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A Small Shelf of Greek & Latin Classics from the Bodoni & Didot Presses

Bodoni's Consolations of Philosophy

1) Boethius. Anicii Manlii Torquati Severini Boethii De consolatione philosophiae libri quinque ad optimarum editionum fidem recensiti. Parmae: Ex Regio Typographeo, 1798. Large 4to (31 cm, 12.2"). cxvi, 271, [1] pp.

\$1250.00

☉ Magnificently restrained, dignified Bodoni printing of a classic and widely influential 6th-century philosophical discourse, here in Theodor Poelmann's Latin edition (the press having also produced an Italian translation in the same year) with a preface by Pietro Berti and a life of the author by Giulio Marziano Rota. Brooks describes this first Bodoni edition as "molto ben stampato."

Binding: 19th-century half brown morocco and brown and tan marbled paper—covered sides, signed binding done by R. David (gilt-stamped on lower front turn-in). Top edge gilt, other edges untrimmed.

Provenance: Front pastedown with circular bookplate of Sir Edward Sullivan, with robin and coronet crest above an interlaced monogram (front fly-leaf with affixed early inked slip noting this copy as no. 874 in the Sullivan sale of 1890); and with armorial bookplate of Alfred Cock (done by Harry Soane). Front free endpaper with bookplates of Brian Douglas Stilwell and Robert Wayne Stilwell, and with Wilson Library plate noting gift of Vincent M. O'Connor.

☉ Brooks 724; Brunet, I, 1037; Schweiger, II, 34. Binding as above; joints and extremities rubbed, spine and corners more so. Bookplates as above. Endpapers with pencilled reference annotations, front fly-leaf with affixed slip as above. Pages very clean and crisp. • **A handsome copy with impressive provenance.** (40181)

History of Rome in Both Latin & Italian — Bodoni Press

2) Eutropius; Giuseppe Bandini, trans. Il compendio della storia romana di Flavio Eutropio recato di latino in italiano. Parma: Dalla Tipografia Ducale, 1828. 8vo (22.6 cm, 8.9"). xxii, 354, [2 (errata)] pp.

\$250.00

☉ First edition of Bandini's Italian translation of the *Breviarium historiae romanae*, Eutropius's widely read history of Rome, as well as the first appearance from the Bodoni-run ducal press, at the time of this printing under the supervision of • **Margherita Dall'Aglio, Giambattista Bodoni's widow.** The text, which includes the original Latin set in italics beneath each section of Italian, is crisply printed on notably heavy paper — "molto bene stampato," as Brooks puts it.

This Bodoni production is now uncommon, with searches of WorldCat finding • **only three U.S. institutions** (University of Illinois, University of Kansas, Yale) reporting holdings.

Provenance: Front pastedown with bookplates of Brian Douglas Stilwell and Robert Wayne Stilwell.

☉ Brooks 1298. Contemporary quarter brown morocco and marbled paper—covered sides, spine with gilt-stamped title and acanthus motifs; binding rubbed. Very minor spots of foxing to title-page, wide-margined pages otherwise clean. (40205)

Didot Prints Military Strategy

3) Frontinus, Sextus Julius. Strategematon libri tres. Lutetiae: [François Ambroise Didot] apud Guilelmum De Bure, 1763. 12mo (14.5 cm, 5.75"). [1] f., xvii, [1], 212 pp., [2] ff.

\$575.00

☉ Frontinus' classic first century work on military art and science here printed apparently for the first time by Didot. The colophon reads, "E typographia Fr. Ambr. Didot" and Schweiger calls the edition, "Sehr sauber." The text was informed by the author's success as a general under Domitian, when he commanded forces in Roman Britain, and on the Rhine and Danube frontiers.

Binding: Contemporary full red morocco, plain style. Side-combed nonpareil endpapers. All edges gilt. Silk place marker.

WorldCat locates only five U.S. libraries (Society of the Cincinnati, University of Chicago, Library of Congress, University of Pennsylvania, University of Cincinnati) reporting ownership.

☉ Schweiger, II, 369; Graesse, II, 639; Brunet, II, 1409. Bound as above; interior as "clean" as the edition. Very good copy. (40322)

A Variation on One of Bodoni's Greatest Hits

4) Horatius Flaccus, Quintus. Q. Horatii Flacci Opera. Parmae: Ex Regio Typographeo, 1793. 8vo (22.5 cm, 8.85"). [2], xxi, [1], 376 pp.

\$1000.00

☉ This first octavo Bodoni printing of Horace preserves the famously austere title-page setting of the legendary 1791 folio edition. It is less commonly seen than the quarto edition which came from the Bodoni press in the same year, with De Lama and Brunet not citing it at all; Schweiger notes that ☛ **only 200 copies** were printed.

Binding: Contemporary red English straight-grain morocco, covers framed with a Greek key roll surrounding a border composed of arabesque and floral tools around a central gilt-ruled panel cornered with sunburst ornaments; spine sympathetically gilt extra using greek keys, sunbursts, and fleurons. Board edges and turn-ins with gilt roll of a rope design, all edges gilt. Original green silk bookmark present and attached.

Provenance: Front pastedown with armorial bookplate of George Henry Cherry; front fly-leaf with early stamped inscription (strongly resembling handwriting) of Vernon J. Watney, Cornbury (author of *Cornbury and the Forest of Wychwood*).

☉ Brooks 494; Giani 37 (p. 46); Schweiger, II, 413. Not in Brunet, not in De Lama. Binding as above; joints, spine, and extremities lightly rubbed, sides with a few small spots of minor darkening. First and last pages mildly foxed. ☛ **One of Bodoni's most neoclassically restrained productions, in a rather less restrained binding.** (40156)

The Dedication Has NOT Been Removed — The Folio EXTRA Format

5) Longinus. [title in Greek, romanized as] Dionysiou Logginou [sic] peri hypsous. Parmae: In Aedibus Palatinis Typis Bodonianis, 1793. Folio extra (43 cm, 17"). [1] f., xxviii, 113, [1 (blank)] pp.; [1 (blank)] f., [1] f., 89, [1 (blank)] pp. Lacks the initial blank and final blank.

\$7500.00

☉ One of only two Bodoni editions of *De Sublimitate*, the other being the 1793 printing in quarto format. It is printed on laid paper with a Latin translation following the Greek text, each with a separate title.

Brooks reports "Copie 15 in carta sopraffina e 15 in carta d'Anonnay." Brunet says the dedication to the pope "a été supprimée dans beaucoup d'exemplaires"; it is present here.

Binding: Contemporary navy morocco, spine with six raised bands — an ornate gilt fleuron decoration in five compartments and gilt lettering in two. The covers are decorated with a gilt center panel of rectilinear and curved tooling that is framed by a thicker blind-tooled and a single-ruled gilt border. The board edges are tooled with a gilt double fillet and the turn-ins with a lacy gilt tulip-like motif. All edges are gilt, endpapers marbled. ☛ **A lovely, solid binding.**

Provenance: On the front pastedown, the bookplate of Brian Douglas Stilwell.

Searches of *NUC* and WorldCat locate only four U.S. libraries reporting ownership of this edition (Harvard, Kansas, University of Texas-HRHC, Princeton Theological).

☉ Brooks 507; Giani 44 (pp. 47–48). Binding as above, rubbing to extremities and to spine/joints; somewhat noticeable scrape to length of front board and bump to bottom edge, very small spot of discoloration to top edge of front board, small scrape to rear board and rubbing to fore-edge. Without the initial and final blanks (i.e., two blank leaves total). Provenance marks as above; occasional light foxing to leaves, interior otherwise in very nice condition. (40159)

Early Christian Poet, Bodoni Printing

6) Prudentius Clemens, Aurelius. Aurelii prudentii Clementis V.C. Opera omnia nunc primum cum codd. Vaticanis collata praefatione, variantibus lectionibus, notis, ac rerum verborumque indice locupletissimo aucta et illustrata. Parmae: Ex Regio typographeo, 1788. 4to (31.5 cm, 12.5"). 2 vols. I: [12], 71, [1], 302, [2], [303]–61, [3] pp. II: [4], 215, [1], 219–84, [2] pp. (text complete despite pagination).

\$1150.00

© First edition of Prudentius from the Bodoni press. Prudentius (348 – ca. 410) was a Roman Christian poet born in Northern Spain, known for the asceticism he adopted late in life as well as for his lyric (*Cathemerinon*, *Peristephanon*), didactic (*Apotheosis*, *Hamartigenia*, *Psychomachia*), and polemical works (*Contra Symmachum*). The *Psychomachia* is particularly notable as one of the earliest Western examples of allegorical verse, exerting much influence on the subsequent medieval development of that genre.

This is a typically handsome Bodoni production with wide margins, an elegant type, and a different engraved vignette on each title-page; Dibdin calls it “one of the most beautiful editions of a classical author I ever beheld.”

© Brooks, *Compendiosa Bibliografia di Edizioni Bodoniane*, 361; Brunet, IV, 916; Dibdin, II, 360–61; Graesse 467. On Prudentius, see: *Catholic Encyclopedia* online. Recent half vellum and paper-covered sides, vellum edges graced with gilt single fillet, spines with gilt-stamped leather title and volume labels and with gilt-stamped Greek key design; binding discolored and a little bubbled from proximity to fire. Edges untrimmed, signatures unopened; vol. I with surprisingly various old waterstaining, sometimes faint and sometimes not, in upper margins of first half and outer margins of last few leaves. Interior of both volumes otherwise clean, with no markings, save that the endpapers are smudged and those untrimmed edges, plus occasional small areas of margin contiguous, are darkly smokestained from that fire. • ***This is a book that has suffered, yet a production that is still as lovely as Dibdin said it was and a set well worth having.*** (25517)

Prudentius, Bodoni, & Two Oxford Friends — A Handsome Set (Extra-Beloved Here for Its Surviving Bookseller’s Label)

7) Prudentius Clemens, Aurelius. Aurelii Prudentii Clementis V.C. Opera omnia nunc primum cum codd. vaticanis collata praefatione, variantibus lectionibus, notis, ac rerum verborumque indice locupletissimo aucta et illustrata. Parmae: Ex Regio Typographeo, 1788. Large 4to (30.2 cm, 11.89"). 2 vols. I: [10], 71, [3], 361, [3] pp. II: [4], 284, [2] pp.

\$750.00

© First edition of Prudentius from the Bodoni press. Aurelius Prudentius Clemens (348 – ca. 410) was a Roman Christian poet born in Northern Spain, known for the asceticism he adopted late in life as well as for his lyric (*Cathemerinon*, *Peristephanon*), didactic (*Apotheosis*, *Hamartigenia*, *Psychomachia*), and polemical works (*Contra Symmachum*). The *Psychomachia* is particularly notable as one of the earliest Western examples of allegorical verse, exerting much influence on the subsequent medieval development of that genre. Here, the texts were edited by Giuseppe Teoli, who signed the dedication as well as supplying the preface, footnotes, and indexes.

This is a typically handsome Bodoni production with wide margins, an elegant type, and a different engraved vignette on each title-page; Dibdin calls it “one of the most beautiful editions of a classical author I ever beheld.” 18th- and 19th-century critics tended to agree with him and with Eschenburg, who deemed this edition “splendid and valuable.”

Binding: Contemporary light brown morocco, covers with wide frames composed of multiple gilt rolls, spines of darker brown morocco with gilt-stamped leather title and volume labels; main label reading “Aurelii Opera.” • ***Board edges and turn-ins with gilt rolls and, in an unusual treatment, with the darker brown of the spine echoed in these areas as an accent.*** Endpapers of light blue *moiré* silk, all edges gilt.

Provenance: Front fly-leaf of vol. I with affectionate inked gift inscription from David Williams to John Griffiths (both academics of the University of Oxford, as referenced in the inscription), dated 1854. Front pastedowns each with 19th-century bookseller’s small leather label (“the most Expert Bookfinder Extant”).

☉ Brooks 361; Brunet, V, 916; De Lama, II, 52–53; Dibdin, II, 360–61; Graesse 467. Bindings as above, edges and extremities rubbed, spine labels with small repairs. ☛ **One of the most desirable editions of this important poet, here in an attractive copy with delightful provenance.** (40137)

History of the Roman Empire — Bodoni Printing

8) Tacitus, Cornelius. C. Cornelii Taciti opera. Parmae: Ex Regio Typographeo, 1797. 8vo (22 cm, 8.66"). 2 vols. I: [4], xii, [4], 379 (i.e., 376) pp. II: [4], 328 pp.

\$500.00

☉ First Bodoni octavo edition of Tacitus's *Annals* (only, despite the title), following the press's folio and quarto printings of 1795. Dedicated to Ferdinand, Duke of Parma and one of Bodoni's most important patrons, this two-volume set offers a classic example of Bodonian restraint and minimalism. Searches of WorldCat show ☛ **only seven U.S. institutions reporting holdings.**

☉ Brooks 692; Brunet, V, 638. This ed. not in De Lama, not in Schweiger. Modern quarter green morocco and green pebbled cloth-covered boards, spines with gilt-stamped title and gilt rule-framed compartments; spines sunned (not unattractively), volumes lightly rubbed overall. Some pages creased in the press, with variable spotting/soiling/foxing, the last generally speckle-type; still a ☛ **solid, dignified set.** (40179)

Bodoni Tacitus — Three Volumes Nicely Bound

9) Tacitus, Publius Cornelius. C. Cornelii Taciti opera. Parmae: In Aedibus Palatinus, Typis Bodonianis, 1795. Imp. 4to (32.38 cm, 12.75"). 3 vols. I: [2], xii, [6], 284 pp. II: [4], 297, [1] pp. III: [4], 281, [3] pp.

\$1000.00

☉ Large quarto variant of the Bodoni edition of Tacitus's *Annals* (only, despite the title); the spine labels here give the more correct "Annales," rather than *Opera*). Giani notes the scrupulous accuracy of this text, and the "*grande perizia filologica*" brought to the task by editor Vincenzo Jacobacci.

Binding: Contemporary quarter calf and marbled paper-covered boards, spines with gilt-stamped olive leather title and date labels; quatrefoil gilt roll on raised bands and blind-tooled, black-accented decorations in compartments. All page edges marbled to match endpapers.

☉ Brooks 594; De Lama, II, 106; Giani 71 (p. 54); Schweiger, II, 1006. Bound as above, rebaked with the original spines laid down; sides and edges with moderate scuffing. Faint spotting, occasionally more pronounced, to many page edges; pages overall clean. ☛ **Bodoni's unadorned typesetting embodies classical elegance.** (40168)

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