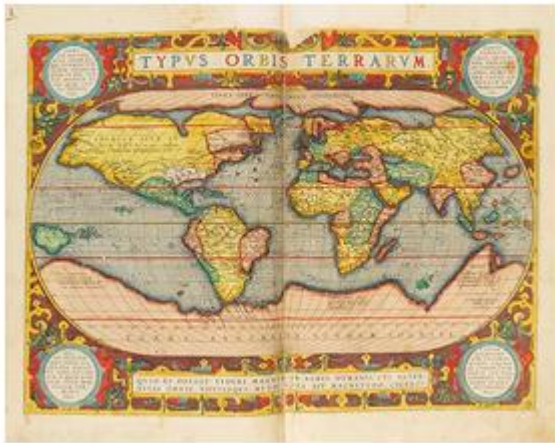


Bibliophile Gems Auction on November 27, 2023



Abraham Ortelius: the first "moderne" atlas. Lot 11



Ludovico de Varthema: Rare first German edition. Lot 9

PRESS RELEASE | Hamburg, November 13, 2023

- Important works in the **Evening Sale**: Opulently illustrated printed works from humanism and Renaissance, rare travelogs and atlases, scientific literature, architectural compendia from the 18th and 19th centuries as well as bibliophile rarities published by Kelmscott Press, Cranach Press and Wiener Werkstätten.
- **Herbert Blank Collection** (1929 – 2023): Rare first editions, handwritten dedications, a late medieval missal portrait miniature. Ketterer Rare Books auctions the unique collection of finest bibliophile quality compiled over decades in 175 lots, including autographs and dedications by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, Rainer Maria Rilke and Paul Celan, as well as valuable first editions by Heinrich von Kleist, Thomas Mann and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

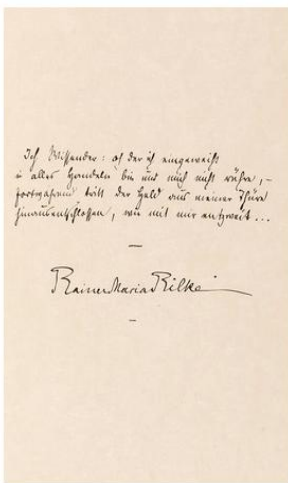
***“Das nöthigste zu erst”* (first things first) noted Goethe on a sheet in an album on July 2, 1796. This Goethe autograph from the Herbert Blank Collection (1929-2023) testifies not only to the poet’s demand for prioritizing, but also provides proof of the Stuttgart antiquarian’s extremely high standards in terms of the quality of his work, business and private collection.**

Ketterer Rare Books puts other focal points during this auction day (and evening) on atlases and early travelogs, scientific publications, autographs and illustrated literature from the late 19th and early 20th century.

Herbert Blank Collection

Ketterer Rare Books recognizes the importance of this collection with an extra catalog. And rightly so, as this extraordinary collection covers the period from Goethe's time to the modern age, with rare first editions in mostly excellently preserved copies.

The very rare edition of **Thomas Mann's** "Death in Venice", no. II of 100 Roman numbered copies, is not only one of the most sought-after first editions of this novella - it is also significant in terms of literary history, as it was published in Die 'Neue Rundschau' before it was printed: all subsequent editions show slight textual deviations. (Lot 57, estimate price: € 12,000)



Rainer Maria Rilke. Lot 58

Rilke admirers are likely to be captivated by the next lot: "I who know: oh, I who am privy to all action and do not stir, the hero continually steps out of my door determined, as if divided with me..." with these words of self-doubt, **Rainer Maria Rilke** (1875-1926) dedicated this copy of "Buch der Bilder" (The Book of Pictures) to his close friend Lucy Spiegl-Goldschmidt (1891-1977). But even without the dedication, the work is a true treasure: it is one of 50 copies from the de-luxe edition on Japon, bound in Naples yellow morocco and published by the Ernst Ludwig Presse, Darmstadt, for Insel Verlag in Leipzig in 1913 (lot 58, estimate price: € 12,000).

Two publications by **Paul Celan** with dedications by the great poet come with lower estimates: "Mohn und Gedächtnis" and "Der Meridian" (lot 627, estimate € 1,500; lot 628, estimate €

800). The Evening Sale will also feature the guest book of the first German exile bookshop in Paris with handwritten entries by **Heinrich and Klaus Mann, Robert Musil, Lion Feuchtwanger, Marlene Dietrich** and **Getrude Stein** (lot 73, estimate € 4,000).

A dedication copy of "Rechts und Links", **Joseph Roth's** great 1929 novel about the loneliness of modern man (lot 69, estimate € 1,500) is also worth mentioning, while German Romanticism with rare editions of works by Kleist, Chamisso, Brentano and Hölderlin as well as the first edition of **Georg Büchner's** "Danton's Tod" from 1835 (lot 550, estimate price: € 2,000) is also well represented.

Evening Sale Highlights

Among the array of special offers in the Evening Sale, we find the first "modern" atlas "Theatrum orbis terrarum" by the Flemish geographer **Abraham Ortelius** from 1603 (lot 11, estimate price: € 90,000), the very rare first German illustrated edition of the "Ritterlich und lobwirdig rayß" by **Ludovico de Varthema** from 1515 (lot 9, estimate price: € 60,000) and a beautiful copy of the "Atlas novus" by **Heinrich Scherer** (lot 14, estimate price: € 15,000).

In the science section, the work "Astronomiae instauratae mechanica" by the Danish astronomer **Tycho Brahe** is particularly noteworthy (lot 8, estimate price € 16,000).

No less remarkable: the "Experimenta nova" by **Otto von Guericke** from Magdeburg, one of the great books of physics (lot 25 A, estimated price: € 16,000).

The first publication of **Hans Bellmer's** surrealist photographs "La Poupée" from 1949 (lot 77, estimate price: € 45,000), **George Grosz's** first large portfolio "Ecce Homo" (lot 63, estimate price: € 30,000) and the portfolio "Arno Holz zum sechzigsten Geburtstag", which was dedicated to the poet and playwright by painters, draftsmen and lithographers who were friends with him (lot 62, estimate price: € 18,000), are also noteworthy.



Tycho Brahe, Lot 8



George Grosz, Lot 63

Francisco de Goya y Lucientes (1746-1828) created "La Tauromaquia" between 1814 and 1816, a series of 33 etchings in drypoint and aquatint illustrating the history of bullfighting. After the first publication in 1816, the plates disappeared and were only used for the second edition in 1855, which is now on offer at Ketterer Rare Books. (Lot 48, estimate price: € 25,000)

Architecture enthusiasts can look forward to the two volumes of "The works in architecture" (lot 29, estimate price: € 20,000). The richly illustrated work by the architect brothers **Robert and James Adam** is regarded a milestones in the history of English architecture and a main work of British Classicism.

Last but not least, collectors of truly bibliophile rarissima are recommended a de-luxe edition of **Shakespeare's** "Hamlet" from 1929: "The tragic history of Hamlet Prince of Denmark" is considered the main work of the Cranach Press in Weimar, which was published under Harry Graf Kessler. The content is as dramatic as the edition is sumptuous. Kessler spared no effort (and expense): The de-luxe edition was published in just 17 Roman-numbered copies, printed on Imperial Japon. Kessler had developed a special typography for it, and the illustrative woodcuts were elaborately printed, partly in shades of black and once even in light blue. The effort paid off: "Hamlet" was voted the most beautiful book of the year 1929. (Lot 67, estimate price: € 5,000).

AUCTIONS IN HAMBURG

November 27, 2023

- 12 a.m. Day Sale. Lots 100 - 374
- 2.30 p.m. Herbert Blank Collection. Lots 500 - 674
- 5 p.m. Evening Sale. Lots 1 - 85

Find all works online [here](#).

PREVIEW

November 20-24 and 26 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
by appointment at Ketterer Kunst Hamburg

AUCTIONS IN MUNICH

December 08 Contemporary Art Day Sale / Evening Sale
December 09 19th Century Art / Bunte Collection / Modern Art

PREVIEW OF SELECT WORKS

Frankfurt: November 11 - 12, 2023
Cologne: November 17 - 19, 2023
Hamburg: November 22 - 23, 2023
Berlin: November 25 - 30, 2023
Munich: December 02 - 07, 2023 (all works).

[Learn more about the auction here](#)

KETTERER KUNST

Ketterer Kunst (www.kettererkunst.com and www.ketterer-internet-auctions.com) with headquarters in Munich and branches in Hamburg, Cologne and Berlin, as well as with a global network of experts, was founded in 1954. Robert Ketterer is the second generation to run the family business. The auction house has a focus on Fine Art from the 19th to the 21st Centuries and on Rare Books. In its market segment, Ketterer Kunst is the number 1 in the German language region and in the global top ten of the strongest-selling art auction houses (artprice.com). Ketterer Kunst is the specialist for German art, as well as for many international artists sought-after in Europe, the USA and Asia, where they realize international record prices.

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