

# ASHER Rare Books

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Today's quote:

"I just posted a selfie and people told me to get well soon!"

Why this nonsense, just to attract your attention to our:

## Special List: Astronomy & Cosmography

**Beautifully illustrated astronomy and more  
by "the most important Italian thinker of his times"**

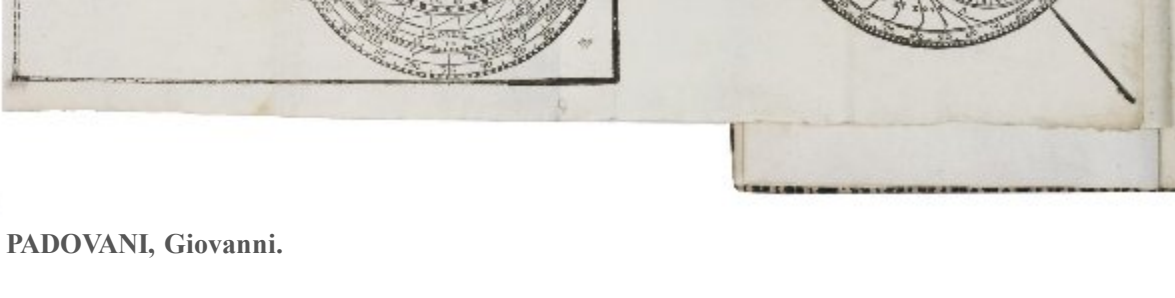


VENETUS, Paolo Niconetti [and Restoro d'AREZZO]

Summa philosophiae naturalis... una cu[m] libro de co[m]positione mundi qui astronomie ianua nuncupari potest... [at the head of the page.] Primus liber incipit De co[m]positione mu[n]di. Paris, Jean Lambert (colophon: printed by Thomas Kees, 14 November 1513). Small 4to (28 x 20.5 cm). With 55 woodcut illustrations in the text, including 12 northern and 12 southern pictorial constellations with stars. Flexible wrap-around paperboards (ca. 1750?), sewn on 3 tanned leather supports.

[More information and images](#)

**Horbit-copy of an important early description of the nocturnal astronomical instrument and its use, with the extremely rare woodblock-printed dials and pointers to construct the nocturnal and sundial-lunar dial**

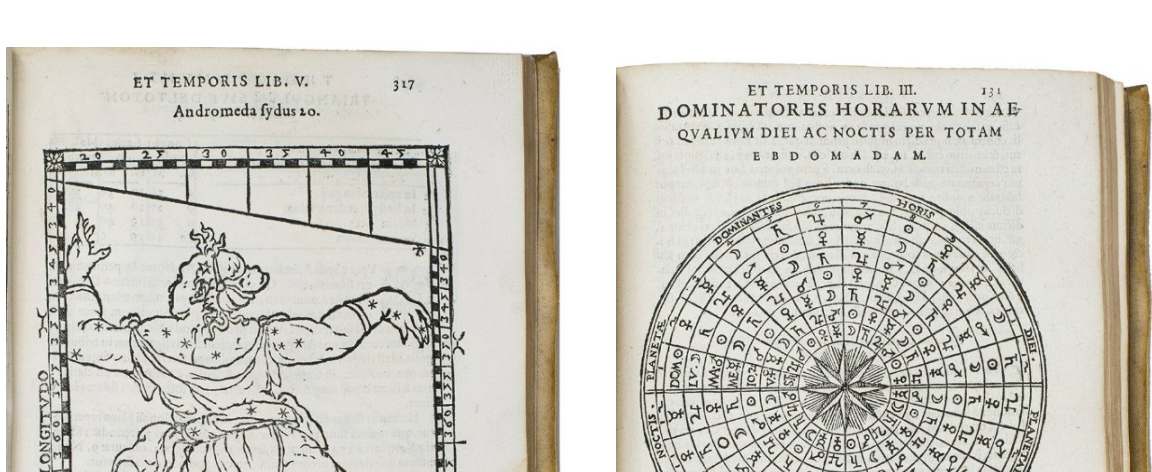


PADOVANI, Giovanni.

Opera nuova... tradotta di Latino in volgare, laqual dichiara l'uso del maraviglio so strumento astronomico da lui intitolato horoscopio... Verona, Paolo Ravagnano, 1560. 4to. With Ravagnano's woodcut emblematic device on the title-page (a hand emerging from a cloud and holding a stalk with three lilies, the whole in an oval in a rectangular scrollwork cartouche, with the motto, "candidio animus"), a folding plate (oblong long folio: 15.5 x 41.5 cm) containing 2 woodcuts (12.5 x 22 cm & 12 cm diameter with the 4.5 cm gnomon making it 14 x 13 cm) designed to be cut up to make the author's "horoscopio" in the form of a volvelle and the sundial-lunar dial, 3 decorated woodcut initials (pictorial), planetary and zodiac signs, and numerous tables of numerical data. 19th-century(?) boards, covered with black-printed decorated paper (black on white).

[More information and images](#)

**Richly illustrated 16th-century atlas on celestial and terrestrial physics and their influence on medicine**

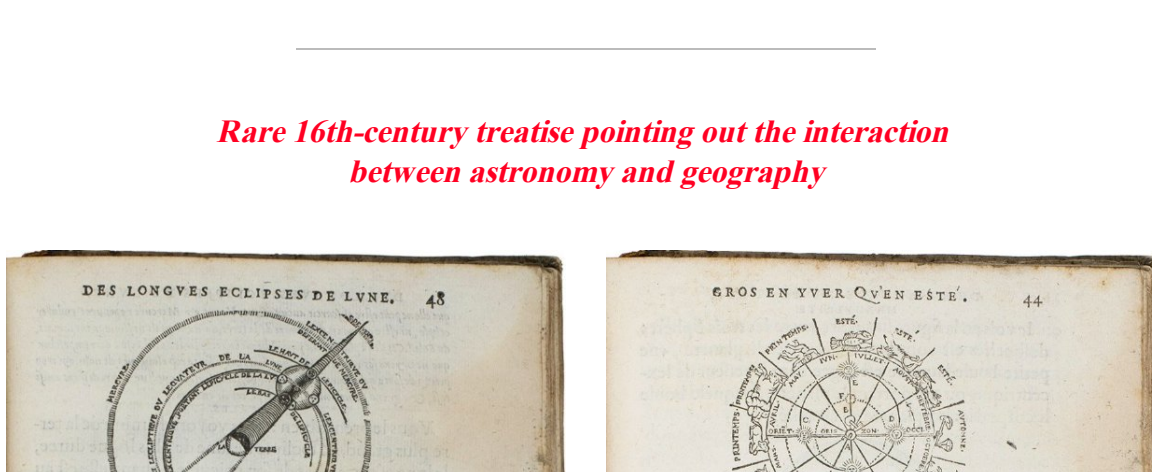


GALLUCCI, Giovanni Paolo.

Theatrum mundi, et temporis in quo non solum precipuae horum partes describuntur, & ratio metiendi eas traditur, sed accommodatissimis figuris sub oculos legentium facile ponuntur. Venice, Giovanni Battista Somasco, 1588. 4to. With Somasco's Sagittarius device on the title-page, 144 full-page woodcuts (particularly circular diagrams, dials and figures of the constellations, but also hemispherical and terrestrial maps and other cosmographical and astronomical figures), 1 large folding table ("Canon sexagenarius"), several full-page or smaller tables in the text and woodcut head- and tailpieces and initials. Lacking the moving volvelles. Contemporary overlapping vellum, manuscript title (faded) on spine.

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**Rare 16th-century treatise pointing out the interaction between astronomy and geography**

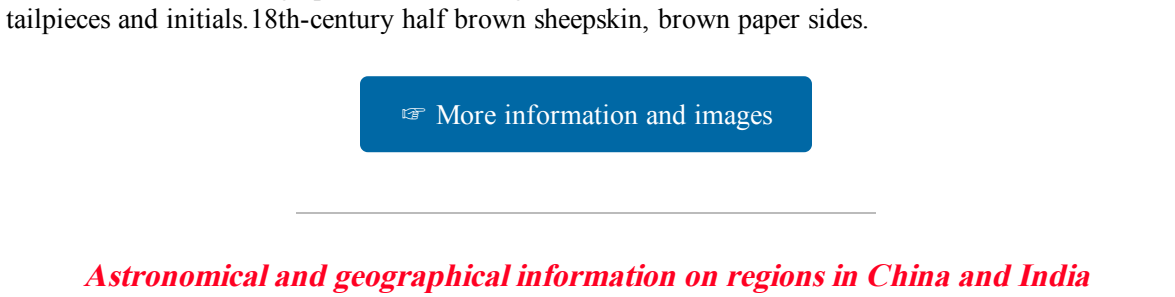


GIRAULT, Simon.

Globe du monde contenant un bref traité du ciel & de la terre. Langres, Jean des Preys, 1592. 4to. With a woodcut on the title-page showing an armillary sphere, 3 woodcut folding plates of the solar system, a celestial chart in two hemispheres and a (terrestrial) map of the world in two hemispheres, 4 woodcut maps in the text (including a map of Europe), many astronomical and cosmographical woodcut figures and tables in the text and woodcut head- and tailpieces and initials. 18th-century half brown sheepskin, brown paper sides.

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**Astronomical and geographical information on regions in China and India**

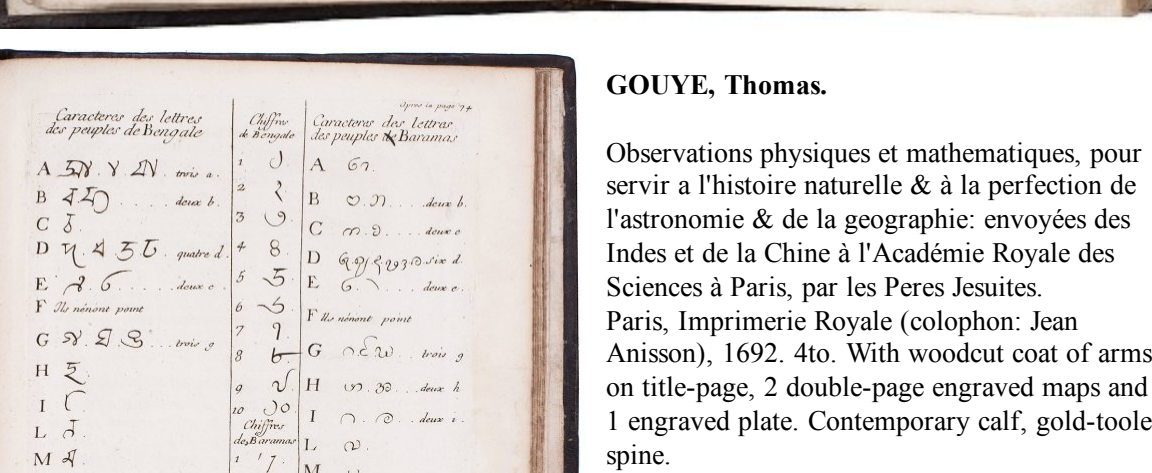


GOUVE, Thomas.

Observations physiques et mathématiques, pour servir à l'histoire naturelle & à la perfection de l'astronomie & de la géographie: envoyées des Indes et de la Chine à l'Académie Royale des Sciences à Paris, par les Peres Jesuites. Paris, Imprimerie Royale (colophon: Jean Anisson), 1692. 4to. With woodcut coat of arms on title-page, 2 double-page engraved maps and 1 engraved plate. Contemporary calf, gold-tooled spine.

[More information and images](#)

**How to construct sundials, with 21 engraved plates**

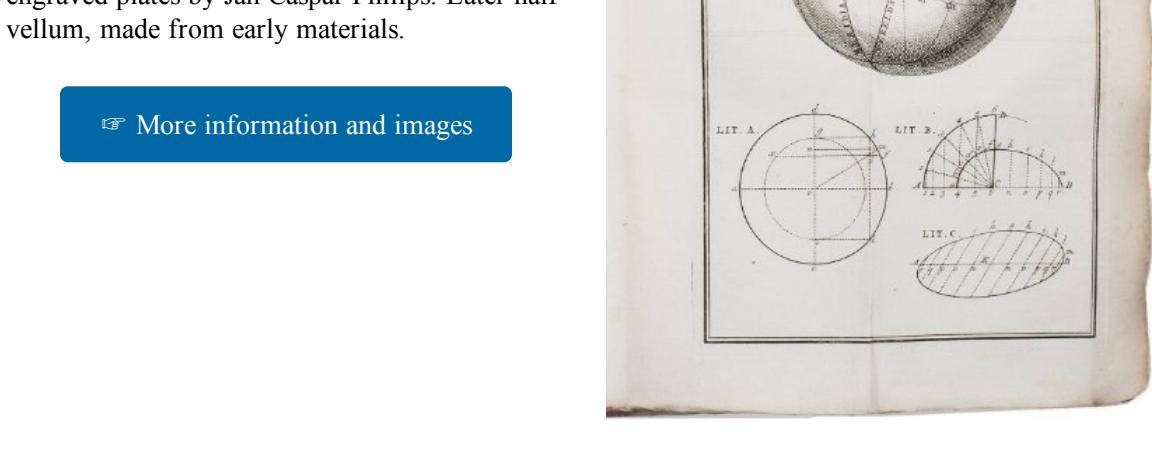


KNOOP, Johann Hermann.

Verhandeling van de sphaerische of klootsche zonne-wysers, namelyk, hoe men op een sphaera convexa, of ronde kloot, allerley zonnewisers meekonstig beschryven kan. Leeuwarden, Jacques Alexandre de Chalmot, 1761. 8vo. With 50 figures on 21 folding engraved plates by Jan Caspar Philips. Later half vellum, made from early materials.

[More information and images](#)

**Important history of Ancient astronomy, with chapters on Egyptian, Chaldean and Persian astronomy**

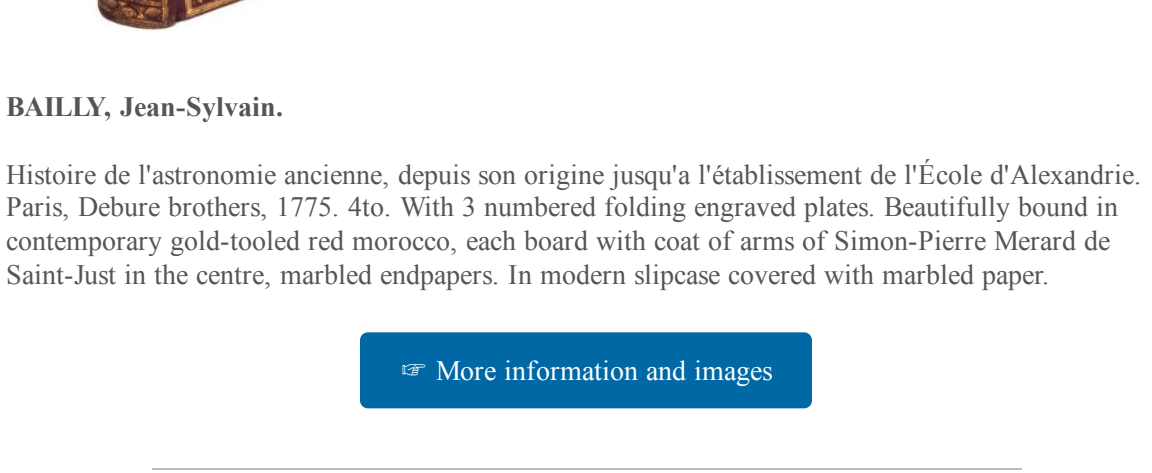


BAILLY, Jean-Sylvain.

Histoire de l'astronomie ancienne, depuis son origine jusqu'à l'établissement de l'École d'Alexandrie. Paris, Debure brothers, 1775. 4to. With 3 numbered folding engraved plates. Beautifully bound in contemporary gold-tooled red morocco, each board with coat of arms of Simon-Pierre Merard de Saint-Jast in the centre, marbled endpapers. In modern slipcase covered with marbled paper.

[More information and images](#)

**Finely executed Royal Naval Academy exercises by the teenage future Admiral, Charles Sotheby**  
493 pages including nautical charts, fortification plans, astronomical diagrams, topographic views, etc.

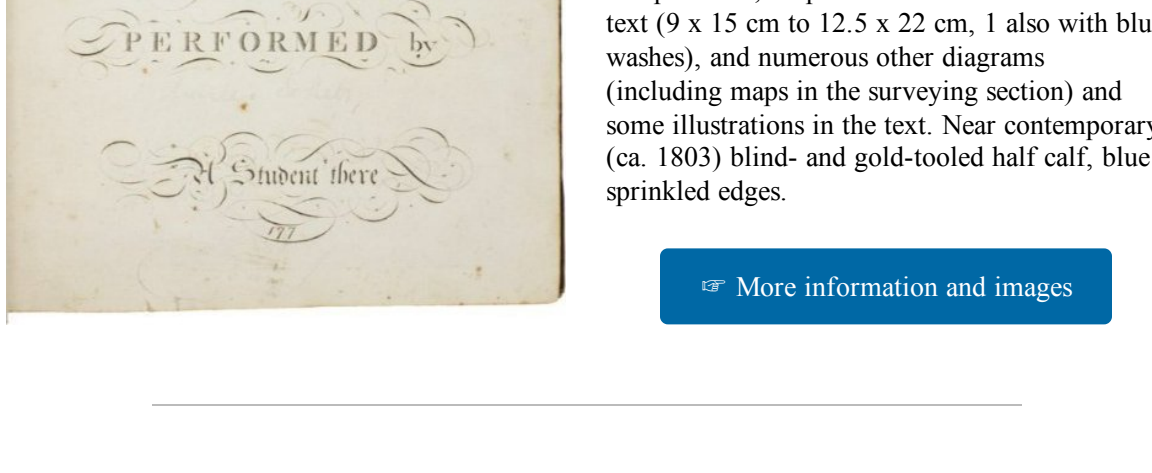


SOTHEBY, Charles.

[engraved title-page.] A plan of mathematical learning taught in the Royal Academy Portsmouth performed by [in pencil: Charles Sotheby] a student there. [Portsmouth, 1777? [recte 1795-1798]. 2 volumes. Imperial 4to (37.5 x 27 cm). Manuscript school exercises with a pre-printed engraved title-page with a blank space for the student to add his name, a full-page and 1 larger folding nautical charts (some partly in colour), 7 full-page fortification plans (in black ink with 1 to 3 colours), 4 full-page astronomical diagrams (2 also with yellow), a full-page compass rose, 23 pen and ink wash views in the text (9 x 15 cm to 12.5 x 22 cm, 1 also with blue washes), and numerous other diagrams (including maps in the surveying section) and some illustrations in the text. Near contemporary (ca. 1803) blind- and gold-tooled half calf, blue sprinkled edges.

[More information and images](#)

**Reconstructing a pre-Islamic calendar**

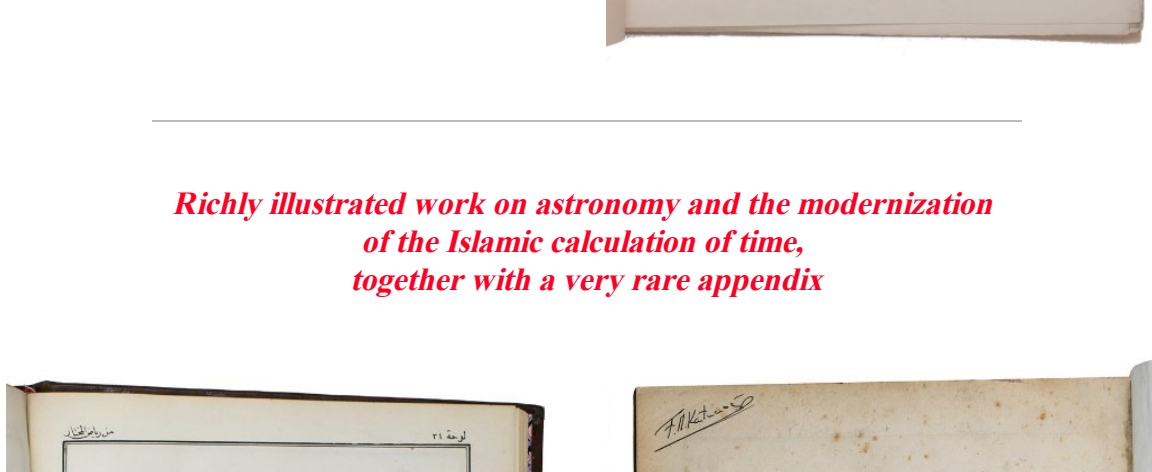


EFFENDI, Mahmood.

Mémoire sur le calendrier arabe avant l'Islamisme, et sur naissance et l'âge du prophète Mohammed. [Brussels, 1861?]. 4to. Modern paper wrappers

[More information and images](#)

**Richly illustrated work on astronomy and the modernization of the Islamic calculation of time, together with a very rare appendix**



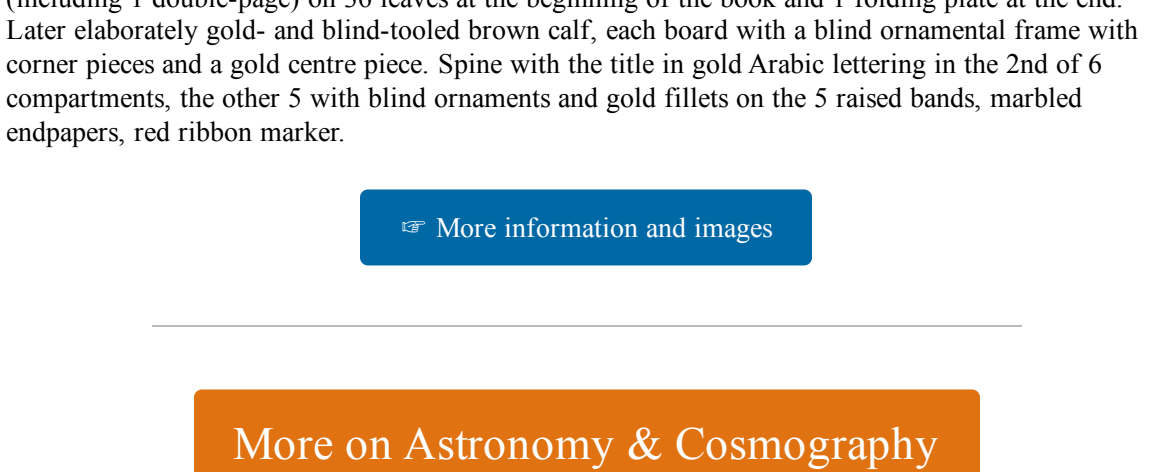
PASHA, Ahmed Muhtar.

Riyaz al-muhtar, mirat al-milakat wa 'l-ushar. Cairo, Bulaq Mathbasia, 1303-1313 AH [= 1885-1896 CE]. 3 volumes bound as 1 (plates, text, and appendix). Large 4to (29.5 x 21 cm). Text in Ottoman Turkish, set in a naskh Arabic type, most pages in a thin-thick-thin-rule frame. With a separate title-page and 36 full-page, numbered plates (including 1 double-page) on 36 leaves at the beginning of the book and 1 folding plate at the end. Later elaborately gold- and blind-tooled brown calf, each board with a blind ornamental frame with corner pieces and a gold centre piece. Spine with the title in gold Arabic lettering in the 2nd of 6 compartments, the other 5 with blind ornaments and gold fillets on the 5 raised bands, marbled endpapers, red ribbon marker.

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A. Asher & Co. B.V.

Tuurdijk 16

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The Netherlands

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Fax: +31 (0)30 601 1813

E-mail: [info@asherbooks.com](mailto:info@asherbooks.com)

