micro catalog:
myth, fable, fairy tale

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1. Apuleius; Gaultier, Léonard ( engraver).
Lamour de Cupido et de Psiché Mere de Volupté, prise des Cinq & Sixiesme livres de la Metamorphose de Lucius Apuleius philosophe nouvellement historiée, & Exposée en Vers François.
Paris: Léonard Gaultier, circa 1590.


$13,500.

First edition, second issue, of French engraver Léonard Gaultier's celebrated series depicting the legend of Cupid and Psyche. The narrative is drawn from the Metamorphoses of Apuleius, better known as The Golden Ass. That second-century Latin novel was revived in the fourteenth century, and popularized by way of Boccaccio and countless others: the forbidden love between Cupid and Psyche, god and mortal, body and soul, captivated the Renaissance imagination. Léonard Gaultier was the official engraver to the French court from 1594 to 1617.
2. Boyse, Samuel.  
*A New Pantheon.*  
London: J. Newbery... 1753.  
Octavo in fours, contemporary full sheep rebacked, engraved frontispiece and fifteen full-page engravings, woodcut headpieces and tailpieces throughout text. Very good.  

$450.

The engravings recall the emblem book tradition, featuring mythological and allegorical vignettes, and reflecting a range of gods, heroes, and minor deities. Among those depicted are Saturn eating his children, Minerva reading with her owl perched on her hand, and Jason brandishing the golden fleece.

The appendix, which considers the religious customs of the ancients, reads like an eighteenth-century precursor of Fraser’s *Golden Bough.*

Although his literary talent was widely recognized, perpetually strapped author Samuel Boyse was considered a hack: Samuel Johnson noted that Boyse wasted “the last half-guinea he possessed in truffles and mushrooms”; he was known to fake illness to extract money from friends. *A New Pantheon* was by far his most successful work with fourteen editions by 1800, but as the book was published posthumously, Boyse never saw a profit.

First edition of this illustrated introduction to Greek and Roman mythology, drawn from classical sources and published by John Newbery for young readers.
Gascoigne’s Princely Pleasures, with the Masque, Intended to Have Been Presented before Queen Elizabeth, at Kenilworth Castle in 1575; with an Introductory Memoir and Notes.

In an extravagant effort to impress the queen, and likely in an attempt to win her hand in marriage, Dudley planned elaborate entertainments, including hunts, fireworks, and plays. Elizabethan poet and actor George Gascoigne was placed in charge of the performances, which began with a welcome from legendary figures such as the Lady of the Lake and Hercules. Gascoigne’s own lyrical contributions emphasized Dudley’s ancient lineage, connected even to King Arthur, subtly suggesting that Dudley was a worthy match for the queen.

Gascoigne’s verses, originally printed one year after the revels, would themselves influence the likes of Philip Sidney and Ben Jonson.
4. Gerhard, Eduard. 
Etruskische und Kampanische Vasenbilder des Königlichen 
Museums zu Berlin.  
Imperial folio, contemporary calf over marbled blue paper boards, 
letterpress title, descriptive text, and register, followed by thirty color 
lithographed plates (twenty-five single-page and five double-page) 
numbered I-XXX, and five monochrome plates (one single-page and 
four double-page) lettered A-E. Very good. 

First edition of Eduard Gerhard’s massive survey 
of ancient Etruscan and 
Campanian vase paintings in the 
museums of Berlin, illustrated 
with thirty brilliant color 
lithographs in terracotta, red, 
and black. Head archaeologist 
at the Royal Museum of Berlin, 
Gerhard was a co-founder 
of the first international 
arheological society, Institute 
di Corrispondenza Archeologica, 
and a tireless cataloguer and 
classifier of antiquities. 

This volume reproduces the scenes found on ancient vases 
found throughout Italy, featuring the legends of Ariadne, 
Hercules, Achilles, Aegisthos, and the Calydonian hunt, 
among others; particularly moving is the image of Aeneas 
carrying his father Anchises out of the ruins of Troy (XXV).
Beautifully bound fine press edition of Apuleius' comic masterpiece, one of five hundred copies on antique paper, this copy unnumbered. The picaresque tale of an aspiring magician who accidentally turns himself into an ass, The Golden Ass is the only ancient Roman novel to survive in its entirety, containing a number of famous set pieces, including the story of Cupid and Psyche.

Some racier passages, excised from the main text, are retained in a “Passages Suppressed” supplement bound at the end of the volume. This edition is a reissue of Robert Triphook's London edition of 1822, translated by the Neoplatonist Thomas Taylor, who considered Apuleius “undoubtedly the greatest of the ancient Latin Platonists.”

The whimsical inlaid design binding is the work of Whitman Bennett, New York bookbinder, bibliophile, and film producer.

$250.

Oblong folio, original pictorial teal cloth stamped in red, grey, black and white, title page printed in red and black, illustrated with fifteen full-page color plates by Carton Moore Park and black-and-white line drawings throughout text by René Bull. Very good.

First edition of this popular translation of Jean de La Fontaine's seventeenth-century fables, aimed at young readers, featuring vibrant color plates by Carton Moore Park. Among the thirty-one fables included here are "The Fox and the Grapes," "The Hare and the Tortoise," "The Dog and the Bone," and "The Frog That Would Be As Big As An Ox."
Every-Player-Your-Partner System Tallies: Romance Series.

Boxed set of twelve unused bridge tally cards, measuring 5 x 2 inches folded. Cards printed with twelve color pictorial designs, six for male players and six for female players, with color-coded silk tassels (white for men, pink for women). Fine in shelfworn publisher's pictorial cardboard box.

$75.

Complete set of twelve colorful bridge tallies “for three tables” with a romantic theme, featuring idealized fairy tale settings: spired castles, horse-drawn carriages, hennins and fans and palanquins.

The cards identify each player as one of twelve well-known lovers: Antony and Cleopatra, Romeo and Juliet, Aucassin and Nicolette, Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette, Napoleon and Josephine, and (somewhat incongruously) Columbus and Isabella.

A delightful graphic artifact of the American 1920s.


The Trial of Lucullus: A Play for the Radio.

Octavo, original terra cotta pictorial paper boards, original unclipped terra cotta pictorial dust jacket. Pictorial title page, one page of publisher's advertisements at rear. Tiny chips to head of jacket spine and corners, short closed tear and single pinhole to rear panel of jacket. Near fine.

First published edition, in English translation, of Bertolt Brecht’s stark anti-war radio play, originally broadcast on Swiss radio in the wake of the Nazi invasion of Poland. The Roman general Lucullus, famed for his conquest of Asia, faces a trial after death. To confirm his greatness, Lucullus names Alexander of Macedon as his sponsor, but finds that “your expert is unknown / In the Elysian Fields.” He then calls as witnesses the prisoners of war depicted in the frieze of his triumphal march back to Rome, who testify to the suffering of the conquered, rather than the glory of Lucullus.

The Trial of Lucullus was issued as part of New Directions' “Poets of the Year” series, published from 1941 to 1945.

A compelling document of World War II, one of the last works completed by Brecht before he escaped to the United States.
Striking illustrated edition of this dark fairy tale, first published in Copenhagen in 1845. “The Red Shoes” tells the story of a disobedient child who is punished for her love of her beautiful red shoes by being forced to dance.

Illustrator Chihiro Iwasaki is beloved in Japan for her depictions of children; these delicate minimalist watercolors first appeared in Akai Kutsu, a 1968 Japanese translation of “The Red Shoes.”

Early printing of this vibrantly illustrated American edition of a classic Grimm brothers fairy tale. In this story a wounded soldier secretly follows the king’s daughters as they dance their shoes to pieces each night.

The pastel pop drawings of Caldecott winner Uri Shulevitz add a midcentury modern note to the traditional tale.

10. Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm; Shulevitz, Uri (illustrator); Shub, Elizabeth (translator). The Twelve Dancing Princesses. New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, (1966). Large octavo, original pictorial chartreuse cloth stamped in green, yellow endpapers, original color pictorial dust jacket. Near fine. $45.

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