improvement and decay which have characterized the history of art in our country. The wealth of composition, the harmonious tone of the morocco, render the ornamental binding of the sixteenth century veritable works of art. In the following century, more attention was paid to the execution and finish. The gilding of Du Seuil, and, above all, of Le Gascon, possesses a regularity and brilliancy which surpass the best work of their predecessors. Towards the end of the century of Louis XIV., and under the Regency, binding assumes a severer character. The forwarding is executed with greater care. From 1750 the general effect is more sus-

<sup>1</sup> May, 1876. These catalogues are not mere dry enumerations of titles. They include numerous notes, often of considerable length, and always full of interesting information. They give facsimiles of fine bindings, and are usually preserved by collectors with care,

tained and connected, the decoration following the taste of the period, and these bindings have nowadays zealous admirers. With the Revolution, the era of good artistic binding closes. Biziaux and Bradel, unhappy imitators of Derome, possess merely a feeble reflection of that master's qualities. With Bozérian and Courteval we are in a state of decided decline.

“Bad taste dominates from 1815 to 1840. The ornamentation of the binding then executed is heavy and pretentious. The forwarding and stitching are carelessly done. Simier and Thouvenin in vain look to the old binders for models which they are incapable of imitating. Still, a few gildings of the latter are distinguished by clever execution. He is a sham Le Gascon.

“It was reserved for Bauzonnet, the successor of Purgold, to lead back the art of binding to the right path and to its true traditions. He endeavored to renew the chain snapped since Derome. Towards 1833, he made a partner of Trautz, who became his son-in-law in 1840, and who has never ceased, during the course of a long and laborious career, to study to improve his art. He appropriated the dominant quality of each of the old bookbinders. Derome, Padeloup, and, before all, Boyet, served him as models

for the forwarding ; for the binding itself he studied above all the method of Le Gascon ; the brilliancy of the gilding, the equality of its tone, and the regularity of the impression of the tools on the morocco—such are the qualities common to the master gilder of Louis XIV., and Trautz-Bauzonnet.”

We must perforce omit, for want of space, the interesting details of the operations performed in this master’s workshop. Beating is an art understood by him alone. Trautz has in his employ the last workman who understands it. The sewing, backing, and gilding are reserved for the master himself. “Trautz has had a multitude of tools engraved, traced from old models, the skillful arrangement of which permits him to vary his designs to infinitude. It may be affirmed, in fact, that he has never executed two bindings exactly alike. Each volume possesses a character peculiar to itself—an individuality of its own.”

“It will be scarcely a matter of surprise for us to learn that hardly two hundred volumes a year issue from this admirable workshop, or that these volumes should long have been ardently coveted by the cream of collectors.”

Let us give yet another extract, which we hope none will regret to find here. At the



head of the catalogue of the Brunet sale will be found a paper signed L. P. and A. L. (Louis Potier and Adolphe Labitte). It contains many interesting details concerning the art of binding, which it affords us much pleasure to reproduce here :

“In the second quarter of the seventeenth century, the art of binding undergoes a transformation and shines with a new lustre. From the hands of an artist named Le Gascon issue volumes which bear testimony to extreme care, even in the smallest details. They are covered with excellent morocco, and the backs, and often the sides, are ornamented with exquisite designs in gold in the dotted manner, executed with a richness and delicacy altogether unequalled.

“Later on, in the latter part of the seventeenth century, the binder *par excellence* is Du Seuil. His bindings, less brilliant than those of Le Gascon, but strongly executed, have a something severe and noble about them which recalls the period in which they were executed. They are often bound inside and out. These two binders, with a few other whose names are not so well known, such as Cresson and Levasseur, did work for the most famous collectors of the seventeenth century.

“During a considerable portion of the

eighteenth century the art of binding did not degenerate. Three men of taste and skill, Boyet, Padeloup, and Derome the younger, were then the shining lights. Boyet, a severe binder, sparing in rich gildings, excelled in what constitutes the binding, properly so-called. His works are, perhaps, in their way, the most perfect extant. Padeloup has the same qualities in almost equal degree. Young Derome follows them closely, and is worthy of being placed side by side with them, especially in the first half of his career. The rich bindings in colored compartments and in colors, of Padeloup and Derome, often surpass even the most beautiful specimens of the sixteenth century in point of execution. If, in respect to ornamentation, they cannot sustain the parallel, at all events they hold their own, as even the most exacting collectors admit, among the most pleasing productions of the art in the eighteenth century. Derome senior and Enguerrand also figure among the notable binders of this period."

Here are a few examples of the prices brought by some of the fine works in the Brunet sale, thanks to their binding!

BIBLIA. Lutetiæ, 1545, 2 vols. 8°. In a binding of the sixteenth century, having compartments *à mosaïque*, with green and white ornaments. Three thousand francs.

This copy formerly formed part of De Thou's library. It brought seventy-nine francs at the Soubise sale, and six hundred and sixty-five francs at the Renouard sale in 1854.

LA SAINTE BIBLE. 1707, 8 vols. small 12°, handsomely bound by Padeloup in citron and green morocco, with blue morocco inside, backs *à mosaïque*, the sides bordered by a band of green morocco, tooled to a broad lace pattern. Two thousand and fifty francs. Another copy, also bound by Padeloup, in red morocco, *à mosaïque*. Two thousand seven hundred francs (which brought five hundred and fifty francs at the De Bure's sale in 1852).

PSALTERIUM. Lugduni, Elzevir, 1653, small 12°. Seven hundred francs, thanks to a binding by Boyet in blue morocco. This copy belonged to Count Hoym.

L'IMITATION. Paris, 1690, 8°, bound by Du Seuil. Fifteen hundred francs. This copy brought twelve livres ten sols, at the La Vallière sale, and five hundred francs at the De Bure sale.

Well-executed reproductions of the bindings of *Eve* and *Le Gascon*, and of volumes bearing the arms of Francis I., Henry II., and Grolier, are to be found in the various numbers of the *Bibliophile français*,<sup>1</sup> a very

<sup>1</sup> Published by Bachelin-Deflorenne, 1868-1873.

useful work. They have been collected, to the number of a hundred and six plates, in an album, published by Paul Daffis, and form a praiseworthy collection in the eyes of collectors who have no chance of seeing the originals, for these monuments of art are scattered in all directions.

All classes of books, however, have not participated in the enormous rise experienced by some. There is less inquiry, for instance, for heterodox works than in the preceding century, when they possessed all the charm of forbidden fruit—when the “*Christianismi Restitutio*” of Servet brought, in 1784, four thousand four hundred francs, an enormous sum for that period, and the “*Béatitude des Chrestiens*,” by an unlucky simpleton, Geoffroy Vallée, reached, in 1764, eight hundred and fifty-one francs at the Gaignat sale. To-day we are a great deal better off as regards heterodoxy, it being both abundant and cheap.

The beautiful editions of the Greek and Latin classics, printed in Holland and England, have fallen far below the prices obtained for them at the commencement of the century at the sales of Caillard, d’Ourches,<sup>1</sup>

7 vols. imp. 8°, illustrated. It was discontinued in 1873.

<sup>1</sup> In 1811. The catalogue, carefully edited by J. C.

and Firmin-Didot. At that time the rage was for copies on large paper. The Xenophon of Oxford, 1703, brought, although imperfect, fifteen hundred and twenty francs at the MacCarthy sale. The Hesiod of 1737 brought two thousand four hundred and thirty francs at the Mirabeau sale. The "Geographi minores," Oxford, 1712, two thousand francs at the Firmin-Didot sale. It is doubtful whether there be anything like the inquiry for these fine volumes nowadays. Greek and Latin are not in favor with the collectors of the present day.

Let us say a few words in passing, concerning those collectors of past times whose names are never pronounced, except with well-merited respect.

The finest and most select library formed in the sixteenth century, that of the illustrious De Thou, was, after undergoing various vicissitudes, amalgamated with that of the Prince of Soubise, and sent to auction in the beginning of 1789. It has been too often described for us to speak of it here.<sup>1</sup> The

Brunet, comprises fifteen hundred and seventy-one lots. It contains fine books in every department of knowledge. The collection fetched a hundred and fifteen thousand francs.

The Caillard sale took place in 1808. Two thousand six hundred and fifty lots fetched fifty-two thousand eight hundred and forty-four francs.

<sup>1</sup> See Brunet, vol. 5; "Essai sur la reliure," pp. 47-

catalogue, hastily prepared by an ill-informed bookseller, hardly indicates the bindings, and gives but a very imperfect idea of this admirable collection.<sup>1</sup>

Cardinal Dubois, in spite of his vices, possessed at least one good quality—his fondness for books. He left a splendid collection, gathered by an active and intelligent librarian. The catalogue, published in Holland in four volumes, 12°, includes about thirty-five hundred volumes, among which are comprised many rare and valuable books. It was purchased for sixty-five thousand livres by Parisian booksellers, who resold it *en bloc* for eighty thousand—a very high price for that period.<sup>2</sup>

We must not overlook Girardot de Préfond. The catalogue of his library comprises fourteen hundred and twenty-eight lots.<sup>3</sup> After selling his books, this collector set to work to form a second library, the larger part of which he sold to a zealous bibliomaniac, Count MacCarthy, for fifty

57; and the interesting letter of Baron Pichon inserted in Paulin Paris' "Manuscripts français de la bibliothèque du roi," vol. 4, pp. 431-438.

<sup>1</sup> See Renouard, "Catalogue d'un Amateur," vol. 4, pp. 245 and 247.

<sup>2</sup> For fuller account see the "Dictionnaire de Bibliologie," Paris, Mignon, 1860, column 460.

<sup>3</sup> See the "Année littéraire," 1757, vol 1,

thousand francs, at that time a very considerable sum.

Count Hoym, a Polish ambassador, though an unsuccessful diplomatist, at least occupies a distinguished place among collectors. The "Bulletin du Bibliophile," then in its infancy, inserted in its pages in 1838 (pp. 151 and 313) an interesting notice of his beautiful library, signed Claude Gaucher, the *nom de plume* of Baron Pichon, who is now writing, we believe, a book on this collector, who was as intelligent as he was zealous.<sup>1</sup> His catalogue contains four thousand seven hundred and thirty-five lots. Renouard remarks, concerning these books: "Fastidious amateurs assert that these volumes, well-bound and in such good condition as they were, had in general one great defect, that of having been cut down too much." One of the best-informed booksellers, M. Potier, observes that this reproach could only have reference to those volumes which the count had had rebound.

The Duke of La Vallière collected the most valuable and most considerable library ever formed in France. The manuscripts and the rarest books were sent to auction in 1783.

<sup>1</sup> See the "Essai sur la reliure," p. 87, and an article by F. Grelot in the "Bibliophile français," vol. 4, pp. 301-307.

The catalogue forms three nice volumes, 8°, containing five thousand six hundred and sixty-three lots. The prices obtained, placed side by side with those brought by the same books to-day, when they occur at a sale, offer a striking contrast. Such and such old poet, such and such romance of chivalry, then sold for twenty-eight francs, sometimes even less, to-day attains fifteen to eighteen hundred francs, and often more.

Count MacCarthy, established in Toulouse, figures among the most enthusiastic of book-collectors. The sale of his books took place in 1816. The catalogue, edited by the brothers De Bure, is very interesting. It comprises five thousand five hundred and fifteen lots, six hundred and one of which are on vellum. The most valuable monuments of early printing are here in large number: it contains the Psalter and Bible without date printed by Gutenberg.

We cannot dwell upon the large sales which have taken place during the last forty years. It would take a volume to do them justice. Let us merely mention here the following catalogues of sales: Pixérécourt, 1839, which contains interesting notes; Nodier, 1844; Solar, 1860; Radziwill, 1866; Yemeniz, 1868; J. C. Brunet, 1869; Pichon



and Potier, 1870; Benzon, 1875; Tufton, and, before all, L. de M. (Lebeuf de Montgermont), 1876, when prices were obtained hitherto unheard of, but which were, nevertheless, soon destined to be exceeded.<sup>1</sup>

Independently of the public sales, we shall find an index to the height of the thermometer of bibliomania in the priced catalogues issued by the principal members of the Parisian book-trade. We shall confine ourselves, however, to giving a few examples. Here are a few lots taken from the last catalogue of Auguste Fontaine.<sup>2</sup>

HORÆ B. V. MARIE. Paris, 1543, 4°. Five thousand francs.

ŒUVRES de VILLON. Paris, n. d., à l'enseigne de l'éléphant. Fifteen hundred francs.

ESSAIS de MONTAIGNE. Bourdeaus, 1580. Two thousand four hundred francs. Edition

<sup>1</sup> Let us mention also a little collection formed by Quintio Bauchard. The catalogue, of which only a small number were printed, was published in 1875, and has since been reprinted by Morgand and Fatout. (See also Gustave Brunet's work "Livres payés 1000 fcs. et plus depuis 1866," Lefebvre, 1877.) The collection, the formation of which began in 1866, cost thirty thousand francs. It brought a hundred and fifty-four thousand five hundred and sixty-nine francs.

<sup>2</sup> These carefully prepared catalogues form large volumes of considerable utility to bibliographers, and their interesting notes give them a special value.

of 1582, two thousand francs. 1588, 4°, thirty-five hundred francs. 1595, folio, three thousand francs.

LA PRINCESSE de CLÈVES, by Mme. de la Fayette. Original edition, 1678. Two thousand francs.

GIL BLAS. 1747, 4 vols. 12°, last edition revised by the author. Sixteen hundred and fifty francs.

LE PAYSAN ET LA PAYSANNE PERVERTIS, by Restif de la Bretonne. 4 vols. 12°. Eight hundred francs.

DAPHNIS ET CHLOÉ. 1787, 4°, on vellum, with twenty-nine original drawings and the same number of miniatures. Eight thousand francs.

LE TIERS LIVRE DE PANTAGRUEL. Lyon, 1546, small 8°. Twenty-five hundred francs.

LA NAVIGATION DU ROY D' ESCOSSE, JACQUES CINQUIESME. Paris, 1583. Fifteen hundred francs.

We will say nothing of a copy of the "Œuvres" of Voltaire, Beuchot's edition, 72 vols. 8°, offered for twenty-five thousand francs, as its elevated price is owing to over eleven thousand eight hundred plates of various kinds having been added—portraits, views, etc.—a gathering unique in its way.

One of Morgand and Fatout's catalogues

(1878) presents, among a multitude of valuable books, some lots which we quote as showing the prices quoted on 'Change in the book market.

HORS BEATISS. UIRGINIS. Small 8° (Aldus, 1497), in a handsome binding by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Three thousand francs. The Bibliothèque nationale possesses a fine copy of this excessively rare volume. Another copy, bought at Augsburg, is described in the Bibliotheca Spenceriana, No. 1310.

MONTAIGNE, ESSAIS. Paris, 1588, 8°, bound in morocco by Du Seuil. Four thousand francs. This edition, the last published during the lifetime of the author, and the first in which the third book is found, bears upon the frontispiece: "cinquiesme edition." Nevertheless, only three of those which preceded it are known, to wit: Bourdeaux, 1580, *ibid*, 1582, and Paris, 1587. Was there another edition, which has thus far eluded all research?

MONTAIGNE, ESSAIS. Paris, 1669, 3 vols. 12°. Six thousand francs. Longepierre's copy, in ordinary condition: moderate price.

CORNEILLE (PIERRE), THÉÂTRE. Also Théâtre de Thomas Corneille. Paris, 1668-1678, 9 vols. small 12°. Five thousand francs. This copy was sold for twenty-four hundred francs at the Potier sale in 1870, and was put

at thirty-three hundred francs in Auguste Fontaine's catalogue for 1872.<sup>1</sup>

MOLIÈRE, ŒUVRES. Paris, 1666, 2 vols. 12°. First collected edition of the nine comedies. Bound in morocco by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Six thousand francs.

RACINE, ŒUVRES. 1676, 2 vols. 12°. With "Esther" and "Athalie." Three thousand francs.

An interesting speculation is: In what direction will the bibliomania of the future run? Will the rapid rise which has taken place in the last twenty years be maintained? Will prices still further advance?

We will put our reply in accordance with the views of the intelligent booksellers whom we have before alluded to.

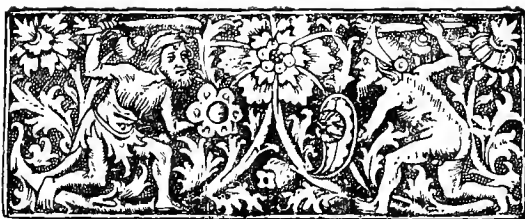
The monuments of early typography and the Greek and Latin classics will remain within the sphere of the learned. The specimens of early French printing, the poets of the Renaissance, will sustain their prices. But the books that will never cease to be in request are the original editions of the masterpieces of the French language, such as the writings of Rabelais, Corneille, Molière, La Fontaine, and numerous others. One

<sup>1</sup> See for further information regarding this valuable edition, the excellent "Bibliographie cornélienne," by E. Picot, Paris, Auguste Fontaine, 1876.

paramount reason for the maintenance of high prices for valuable books is that volumes formerly belonging to distinguished personages and choice copies of books will be seen more and more rarely. Some enter public libraries, others go abroad. At every large sale choice books are bought for England, which rarely return. Many a treasure of this kind has quitted us forever, to enrich the Bibliotheca Spenceriana, preserved in the splendid house at Althorp, or the Bibliotheca Grenvilliana, bequeathed to the British Museum.







## THE TURNER SALE.

**T**HE sale of the Turner library took place from the 12th to the 16th of March, 1878. The catalogue, carefully prepared by one of the most skillful booksellers of Paris, Adolph Labitte, comprises seven hundred and seventy-four titles. The preface informs us that Mr. Turner set out with the intention of collecting the most valuable manuscripts and the rarest works in English, French, Spanish and Italian literature. In order to attain this end, a large fortune was of absolute necessity, together with leisure, and an activity sustained by the most indefatigable zeal. The execution of this programme, undertaken with the greatest ardor, encountered an in-

evitable obstacle ; the rapid accumulation of volumes choked up his library till he reached a point when he could no longer enjoy his favorite books. He resigned himself, therefore, to the sale of the French portion of his library, which included, in addition, Latin and a few Italian books.

Valuable books of all kinds and fine bindings were abundant in this collection, and the prices obtained for them exceeded anything heard of before. Of this we shall now proceed to give proof.

BIBLIA SACRA. Paris, A. Vitré, 1666, 4°, bound in morocco by Du Seuil. Five thousand six hundred francs. The same copy sold for four pounds sixteen shillings sterling at the Duke of Noailles' sale, London, 1835.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> The catalogue comprises nine hundred and thirty-five lots. The collection brought three thousand one hundred and eighty-eight pounds fifteen shillings sterling. The books were fine and selected with taste. We notice among others, the "Anthologia," original edition, twelve pounds ; Buffon, 44 vols., very fine copy of Anisson-Duperron and De Meon, forty-three pounds ; Bayle, "Dictionnaire et Œuvres," 8 vols. folio, large paper, MacCarthy's copy, purchased for eleven hundred and seventy-two francs—thirty pounds ; Cicero, Elzevir, 1642, 10 vols., 12°, Gouttard's copy, fifty-two pounds ; the Venice edition, Junta, 5 vols., Grolier's copy, forty-seven pounds ; Mémoires de l'Académie des Inscriptions, 61 vols. in red morocco, sixty-nine pounds ; Mazarinades, 288 pieces, in 12 vols. bound in morocco by Derome, twenty-six pounds ; Mezeray,



This elevated price shows what a rage exists for old bindings. In 1784, in the La Vallière sale, a copy in red morocco, washed and re-sized, was sold for twenty-four francs.

PSEULTIER DE DAVID. Paris, 1586, 4<sup>o</sup>, in a handsome sixteenth century binding. Five thousand francs. This is one of the books which the despicable Henry III. had printed for the use of himself and court in chapel.<sup>1</sup>

LE NOUVEAU TESTAMENT. Mons, G. Migeot, 1667, 2 vols. small 8<sup>o</sup>, in a beautiful binding by Boyet. Fourteen hundred and thirty francs. Brunet writes, in 1863 :<sup>2</sup> "This edition is only of value when bound in morocco by one of the celebrated binders of the

1643, 3 vols. large paper, thirty-eight pounds, Virgilius, Elzevir, 1647, large paper, thirty-seven pounds ten shillings.

<sup>1</sup> In the "Etudes sur la reliure," 1873, p. 35 et seq., will be found a list of the volumes belonging to this contemptible sovereign. They now bring very high prices. The "Bréviaire Notre-Dame," 1587, and the "Œuvres spirituelles" of H. de Suso, 1586, which were sold for four hundred and fifty, and four hundred and ninety-five francs at the Brunet sale, brought six hundred and fifteen hundred francs at the Potier sale in 1870. Mr. Guigard, in his useful book, the "Armorial du Bibliophile," Paris, Bachelin-Deflorenne, gives four distinct blazons of Henry III. One is reproduced in the "Histoire de la Bibliophilie," published by a bookseller named Téchener.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. 5, p. 750.

latter part of the seventeenth century ; it then fetches from thirty to forty francs if the binding be in good condition. The fine copy of Count Hoym, sold for twenty-one francs in 1811, would now bring a far higher price.”<sup>1</sup>

HISTORIARUM VETERIS INSTRUMENTI ICONES. Lugduni, M. and C. Trecksel, 1538, 4<sup>o</sup>, in old morocco binding. Three thousand francs. The original edition, containing the ninety-two engravings after Holbein. Brunet at one time priced it at from sixty to eighty francs. Copies bound in morocco were sold twenty years ago for from a hundred and fifty to two hundred francs.<sup>2</sup>

ANNOTATIONES JACOBI LOPIDIS STANICI CONTRA ERASMUM. In Academia complutensi, 1619, folio. Three thousand francs. A volume possessing little intrinsic value,

<sup>1</sup> Between 1862 and 1878 we note a few sales: La Villestreux (bound by Boyet), two hundred and forty-five francs ; Benzon, four hundred francs ; Tufton, two hundred and sixty francs—Pixérécourt's copy, bound in morocco by Du Seuil, bought for twenty-three francs and a half in 1839.

<sup>2</sup> The merits of each plate are discussed in F. von Rumohr's book "Hans Holbein der Jungere (Leipzig, 1836), p. 60 et seq. It contains a letter from Leon de Laborde, dated Dec. 6, 1833. He writes: "You ask me what I think of the Bible of Holbein. It is charming; that is all I can say about it. Some pages are full of spirit; others again have been marred by ignorance. But the spirit of Holbein is still visible, like a piece of gold glistening at the bottom of a stream."

but in a beautiful calf binding, with compartments in black and gold, with the name and device of Grolier, the prince of book collectors in the sixteenth century. It is unnecessary for us to say anything of the life and books of this celebrated amateur. Mr. Le Roux de Lincy having made them the subject of a very substantial and learned volume,<sup>1</sup> which leaves little to be said. Let us remark, however, that, two years before, the same subject was touched upon in the "Fantaisies bibliographiques" of G. Brunet.<sup>2</sup>

BOURDALOUE, SERMONS. Paris, 1707-1734. 16 vols. 8°, bound in old morocco. One thousand and forty francs. Since the close of the last century, copies of this much esteemed edition have brought comparatively high prices.<sup>3</sup> We could cite plenty of sales since 1860, but confine ourselves to mentioning those bringing five hundred and sixty francs at the Potier sale in 1870, and four hundred and eighty francs in February, 1878. Let us take advantage of the opportunity to mention the "Pensées sur divers sujets" par Bourdaloue, précédées d'une Introduction par Silvestre de Sacy.<sup>4</sup> The "Journal des

<sup>1</sup> Paris, Potier, 1866.

<sup>2</sup> Paris, J. Gay, 1864, pp. 269-297.

<sup>3</sup> See Brunet.

<sup>4</sup> Paris, Técheuer, 1868, 2 vols, 12°, xxviii., 454 and 512 pages.

Savants," 1869, p. 374, pronounces this preface a masterpiece in style, sentiment and reasoning.

CALVIN, DECLARATION POUR MAINTENIR LA VRAIE FOI QUE TIENNENT TOUS CHRETIENS CONTRE LES ERREURS DÉTESTABLES DE MICHEL SERVET. Genève, J. Crespin, 1554, 8°, bound in morocco, by Padeloup. Fifteen hundred and ninety-nine francs. This very rare book possesses great interest. In it Calvin attempts to justify the execution of the unfortunate Servet, of which he was mainly the cause. This copy formerly belonged to Girardot de Préfond, one of the most distinguished book collectors of the preceding century ; and it was also sold at the sale of Aimé-Martin in 1847, Lot 64, where it brought fifty francs. Let us remark, by the way, that this catalogue, which contains eleven hundred and thirty-four lots, is one of the most remarkable, as it offers an important assemblage of autograph manuscripts, and books annotated by celebrated men. Bernardin de Saint Pierre, Bossuet, Diderot, Erasmus, La Fontaine, Madame de Maintenon, Marot, Montaigne, and Racine, are to be found in it. The recovery of the majority of these precious writings would be of great interest. Servet would furnish an opportunity for a lengthy

bibliographical essay, but it would be out of place here.<sup>1</sup>

PLESSIS-MORNAY (PH. DU), "RESPONSE AU LIVRE PUBLIÉ PAR LE SIEUR EVESQUE D'EVREUX." Saumur, 1602, 4°, in a handsome contemporary morocco binding. Two thousand francs. With eight autograph verses by the author—a fact which, together with the beauty of the binding, accounts for the high price reached by it.

LE LIVRE COUSTUMIER DU PAYS DE NORMENDIE (1483). 2 vols. folio, bound in old calf. Fifteen hundred francs. Brunet gives a long account of this edition, and cites a copy, described as very fine, but erroneously so, which brought three hundred francs at the sale of Le Prevost; then a copy bound in wood in the sixteenth century, two hundred and fifty-six francs at the Luzarche sale;<sup>2</sup> and then another, bound in morocco, five hundred and five francs at the Potier sale.

<sup>1</sup> As regards the opinion of Michelet on the conduct of Calvin towards Servet, see the "Bulletin de la Société de l'histoire du Protestantisme français," February, 1858: "Servet et Calvin; Hommes et Choses," by Chas. Romey, pp. 121-172; and a notice by Mr. Tollin in the "Historisches Taschenbuch," fünfte folge, vierte Jahrgang, 1874. It is not generally known that a notice of the writings of Servet, printed in Dauphiny, by Colomb de Batines, is to be found in the "Revue de Vienne," 1838, pp. 204-213.

<sup>2</sup> See note to Lot 854.

MONTAIGNE, ESSAIS. Bourdeaus, S. Milanges, 1580, two parts in one vol., 8°, bound in morocco, by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Fifteen hundred francs. Original edition, with numerous readings varying from the succeeding editions. It has continued to rise in value. In 1784, at Hangard's sale, a fine copy bound in morocco, washed and re-sized, was sold for twenty-four francs. It has since been sold for two thousand and sixty francs at the Radziwill sale, and for nineteen hundred francs at the Lebeuf de Montgermont sale; other copies brought sixteen hundred and fifty francs at the Potier sale, and fourteen hundred and twenty francs at the Benzon sale. De Thou's copy, bound in vellum, purchased for twenty francs in 1789, only fetched eleven francs in 1811 at the sale (a very fine one, by-the-bye) of Firmin-Didot. In 1844, at Nodier's sale, it reached five hundred and twenty-seven francs, a price then looked upon as exorbitant. If it were to reappear under the hands of Mr. Labitte, or Mr. Téchener, it might now bring as much as two or three thousand francs.

BOSSUET, POLITIQUE TIRÉE DES PAROLES DE L'ÉCRITURE SAINTE. Paris, 1709, 4°, bound in morocco. Two thousand three hundred francs. Large paper copy, with the arms of

the Duke of Maine, from the library of Louis-Philippe.

PELETIER (JACQUES), L'ARITHMÉTIQUE, L'ALGÈBRE. Lyon, J. de Tournes, 1554, 8°. One thousand and sixty francs. Copy bound in calf, with compartments, bearing the arms of the celebrated Cardinal Charles of Lorraine. The high price is due to the binding, apart from which, however, the book is in demand. At the Coste sale it brought thirty-two francs. As for its scientific worth, we shall be able to ascertain that when a much-needed work makes its appearance, to wit: a history of the mathematical sciences in France.

VASARI, LE VITE DE' PIU EXCELLENTI PITTORI. Firenze, 1550, 3 vols. in 2, 4°, bound in old morocco. Eleven hundred francs. With the arms of the Grand-Duke of Tuscany, Cosmo de Medici. In November, 1869, a copy with the arms of Cardinal de Gravelle was sold for eight hundred and sixty francs. Books formerly belonging to this illustrious prelate are very rare.<sup>1</sup>

VECELLIO, DE GLI HABITI ANTICHI ET MODERNI. Venegia, 1590, 8°, bound in morocco, by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Two thousand four hundred and eighty francs. An uncut

<sup>1</sup> In regard to Vasari consult an article by Mr. Rio in the "Revue Contemporaine," Sept. 1, 1874.

copy, perhaps unique in that condition. It came from the Pinelli library, from which it was sold for sixteen shillings. Since then it has been put in a binding which accounts for the major part of the high price brought by it. This book was formerly much cheaper. At the sale of the beautiful Caillard library, in 1806, a copy bound in morocco was sold for fourteen and a half francs. More recently other fine copies have brought from two to three hundred francs at the Chedeau, Yemeniz, Desq, Van der Helle, and other sales.

SUITE D'ESTAMPES POUR SERVIR À L'HISTOIRE DES MŒURS ET DU COSTUME. Neuwied, 1776-1779. 3 parts in 1 vol. folio, in English morocco binding. Thirty-three hundred francs. Comprising thirty-eight prints, twelve of which are after Freudenberg and twenty-six after Moreau, the text being by Restif de la Bretonne.<sup>1</sup>

HORATIUS. Londini, 1733-'37, 2 vols. large 8°. Five thousand francs. A desirable edition, but the enormous price brought by it is due to one of those eighteenth century

<sup>1</sup> Consult in regard to this fine book the excellent "Bibliographie et Iconographie de Restif de la Bretonne," by Paul Lacroix (Paris, A. Fontaine), a masterpiece of patient and scrupulously exact investigation, and the "Guide de l'Amateur de Livres à figures," by Henry Cohen, third edition (1876), column 403.



bindings for which "on fait des folies." This one was in blue morocco, the back and sides à *mosaïque*, with incrustations of red morocco, representing flowers.

OVIDIUS. Venetiis, Aldus, 1515-1516, 3 vols. 8°. Fifteen hundred and fifteen francs. Copy formerly belonging to Marc Lauren, of Bruges, a Flemish emulator of Grolier and Maioli. He is referred to in the "Essai sur la reliure," p. 21. At the Didot sale, a Statius, Aldus, 1502, with the arms of this amateur, brought five hundred and ninety francs.

ALIONI ASTENSI OPERA JUCUNDA. Ast, 1521, small 8°. Twelve hundred and twenty francs. A curious collection of macaronic and French poems. The latter were reprinted in 1836,<sup>1</sup> under the supervision of J. C. Brunet, who added an interesting introduction.<sup>2</sup> The copy of this distinguished bibliographer, bought by Mr. Turner for eight hundred and five francs in 1867, was sold to him for six hundred francs by Crozet the bookseller. It had been sold before at the Hanrott sale for fifteen pounds sterling, and at the Heber sale for seventeen pounds sterling, although it wanted two leaves.

<sup>1</sup> Paris: Silvestre, small 8°, 108 copies.

<sup>2</sup> The "Comedie e Farse Carnavaleschi," of Alion, were reissued in Milan in 1865, 18°.

Another copy brought seventeen hundred and ten francs at the Libri sale in 1847.<sup>1</sup>

LE ROMMANT DE LA ROSE. Paris, Galliot du Pré, 1529, small 8°. One thousand francs. The Giraud and Solar copy brought two hundred and ninety-nine and three hundred and fifty-five francs, while the Labédoyère copy brought eighty francs, and was sold again at the Pichon sale for four thousand seven hundred francs (Lot 470). Other copies: Double sale, one thousand francs; Benzon, six hundred and twenty francs; Brunet, Renouard's copy, fifteen hundred francs.

LE CHAMPION DES DAMES (by Martin Franc). Without place or date (Lyons, about 1485), folio, bound in morocco by Bauzonnet. Two thousand nine hundred francs, bought for one thousand and fifty francs at the sale of L. Double. A copy brought fifteen hundred and fifty francs at the Téchener sale, in 1865; a copy of the handsome edition of Galliot du Pré, 1530, bought for eleven hundred francs at the Yemeniz sale, went for eight hundred and fifty francs in the Benzon sale. Other copies brought respectively: Brunet, fourteen hundred and fifty francs; Danyau, thirteen hundred and twenty-five

<sup>1</sup> See Brunet, vol. 1, p. 183.

francs; Yéméniz, eight hundred francs, sold again at the Benzon sale for thirteen hundred and fifty francs.

BOCCACE, LE TEMPLE, LA RUINE D'AULCUNS NOBLES. Paris, Galliot du Pré, 1517, folio, bound in morocco by Derome. Four thousand francs. The only other sale cited by Brunet of this rare volume is that of the vellum copy in the MacCarthy sale, in 1816, purchased for the Bibliothèque du Roi for eleven hundred francs.

LES CONTROVERSES DES SEXES MASCULIN ET FÉMININ (by Gratien du Pont). Toulouse, 1534, small folio, handsomely bound by Niedrée. Fifteen hundred francs. Brunet cites sales at from twenty-five to a hundred and ninety francs. Later, at the Chedeau sale, it brought four hundred francs; M \* \* \*, June, 1876, thirteen hundred and fifty francs. There is a copy in the Cigongne catalogue, Lot 433. It is illustrated with curious rudely executed woodcuts.

MAGNY (OLIVIER DE), ODES. Paris, Wechel, 1559, 8°, bound in morocco, by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Twelve hundred and fifty francs. It brought only six francs at the Méon sale in 1804, and seven hundred and fifty-five francs at the Turquety sale. The various productions of this poet, said to have been the intimate friend of the cele-

brated Louise Labé, are nowadays in great demand. The "Gayetez," 1554, and the "Soupirs," 1557, brought thirteen hundred and twelve hundred and seventy-five francs, respectively, at the sale of Baron Pichon. Let us observe that the "Gayetez," although at times excessively free, are invested with the royal license, a fact of which other examples may be cited. The licentious "Novellæ" of Morlini appeared in Naples in 1520, with the papal license. We may also instance the license accorded by Louis XIII. to the "Chansons" of Gaultier Garguille, in 1632, "lest imitators should publish songs still more dissolute."

Brunet (a bibliographer, and not a literary man, be it understood) characterizes the "Poésies" of Olivier de Magny as insignificant. The critics of the present day are by no means of this opinion. Viollet-le-Duc finds in his "Odes" the perfume of olden times, and Sainte-Beuve gives them warm praise.

COQUILLART, ŒUVRES. Galliot du Pré, 1532, small 8°, bound in morocco by Laferté. Five thousand four hundred and fifty francs. Renouard's copy, with wide margins, purchased for five hundred francs at his sale in 1854. It fetched ten times the price paid for it. A copy bound by Trautz-Bauzonnet, brought two thousand six hundred francs at

the sale of Lebeuf de Montgermont. Let us mention in passing the excellent edition of Coquillart's works, published by Charles d'Héricault (Bibliothèque elzévirienne, 1857): the Essays on Coquillart and the "Vie bourgeoise" in the fifteenth century are very interesting.

CRÉTIN (G.), CHANTZ ROVAULX. Paris, J. Saint Denys, without date, small 8°, bound in old morocco. One thousand and thirty francs. Very rare edition, which we have looked for unavailingly in the most copious catalogues.

MAROT (CLÉMENT), ŒUVRES. Lyon, J. de Tournes, 1546, 16°, bound in morocco by Du Seuil. One thousand and forty francs. Brunet cites fine copies sold for from ten to forty-three francs.

DESPORTES (PHILIPPE) PREMIÈRES ŒUVRES. Paris, Mamert Patisson, MDC. 8°. Three thousand five hundred and five francs. A very high price, due to an exceedingly beautiful contemporary binding in olive morocco, with compartments ornamented with rolls and branches of foliage. Author's copy, which formerly belonged to the learned Ballesdens, whose signature is on the title page. It was also in the Cailhava and Aimé-Martin sales.

PARNY, ŒUVRES. Paris, Didot, 1808, 5

vols., large 18° Twelve hundred francs. Large paper copy on *papier vélin*. An exorbitant price, accounted for in some degree by the sumptuous binding by Trautz-Bauzonnet in blue morocco, with rich and elegant compartments.

LA FONTAINE, FABLES. Paris, 1678-1694, 5 vols., 12°, beautifully bound in morocco by Boyet. Eleven thousand nine hundred and fifty francs (bought by the Comte de Mosbourg). Valuable edition, in an excellent binding. Morgand and Fatout put this edition at the comparatively moderate price of twelve hundred francs, and ask three thousand four hundred francs for the original edition (Paris, D. Thierry, 1668, 4°). Aug. Fontaine values the 12° edition at two thousand four hundred francs.

LA FONTAINE, CONTES. Amsterdam (Paris), 1762, 2 vols., 8°, in old morocco binding. Twelve hundred francs. Farmers-general edition, much sought after nowadays<sup>1</sup>. These two volumes figure at the same price (twelve hundred francs) in the catalogues of Aug. Fontaine and Morgand and Fatout.

PARNASSE SATYRIQUE DU SIEUR THÉOPHILE. Without place (Holland), 1660.

<sup>1</sup> See the "Guide de l'amateur," by Henry Cohen, 1876, column 232.

Small 12°, bound in morocco by Bauzonnet. Eleven hundred and eighty francs. A very fine copy of one of the least edifying of volumes, but a small part of which was really written by Théophile (Viaud), the remainder being by Motin, Sigongne, Regnier, and others. It usually goes for less. Potier sale, two hundred and sixty-five francs; Brunet, three hundred francs; H. Bordes (Nodier's copy, seventy-seven francs in 1844), six hundred francs. Let us remark, however, that a fine copy reached one thousand francs at the sale of "Un Amateur" (E. Martin) in 1869. This work is included in the Elzevir collection, although not produced in their printing office.

LENIO SALENTINO (ANT.) ORONTE GIGANTE. Vinegia, 1531, in a beautiful sixteenth century binding. Four thousand four hundred francs. Very rare and sole edition of this chivalric poem. Copy with the initials of Henry II. and Diana of Poitiers.

PLAUTUS, COMÆDIÆ. Lugduni Batavorum, 1664, 8°, in morocco. Two thousand five hundred francs. This high price is owing to its being a very fine copy with the arms of Longepierre (H. B. de Requeleyne, Baron de Longepierre).

MYSTÈRE DES ACTES DES APOSTRES (by A. and S. Gréban). Paris, N. Couteau, 1537,

folio, in old morocco binding. Three thousand francs. A copy, bought for a hundred and sixty francs at the Delaleu sale in 1806, was sold for twelve hundred and fifty francs at J. C. Brunet's sale.<sup>1</sup>

MOLIERE, ŒUVRES. Paris, 1739, 8 vols., 12°, bound in morocco by Derome. Five thousand francs. The handsome series of plates engraved by Punt, after Boucher, inserted in this copy, brought successively at the following sales : Ourches, a hundred and forty francs ; Duriez, a hundred and eighty-one francs ; and Pixérécourt, a hundred and sixty-nine francs. Fine copies of this book brought no more than from six hundred to eight hundred and twenty francs thirty years ago at the La Bédoyère and Soleinne sales.

LONGUS, AMOURS DE DAPHNIS ET CHLOË. Translated by Amyot. Without place, 1718, small 8°. Two thousand one hundred and fifty francs. A high price, hardly justified by the arms of the Duc de Luxembourg, which appear on a poor binding in green morocco. Fine copies brought from a hundred and fifty to three hundred francs at the Vander Helle, Potier, H. Bordes, and other sales. E. Martin, seven hundred and forty francs.

<sup>1</sup> See " Histoire du Théâtre françois," by the brothers Parfaict, vol. 2, p. 386, and " Mélanges tirés d'une grande bibliothèque," vol. 4, p. 360.



Another copy, bound by Derome, eight hundred and eighty francs in February, 1878. J. C. Brunet's copy attained the exorbitant price of six thousand francs, thanks to a very beautiful binding, *à mosaïque*. Nodier devotes chapter 28 (pp. 219-222) of his "Mélanges extraits d'une petite bibliothèque" to this edition. According to him, "this book does not merit its reputation in any respect, as it is one of the commonest editions, and the illustrations worse than commonplace. It is not true that only two hundred and fifty copies were struck off. Such was doubtless the intention of the regent, but it is well known how the 'grands seigneurs' follow the wishes of princes, and how printers carry out the orders of the 'grands seigneurs' who have books printed."

PETRONIUS, SATYRICON. Amstelodami, 1669-1671, 2 vols. in 1, 8°, beautifully bound in morocco by Boyet. Four thousand francs (bought by Baron de Rothschild). At the Noailles sale in 1836, it fetched £4 16s.

BONNOR, L'ARBRE DES BATAILLES. Paris, A. Vérard, 1493, folio, bound in russia. Fourteen hundred and fifty francs. A copy at the Duriez sale in 1837 brought two hundred and ten francs, and at the Essling sale

<sup>1</sup> Paris, 1829, 8°.

two hundred and forty francs. At the sale of the beautiful library of the Comte d'Ourches in 1811 it only brought forty francs.<sup>1</sup> The first battle described by the author is that waged in heaven against Lucifer, which is followed by an explanation of the Apocalypse, a recital of the founding of Troy by Saturn, the beginning of a campaign by Hannibal, Duke of Carthage, with thirty thousand elephants. Mr. Beugnot ("Assizes de Jérusalem," preface) says that the "Arbre des batailles" by no means justifies its title. The author, being neither a critic nor a soldier, knew very little about the subject he treated.

MELIADUS DE LEONNOYS. Paris, 1528, folio, in a beautiful binding by Koehler. Two thousand francs.<sup>2</sup>

LES FAIS ET PROUESSES DU CHEVALIER JASON. By Raoul Lefèvre. Without place or date, folio, in morocco. Seven thousand six hundred francs.<sup>3</sup> This is not the edition

<sup>1</sup> See a *mémoire* by Sallier in the collections of the Académie des Inscriptions, vol. 9, and the "Mélanges d'une grande bibliothèque."

<sup>2</sup> An analysis of this romance, which forms a part of the cycle of the Round Table, is to be found in the "Mélanges extraits d'une grande bibliothèque," vol. 14, p. 14. See also the "Bibliothèque des romans," February, 1776, vol. 34, and Dunlop's "History of Fiction," vol. 1, pp. 247-255.

<sup>3</sup> See note to lot 439.

printed with Caxton's type, which would be still more valuable, but that having thirty-one lines to the page, which did not bring more than thirty-nine francs at the Gaignat sale, and twenty-nine francs at the La Vallière; but which fetched £31, however, at the Heber sale, and five hundred and twenty francs at the Essling sale. It has evidently advanced a little since then.

RABELAIS, ŒUVRES. Paris, 1553, 16°, in a sixteenth century calf binding. The first edition including the four books under a general title (Rabelais died the same year). It is very rare. Brunet, vol. 4, p. 1055, does not cite the sale of a single copy. A copy with the arms of Louis XIII. brought six hundred and fifty francs at the Chedeau sale.<sup>1</sup>

LOUVET, FAUBLAS. Paris, an IV., 4 vols., 8°, bound in morocco by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Three thousand seven hundred and fifty francs. Copy on *papier vélin*, with twenty-seven plates by Marillier before letters, three of which are duplicates, exhibiting different states of the plate. The price is unconscionably high.

<sup>1</sup> See J. C. Brunet's "Recherches sur les éditions originales de Rabelais," 1852, p. 117. The fifth book did not appear till 1564. There is great diversity of opinion among critics as to its authenticity. This is no place, however, to discuss the question.

DESPERIERS, NOUVELLES RÉCRÉATIONS. Lyon, Granjon, 1558, 4°, bound in morocco by Trautz - Bauzonnet. Three thousand francs. Printed with *caractères de civilité*.<sup>1</sup> A much higher price than that hitherto brought by it. Yemeniz, seven hundred francs; Baron Pichon, six hundred and five francs; Lebeuf de Montgermont, nine hundred francs.

BOCCACIO, IL DECAMERONE. Venetia, 1542, 16°. One thousand and twenty francs. This price was due to a charming sixteenth century binding, with rolls and branches of foliage of the most delicate execution.

BOCCACIO, IL DECAMERONE. Londra (Paris), 1757, 5 vols., 8°, in a contemporary morocco binding. Two thousand francs. Copy with the arms of L. C. de Choiseul, Bishop of Evreux, and, later on, Archbishop of Cambray. We think, with due deference to higher authority, that the over joyous stories of the Florentine story-teller, with the plates of Boucher, Gravelot, and Eisen, ought not to have found place in the library of a prelate.

<sup>1</sup> The license qualifies these characters as "lettres françoises d'art de main." The first vol., 8°, of the "Mélanges," published by the "Société des bibliophiles françois," contains a paper by Le Roux de Lincy on books of this description.

LES QUINZE JOYES DE MARIAGE. Paris, 4°, handsomely bound by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Seventeen hundred and sixty francs. This edition is not cited by Brunet, who, nevertheless, enumerates a considerable number of them. The older editions have become unobtainable.<sup>1</sup>

ESTIENNE (HENRY), APOLOGIE POUR HÉRODOTE. La Haye, 1735, 2 vols., small 8°, bound in morocco by Padeloup. Eleven hundred francs.<sup>2</sup> Copy of Randon de Boisset, who was one of the most fastidious of collectors, and whose well-selected library was sold in 1777, fourteen hundred and fifty lots bringing sixty-five thousand and seventy-four francs; a very large sum for that period. Nearly all his books were bound either by Padeloup or Derome.

CICERO, OPERA. Amstelodami, D. Elzevier, 1661, 2 vols., 4°, beautifully bound in morocco by Du Seuil. Three thousand

<sup>1</sup> Curious bibliographical details will be found in the nice edition included in the "Bibliothèque elzévirienne," Paris, 1853, 16°. See also in regard to this ingenious facetia the "Enigme des Quinze Joyes de Mariage" in the "Enigmes et découvertes bibliographiques," by P. L. Jacob (Paul Lacroix). Paris, 1866, 12°.

<sup>2</sup> These volumes figured in 1837, in the Noailles sale in London, where they brought four pounds fifteen shillings sterling.

francs. This is yet another instance of the idolatrous worship inspired by certain bindings. It is a fine book certainly, but the Greek and Latin quartos and folios are far from being worth as much as in times gone by. Brunet cites sales at from seventy-eight to two hundred and seventy-five francs.

LE LIVRE APPELÉ MANDEVILLE. Lyon, Buyer, 1480, folio, bound in morocco by Thibaron. Six thousand two hundred and fifty francs (bought by M. De La Carelle). Brunet describes this volume at length, but cites no sales. The English knight, Sir John Mandeville's narration of his voyages in Palestine and India, enjoyed a success largely due to the fables with which it is filled. It was translated into various languages. The *Salva* catalogue describes at length a very rare Spanish edition, and gives fac-similes of some of the curious wood-cuts which illustrate it.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See in regard to this voyage, which, in spite of the fables with which it is interspersed, possesses some scientific value: Legrand d'Aussy, "Mémoires de l'Institut: Sciences morales," vol. 5, p. 447; "Retrospective Review," vol. 3, p. 269. We read in the "Edinburgh Review," October, 1850, p. 312: "With all his extravagant credulity (and in one place he describes the site of paradise as exactly as if he had been employed to take a trigonometrical survey) Mandeville had great powers of observation and great sagacity. He vehemently contends for the sphericity of the earth."

LA MER DES HYSTOIRES. Paris, Pierre le Rouge, 1488, folio, bound in morocco by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Two thousand eight hundred francs. There are several old editions of this chronicle. In 1784 a copy of the edition of 1488, bound in morocco, only brought twenty francs at the Picart sale. This edition is described at length by Van Praet.<sup>1</sup>

LA CHRONIQUE MARTINIENNE. Paris, Ant. Vérard. Without date (about 1503), folio, bound in morocco by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Two thousand two hundred and fifty francs. This copy was bought for three guineas at the Hibbert sale in 1827. It was then in a morocco binding by Lewis, which was afterwards replaced by another. In 1784 this chronicle did not bring more than ten francs at the La Vallière sale. In 1861 it brought, bound in morocco, eleven hundred francs at the Chedeau sale.

BOSSUET, DISCOURS SUR L'HISTOIRE UNIVERSELLE. Paris, 1681, 4<sup>o</sup>, bound in morocco by Du Seuil. Six thousand four hundred francs. A copy on large paper, with the arms of Chancellor Le Tellier. Notwithstanding this is one of the master-pieces of the French language, with the blazon of an illustrious magistrate, the price is still high.

<sup>1</sup> "Catalogue," vol. 5, p. 7.

HISTOIRE DES VARIATIONS. Paris, 1688, 2 vols., 4°, bound in morocco by Du Seuil. Eighteen hundred and fifty francs.

MONSTRELET. Paris, A. Vérard, without date, 3 vols. in 2, folio, bound in calf. Three thousand two hundred and fifty francs. This copy was bought for eight pounds twelve shillings sterling, at the famous sale of the Duke of Roxburghe,<sup>1</sup> in 1812. It was knocked down, in 1836, for twenty-two pounds ten shillings at the Heber sale.

CHRONIQUE DU ROY LOYS UNZIESME. Paris, 1558, 8°, bound in morocco. Two thousand six hundred and fifty francs. Copy with the arms and initials of De Thou and his first wife.

BREF ET SOMMAIRE RECUEIL \* \* \* DE LA JOYEUSE ET TRIOMPHANTE ENTRÉE DU ROY CHARLES IX. À PARIS. Paris, 1572, 4°, vel-

<sup>1</sup> The Roxburghe sale is still looked upon as a memorable event in England, mainly on account of the enormous price, two thousand two hundred and sixty pounds sterling, brought by a copy of the Decameron of 1472. Eagerly contended for by Earl Spencer and the Marquis of Blandford, it was obtained by the latter. It was to celebrate this memorable incident in the *fasti* of bibliomania that the Roxburghe Club was founded. Limited to thirty-one members, it met once a year, and after beginning by making reprints limited to a small number of copies, adopted the more satisfactory plan of a larger impression. Brunet gives, at the end of vol. 6, a list of its publications. See also Lowndes, and Martin's "Books Privately Printed."



lum. Twelve hundred and twenty francs. Another copy, bound in morocco, brought six hundred francs at the Ruggieri sale. Accounts of this sort of ceremonies are among books which bring high prices nowadays. Brunet gives a list of a considerable number of them.

RECUEIL DES PORTRAITS EN VERS ET EN PROSE (by Mlle. de Montpensier, and others). Paris, 1652, 8°, bound in morocco. Four thousand francs. Presentation copy, with the arms of Mlle. de Montpensier, which hardly justifies, however, such an extravagant price, which was brought about by the fierce competition of two collectors, neither of whom was willing to give in. This is only the second edition, not possessing, therefore, the merit of the first 4° of a limited impression. At the Giraud sale, in 1854, a copy was sold for a hundred and fifty-four francs.

LA LÉGENDE DES FLAMENS. Paris, 1522, 4°, vellum, original binding. Fourteen hundred and ten francs. In 1813 twenty francs were paid for a copy, which might have been bought a few years earlier for six francs. Van Praet<sup>1</sup> describes the copy in the Bibliothèque nationale. Another copy, also on vellum, knocked down at three hundred and

<sup>1</sup> Vol. 5, p. 126, of "Catalogue."

seventy-five francs at the MacCarthy sale, now forms part of the Grenville Library in the British Museum.

FLÉCHIER, HISTOIRE DU CARDINAL XIMENÈZ. Paris, 1693, 4°, bound in morocco by Du Seuil. Thirteen hundred and fifty francs.

BRANTÔME, ŒUVRES. La Haye, 1740, 15 vols., small 12°, bound in old morocco. Eleven hundred francs. This rather pretty edition, though by no means perfect as regards the text, has been for some time ranked among high-priced books. It brought at the Bertin sale three hundred francs, and the same copy, sold again at the Solar sale, brought four hundred francs; Caillard, four hundred and twenty francs, resold at the Potier sale for five hundred and twenty-six francs; La Bédoyère, in 1839, four hundred and fifty francs.





## THE DIDOT SALE.

**F**OR many years the library of Mr. Ambroise-Firmin Didot has enjoyed a European reputation. It was generally known that this distinguished printer and publisher, while being a literary man, as enlightened and erudite as were the printers of the time of Henry Estienne, was also one of the most zealous of book collectors, being inspired with a devotion equally fervent and enlightened for the original monuments of printing ; for works illustrating the progress of art (especially wood engraving), and for the original editions of the French classic writers.

“Not a sale was announced in Belgium,

Holland, England, or Italy, containing incunabula or choice editions, in which he was not a competitor.”

The Didot sale took place from the seventh to the fifteenth of June, 1878. It took seven sessions to dispose of it. The catalogue, edited by Mr. Adolphe Labitte (a fact which renders eulogy unnecessary), comprises seven hundred and fifteen lots. The first seventy are manuscripts, of which we shall say nothing beyond remarking that lot 40, “*La Coche, ou le Débat d’amour*,” by Marguérite of Navarre, was knocked down at twenty thousand francs to Baron James de Rothschild. It was bought in 1869 for eight thousand two hundred and twenty francs at the Pichon sale. Another manuscript, “*Les Chroniques de Normandie*,” lot 64, brought fifty-one thousand francs, and has become the property of the city of Rouen.

The total amount of the sale was nine hundred thousand and sixty-four francs, the highest figure ever reached at a book sale in France. The La Vallière library, the richest formed in the eighteenth century, produced four hundred and five thousand francs. Of course, it is well known that only a portion of the manuscripts and more valuable books was sent to the auction-room, the remainder,

about thirty-six thousand volumes, bought, *en bloc*, by Mr. De Paulmy, and resold by him to the Count d'Artois, formed the nucleus of the Bibliothèque de l'Arsenal.

In 1816, the fine collection formed in Toulouse by Count MacCarthy, was sold at Paris by Messrs. De Bure. It included valuable editions of the fifteenth century, together with books printed on vellum in large numbers. The sale realized four hundred and four thousand seven hundred and forty-six francs, without counting several lots withdrawn from auction before the sale.

Let us remark, moreover, that the sale we are about to give an account of, only comprises a portion of the wonderful library formed by Mr. Didot. All works relating to theology, science, and art have been reserved for a future sale, and it is well known that treasures of the first rank in the way of miniatures and liturgical manuscripts will then come to light.

Mr. Didot undertook to publish a *catalogue raisonné* of the valuable books in his possession. Unfortunately he accomplished but a small portion of his task. The first part of the first volume, which lies before us,<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> April, 1867, large 8°, in double columns, 384 columns.

contains the part relating to books illustrated with woodcuts (Nos. 1-890); ceremonies (Nos. 891-965); and the commencement of the part relating to the romances of chivalry (Nos. 966-992).

Mr. Didot never tired of collecting the old romances recounting the exploits of Amadis, the Twelve Peers, or the Knights of the Round Table. In this department he was the rival of two most distinguished collectors. The Prince of Essling, son of the celebrated Masséna, collected many treasures of this kind, but sold them at auction in May, 1847, the proceeds of the sale amounting to a hundred and three thousand two hundred francs—a year later they would not have brought half that sum: to-day they would bring it three-fold. The Essling and Didot collections, however, are inferior to one formed by a broker named Armand Cigongne, who, strange to say, in the midst of the exciting struggles of the stock exchange preserved his passion for collecting. At his death, which took place in 1859, his fine library was not broken up, but was purchased, *en bloc* (it is said for three hundred thousand francs), by the Duke d'Aumale, who added it to the treasures already in his possession, and which he is constantly increasing. The Cigongne catalogue, edited

by Le Roux de Lincy,<sup>1</sup> forms a very interesting volume, comprising two thousand nine hundred and ten lots. It offers an almost complete collection of the printed romances of chivalry (Lots 1805-1890); some, it is true, are somewhat recently printed, but the older editions are absolutely unobtainable. We say an almost complete collection, because one romance, and that one of the most celebrated, the "Alexander," was wanting, but, at all events, Mr. Cigongne had put in its place a superb manuscript, embellished with eighty-three fine miniatures.

Mr. Didot was born in 1790, and died in 1877. During the whole of his long career he displayed the most indefatigable activity, and united in himself all the social virtues. The management of one of the largest publishing houses in Europe was not enough for him: he found time to write works of the highest merit, which displayed the extent and variety of his knowledge. We may mention, among others, his fine translation of Thucydides, his important works on French orthography, on the history of engraving on wood, and on printing; nor must we forget his clever essay on Anacreon, his book on Jean Cousin, nor the last fruits of

<sup>1</sup> Paris, Potier, 1861, large 8°, xlii. and 535 pp.

his prolonged vigils, the fine volume devoted to the elder Aldus and to Hellenism in Venice.

After these few preliminary words, let us pass on to the principal bids at the Didot sale.

'JANUA (J. DE), CATHOLICON. Moguntiaë, Gutenberg, 1460, folio, bound in morocco by Masquillier (a binder little known). Seven thousand nine hundred francs. This highly valuable book is described at length in the *Bibliotheca Spenceriana*.<sup>1</sup> Aug. Bernard<sup>2</sup> and Falkenstein<sup>3</sup> give facsimiles of the type. The vellum copy which belonged to the Duke of La Vallière, and afterwards to Count MacCarthy (bought at the sale of the former for two thousand and one francs, and sold at the sale of the latter for two thousand six hundred and twenty francs) was purchased by Thomas Grenville, whose valuable library was left to the British Museum.

FICHETI, RHETORICUM LIBRI. Parisiis, without date (1471), 4°, bound in morocco. Eighteen hundred francs. One of the first books printed at Paris. It is fully described by Brunet, who cites a sale at five hundred and fifty-five francs in 1857. A copy of this

<sup>1</sup> Vol. 3, p. 32.

<sup>2</sup> "Origines de l'Imprimerie."

<sup>3</sup> "Geschichte der Buchdruckerkunst," 1840.



exceedingly scarce volume is in the Mazarine library. It is fully described by Van Praet<sup>1</sup> from the copy on vellum bought for five hundred and one francs at the MacCarthy sale.

BOSSUET, ORAISON FUNÈBRE DE HENRIETTE-MARIE DE FRANCE, 1669 ET D'HENRIETTE-ANNE D'ANGLETERRE, 1670. 4°, in old morocco binding. Five thousand francs. What contributed to obtain this high price, was the fact that this was most likely the celebrated prelate's own copy. It bore the book-mark of his nephew and heir, J. B. Bossuet, Bishop of Troyes.

BOSSUET, ORAISON FUNÈBRE DE MARIE-THÉRÈSE, REINE DE FRANCE. 1683, 4°, in old morocco binding. Sixteen hundred francs.

BOSSUET, ORAISON FUNÈBRE DE LOUIS DE BOURBON, PRINCE DE CONDÉ. 1687, 4°, in old morocco binding. Three thousand one hundred francs. A very high price, accounted for by its being a presentation copy from Bossuet himself, with his autograph. A letter of Condé's had also been inserted.

HOMERUS. Florentiæ, 1488, folio, 2 vols., bound in morocco by Duru. Two thousand five hundred and fifty francs. The first edition, which has always commanded a high

<sup>1</sup> "Catalogue," vol. 4, p. 27.

price. An uncut copy (unique) was bought for three thousand six hundred and one francs at the Cotte sale in 1804; it forms part of the Bibliothèque nationale. These two volumes are described by Dibdin,<sup>1</sup> who gives a facsimile of the type. He also informs us that the copy in George III.'s library was obtained in Florence for seven shillings.

ANACREONTIS ODÆ. Parisiis, G. Morelius, 1556. bound up with Remy Belleau's translation of Anacreon and Baif's translation of Euripides' Hecuba. Paris, 1550. Fourteen hundred and fifty francs. Longepierre's copy, with the Golden Fleece adopted as his device by this author, who wrote a tragedy of Medea, which enjoyed some success in 1725, but which is completely forgotten nowadays.

BION ET MOSCHUS, IDYLLES TRADUITES PAR LONGEPIERRE (et les siennes). Paris, 1686, 2 parts in 1 vol., 8°, in a beautiful binding by Boyet. Ten thousand nine hundred francs. Bought for a thousand and thirty francs at the Pichon sale.

HYGINUS, FABULARUM LIBER. Basileæ, 1535, small folio. Two thousand six hundred and sixty francs. An ordinary copy is

<sup>1</sup> "Bibliotheca Spenceriana," vol 2, pp. 55-62.

not of much value, but this one belonged to the Genevan Demetrio Canevari, Physician to Pope Urban VIII. It bore the medallion in gold and colors representing the chariot of the sun. It appeared successively at the following sales: Libri, 1859, seventy-three pounds sterling; Solar, seventeen hundred and five francs, and Téchener, 1865, eighteen hundred and fifty francs.

SANNAZARII OPERA. Venetiis, Manutius, 1535, 8<sup>o</sup>, Five thousand eight hundred francs. Grolier's copy, in perfect preservation, sold in London in 1827 for thirteen pounds sterling at the Dent sale. This copy was purchased for twenty-seven hundred francs in 1862 at the Double sale, and was resold for two thousand and fifty francs in March, 1863.

LE ROMAN DE LA ROSE. Without place or date (Lyons, about 1485), folio, in a handsome binding by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Five thousand five hundred francs. There was a copy of the same edition in the Turner sale.

LE ROMAN DE LA ROSE. Without place or date, small folio, bound in morocco by Capé. Sixteen hundred and fifty francs. Brunet does not cite any sales of this edition.

LE ROMAN DE LA ROSE. Paris (Vérard), without date (about 1496), folio, in sumptu-

ous binding by Lortic. Eight thousand francs. Vellum copy, embellished with miniatures. This is the copy sold prior to 1830, for thirty pounds nine shillings sterling and sixteen guineas in London. Two missing leaves have been neatly replaced in facsimile. Only two other copies on vellum are known. They are both in the Bibliothèque nationale. Van Praet describes them in detail.

CHRISTINE DE PISAN, *LES CENT HYSTOIRES DE TROYE*. Paris, 1522, 4°, in a beautiful binding by Hagué. Fourteen hundred francs. The highest price cited by Brunet is five hundred francs. At the Téchener sale, in 1865, a copy bound in calf sold for seven hundred francs. In a sale which took place in 1836, under the name of Van Berghem, an ordinary copy bound in calf brought eleven hundred and fifty francs, but at a period very unpropitious for possessors of books, 1849, another copy, bound in morocco, did not bring more than sixty-four francs at the Taylor sale.

CHARTIER (ALAIN), *LES FAIZ*. Paris, Pierre le Caron, without date (about 1489), folio, bound by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Fourteen hundred and fifty francs. This copy was sold for six hundred and eighty francs and seven hundred and ninety-five francs at the Double and Desq sales.

FRANC (MARTIN) LE CHAMPION DES DAMES. Without place or date, folio, bound in morocco by Derome. Eleven hundred and thirty francs. Bought for a thousand and fifty francs at the Double sale.

LESTRIF DE FORTUNE. Without place or date (Bruges, Colard Mansion, about 1477), folio, bound in morocco by Duru. Twenty-one thousand five hundred francs. Works printed by Colard Mansion are extremely rare. This copy and one in the Sainte-Geneviève Library are the only ones known. The Didot copy successively appeared in the following sales: Heber, thirty-eight pounds sterling; Essling, fifteen hundred francs, bought by Mr. Yemeniz, who had it magnificently bound; at his sale it was sold to Mr. Asher, a Berlin bookseller, of whom it was purchased by Mr. Didot. This volume is described by Van Praet in his notice of Colard Mansion.<sup>1</sup> "Estrif," which is a medley of prose and verse, is a dialogue between Fortune and Virtue before the tribunal of Reason.<sup>2</sup>

VILLON, ŒUVRES. Paris, 1533, small 8°, bound in morocco by Lortic. Two thousand

<sup>1</sup> See also Campbell's "Annales de la typographie néerlandaise au XV<sup>e</sup> siècle," La Haye, 1874, No. 759.

<sup>2</sup> See Paulin Paris' "Manuscripts français," vol. 5, p, 123.

francs. One might be tempted to consider this price high, nevertheless it is much less than was obtained at the Potier sale in 1870, for another copy of the same edition ; but, it must be added, that copy was in a binding signed by a magic name—Trautz-Bauzonnet. Twenty-five hundred francs.

MESCHINOT, LES LUNETTES DES PRINCES. Without place or date, 4<sup>o</sup>, bound in a morocco binding of the eighteenth century. Sixteen hundred francs. Bought for five hundred and seventy-five francs at the Solar sale. Another copy at the Yemeniz sale brought eight hundred and fifty francs.<sup>1</sup> Of this poem, which enjoyed great popularity on its publication, there are many editions. At the present day it is absolutely impossible to read a couple of its pages consecutively. There is good reason to believe that certain books much praised nowadays through partisanship will, before three centuries have elapsed, be appreciated at their proper worth ; that is to say, they will have sunk into the same oblivion into which Meschinot has been precipitated. However that may be, old editions of the “Lunettes” were not dear thirty years ago. Copies bound in morocco were sold for seventy-nine and

<sup>1</sup> See note to Lot 832 in Catalogue.

eighty francs at the Essling and M \* \* \* sales in 1850.

MARTIAL DE PARIS, VIGILLES DE LA MORT DU ROY CHARLES SEPTIESME. Paris, 1493, folio, bound in morocco by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Twelve hundred francs. A copy bought for seven hundred and seventy-five francs at the Solar sale, and one thousand francs at the Double sale. It belonged for a while to Mr. Coppinger, an exclusive book collector who admitted to his library none but books printed in gothic character. His library was not sold at auction, but dispersed *à l'amiable*.

COQUILLART, LES DROITS NOUVEAULX. Paris, Veufve J. Trepperel, without date (about 1512), 4<sup>o</sup>, in old morocco binding. Three thousand two hundred francs. This copy formed part of Armand Cigongne's collection, being one of the duplicates sold by the Duke d'Aumale. Brunet, after citing sales at from thirty-six to ninety-nine francs, adds, "This book would be dearer now." In fact, at the Téchener sale, in 1865, it brought eight hundred and seventy francs (Coppinger's copy), which price has since been quadrupled.

GOBIN, LES LOUPS RAVISSANTS. Without date (about 1503), bound in morocco by Bauzonnet. Thirteen hundred francs. Bought

for seven hundred francs at the Yemeniz sale. A copy bound in morocco brought no more than fourteen livres ten sols at the La Vallière sale. Its rarity is not the only merit of this book : it is a pungent satire, in some parts very curious.<sup>1</sup> It is embellished with twenty-one woodcuts of singular naïveté, one of which is reproduced by Langlois.<sup>2</sup> It is fully described by Van Praet.<sup>3</sup>

CRÉTIN, CHANTZ ROYAUXX. Paris, 1527, 8°, bound in morocco by Bauzonnet. One thousand francs. This was Marguérite of Navarre's copy, a fact which sensibly augmented the price it brought. It used to be cheaper. At the Méon sale, ten francs ; Lair, thirty-seven francs ; later on, Aimé-Martin, a hundred and twenty francs ; and A. Bertin, a hundred and twenty-five francs.

GRINGORE (PIERRE), LES FOLLES ENTREPRISES. Paris, Pierre le Dru, without date (1505), small 8°, bound in old morocco. Thirteen hundred and fifty francs. One of two known copies on vellum. Successively sold for : La Vallière, fifty-one francs ; Heber, seven pounds seventeen and sixpence sterling ; and Brunet, a thousand and fifty

<sup>1</sup> See Viollet-le-Duc's "Bibliothèque poétique," vol. I, p. 127.

<sup>2</sup> "Danse des Morts," Rouen, 1852, plate 38.

<sup>3</sup> "Catalogue des Livres sur vélin," vol. 4.



francs. The other copy was bought in 1816 for a hundred and eighty-five francs at the MacCarthy sale, by Renouard, who catalogued<sup>1</sup> it without noticing that it had belonged to Diana of Poitiers. This valuable book is now in the Duke d'Aumale's library.

GRINGORE, HEURES DE NOTRE DAME TRANSLATÉES EN FRANÇOIS. Paris, without date, 4°, bound in morocco by Niédrée. Nineteen hundred and fifty francs. Only one other copy on paper is known—one belonging to Baron James de Rothschild. A note to Lot 185, in the Didot catalogue, gives interesting details concerning this valuable book. A copy of the same edition, on vellum, in contemporary black calf binding, fourteen hundred francs. The first four leaves are wanted in this copy, which explains the relatively low price obtained by this probably unique volume. Mr. Didot also had the second edition of the "Heures" in question. The catalogue, Lot 187, fully describes this volume, which, in a contemporary black calf binding, sold for two thousand two hundred francs.

LABUZÉ EN COURT (by René of Anjou, King of Sicily). Without place or date, 4°, thirty-four leaves, bound in morocco by

<sup>1</sup> "Catalogue," vol. 3, p. 8.

Hagué. Nineteen hundred francs. Undescribed edition. There are several other editions, printed prior to 1500, which are of extreme rarity. Two of them were sold for twenty-one and twenty-four francs at the La Vallière sale. Fine copies would no doubt bring upwards of two thousand francs now at the very least. Brunet transcribes the singular quatrain found at the recto of the last leaf.<sup>1</sup>

HEURES DE NOSTRE-DAME EN FRANÇOYS ET EN LATIN. Paris, Ant. Verard, without date (1488), small 8°, in a sumptuous binding by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Twenty-five hundred francs.<sup>2</sup>

LE CHEVALIER AUX DAMES. Mets, Gaspard Hochfeder, 1516, 4°, in a handsome binding by Bauzonnet. Eleven thousand one hundred francs. The Yemeniz copy, bought for two thousand and seventy-five francs. Fine copies only brought from sixteen to thirty-six francs in the great sales of the last century. People were surprised to see a very handsome copy attain, in 1839,

<sup>1</sup> See, in regard to this work, the "Bibliothèque des romans," March, 1778, and Bodin, "Recherches sur l'Anjou," vol. 2, p. 17. M. De Velleneuve-Bargemont has given an extensive analysis in his "Histoire de René d'Anjou," vol. 2, pp. 446-458.

<sup>2</sup> See note to Lot 214 with regard to this probably unique copy.

six hundred and seventy-one francs at the Pixérécourt sale, which had only brought a hundred and twenty in 1819. This volume is embellished with twenty-five rude woodcuts, some of which are duplicates.

MAROT, LA SUITE DE L'ADOLESCENCE CLÉMENTINE. Paris, 1534, small 8°, in morocco by Duru. Fourteen hundred francs. No sale of this very rare book is cited.

L'ADOLESCENCE CLÉMENTINE. Lyon, G. Boule, 1534. La Suite, 1534, 16°, 2 parts, 152 and 56 leaves; in a handsome binding by Trautz-Bauzonnet (costing three hundred francs). Three thousand two hundred francs. The Yemeniz copy bought for eighteen hundred francs.

L'ENFER DE CLÉMENT MAROT. Lyon, Est. Dolet, 1542, small 8°, bound in morocco by Thompson. Twelve hundred francs. This volume, sold for forty-seven francs at the Nodier sale in 1844, was acquired by Mr. Didot at the Yemeniz sale for five hundred and seventy francs. By the word "enfer" is to be understood the prison into which Marot was cast. His publisher, Dolet, having shared the same fate, wrote a "Second Enfer," which, printed three times at Troyes and Lyons in 1544, was reprinted in 1830, thanks to Mr. Aimé-Martin.

BAIF, ŒUVRES EN RIME. Paris, 1572-

1574, 4 vols., 8°, bound in morocco, by Lortic. Eleven hundred and eighty francs. Catalogued as being on large paper. The four volumes are very rarely found together. Brunet cites sales at from forty to two hundred and five francs, which prices have since been considerably exceeded. Sainte-Beuve, one thousand francs; H. Bordes, fourteen hundred and forty-five francs.

VAUQUELIN DE LA FRESNAYE, SES DIVERSES POÉSIES. Caen, Ch. Macè, 1612, small 8°, bound in morocco by Capé. Twelve hundred francs. A very moderate price compared to that brought by other copies of this very rare volume, which for several years has been much sought after. In 1839 and 1844 it did not bring more than from eighty to a hundred and fifty-five francs at the Pixérécourt and Nodier sales. It has since sold for: Pichon, two thousand eight hundred and fifty francs; Sainte-Beuve, three thousand one hundred francs; Potier, three thousand francs; Benzon, eighteen hundred and fifty francs.<sup>1</sup>

LA FONTAINE, ÉLÉGIE. 4°, two leaves,

<sup>1</sup> See Morgand and Fatout's catalogue for 1877, Lot 3044. Aug. Fontaine puts a copy in his catalogue for the same year, but without a price. The book doubtless seemed to him priceless! Mr. J. Travers published, at Caen, in 1869, a new edition of these "Poésies." Three copies were printed on vellum.

bound in morocco by Lortic. Twelve hundred francs. Original edition of the celebrated elegy "aux nymphes de Vaux." The unusually high price is partially accounted for by an autograph manuscript of La Fontaine, the rough draft of his "Ode pour la paix" (1671).

LA FONTAINE, FABLES. Paris, 1755-1759, 4 vols., large folio, bound in morocco by Padeloup. Three thousand five hundred and fifty francs. Large paper copy on Holland paper. Another copy, bearing the arms of Marshal de Montmorency-Luxembourg, is priced at eight thousand francs in Aug. Fontaine's catalogue for 1875. At the Lebeuf de Montgermont sale, 1876, a copy in red morocco brought two thousand francs.

LA FONTAINE, CONTES. Amsterdam (Paris), 1762, 2 vols., 8°, in a beautiful binding by Derome the younger. Twenty-four hundred francs. Renouard's copy, bought for eleven hundred francs in 1854, selected from several copies in sheets, and with a considerable number of plates added, which are described in detail in his "Catalogue d'un amateur," vol. 3, page 23.

LA FONTAINE, CONTES. Paris, Didot, l'an III., 2 vols., 12°, bound in morocco by Motet. Twelve hundred and nineteen francs. A large-paper copy with additional plates inserted.

DORAT, LES BAISERS. La Haye, 1770, 8°, in a handsome binding by Lortic. Thirteen hundred francs. Large-paper copy. The plates, after Eisen, confer considerable value on this long-neglected volume. In 1839, at the Pixérécourt sale, a copy on Holland paper, bound in morocco, did not bring more than ten francs, but in 1875, at the Bazon and Lebeuf de Montgermont sales, it brought a thousand and twenty-five and a thousand and fifty francs.

GUEDRON ET BOESSET, AIRS DE COUR À 4 ET 5 PARTIES. Paris, Ballard, 1608-1628, 10 parts in 1 vol., oblong 8°, in old morocco binding. Two thousand three hundred and fifty francs. Presentation copy to Louis XIII.<sup>1</sup>

LABORDE (J. B.), CHOIX DE CHANSONS MISES EN MUSIQUE. Paris, 1773, 4 vols., 8°, in old morocco binding. Two thousand two hundred and fifty francs. This collection, formerly neglected, is to-day the object of the most eager longings. Thirty or forty years ago it brought a mere nothing. Pixérécourt, 1839, a copy bound by Derome, with the majority of the etchings, fifty francs;

<sup>1</sup> See note to Lot 395 of the "Catalogue" by Paul Lacroix, who gives some very interesting particulars concerning this volume.

Viollet-le-Duc, twenty francs ; De Bure, 1855, eighty-one francs ; but in 1875, Benzou, fifteen hundred and fifty-three francs ; Lebeuf de Montgermont, 1876, four thousand two hundred and fifty francs (the Yemeniz copy, bought for eight hundred and five francs) ; Radziwill, a unique copy on vellum, with the original drawings, seven thousand and fifty francs (this copy now forms part of the fine library of the Duke d'Aumale). The verses of La Borde are among the most commonplace of their kind, but the plates, partly by Moreau, are charming.<sup>1</sup> A copy is put at four thousand francs in Morgand and Fatout's catalogue for 1878, Lot 1338.

DANTE, LA COMEDIA. Without place (Foligno), Numeister, 1472, folio, bound in morocco. Eighteen hundred and ten francs. This copy is covered with manuscript notes by Luca Pulci the poet. This edition is con-

<sup>1</sup> "Still another of those collections the only recommendation of which lies in their plates. If La Borde had not so awkwardly quarrelled with Moreau on the completion of the first volume, which was entirely drawn and engraved by him, the four would be by the same hand, and a collection of these plates, all drawn and engraved by an artist of such superiority, would be a monument of engraving truly remarkable, and which would be sought after in spite of the futility and absolute want of interest in the collection itself."—*Renouard*, "*Catalogue d'un amateur*," vol. 3, p. 42.

sidered the first.<sup>1</sup> Brunet cites sales at from four hundred to thirteen hundred and twenty-five francs. Some other copies are known, viz.: in the Bibliothèques nationale and Mazarine in Paris; in the Vienna and Copenhagen libraries; the Biblioteca Laurenziana in Florence; two in the British Museum, in the George III. and Grenville bequests; in the collections of Earl Spencer and the Duke of Devonshire, etc.

PETRARCA, LE COSE VOLGARI. Vinegia, Aldo, M. D. I., small 8°, in old morocco binding. Eight thousand francs. Vellum copy, bought for three thousand three hundred and fifty francs at the sale of the Marquis Terzi, of Bergamo, in Paris, in March, 1861. Van Praet<sup>2</sup> indicates eight copies on vellum. That of the Bibliothèque nationale was acquired in 1817, at the MacCarthy sale, for only a hundred and eighty francs. Earl Spencer has a very fine copy.

LE PREMIER (ET LE SECOND) VOLUME DU TRIUMPHANT MYSTÈRE DES ACTES DES APOSTRES. A. et S. Gresban. Paris, 1537, folio, in old binding. Four thousand francs.

MISTERE DE LA PASSION IOUÉ À PARIS ET ANGIERS. Paris, Anth. Vérard, without date

<sup>1</sup> See Colombe de Batines, "Bibliografia dantesca," Prato, 1845, pp. 12-15.

<sup>2</sup> "Catalogue," vol. 4, p. 125.



(before 1490), folio, bound by Koehler. Sixteen hundred francs. This copy is said to be probably the same as that of the Prince of Essling, sold for nine hundred and thirty-five francs, which came from the library of the Duke d'Aumale.

MAISTRE PIERRE PATELIN. Paris, without date (about 1500). 4°, 30 leaves, in a handsome binding. Five thousand one hundred francs. Edition with the mark of Pierre Le Caron. Such is its rarity that it is not even mentioned by Brunet.

CORNEILLE (PIERRE), THÉÂTRE. Rouen, 1664-1666, 4 vols. 8°. Also POÈMES DRAMATIQUES DE THOMAS CORNEILLE. Rouen, 1661-1666, 2 vols. Together, 6 vols, 8°, in old morocco binding. Fourteen thousand four hundred francs. The importance of this edition is pointed out by Mr. E. Picot in his "Bibliographie cornélienne." This copy was sold for a hundred and forty francs at the A. Bertin sale, and for four hundred and eighty-seven at the Solar sale. It has wonderfully augmented in value. Sundry pieces of Corneille, the original editions, sold for from ninety to a hundred and eighty francs apiece. SOPHONISBE, 1663, went at two hundred and fifty francs.

MOLIÈRE, ŒUVRES. Paris, G. Quinet, 1666, 2 vols. 12°, in a handsome binding by

Lortic. Nineteen hundred and fifty francs. First edition with consecutive pagination. We refer our readers for information concerning this and following editions to the excellent work of Paul Lacroix, "Bibliographie moliéresque," a masterpiece of indefatigable research and exactitude.

MOLIÈRE, ŒUVRES. Paris, Thierry et Barbin, 1674-1675, 7 vols. 12°, bound in morocco by Smeers. Two thousand francs. Mr. Paul Lacroix has demonstrated<sup>1</sup> that this edition gives the true text as revised and corrected by Molière a little before his death. Mr. Pierre Deschamps, a bibliographer as industrious as he is learned, had already, as early as 1860, in a note in the Solar catalogue, pointed out the importance of this edition.

MOLIÈRE, L'AMOUR MÉDECIN. Paris, Th. Gérard, 1672, 12°, bound in morocco by Lortic. Fourteen hundred and thirty francs. This and the following prices, undoubtedly very high, agree with those asked by the principal booksellers of Paris. The catalogue of Aug. Fontaine offers the original editions of the "Fourberies de Scapin," for two thousand francs; "L'Escole des femmes," eighteen hundred francs; "Le Sicilien," twenty-five

<sup>1</sup> "La Véritable édition originale de Molière," Paris, Aug. Fontaine, 1873.

hundred francs ; “ Amphytrion,” two thousand francs ; “ Psyché,” twenty-five hundred francs ; “ Les Femmes savantes,” three thousand francs. Morgand & Fatout, in their catalogue for 1878, put the “ Dépit amoureux ” and the “ Mariage forcé,” at fifteen hundred francs apiece ; “ L’Avare ” and “ George Dandin,” seventeen hundred francs apiece ; “ Les Fourberies de Scapin,” twenty-seven hundred francs.

MOLIÈRE, GEORGE DANDIN. Paris, J. Ribou, 1669, 12°, bound in morocco by Duru. One thousand francs.

MOLIÈRE, LE MISANTROPE. Paris, J. Ribou, 1667, 12°, bound in morocco by Lortic. Thirteen hundred francs.

MOLIÈRE, LE TARTUFFE. Paris, J. Ribou, 1669, bound in morocco by Lortic. Eighteen hundred and fifty francs.

MOLIÈRE, LES PLAISIRS DE L’ISLE ENCHANTÉE. Paris, R. Ballard, 1664, folio, bound in old morocco, with the arms of Colbert, four thousand five hundred francs. Brunet does not mention this edition, in which the “ Princesse d’Elide ” appeared for the first time. Mr. Didot fully describes it.<sup>1</sup> It is illustrated with nine plates, designed and engraved by J. Silvestre, which were first

<sup>1</sup> “ Catalogue raisonné,” Lot 948.

issued without text. The original edition of the "Princesse d'Elide" varies from subsequent ones in several instances, and particularly at the close of Act IV. The original edition of the "Palais d'Alcène," a ballet, the words of which were written by Benserade, is also included in this volume. It is only within the last twenty years that the original editions of Molière's comedies have advanced in price, and their value is still augmenting. In 1844, the Soleinne sale,<sup>1</sup> a complete collection, with the exception of "Les Fourberies de Scapin," was sold for four hundred sixty-five francs. Mr. Victor Cousin was the purchaser.

RACINE, ŒUVRES. Paris, Barbin, 1676, 3 vols. 12°, bound in morocco by Lortic. Two thousand francs. First collected edition of the nine pieces represented up to the present day. It brought : Chedeau, five hundred and five francs ; Danyau, four hundred and ninety francs. All that relates to the old editions of Racine will be authoritatively given in the "Bibliographie racinienne," announced by Mr. Emile Picot, which will prove a worthy companion to his "Bibliographie cornélienne." A copy of this edition of 1676, with the three pieces it does not con-

<sup>1</sup> See the Catalogue of this admirable library, edited with the greatest care by Paul Lacroix, Lot 1296, vol. I, pp. 274-278.

tain added, original 12° edition, is priced five thousand francs in Aug. Fontaine's catalogue.

RACINE, ESTHER. Paris, 1689, 4°. Also ATHALIE, 1691, 4°. Bound in morocco by Müller. Sixteen hundred francs. Original editions. Armand Bertin's copy. These two pieces brought: at the Danyau sale, bound in morocco, two hundred francs; Soleinne, in 1844, fine copies, ten francs for the "Esther" and twenty-five for the "Athalie." Aug. Fontaine offers the "Esther" for seven hundred and fifty francs; "Athalie" for seven hundred francs, and, bound together, for fourteen hundred francs.

RACINE, PHÈDRE ET HIPPOLYTE. Paris, 1677, 12°, bound in morocco by Lortic. Fifteen hundred and ninety-nine francs. Aug. Fontaine only priced it at one thousand francs in his catalogue for 1877, Lot 858. Original edition. Morgand & Fatout offer the "Thébaïde," "Mithridate," "Britannicus," and "Bajazet," for from a thousand to twelve hundred francs apiece.

BONNOR (HONORÉ DE), L'ARBRE DES BATAILLES. Paris, Anth. Vêrard, 1493, folio, bound in morocco by Duru. Two thousand and fifty francs. The Yemeniz copy, purchased for eighteen hundred francs.

FIERABRAS. Lyon, Jacques Maillet, 1489,

4°, bound in morocco by Thouvenin. Three thousand francs. The Yemeniz copy, purchased for seventeen hundred francs. It was sold at the Bourdillon sale in 1844, for eight hundred and fifty-five francs. A translation into prose of a "chanson de geste," the Provençal text of which was published in 1829, and the French in 1861.<sup>1</sup>

LA CONQUESTE DU GRANT ROY CHARLEMAIGNE DES ESPAIGNES. Lyon, P. Mareschal et B. Chaussard, 1501, 4°, handsomely bound by Lortic. Thirteen hundred and sixty francs. This is Fierabras under another title, with a few additions pointed out in the Didot catalogue, column 367. It brought nine hundred and forty francs at the Yemeniz sale. This narration of an imaginary conquest enjoyed great success. Brunet enumerates a dozen old editions. He does not mention, however, that printed at Lyons, Le

<sup>1</sup> See Fauriel's "Histoire de la littérature provençale," pp. 190-228; "Histoire littéraire de la France," vol. 22. The romance in prose is analyzed in the "Mélanges extraits d'une grande bibliothèque," vol. 8, p. 176; "Bibliothèque des romans," November, 1777, pp. 39-67; Dunlop's "History of Fiction," vol. 1, p. 368. Paulin Paris sees nothing in "Fier à bras" but an insipid imitation of the poor chronicle of the pseudo-Turpin.

Mr. Didot possessed a very valuable manuscript of Fierabras of the thirteenth century. See his "Catalogue raisonné," lot 978, column 360.

Prince, 1552, 4°. The catalogue of the bookseller Potier in 1863, Lot 2604, offers a copy, in poor condition, for three hundred francs.<sup>1</sup>

OGIER LE DANOIS. Lyon, Claude Nourry, 1525, small folio, handsomely bound by Lortic. Twenty-eight hundred francs. Another copy brought twenty-two hundred francs at the Yemeniz sale; it came from the De Bure sale, where it was bought for seven hundred and eighty francs. There are earlier editions. That printed by the widow Trepperel, without date, the first quarto edition, brought five hundred francs at the Chedeau sale.<sup>2</sup>

MILLES ET AMYS. Lyon, Ol. Arnoullet, 1553, 4°, bound in morocco by Lortic. Nineteen hundred and ten francs. Brunet does not mention this edition, but gives several

<sup>1</sup> On the subject of these legends consult the learned and judicious work of Gaston Paris on the "Histoire fabuleuse de Charlemagne," 1871, 8°.

<sup>2</sup> Ogier has been a subject of study in various countries. In Copenhagen in 1870, was published a book on "Kolzer Danske." Gaston Paris gives an account of it in the "Revue critique," 1870, p. 103. Mr. Rajna, a learned man thoroughly conversant with the literary history of the Middle Ages, published in the "Romania," 1875, pp. 398-436, an interesting paper entitled "Uzzero el Daneze nella letteratura romanesca degli Italiani." See also the "Mélanges extraits," vol. 8, 1878; "Bibliothèque des romans," February, 1778, pp. 71-166; Dunlop, vol. 1, pp. 449-459; and the "Histoire littéraire de la France," vol. 22.

others; that of Paris, J. Bonfons, without date (about 1575), four hundred francs at the Chedeau sale; Potier, two hundred and twenty-five francs; H. Bordes, two hundred and thirty francs.<sup>1</sup>

LA CRONIQUE ET HYSTOIRE DU CHEVALIER MABRIAN. Paris, Galliot du Pré, without date (1525), folio, in old morocco binding. Two thousand nine hundred francs. The only copy known, bought for seven hundred and thirty-five francs at the Solar sale, and fifteen hundred and fifty at the Double sale. The 1530 edition brought two hundred and fifty francs at the Essling sale; that of Paris, J. Bonfons, without date, seven hundred francs at the Yemeniz sale.<sup>2</sup>

LES QUATRE FILS AYMON. Lyon, Claude Nourry, 1506, 4°, handsomely bound by Chambolle-Duru. Two thousand nine hun-

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Didot inserted in the "Bibliophile français," vol. 1, p. 154, a notice of this romance. See also the "Bibliothèque des romans," 1776, December, pp. 3-50; the "Histoire littéraire de la France," vol. 22, p. 228; Dunlop's "History of Fiction," vol. 1, pp. 430-441; and Du Roure, "Analecta biblion," vol. 1. Bibliographical details will be found in the "Histoire de la poésie scandinave," by Ed. du Méril, 1839, 8°, p. 228. This romance is allied to the History of the Four Sons of Aymon.

<sup>2</sup> See the "Bibliothèque des romans," July, 1778, vol. 1, pp. 102-159, and Dunlop's "History of Fiction," vol. 1, p. 465.



dred and sixty francs. An edition unknown to bibliographers. There are a good many editions extant published in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries. The oldest, without place or date, was printed at Lyons about 1480. Mr. Fauriel regards these stories as having no historical foundation whatever.<sup>1</sup>

C'EST L'HISTOIRE DU SAINT GRAAL. Paris, Philippe le Noir, 1523. 2 vols. small folio, in old morocco binding. Seven thousand six hundred francs. This copy, the binding of which has four crowns stamped on it, belonged to Louis XIV. It was purchased for three thousand nine hundred and fifty francs, at the third sale of Joseph Téchener, the bookseller, in 1865.<sup>2</sup>

MERLIN LE PREMIÉ (sic) ET LE SECOND

<sup>1</sup> See the "Bibliothèque des romans," July, 1778, vol. 1, pp. 60-102, and Goerres' "Deutsche Volksbücher, pp. 99-118. Mr. De Reiffenberg has devoted an article in the "Biographie universelle," vol. 56, to the "Quatre fils d' Aymon," and Mr. F. Hénaux published a book on them in 1844, at Liége.

<sup>2</sup> The old text in verse was published for the first time in 1835, by that indefatigable and learned explorer of the literature of the Middle Ages, Francisque Michel. See the "Histoire littéraire de la France, vol. 19, p. 767. As to the prose version consult the "Bibliothèque des romans," August, 1775, p. 188, and Dunlop's "History of Fiction," vol. 1, p. 218. See also Fauriel's "Histoire de la littérature provençale," vol. 2, p. 332; De Martonne, in the "Mémoires de la Société des antiquaires," new series, vol. 8, pp.

VOLUME. Without place or date (Paris, A. Vérard, 1498), folio, in morocco. Seventeen hundred and twenty francs. No sales have taken place of this volume between that of the Prince of Essling<sup>1</sup> in 1847, where it brought eighteen hundred francs, and the above in 1878.

63-87; Paulin Paris, "Manuscripts français de la Bibliothèque du roi," vol. 7, p. 53; "La Légende du Saint Gréal," by L. Lang, Munich, 1862 (see "Revue contemporaine," Aug. 14, 1863, p. 622). The author has not sufficiently recognized the rôle played in the literature of the Middle Ages by the apocryphal scriptures. "The romances of the Holy Grail in prose and verse are very monotonous and tiresome to read. I can speak authoritatively, having read them myself. They are, nevertheless, most valuable monuments of the Middle Ages and of the literary taste of our forefathers."—L. DE LABORDE.

<sup>1</sup> This catalogue contained two other editions of Merlin: that of the widow Trepperel and that of Philippe le Noir; this last became part of the Cigogne library (lot 1808). Consult De la Villemarqué's book, "l'Enchanteur Merlin (Myrdhinn), son histoire, ses œuvres, son influence," 1847. Edgar Quinet's work, "Merlin l'enchanteur," is a fantastic production, altogether unworthy of attention. Count Tressan gives, in the "Bibliothèque des romans," July, 1775, vol. 1, pp. 109-140, an analysis of this old romance, which is reprinted in his collected works. The work of Fred. Schlegel, "Geschichte des Zauberer Merlin," inserted in his "Sammlung romantischen Dichtungen," Leipzig, 1804, vol. 1, is little known in France.

Let us remark, by the way, that the pretended prophecies of Merlin, fabricated during the first period of the Norman conquest, are of interest, from the fact of their having their origin mainly from the old Cymric legends.

LANCELOT DU LAC. Paris, Ant. Vérard, 1494, folio, handsomely bound by Lortic. Six thousand eight hundred francs. Sold for four thousand four hundred francs, at the Yemeniz sale to the London bookseller Quaritch.<sup>1</sup>

PERCEVAL LE GALLOIS. Paris, J. Saint Denys et J. Longis, 1530, folio in old morocco binding. Two thousand eight hundred francs. The La Vallière copy, bought for sixty-one francs in 1784, and resold for four thousand four hundred and fifty francs at the Double sale in 1863.<sup>2</sup>

ARTUS DE BRÉTAIGNE. Paris, Alain Lotrian, without date, handsomely bound by Lortic. Eighteen hundred and fifty

<sup>1</sup> See the "Bibliothèque des romans," October, 1775, vol. 1, and the edition in 4°, vol. 2, pp. 249-286. [It was a Spaniard, the Conde de Villa Hermosa, who in his enthusiastic admiration of the "Bibliothèque des romans," undertook to make, at his own cost, a fine edition in quarto at the press of Didot l'aîné, in 1782, the number of copies of which he limited to 50. His death, however, arrested the execution of this enterprise, and no more than two volumes and twenty sheets of the third volume were printed. They were nearly all destroyed.]

J. E. Delécluze gives a long analysis of this romance in his work "La Chevalerie," vol. 2, and Fauriel gives a detailed account of a Provençal Lancelot in the "Histoire littéraire de la France," vol. 22, pp. 212-223.

<sup>2</sup> See "Bibliothèque des romans," November, 1778.

francs. This edition is not mentioned by Brunet. Nothing could better attest its extreme rarity.<sup>1</sup>

GYRON LE COURTOYS. Paris, A. Vérard, without date (about 1501), folio, sumptuously bound by Lortic. Thirteen hundred francs. Another copy, formerly belonging to Girardot de Prefond and the Duke of Roxburghe, at whose sale it brought thirty-three pounds sterling in 1812, sold for five thousand eight hundred and fifty francs at the Yemeniz sale; another, Chedeau sale, two thousand five hundred and fifty francs. The Heber copy, worm-eaten and stained, brought five guineas; in June, 1876, it brought fifteen hundred francs. Another copy is to be found in the Cigongne catalogue. This edition, a copy of which, on vellum, is in the Bibliothèque nationale, is described by Van Praet.<sup>2</sup> This library also possesses several manuscripts of this romance (Lots 6976-6983).<sup>3</sup>

MELIADUS DE LEONNOYS. Paris, Galliot du Pré, 1528, folio, beautifully bound by

<sup>1</sup> Count Tressan gave in the "Bibliothèque des romans," November, 1776, p. 28, an analysis of this romance so celebrated in England, where it has been several times reprinted. It may also be found among the works of this ingenious writer, 1822, 10 vols. 8°.

<sup>2</sup> Vol. 4, p. 44.

<sup>3</sup> See also the "Bibliothèque des romans," October, 1776, vol. I, pp. 48-96.

Hagué, in yellow calf. Seventeen hundred and fifty francs.

ISAIE LE TRISTE. Paris, J. Bonfons, without date, 4<sup>o</sup>, bound in morocco by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Sixteen hundred and fifty francs. There are several earlier editions, which are also more valuable. That printed at Paris, Galliot du Pré, 1521, folio, a copy of which is in the Cigongne catalogue, Lot 1816, was sold for eight hundred and twenty francs at the Yemeniz sale in 1867, and would bring now a great deal more.<sup>1</sup>

CLERIADUS ET MELIADICE. Paris, A. Vérard, 1495, folio, most beautifully bound by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Nineteen thousand one hundred francs. A unique copy, printed on fine vellum, and embellished with thirty-five miniatures. The volume was described in 1850, by the active and intelligent publisher, P. Jannet, the issuer of the charming *Bibliothèque elzévirienne*, which has given to the public a large number of curious works, some of which are of great rarity.<sup>2</sup> Mr. Yemeniz purchased this valuable book for twelve hundred and fifty francs, and it

<sup>1</sup> See the "*Bibliothèque des romans*," May, 1776, pp. 58-90.

<sup>2</sup> After a rather long interval, the publication of the "*Bibliothèque elzévirienne*" is being continued again, with well-merited success, thanks to Mr. Daffis.

was knocked down, in 1867, to Mr. Didot for ten thousand francs. Unfortunately, the first and last leaves are missing. Other editions exist : that of Michel le Noir, 1514, is to be found in the Cigongne catalogue, Lot 1880.

PERCEFOREST. Paris, 1532, 6 vols. in 2, folio, handsomely bound by Lortic. Fifteen hundred francs.<sup>1</sup>

OLIVIER DE CASTILLE. Without place or date, folio, most beautifully bound by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Twenty thousand francs. This book was printed by Loys Garbin, of Geneva. It was purchased of the Milanese bookseller, Tosi, by Téchener, who resold it to Leopold Double, who had it sumptuously bound. At the sale of this amateur, who did not long retain the small but choice collection which

<sup>1</sup> See in regard to this voluminous romance, of which the "Bibliothèque des romans," January, 1776, gives but a very incomplete analysis, the learned work of Paulin Paris: "Manuscripts français de la Bibliothèque du roi," vol. 1, p. 143. Greatly inferior to Amadis of Gaul, it offers a profusion of detail of tourneys and of mythological erudition. It is, moreover, the most incoherent of those compositions which mix up together all sorts of traditions and legends. Alexander, while on his return from India, is cast by a tempest on the shores of Britain, the sovereignty of which he confers on his companion Bétis. See "Mélanges extraits d'une grande Bibliothèque," vol. 12, p. 1, and the "Bibliothèque des romans," January, 1776, vol. 1, p. 28.

he had formed, this valuable book was bought back by Téchener, for four thousand three hundred and fifty francs, and, in 1865, when this bookseller's books were sent to auction, it did not bring over three thousand six hundred and five francs ; it then became the property of Mr. Didot, who speaks of it in his catalogue, Lot 319. Another copy is in the Cigongne catalogue, Lot 1860. A copy, possibly one of the foregoing, was put at twenty-four pounds ten shillings sterling in 1845, in a catalogue of Messrs. Payne and Foss.

FLORIMONT. Paris, J. Longis, 1528, 4°, bound in morocco. Thirteen hundred francs. At the Morel-Vindé sale, in 1823, this very rare romance, joined to two other works equally valuable, was knocked down for two hundred and twenty-nine francs. It brought, by itself, at the De Bure sale, four hundred and fifty-five francs, and at the Yemeniz sale fifteen hundred francs. (See the Didot catalogue, Lot 587.)<sup>1</sup>

LES NEUF PREUX. Abbeville, Pierre Gerard, 1487, small folio, sumptuously bound by Lortic. Three thousand nine hundred

<sup>1</sup> Consult, in regard to its original conversion into verse, the judicious observations of Mr. Paul Meyer, in the "Bibliothèque de l' Ecole des Chartes," sixth series, vol. 2.

and sixty francs. It only brought forty-eight francs at the Gaignat sale in 1764. These heroes are Hector, Cæsar, Charlemagne, and others.<sup>1</sup>

LES NEUF PREUX. Paris, Michel le Noir, 1507, folio, bound in old morocco. Sixteen hundred and fifty francs.

LES SEPT SAGES DE ROME. Genève, 1494, folio, beautifully bound by Hagué. Three thousand three hundred and fifty francs. Apparently only two copies of this edition are known—that of Mr. Didot,<sup>2</sup> and the one in the Bibliothèque de l’Arsenal. This is the same copy as that in the Tross catalogue, 1865, Lot 166. It is one of the most remarkable compositions produced in the Middle Ages: of Oriental origin, it has passed into the various idioms of Europe.<sup>3</sup>

LES TROYS GRANS (C’EST À SAVOIR : ALEXANDRE, POMPÉE ET CHARLEMAGNE. Without place or date, 4°, handsomely bound by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Fifteen hundred and

<sup>1</sup> See the “Bibliothèque des romans,” July, 1778, vol. 1, pp. 141-166, or, the 4° edition, vol. 1, pp. 71-85.

<sup>2</sup> See his catalogue, Lot 320.

<sup>3</sup> See Brunet, vol. 3, p. 294. We shall confine our selves to mentioning the “Etude sur les différents textes imprimés et manuscrits du roman des Sept Sages,” by Paulin Paris, in the “Bibliophile français,” vol. 4, pp. 69-83, and the recently published volume by Gaston Paris: “Deux rédactions du roman des Sept Sages,” Paris, Didot, 1873, 8°, lvii. and 207 pp.



thirty francs. Unique copy of the only known edition of this romance. It was bought for eleven hundred and fifty francs at the Yemeniz sale, having belonged to the Abbé de Rothelin.<sup>1</sup> Each of the "troys grans," speaking in turn, relates the principal events of his life.

ROBERT LE DIABLE. Lyon, J. Canterel, 1545, 4<sup>o</sup>, bound in morocco by Chambolle-Duru. Two thousand six hundred and ten francs. We do not find this edition in Brunet. The Paris edition, J. Bonfons, without date, the style of which was modernized, sold formerly for less than six francs, as Mr. J. C. Brunet remarks. To-day it is a high-priced book. Essling, two hundred and ten francs, resold at the Double sale for four hundred and ninety francs; Yemeniz, six hundred francs.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>An accomplished bibliographer and a connoisseur of great nicety. The catalogue of his sale, which took place in 1746 (five thousand and thirty-six lots), deserves to be more generally consulted.

<sup>2</sup> See, in regard to the legend of Robert the Devil, the "Histoire littéraire de la France," vol. 22, pp. 879-887; an article of Mr. Edelestand du Ménil, extracted from the "Revue Contemporaine," June 15, 1854; "La Nouvelle Bibliothèque bleue," Paris, 1842, pp. xviii.-xxv. Mr. Florentin Richomme inserted an article on this legend in the "Annales de philosophie chrétienne," 3d series, vol. 2, p. 149. The old English version, "Lyfe of Robert the devyll," is inserted in the curious collection published by Mr. J. Thoms, "Early Prose Romances," London, 1832, 3 vols. 16<sup>o</sup>.

HUGUES CAPET. Strasburg, 1500, folio, bound in morocco by Lortic. Fourteen hundred francs. In German. It is a prose translation, written about 1440, of a "*chanson de geste*," written about a century before, and which was published for the first time in 1864, by the late Marquis of La Grange, after the only manuscript known to exist. There is no prose translation of this poem in French. The German version was written in 1437, at the request of Elizabeth, Countess of Nassau. It was several times reprinted during the sixteenth century.<sup>1</sup>

MÉLUSINE. Paris, without date (about 1495), folio, bound in morocco by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Fifteen hundred and ten francs. A German edition of this same romance, not mentioned by Brunet, bound in English morocco. Two thousand three hundred francs.

GEOFFROY À LA GRAND DENT. Lyon, 1549, 4°, in English binding. Fifteen hundred and eighty francs. This Geoffroy was the sixth son of Mélusine. A fine copy only brought sixteen francs at the La Vallière sale.

BAUDOIN DE FLANDRES. Lyon, 1478,

<sup>1</sup> Bülow has inserted it in his *Neu. Novell. Buch.* Brunswick, 1841, 8°, vol. 1. See also Gervinus, vol. 2, p. 253, and the "*Chronique des ducs de Normandie*," edited (?) by Francisque Michel, vol. 2, p. 85.

folio, handsomely bound by Lortic. Six thousand francs. The hero of this romance marries the devil, who has assumed the form of a woman (this happens even in our day!). He goes to Palestine, stays for twenty-five years a prisoner of the Saracens, and becomes emperor of Constantinople.<sup>1</sup>

PIERRE DE PROVENCE. Without place or date (Lyons, about 1478), folio, bound in morocco by Duru. Two thousand nine hundred and fifty francs. Perfect copy, the only one known. Sold for eight hundred and eighty francs at the Essling sale, and fifteen hundred francs at the Yemeniz sale. The original edition of a romance frequently reprinted.

GUERIN MESQUIN. Lyon, 1530, 4°, handsomely bound by Lortic. Four thousand and ten francs. A romance of chivalry, the hero of which goes to the trees of the Sun and Moon; he is transported by devils into Purgatory.<sup>1</sup>

BERTRAND DU GUESCLIN. Without place or date, folio, handsomely bound by Bauzonnet. Twelve hundred francs. This may be classed among the romances of chivalry.

<sup>1</sup> See the "Bibliothèque des romans," February, 1788, p. 88; Dunlop's "History of Fiction," vol. I, p. 388.

<sup>2</sup> See the "Bibliothèque des romans," January, 1777, vol. 2, pp. 5-81.

Fine copies brought seventy francs in 1819, and a hundred and twenty francs in 1829.

BERTRAND DU GUESCLIN. Lyon, Arnoullet, 1529, 4°. Two thousand six hundred and fifty francs. Purchased for four hundred francs at the Essling sale.

L'HYSTOIRE DU PETIT JEHAN DE SAINTRÉ. Paris, 1517, folio, handsomely bound by Lortic. Thirty-five hundred francs. Count Tressan gives an analysis of it.<sup>1</sup>

JEHAN DE PARIS. Lyon, without date (before 1532), 4°. Nineteen hundred francs.<sup>2</sup>

LES CENT NOUVELLES NOUVELLES. Paris, J. Trepperel, without date, in English binding. Eleven hundred and fifty francs. Bought for three hundred and ninety francs at the Solar sale.

RABELAIS, GARGANTUA. Lyon, F. Juste, 1537, 16° Mme. de Pompadour's copy. Twelve hundred francs.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See the "Bibliothèque des romans," January, 1770, vol. 2, p. 71; "Ménagiana," vol. 1, p. 137, etc.

<sup>2</sup> See the "Mélanges extraits d'une grande bibliothèque," vol. 8, pp. 279-325. It has been translated into German. Goerres has noticed it in his "Deutsche Volksbuch," p. 143. Mr. A. de Montaiglon has shown in the preface to the edition forming part of the Jannet collection, that it treats of the marriage of Charles VIII. with Anne of Brittany.

<sup>3</sup> For the peculiarities presented by this and the two following editions, consult the "Recherches" of Mr. J. C. Brunet, Paris, Potier, 1852.

RABELAIS, GARGANTUA ET PANTAGRUEL. Lyon, F. Juste, 1542, 16°, bound by Trautz-Bauzonnet. Two thousand six hundred francs. Bought for six hundred and ninety-five francs at the Solar sale, and eleven hundred and twenty at the Double sale.

RABELAIS, GARGANTUA ET PANTAGRUEL. Lyon, E. Dolet, 1542, 16°, in morocco. Eleven hundred and twenty francs.

HISTORIA DI DUE NOBILI AMANTI. Venetia, without date, small 8°, in morocco. Fourteen hundred francs. This novel is by Luigi da Porto ; it is the original account of the amours of Romeo and Juliet. It seems that only two other copies of this edition are known.

L'HYSTOIRE DE DEUX VRAYS AMANTS PAR ENEE SILVIUS. Without place or date, 8°, in morocco. Eleven hundred francs. The Yemeniz copy, purchased for a thousand francs. Brunet cites an edition differing from this one. The author became Pope, under the title of Pius II. Written in Latin, this story enjoyed a success attested by the numerous reprints and translations of it into various languages. Sir Thomas More thus appreciates this celebrated composition : "Tedious and uninteresting story ; very false and labored style of latinity."

HISTORIA DEL CAVALLERO DON POLINDO.

Toledo, 1526, 4°, handsomely bound by Lortic. Two thousand nine hundred and ninety-nine francs. This romance of chivalry is extremely rare. Not a bookseller in Paris possesses a copy. This copy was bought for eighty francs, unbound, at the sale of Louis-Philippe. In 1729, a copy, bound up with another valuable book, did not bring over eleven francs.

CERVANTES, DON QUIXOTE. 1608-1615, 2 vols. 4°. Twenty-five hundred francs. Second edition of the first part and original edition of the second.

VICTORII, VARIE LECTIONES. Florentiæ, 1553, folio. Fifteen hundred and five francs. Maioli's copy.

GASPARINUS, EPISTOLÆ. Without date, 4°. Seventeen hundred francs. First book printed at Paris, in 1470. In times past it brought fifty to a hundred and twenty francs, but in 1857, at the Libri sale, it fetched five hundred and twenty francs.

PLUTARCHUS, VITÆ ET MORALIA. Lugduni, 1566-1577, 4 vols. 12°. Two thousand one hundred francs. Copy of Marguërite de Valois. In a beautiful binding, to which is due the high price brought.

L'HISTOIRE ECCLÉSIASTIQUE DE NICÉPHORE, TRADUITE EN FRANÇOIS. Paris, 1567, folio, in old binding. Twelve hundred francs.

Presentation copy to Charles IX., with his arms and device. Twelve hundred francs. Bought at the Pichon sale. Mr. Lortic discovered the name of the binder of Charles IX. in Ambr. Paré's "Traité de la Peste" (where no one would have thought of looking for it): it was Claude Picquet, rue Saint-Jacques.

PAULI JOVII, DE VITA LEONIS DECIMI. Florentiæ, 1549, folio. Three thousand eight hundred and fifty francs. The price is solely due to the copy, which is a very beautiful one, having belonged to Grolier, whose name and device it bears.

LE PETIT FARDELET DES FAITS. Lyon, 1483, folio. Fourteen hundred francs. This is a French translation of the "Fasciculus temporum" of Werner Rolewinck. Apparently only two copies of this edition are known—that in the Bibliothèque Sainte-Geneviève and this.

LA CHRONIQUE MARTINIANNE DE TOUS LES PAPES. Paris, Ant. Vérard, without date (about 1503), folio. Fifteen hundred francs. Bought for fourteen hundred and fifty francs at the Double sale. This chronicle was written by Martin the Pole.

FLAVIEN JOSEPHE, LHYSTOIRE FAICTE FRANÇOISE. Paris, 1530, folio, handsomely bound in morocco by Lortic. Four thousand and twenty francs. Vellum copy: another

copy, imperfect, wanting the frontispiece and two leaves, was sold for a hundred and ten francs at the MacCarthy sale.

XENOPHONTIS OPERA (GRÆCE). H. Stephanus, 1581, folio, in a most beautiful old morocco binding. Six thousand francs. Presentation copy to James I. of England, which is the sole reason for this high price. In ordinary condition it is of little value.

DIODORE SICILIEN, LES TROIS PREMIERS LIVRES. Paris, 1535, 4<sup>o</sup>, bound in morocco by Bozérian. Twelve hundred francs. Vellum copy. There is another copy in the Bibliothèque nationale, which is described by Van Praet.<sup>1</sup> It was purchased in 1824, at the low price of seventy-two francs, at the Chardin sale. It did not exceed fifty francs at the La Vallière sale.

PROCOPIUS, DE BELLO PERSICO. Romæ, 1509, 4<sup>o</sup>, in a fine fifteenth century binding. Six thousand francs. Maioli's copy.

FROISSART, CRONIQUES. Paris, A. Vérard, without date, 4 vols. in 3, folio, handsomely bound. Five thousand five hundred francs. Vérard published two editions, without date, of Froissart. Brunet prices each at from four hundred to six hundred francs, prices considerably exceeded nowadays. He only quotes sales of vellum copies.

<sup>1</sup> Catalogue, vol. 5, p. 46.



MONSTRELET. Paris, A. Vérard, without date, 3 vols. in 2, folio, very handsomely bound by Lortic. Thirty thousand five hundred francs. Vellum copy, purchased for eighteen thousand francs of the bookseller Téchener in 1862. Three copies, on vellum, are mentioned by Van Praet,<sup>1</sup> including the copy in the Bibliothèque nationale, for which eighteen hundred francs were paid at the MacCarthy sale in 1817.

LE LIVRE DES STATUTS DE L'ORDRE SAINT MICHEL. Without place or date (Paris, about 1530), 4°. Thirteen hundred and fifty francs. Vellum copy, bearing the arms and initials of Henry II., together with the emblems of Diana of Poitiers. This illustrious origin accounts for its high price. Other copies did not bring more than forty and seventy francs at the Ourches and Coste sales. We saw a copy at Messrs. Payne & Foss's, in London, who asked five guineas for it.

VALERIUS MAXIMUS. Moguntiaë, 1471, P. Schoyffer, folio, bound in English morocco. Two thousand nine hundred and fifty francs. Vellum copy. Only six or seven copies are known. One of them was sold for sixty

<sup>1</sup> "Catalogue," vol. 5, p. 106, and "Second Catalogue," vol. 2, p. 63

pounds sterling at the sale of Sir Masterman Sykes in 1826.

VINCENT DE BEAUVAIS, LE QUART VOLUME. Paris, N. Couteau, 1531, folio, in an old morocco binding of the sixteenth century. Fourteen hundred francs. Very fine copy, with the arms of the Count of Mansfelt.

In England valuable books find no less passionate admirers than in France, and prices equally high are paid for them. The more widely scattered wealth of Great Britain, however, enables her collectors to indulge in extravagances from which Frenchmen would shrink back in alarm.





## THE PERKINS SALE.

**W**E regret not possessing catalogues of several recent sales, but at least we can mention that of the collection of Mr. Henry Perkins, June, 1875, eight hundred and sixty-five lots. Splendid manuscripts were included in it, of which we shall not treat just now, reserving them for a special work. As for the printed ones, we can at least cite some important sales.

**BIBLIA SACRA.** The edition printed at Mentz between 1450 and 1455, and known as the Mazarine Bible. Vellum copy. Three thousand four hundred pounds sterling.

A copy on paper of the same edition.

Two thousand six hundred and ninety pounds sterling.

BIBLIA SACRA. Moguntiaë, 1462 (first edition with a date). Copy on vellum. Seven hundred and eighty pounds sterling. It occurred in the Gaignat, La Vallière and MacCarthy sales, bringing thirty-two hundred, four thousand and eighty-five, and four thousand seven hundred and fifty francs ; and in England, from a hundred and twenty-six to two hundred and seventy-five pounds sterling. The Duke d'Aumale possesses a copy.

BIBLIA. Without place or date (Moguntiaë, Mentelinus, about 1466), bound in morocco by Derome. Seventy-five pounds sterling.

BIBLIA. Venetiis, Jenson, 1476, on vellum. Two hundred and ninety pounds sterling. It brought seventy-one and a hundred and sixty-eight pounds sterling in other sales.<sup>1</sup>

COLLECTION DES CLASSIQUES LATINS IN USUM DELPHINI. 60 vols. 4<sup>o</sup>, bound in morocco, with the arms of France. Two hundred and forty pounds sterling.

<sup>1</sup> Let us remark that a copy of the first English edition of the Bible, 1535, was sold for four hundred pounds sterling, notwithstanding that the frontispiece and two leaves had been replaced in facsimile. Not a single perfect copy is known. This was the Dent copy.

HORÆ. Ant. Vérard, without place or date (Paris, 1488), on vellum. Very fine copy. Two hundred and twenty-five pounds sterling. Having a hundred and sixty-eight leaves of twenty-nine lines to a full page. Brunet mentions another copy, having a hundred and sixty-two leaves of twenty lines to a page.

MISSALE SECUNDUM RITUM AUGUSTENSIS ECCLESIE. Dilengæ, 1555, on vellum (unknown to Van Praet). One hundred and eighty pounds sterling.

MISSALE DICTUM MOZARABES (ET BREVIARIUM). Toleti, 1500-1506. Two hundred and ninety-five pounds sterling. Bought for two thousand one hundred and forty francs at the Gaignat sale. The MacCarthy copy was withdrawn at one thousand and twenty francs. Brunet, after citing several other sales, notably the Hibbert, sixty-four pounds sterling, adds: "These two volumes would doubtless not bring the same price now." We see, on the contrary, that they have very largely increased in value.

MISSALE ROMANUM. Romæ, 1496, presentation copy to Pope Alexander VI., on vellum. Three hundred and seventy-five pounds sterling. Neither Panzer nor Van Praet were acquainted with this fine book.

MISSALE AD USUM ECCLESIE SARISBURI-

ENSIS. Parisiis, Prevost, 1527, on vellum. Ninety-five pounds sterling. At this time, and a little while before the Reformation was propagated in England, French printers executed books of liturgy for the use of the English churches. The Rouen printers were kept actively employed with work of this description.<sup>1</sup>

INSTITUTION D'UN PRINCE CHRESTIEN, PAR TALPIN. Paris, 1563, 8°. Copy bearing the arms of Anne of Austria. One hundred and nine pounds sterling. This price for a book of no value whatever, in ordinary condition, appears to us so high that we should be tempted to suppose it an error of the transcriber of our priced catalogue.

PSALTERIUM SECUNDUM CONSUECUDINEM ORD. CARTHUSIENSII. 1519. On vellum (known to neither Panzer nor Brunet). Seventy-four pounds sterling.

CÉRÉMONIES ET COUTUMES RELIGIEUSES, 1723-26. II vols. in 9, folio, large paper, bound in morocco by Derome. Ninety-eight pounds sterling. Purchased for seventy-three pounds ten shillings at the Sykes sale.

PTOLOMÆUS, LATINE. Romæ, 1478, folio. Eighty pounds sterling. The highest sale

<sup>1</sup> See Brunet, vol. 3, p. 767, and Lowndes' Bibliographer's Manual.

recorded by Brunet for this valuable work, the first in which maps engraved on metal are found, is nine hundred and seventy-five francs.<sup>1</sup>

SAINTE LAMBERT, LES SAISONS. Paris, 1796, 4°, on vellum (unique), with four original designs by Chaudet, a poor artist. Thirty-three pounds sterling. The copy sold at the sale of Prince Galitzin, in 1825, for four hundred francs.

We omit English works bringing high prices, as they do not interest French collectors. We note, however, that a fine copy of the first folio Shakespeare, 1623, sold for five hundred and eighty-five pounds sterling, not so much as was obtained for another copy in 1864 at the Daniel sale—seven hundred and sixteen pounds two shillings sterling.

<sup>1</sup> We notice an article of Mr. Chas. Müller in the "Archives des Missions scientifiques," second series, vol. 4, pp. 279-298, on the Manuscripts of Ptolemy's Geography.









## THE PAYNE SALE.

**W**E have just received a priced catalogue of a sale, not very considerable, but still remarkable in point of view of the rarity of the books contained in it. It took place last April (1878). The books came from the library of a well-known bookseller, Mr. Payne, whose name, associated with that of Mr. Foss, has been long known throughout Europe to those interested in books. Mr. J. T. Payne succeeded to his father's business,<sup>1</sup> and as soon

<sup>1</sup> James Payne died at Paris in 1809. While lying at the point of death he had an account given him of the prices brought at a sale which was just then taking place. Informed that a collector who desired to obtain the original edition of Cæsar, had not succeeded in getting it on account of having arrived a few minutes

as the events of 1814 opened to the English access to the continent, he travelled over Italy, Germany, and Holland, and got together a large number of books of great value, which he obtained at moderate prices, and sold to the British collectors at a considerable advance. Messrs. Payne and Foss are the gentlemen given out as the editors of the "*Bibliotheca Grenvilliana*,"<sup>1</sup> a well-executed catalogue, enriched with instructive notes, of a magnificent collection bequeathed to the British Museum.

Mr. Payne, like many other distinguished booksellers, such as De Bure and Renouard, was unable to see legions of fine volumes pass through his hands without being tempted to reserve some of them for himself. Those he kept were selected with great taste, and he understood, at the same time, how to keep within bounds his passion for fine books. His library, which was rather difficult of

too late, he exclaimed, "When one wants a Cæsar of 1469, one doesn't dine," and expired.—RENOUARD, "*Catalogue d'un Amateur*," vol. 4, p. 92.

<sup>1</sup> 3 vols. 8°, 1842-1848. This library consisted of twenty thousand two hundred and ten volumes: it cost its owner, who was born in 1755, and died Dec. 31, 1846, more than fifty-four thousand pounds sterling. See what Brunet says about it, vol. 3, p. 662; also G. Mason in the "*Bulletin du Bibliophile*," 1854, pp. 102 and 279.

access, was held in high esteem, and, therefore, the volumes issuing from it were eagerly contended for, and the prices obtained show that the thermometer of bibliomania has a tendency to rise more and more.

Let us cite a few examples.

Mr. Payne, like all judicious and tasteful collectors, had a great fondness for the masterpieces of the Elzevirian typography. We find in his library : Cæsar, 1635, bound in morocco, twenty-two pounds sterling (Renouard's copy sold for fifty-nine francs in 1854). Renouard describes it as the finest copy known after that of the Bibliothèque du roi, bought of Gouttard in 1780.

COMMINES, 1648, blue morocco. Forty-eight pounds ten shillings sterling.

BOCCACCIO, DECAMERONE, 1656, uncut, but stained. Eighty-seven pounds sterling.

TITE-LIVE, 1678, uncut, and with covers off. Twenty-two pounds ten shillings sterling. Bought by the Duke d'Aumale.

VIRGILE, 1626, bound in blue morocco by Derome. Fifty pounds two and sixpence sterling.

A'KEMPIS, DE IMITATIONE. Bound in old morocco. Twenty-eight pounds sterling.

L'ECOLE DE SALERNE, 1651, on Dutch vellum. Thirty-four pounds ten shillings sterling.

Mr. Payne shared the enthusiasm inspired nowadays by books formerly belonging to celebrated book collectors and volumes bound by celebrated binders.

SANNAZARIUS. Aldus, 1535, Grolier's copy. Eighty-nine pounds five shillings sterling. Brunet cites it as sold for thirteen pounds sterling at the Dent sale in 1827, and it has been since sold for two thousand seven hundred francs at the Double sale.

VITA DI M. AURELIO IMPERADORE. Demetrio Canevari's copy, physician to Pope Urban VIII. Seventeen pounds ten shillings sterling.

MEDITATIONS DE L'AMOUR DE DIEU. 1587, small 8°, with the arms of Henri III. and the device "Spes mea Deus." One hundred pounds sterling.

BOSSUET, EXPOSITION DE LA DOCTRINE CATHOLIQUE. 1686, small 12°, bound in blue morocco. Longepierre's copy. One hundred and twenty-eight pounds sterling.

OFFICIUM B. MARIÆ VIRGINIS. Antwerpæ Plantinus, 1573, 4°, beautifully bound, with the arms of De Thou. One hundred and eighty pounds sterling. The badly-prepared catalogue of the Soubise sale in 1789 contains this "Officium," 1575, 8°, Lot 586, which sold for eight pounds sterling.

A 12° volume, without any value in

ordinary condition, "Reflexions des Saints Pères," 1708, reached twenty-four pounds sterling, thanks to a binding by Padeloup.

Let us finish with an incunabulum :

THOMÆ DE AQUINO DE ARTICULIS FIDEI.  
Small 4°, fourteen leaves, printed with the same characters as the "Durandi Rationale," printed at Mentz, in 1459, but the imperfection of the justification gives reason to regard it as still older. Eighty-six pounds sterling. Brunet cites two sales at two pounds six shillings and four pounds fourteen shillings sterling.







APPENDIX.









## THE SECOND DIDOT SALE.



THE most important of the collection is undoubtedly the celebrated Missal of Charles VI., Lot 17. This admirable MS. is thought to have been executed in the early part of the fifteenth century for Charles VI., of France. It afterwards came into the possession of his daughter Catherine, consort of Henry V., of England, and her descendants. This superb book is written on fine vellum, and is embellished with one hundred and seven large, and four hundred and twenty-eight small, miniatures, besides two frontispieces, the whole executed by Burgundian artists. It brought seventy-six thousand francs, being obtained by Auguste Fontaine, a Paris bookseller,

notwithstanding the competition of the English booksellers, who would doubtless have carried it to the British Museum.

Among the finest and highest-priced books after the above comes Lot 30, "*Officium Beatæ Mariæ Virginis*," certainly a very pretty MS., but its chief value arose from its associations, it having been owned by Anne of Austria, whose arms it bears. It was in a charming binding in old red morocco bound inside and out, and richly gilt by Le Gascon in his best manner. No wonder this exquisite little volume fetched twenty-seven thousand francs.

Lot 26 possessed an excellence of another, perhaps of a soberer, sort, a little more real, and certainly more artistic, to recommend it to the attention of the more exacting of collectors. It was a little book of Hours, in size a 16°, embellished with fifty-six of the most beautiful miniatures imaginable, large and small, of the Flemish schools, attributed, or at least the more important ones, to the celebrated Flemish artist, John Memling. After saying this, it is hardly necessary to state that its possession was sharply contested for, and that the purchaser had to pay a pretty high price for it—twenty thousand eight hundred francs.

Along with these treasures, there were

several fine MSS. of the Bible, of Psalters in Latin, Evangelistaries and a Commentary on the Apocalypse by St. Beatus, in Latin; a valuable MS. of the twelfth century, with numerous colored miniatures, Lot 11, which brought thirty thousand five hundred francs. Lot 12, *Historia Sancti Johannis*, a MS. of the fourteenth century, with ninety-six miniatures, brought fifteen thousand three hundred francs. Some Graduals, several other missals, among others the *Missale Ecclesiæ Turonensis* (Lot 27), a splendid MS. on vellum, of the sixteenth century, embellished with miniatures admirably drawn and colored, and executed by artists of the Touraine school. It brought twenty thousand francs. A charming little gem of a manuscript—“*Abrégé de l’instruction du Chrétien*,” &c., Lot 37, written by the famous calligrapher Jarry, in a handsome binding by Le Gascon, ornamented with small tools in the dotted manner, brought eight thousand francs. Besides these, there were many superb books of Hours, from the libraries of illustrious personages, together with works on law, philosophy and the sciences.

The curious little collection (Lot 45) I notice last, on account of its totally different character from the preceding. It is humorously called “*Le livre d’Heures de Bussy-*

Rabutin." Book of hours! What kind of hours are meant? It is a little album containing eight admirably painted portraits executed by order of the witty and facetious Count Bussy, and which represent, as was well known at the time, personages connected with the court, whose wives had committed "*des faux pas*." It is very probable that this wicked fellow Bussy had good reasons for knowing what he asserts. At that period, it seems, they made use of a peculiar euphemism to designate these unfortunates, and this is what Boileau intended when he wrote these significant lines :

"Moi, j'irais épouser une femme coquette?  
J'irais, par ma constance, aux affronts endurci,  
Me mettre au rang des *saints* qu'a célébrés Bussy?"

This charming gallery of *saints*, in an attractive contemporary binding, brought twenty-five thousand francs. Mr. Didot paid twenty thousand for it. He made a witty remark when this gem was taken to him. "There are very few saints for so much money!" said he. In fact, Bussy did not despair of adding to their number, for there still remained eight blank leaves in this reliquary. Who knows how many might be seen there to-day had it not been for a *lettre de cachet* and an imprisonment in the Bastille,

brought on by other satires, which came to interrupt the gallant Count Bussy in his work of canonization?

I now pass on to the printed works, in which division were also included large numbers of valuable books.

In the first place, come several works of the highest importance and rarity, specimens of woodcuts and of engraved type executed before the invention of movable letters by Gutenberg—block books, in fact. First, Lot 46, *Ars moriendi*—a precious collection of woodcuts, of small folio size, ornamented with curious illustrations attributed to Laurens Coster, a Dutch printer. This went for eighteen thousand francs. Lot 47, the *Apocalypse*, first xylographic edition, supposed to have been executed in Germany, and containing rude and most quaint illustrations, went for fourteen thousand five hundred francs. Lot 48, another xylographic edition of the *Apocalypse*, also of German execution, containing the same kind of illustrations as the preceding lot, brought five thousand nine hundred francs.

Among the more recently printed works, we find in Theology, the *New Testament*, Lot 67, printed at Lyons, about 1474, looked upon as one of the earliest books printed in France, small folio, which fetched three

thousand five hundred and fifty francs. Lot 70, "Rationale divinum officiorum," printed at Mentz in 1459, on vellum, and in a handsome binding of the fifteenth century, brought six thousand francs.

Among the Liturgical works were included about seventy books of Hours, printed in France and elsewhere, the finest of which, Lot 103, "Heures á l'usage de Rouen," printed by Verard in 1488, handsomely bound by Capé *en mosaïque*, was sold for six thousand nine hundred francs, and several others, published by Geoffroy Tory and Simon de Colines, also brought high prices.

Among theological works, Lot 167, "Orloge de Sapience," printed in 1493, on vellum, small folio, handsomely bound by Trautz-Bauzonnet, brought nine thousand five hundred francs.

Jurisprudence was represented by but a few books, but those few were all valuable. I shall only notice two: the "Coustumier du pays de Poictou," Lot 178, printed in 1514, the only copy known, having belonged to Francis I., whose arms are on the binding, brought five thousand five hundred francs, and Lot 179, "Coustume, etc., de Bourbonnoys," an octavo volume, printed about 1521, only copy known, on vellum, bound by

Trautz-Bauzonnet, brought five thousand francs.

I pass over, in the Science and Art division, the various editions of Montaigne, La Rochefoucauld, La Bruyère, Xenophon, etc., to a very interesting and extremely rare Italian work on duelling, Lot 238, G. B. Susio, "I tre libri della Ingiustitia del duello," 1555, choice copy, in a handsome binding, with the arms of the Constable Anne de Montmorency, sold for five thousand francs. Then there is Lot 258, "Ambroise Paré, La Manière de traiter les plaies faictes tant par hacquebutes que par flèches, \* \* \* et par la pouldre à canon," printed in 1552, a unique copy on vellum, dedicated to Henry II., in a handsome contemporary binding, sold for six thousand francs.

We ought to notice the whole of the volumes on the fine arts, the works illustrated with woodcuts and copperplates, gathered together by this eminent and erudite collector who discoursed so excellently on these various subjects. The books of emblems, the collections of dances of death, which brought such high prices, the volumes containing accounts and illustrations of public festivals, etc., form an important part of the catalogue. But I have already gone too far in this notice. I will wind up by citing the

famous collection of forty-four original drawings of Holbein, for the celebrated work "Les Simulacres de la Mort," of which Mr. Didot gives an interesting account in his "Essai sur la Gravure sur Bois." This valuable collection brought twenty thousand francs.

The proceeds of the two sales, with the sale of prints, which included the rarest engravings, from the old masters to the artists of the eighteenth century, were magnificent. The total already exceeds two million francs. The first sale of books brought eight hundred and fifty thousand francs; the second nine hundred and five thousand francs, and the sale of engravings over five hundred thousand francs.

While these are the most valuable and important portions of this famous collection, there still remains a much larger number of interesting books, of minor value, which will also be sold at auction later on.

If I have dwelt a little too long on these details, my readers must consider the extenuating circumstances. We take pleasure in describing as well as in admiring so many treasures, and the criticism which might have been uttered regarding certain copies which left a little something to be desired, becomes mute before a collection of rarities and curi-



osities of the first rank, which would have been sought elsewhere in vain.—J. DE BEAUCHAMPS in “LE LIVRE.”







## TRAUTZ-BAUZONNET.

**T**O all but collectors, the name of the subject of this little sketch is most probably altogether unknown. In most dictionaries of biography, his name would be looked for in vain. But to the book collector, and to admirers of fine binding generally, his name is familiar as a household word. It is to them that the following short account is addressed.

George Trautz—usually styled Trautz-Bauzonnet, he having, in accordance with commercial usage, joined to his own name that of the man to whose business he succeeded—stands at the head of binders most popular with contemporaries. In the latter

part of his life, indeed, the rage for his bindings became a mania, carried almost to the point of absurdity. A volume, bound by him, at once acquired in the auction room, or at the booksellers', an increase of value equal to double or treble the price of the binding, or even more.

Trautz-Bauzonnet charged high prices for his work, but, notwithstanding, it remained in great demand. There were collectors who would have hesitated at nothing in order to obtain a specimen of his work. To pay for the simplest kind of binding of a small volume a hundred francs, or for a binding *à mosaïque* two or three thousand francs, requires a good deal of enthusiasm for binding; yet this was frequently done. Just as a buyer of pictures prides himself on possessing, even when buying it at its weight in gold, a canvas of a celebrated artist, so the book collector plumes himself on having a binding of Trautz-Bauzonnet to exhibit to his friends.

The reason for this is to be found in the fact that Trautz-Bauzonnet was altogether absorbed in his art. He had preserved, or rather rescued from oblivion, the methods of the famous binders of preceding centuries. Yet his binding is stamped with an originality so peculiarly his own, that the merest

tyro in binding recognized it at a glance. He knew how, in imitating the good points of the old binders, to avoid their defects. It was apparent that he had studied the style in which the famous binders of the sixteenth century, especially Nicholas Eve and Clovis Eve, binders to Henry II., Henry III., Henry IV., and Margaret of Valois, had ornamented their work. From Le Gascon, that charming binder and inimitable gilder of the time of Louis XIII., he had learned how to apply those elegant small tools, so admirably cut, that modern artists experience the greatest difficulty in copying them. He understood how to give to his work that firmness and solidity which was carried by no one to a higher degree of perfection than Du Seuil, the foremost binder of the century of Louis XIV. He came near to the perfection of forwarding and general elegance, of which Boyet, who practised the art towards the end of the seventeenth century, and beginning of the eighteenth century, has left such matchless specimens. He understood how to turn to account the many models of graceful binding executed by Padeloup, binder to the regent, and the most celebrated collectors of the first half of the eighteenth century. Of Derome, Anguerran, Mouillié, and Bradel, I say nothing. They certainly did some fine

work, but they represent a period of decline, and their work is generally marred by a certain negligence which is in keeping with the effeminate manners of the time. Still, possibly, he may have borrowed from Derome the elegance and finish of some of his beautiful bindings *à mosaïque*.

When a revival takes place, its influence is felt in everything. Belles-lettres, the arts and sciences, and the various industries, all experience its beneficent effects, and advance together towards improvement and perfection. Without referring to remote ages, or to those brilliant periods in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, in which such an important intellectual and artistic development took place, do we not find confirmation of this truth in the expansion, intellectual, artistic, and scientific, displayed at the deeply interesting epoch of 1830, in our own time. Of the present, I say nothing: it admits of discussion; nor of the future, for that, though we look forward to it with confidence, we are unable to answer for.

Admitting, then, an undeniable progress in literature, naturally leading to progress in bibliography and book collecting, it was naturally to be expected that bookbinding should partake of the same development. In fact, in the period between 1830 and 1840,

Purgold, Thouvenin, and Bauzonnet, abandoning the poor, if not absolutely bad, styles of the Directory, the Empire, and the Restoration, began to execute fine and durable bindings for collectors. In three generations these were to acquire the elegance and richness of those of Trautz-Bauzonnet.

George Trautz was born at Pforzheim, in 1808, a little town in the Duchy of Baden. When fourteen years of age he was apprenticed to a binder in Heidelberg, where he remained from 1822 to 1825. When seventeen years old he became a journeyman, and worked successively in various cities of Germany—Munich, Nordlingen, Stuttgart, and Wurtemberg. At length, in 1830, he went to Paris, where he first worked at a small binder's, named Kleinhaus, with whom he remained three years. In 1833, he entered as a gilder the establishment of Bauzonnet, who had succeeded Purgold, marrying the latter's widow. From the first, Trautz brought the work of his master into prominence by the taste and richness of its ornamentation. He soon acquired that sureness of hand which hardly ever failed him, even in his last days. Two or three years prior to his demise, in fact, he executed for prominent collectors some binding *à mosaïque*

which may be ranked with his most remarkable work.

In 1840, he married Miss Purgold, daughter-in-law to Bauzonnet, who then took him into partnership. He worked with his father-in-law for several years, until the latter's retiring in 1851. During this period of eleven years, their work was signed Bauzonnet-Trautz. Although the work of the two partners was excellent, collectors did not begin to run after them until Trautz definitely assumed control of the bindery. From that time, the infatuation for his bindings among collectors went on increasing, till, now the great binder is departed, there is no knowing where it will stop.

In 1869, George Trautz was created a knight of the Legion of Honor, being the first binder who has obtained that distinction.

He died in Paris, November 6, 1879, aged seventy-one years.<sup>1</sup> He has left practically no successor, his son not having learned his father's trade, and Trautz did not wish, it would seem, to communicate to any one, the secret of his method of gilding. Mr. Motte had charge of the forwarding in his establish-

<sup>1</sup> Strange to say, his father-in-law, Bauzonnet, survives him, being nearly ninety years old.



ment for some time, and will bind the books left unfinished by Trautz-Bauzonnet. But who will now attend to the gilding and ornamentation? We are ignorant whether Mr. Motte has ever done any of this kind of work. Perhaps the exacting collectors who would have nothing to do with any binder but Trautz-Bauzonnet will be reduced to being content with the severe bindings which take their name from the Jansenists. Unless some new binder arises capable of satisfying the tastes of book collectors, we are probably doomed, in spite of the fine work of two or three new binders, who were almost on a par with Trautz-Bauzonnet, to see Jansenism revive in bookbinding, if not in Mother Church.—From *LE LIVRE*.







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