LIST SEVEN: PRINTING AND THE MIND OF MAN

Western Civilization is shaped by the word. For centuries, that word passed orally from person to person, generation to generation, and as words were exchanged, so too was knowledge. And the acquisition of knowledge is perhaps the heritable characteristic that separates humans from other species. Cheetahs run fast; Humans acquire knowledge. With the invention of the printing press, such knowledge from these oral traditions found a home on the printed page, and knowledge no longer had to be memorized, but could be housed on sheets of paper that could be disseminated widely as the human population increasingly learned to read. Literacy became power. The most recent centuries provided an explosion of such power. Certain books established themselves as either the vessels of important historical knowledge or, more radically, portals to new ways of thinking.

In 1963 an ambitious exposition aimed to gather together the most significant books in Western Civilization, starting with the Gutenberg Bible. The result yielded a collection of 424 books that spanned 6 centuries (15th — 20th). Printing and the Mind of Man (PMM) quickly became a bibliographic cornerstone, and any significant collection of books must contain a handful or more of the titles exhibited and listed in the catalogue. While many of those titles are so scarce, and others so expensive, most remain out of reach for most collectors. However, others, while rare (especially in collectible condition), make for a wonderful focus for any collector with ambitions to establish a PMM shelf! Here is a selection of 15 books from Printing and the Mind of Man¹.

www.eternalreturnbookshop.com


$6,000

Denis Lambin [1520-1572] was a French classical scholar and professor of Latin & Greek. "One of the grandest and most moving poems in the Latin language, Lucretius' work has delighted inquiring minds in every generation. Lambin ... was ideally fitted for his task. Scholarly and yet passionate, his editorial work is a monument of erudition and vigorous Latinity" (PMM).

CONDITION: Very good in contemporary vellum, hand-lettered spine with shelf number labels to head and tail. Yapp edges. Top edge black. Woodcut border to title. Woodcut initials and head-and-tail-pieces. Vellum lightly soiled. Scuffs to rear cover. Newer front free endpaper. Ink ownership inscription to front pastedown. Crack to foot of inner hinge at title and to p 272. Small perforation to title at the date, date almost completely removed. Some damp staining. Pages of one gathering have been printed in the incorrect order (Qqq) but all pages present. Small very minor spots of worming. Housed in custom cream-cloth clamshell with brown leather spine label, gilt stamped lettering. Embossed stamp of the Theological Institute of Connecticut (ca. 1834-1885, now the Hartford Seminary) to title and a few pages at rear, with a small ink number verso the title-page.
“Religious Polemics” (PMM 193)

BUTLER, Joseph. *The Analogy of Religion, Natural and Revealed, to the Constitution and Course of Nature*. To which are added two brief dissertations: I. Of personal identity. II. Of the nature of virtue. James, John and Paul Knapton, London, 1736. 1 leaf + TP + Dedication page + 1 leaf printed both sides = Advertisement + 2 leaves printed on three sides = Contents + i - x = Introduction + 11 - 320 + 2 full-sized leaves bound in with quotes and references handwritten on both sides + 1 leaf, Quarto. First Edition. $1,500

“Butler was deeply preoccupied with the prevalence of Deism ... and he saw that this was a not unexpected outcome of the overthrow of traditional conceptions of the universe by Copernicus and the Cartesian preparation for the Newtonian concept of the rule of law [in Nature]. Although not explicit, it was to combat this trend that Butler wrote the Analogy; ... It is, indeed, one of the bulwarks of Christian apologetics.

Butler's was an empirical approach, similar to Hume's, but he held that philosophic scepticism should not entail religious scepticism. Assuming, as the deists were prepared to, that God is the author of nature, there are no contradictions, obscurities or improbabilities in religious doctrine different in kind from those encountered in science. Thus the religious order and the scientific order are similar in nature, and both show the working of the Supreme Creator” (PMM).

**CONDITION:** Very good in contemporary full-leather boards. Spine with restorations along hinges and minor loss to head of spine at hinge. Author and title in gilt on burgundy panel along spine. Bookplates to front paste down and free endpaper with library stamps indicating withdrawn. Small closed tear on page 199, not affecting text. Pages remarkably bright and clean.

$2,000

Lessing’s most famous work outside Germany, and a classic of art history. In Laokoon, Lessing claims that certain arts have certain limits. The rules of poetry are not the same as those of sculpture or painting, each has its unique sphere. "Laokoon is perhaps Lessing’s best-known work outside Germany, and it has had a world-wide influence ... It contains the first clear statement of the truth, which is now considered axiomatic, that every art is subject to limitations, and can achieve greatness only by a clear understanding of and self-restriction to its proper function. The most telling passages, and those which have borne most fruit, are those on poetry ... In the words of Macaulay, he was 'beyond all dispute the first critic of Europe'" (PMM).

**CONDITION:** Very good in original, contemporary boards, seems to be re-backed, though certainly not modern, with renewed end-papers. Hand-scripted lettering to spine. Former owner’s name scripted in contemporary hand to rear paste down. Internally clean.

$2,500

This is the true first edition with the correct pagination and the comma after “Londres”. Also included here is the rarely seen 4-page “Errata” at the end of volume 1 -- which was added during the printing process when the mistakes were first discovered.

In the *Système* Holbach rejected the Cartesian mind-body dualism and attempted to explain all phenomena, physical and mental, in terms of matter in motion. Holbach rejected religion because he saw it as a wholly harmful influence, and he tried to supply a desirable alternative.

Holbach was “the foremost exponent of atheistic materialism, and the most intransigent polemicist against religion in the Enlightenment.” (EP, Vol. 4, p. 49) “He could not publish safely under his own name, but had the ingenious idea of using the names of recently dead French authors. Thus, in 1770, his most famous book, ‘The System of Nature’, appeared under the name of Jean-Baptiste Mirabaud” (PMM).

**CONDITION**: Very good. Contemporary quarter calf marbled boards.. Gilt lettering to spine with title and volume numbers on fields of red. Spines of both volumes with a bit of sun-fading. Pages bright and clean. Tightly bound. A lovely, clean and crisp copy of Holbach’s most important work.
KANT, Immanuel. *Critik der reinen Vernunft* (Critique of Pure Reason), Johann Friedrich Hartknoch, Riga, 1781. 1 blank leaf + TP + 2 leaves = Dedication + 8 leaves = Vorrede + 1 leaf = Inhalt + [1]-856 + 1 blank leaf; Octavo. **First Edition** [Warda 59].

$ 35,000

Kant’s masterpiece, the book that made him world-famous, and arguably the most important book of philosophy published in modern times. “Kant’s great achievement was to conclude finally the line on which philosophical speculation had proceeded in the eighteenth century, and to open up a new and more comprehensive system of dealing with the problems of philosophy”’ (PMM). Having been awakened from his “dogmatic slumbers” by his reading of Hume, Kant went on to effect a “Copernican” revolution in philosophy – the effects of which have not yet subsided.

In a letter to Mendelssohn, dated August 18, 1873, Kant claimed that the book was the result of twelve years reflection and that the writing was “affected within four or five months, the greatest attention being paid to the substance, but less regard being had for the form and for the interests of the readers who would understand it easily.”

**CONDITION**: Very good+ in contemporary half calf with light brown boards. Spine with raised bands. Author and title in gilt on a brownish/orange label with a gilt floral design in the other five compartments. The boards are lightly worn but the spine retains much of the gilt. Moderate foxing to title page. Tightly bound copy with clean pages throughout.

$2,000

The *Esquisse*, published after his death in prison, is considered Condorcet’s greatest work and is often cited as the culmination of characteristically eighteenth-century philosophy. With its emphasis on the idea of progress, the book also established a dominant theme of nineteenth-century thought. Condorcet traces the history of man through ten epochs, moving from savagery through the development of civilization and knowledge up to Descartes in the eighth epoch. The ninth epoch spans the Enlightenment from Descartes to the Revolution. For the tenth epoch, Condorcet predicted that equality of opportunity will come to prevail among classes and nations and that man will improve intellectually, morally and physically. “A belief in the ultimate perfectibility of man lies at the root of all progressive thinking about the human condition. The *philosophes* and Godwin had familiarized the reading public with this notion, but it was left to Condorcet to give it its finest and most durable expression… Unlike Godwin, he does not preach absolute equality, but equality of opportunity. While progress is limited by human nature, as men desire freedom, so they will obtain it and the equality that goes with it. Knowledge of this comes only with education, and this explains Condorcet’s zeal to improve it.” (PMM)

**CONDITION:** Very good or better in contemporary 3/4 leather with speckled boards. Rich gilt along spine, with gilt-lettered title set in burgundy panel. Small stamp to front pastedown. Light browning to corners of endpapers. Bright and clean throughout.

“Pestalozzi had no training or special qualifications as a teacher. [Yet, in 1799, after training orphans to be pupil-teachers] he was appointed to a primary school by the Swiss government at Burgdorf and it was here that *How Gertrude teaches her Children* was produced. It is an exhaustive exposition of Pestalozzi’s principles with especial emphasis on the three R’s. The most important and forward-looking of his ideas, which he stressed continually in practice as well as precept, was that the true method of education is to develop the child, not to train him as one trains a dog. The pupil must be regarded as more important than the subject and the whole man must be developed” (PMM). A radical statement at the time, but one that finds much resonance with many pedagogical theorists since.

**CONDITION:** Good to very good in the rare, original publisher’s wraps. Much wear to the edges of wraps with closed tears and some loss to spine. Lacking portrait which was supplied later, hence the statement at the foot of title page: “Das Porträt des Verfassers, von Lyps gestochen, wird nachgeliefert” (The portrait of the author, engraved by Lyps, will be delivered later). Wide margined pages with edge wear. A wonderfully authentic copy of an important book in its most original state. Housed in a blue linen clamshell box with author and title in gilt along spine.
Elements of the Philosophy of Right, Hegel's last major published work, is an attempt to systematize ethical theory, natural right, the philosophy of law, political theory, and the sociology of the modern state into the framework of Hegel's philosophy of history. Hegel's work has been interpreted in radically different ways, influencing many political movements from far right to far left, and is widely perceived as central to the communitarian tradition in modern ethical, social, and political thought. Considered by many to be one of the greatest works of moral, social, and political philosophy in the Western Canon, it contains significant ideas on justice, moral responsibility, family life, economic activity, and the political structure of the state.

“In 1821 'The Outline of the Philosophy of Right' appeared, in which his final system of a sociology of the perfectly organized state, such as an ideal Prussia might be, was laid down. He rejected the idealistic aspirations of the reformers, their vague assertions of individual freedom being, in his judgment, trifling compared with the all-important concept of government... The [Grundlinien] turns away from the apparent chaos of the democratic advocates of individual right in favour of an overwhelming sense that liberty cannot exist apart from order, and that the vital connection of all parts of the body politic is the source of all good" (PMM).

CONDITION: Good to very good in original contemporary boards. Red spine label with gilt lettering. Spine and boards edge worn with small loss at head of spine. Small contemporary owner’s name to front pastedown and a small contemporary article about Hegel tipped in at the front endpaper. Some light pencil markings in a few spots. Charming original copy of one of Hegel’s most important works.
The founder of positivism, “Comte’s major work … attempts to show that the facts of society are as reducible to general laws as other phenomena.” Following the laws of science in the arrangement of society will yield the results one desires. “The remarkable achievement of Comte … is the construction of a system which embraces all human activity and knowledge” (PMM).

CONDITION: Very good or better in matching 3/4 leather with marbled boards. Marbled endpapers. Bookplate to paste downs of all volumes. Volume 3 seems to lack the contents pages. Hinges have been restored quite nicely. Author and title in gilt set within in burgundy panels; gilt volume number set within black panels. Raised bands with decorative gilt accents. Some offsetting to text and some light spotting especially to last few leaves of volume 3. Otherwise a bright, clean copy of a landmark text in philosophy.
“Jesus Without the Myths” (PMM 300)


$2,000

"The publication of 'The Life of Jesus Critically Considered' aroused a storm of controversy; its revolutionary thesis and content were violently attacked, and wrenched out of context... Strauss's principal objective was to explode not only the traditional orthodox view of the Gospel accounts of the life of Jesus, but also earlier rationalistic views..." (PMM).

Strauss's first and greatest work, a crucial text in the history of biblical studies and of religious scholarship generally. The first consistent, systematic application of the (then quasi-Hegelian) notion of myth to the New Testament and early Christianity, offering an epoch-making interpretation of the Christ of the Gospels as the unintentional product of a "mythos" of Messianic expectation already present in ancient Hebrew culture. The book was a scandal which adversely affected Strauss's entire career, offending rationalist and orthodox biblical literalists alike. Strauss came to be known as the "alienated theologian", and he died having written a last work - The Old and the New Faith - which eschewed religion altogether in favor of scientific materialism - for which he was savagely attacked by no less than the philosopher, Nietzsche. For all of that, his work laid the foundation for the cultural and synoptic approaches to the New Testament which have dominated modern Biblical research. This is a critical document in the evolution of the Western religious sensibility.

CONDITION: Very good in matching contemporary 3/4 leather with marbled boards. Restored spine retaining the original backstrip. Light edge wear. Volume two with small notch at head of spine at the hinge point. Spotting to first and last leaves. Internally clean and fresh.

$5,500

With the often missing half-titles present. This is one of only 525 copies printed of this work.

"Enten-Eller was written before he was twenty-nine. It is a curious bundle of papers, essays, semi-dialogues and notes, seemingly ill-assorted, but in fact dialectically arranged.... Adopting what he called an 'aesthetic attitude' he held that this consisted in balancing possibilities, and that in matters religious and ethical it was up to the individual to make his choice. Choice, as the title of his work suggests, was at the root of Kierkegaard's theory. There can be no system of existence, only a system of ideas. From this he develops his thesis of 'Existence' (since taken up by the modern Existentialist), in which human beings considered as subjects not objects are the only real existence: their reflective as opposed to active nature being focused on the 'acts' of making perpetual decisions" (PMM).

**CONDITION:** Very good in original, contemporary marbled boards. Cloth spine with handwritten label to spines. Labels slightly chipped. Some edge wear to boards. Internally clean with the often missing half-titles present. Housed in a custom made, green-cloth clamshell. An excellent copy, complete and original, of one of Kierkegaard’s most important works.
The “Lachmann method” applied a scientific approach to evaluating, translating, and imparting the wisdom of ancient texts. Lachmann’s “lasting reputation rests on the edition of Lucretius which occupied the last six years of his life. His brilliant assessment of the relative values of the surviving manuscripts set a new standard in the analysis of corrupt and difficult texts, by concentrating conjecture on the actual readings. Lachmann was no mechanical editor, content to record and select according to a preconceived formula. He had as deep an understanding of his author as Lambin, four centuries before [PMM 87], and it is this combination which made his edition famous” (PMM).

CONDITION: Very good or better in original full leather. Gilt trimmed with author and title in gilt set in a burgundy panel along spine. 5 raised bands along spine with rich gilt. Decorative endpapers. Edges rubbed. Pages clean throughout.

$1,000

“Berkeley denied the existence of matter. Buchner declared that nothing else existed…. all the phenomena of the functioning of the human body were explicable on purely materialistic lines and it was only a question of time before this fact would be experimentally demonstrable. Buchner was not only one of the earliest, he was also the most uncompromising representative of this school. The thesis pursued in his *Force and Matter* is that thought is as much an emanation of the brain as bile is an emanation of the liver. The mind and the spirit are products of an animal organism in the same way as motion is a product of a steam-engine” (PMM).

**CONDITION**: Very good or better in contemporary marbled boards. Handwritten label on spine, with some loss. Light edge wear to boards. Small name elegantly printed in contemporary ink to front pastedown. Clean pages throughout.

$ 1,750

“Renan’s theory of history was based on personalities, and in reconstructing it he endeavored always to penetrate and to expound the psychology of the leading characters. Indeed, in 1845 he wrote, but never published, an essay on the psychology of Jesus; and in ‘Life’ he created what remains a figure of his own imagination. It is a pastoral idyll with the central figure a gentle, albeit oracular visionary, his power to work miracles a part of his unique personality—the son of man, but not the Son of a God” (PMM).

CONDITION: Very good or better in contemporary half-leather with marbled boards. Rich gilt along spine. Decorative endpapers. **Includes a full page handwritten letter from Ernest Renan, signed, dated 1859,** tipped in to recto of front free endpaper. A picture of Jesus preaching is tipped in on verso of front free endpaper.

$ 450

“The publication of *[La Trahison des Clercs]* was one of the major events in political thought between the two wars. The ‘Clerc’ is what Benda conceived the intellectual to be, someone disengaged from the mere contingencies of existence and fighting for ideals which went beyond the demands of a given moment in space and time. In violent and brilliant invective, he attacked the intellectuals of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries for having fallen short of this ideal by becoming the devoted advocates not of ideals, but of groups or existences, material and transient, such as a nation or a social class” (PMM).

CONDITION: Very good or better in original printed wrappers. Light edgewear, especially to head and heel of spine. Light crease along fore edge. Very light pencil sketch of a face on top third of half-title page. Internally clean with only light spotting to first and last leaves. Housed in a custom 3/4 leather clamshell box. Exemplaire Alfa 561.
All items are guaranteed as described. Items may be returned within ten days of receipt, with prior notice. Any returns must be well packaged and sent in a traceable manner. Additional insurance is not required for return shipment, but must be sent with signature confirmation. We accept payment by Paypal, Square, personal checks (in U.S. currency) and wire transfers. California residents need to add local sales tax. Payment in advance is required for first time clients. We can offer deferred billing to institutions. Shipping is not included in the book price. Minimum domestic shipping is $20, with larger orders at cost. International air and surface shipments at cost. Title to all material remains with Eternal Return Antiquarian Bookshop until receipt of payment in full.