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## ★ LIBERTINE LITERATURE — PAPERBACK EROTICA ★ *Titillation for Travellers?*

The works below, dating from 1908 to 1986 (with all but a trio from 1945 to 1962), represent the output of a little cohort of Paris presses that specialized or sub-specialized in the cheap-format publication of exuberantly erotic/pornographic novellas and short stories suitable for male readers to enjoy on trains and discard at the end of the journey. A few are in French, but most were written or translated for English readers, and some carry the blazon — itself titillating — that they were "Not to be sold in England Or U.S.A" On the covers are a few famous writers' names and a great many pseudonyms, often of American expatriates; the tales vary greatly as to how mainstream or "out there" the relationships and acts portrayed may be; and while a few (all in French) are "saucily" illustrated, in most it's the sheer tumble of language on the page that creates the exciting pictures.

The Obelisk Press was an English-language press founded in Paris in 1929 by Jack Kahane, who published libertine titles that would have been legally censured elsewhere; his son, Maurice Girodias, founded the Olympia Press to continue the family business after World War II. But the bibliography of these presses shows also how porous the line could be between hack production of under-the-counter smut and brave challenge to the status quo via *avant-garde* and controversial works; Olympia was, notably, the first press to publish Nabokov's *Lolita* and Donleavy's *Ginger Man*, and works by prominent Beat writers including William S. Burroughs and Gregory Corso.

### A Merrie Crew?

**Angelique, Pierre [pseud. of Georges Bataille].** A tale of satisfied desire. Paris: The Olympia Press, July 1953. 8vo (18.3 cm, 7.2"). 105, [5] pp. **\$1000.00**

◆ First English edition of the novella *Histoire de l'oeil* (1928) by French writer Georges Bataille (1897–1962). In each chapter, the young male narrator describes a sexual encounter with his friend Simone accompanied by a varying group of girls and boys who also enjoy asphyxiophilia, anal stimulation, exhibitionism, clothes wetting and other forms of urolagnia.

*Histoire de l'oeil* was translated from the French as *A tale of satisfied desire* by "Audiart," a pseudonym for Austryn Wainhouse (a.k.a. Pieralessandro Casavini), an American Harvard graduate employed by the Olympia Press in Paris who received the National Book Award in 1972 for his translation of Jacques Monod's *Chance and Necessity*. Adapted from Bataille's revised text, first printed in 1944 — the second version, and standard French edition — this translation appeared about the same time as the third French edition. Bataille worked on other projects with both Wainhouse and Maurice Girodias, founder of the Olympia Press, and probably knew of this translation.

**Scarce:** WorldCat locates just two copies in the U.S.

◆ D. Cullen, ed., "Bataille's Eye & ICI Field Notes 4," *The Institute of Cultural Inquiry* (1997), p. 25. On this work as censored, see: L. Sigel, *International exposure: perspectives on modern European pornography, 1800–2000*, pp. 129–30. Publisher's mustard-colored wrappers printed in black, with white stars and bars; extremities rubbed, wrappers a little scuffed, inside like new. (30200)

### A Classic "Whore Dialogue" Novel

**[Barrin, Jean (ca. 1640–1718)?; or François de Chavigny de la Bretonnière (ca. 1652–ca.1705)?].** *Vénus dans le cloître; ou, La Religieuse en chemise, entretiens curieux par l'abbé Du Prat.* Paris: Le Livre du Bibliophile, [1962]. 16mo. [2] ff., 216, [2] pp., 11 plates. **\$55.00**

◆ Authorship of this 17th-century example of libertine literature is variously attributed to Jean Barrin or François de Chavigny de la Bretonnière. The work seems to have first appeared in 1683 and was immediately translated into English (*Venus in the cloister, Or The nun in her smock. In curious dialogues, addressed to the Lady Abbess of Loves Paradise*). In it an older (but still quite young) nun instructs a (still) younger one in the ins and outs and ups and downs of sex; as one would expect, the sexual activity is both lesbian and heterosexual.

This is a later (second?) printing in the series "Le Coffret du Bibliophile." The work has **eleven subtly, elegantly tinted plates by Pierre Gandon**. It may be observed that these nuns have really great shoes, for nuns!

◆ Publisher's printed wrappers. Uncut copy but totally opened; very clean and nice. (30096)

## German? Alsatian? Strasbourgian? Sensual Whatever Her Nationality . . .

### ILLUSTRATED

**Bret, Antoine.** La belle Alsacienne ou telle mère, telle fille. Paris: Le Livre du Bibliophile, 1958. 12mo. [4], [7]–201, [3] pp.; 12 plts. **\$100.00**

◆ This “petit roman libertin” (p. 7) has a complicated publication and revision history: First printed in 1754 as *Les Galanteries de Thérèse*, it was also published as *La Belle Allemande ou Les Galanteries de Thérèse* and as *Adeline ou La Belle Strasbourgeoise*. The present example is textually a reprinting of the edition published in 1911 by Georges and Robert Briffaut in their “Coffret du Bibliophile” series, here newly illustrated with **12 rather artistically designed and tinted plates done by Paul-Émile Bécot**, known for his portraits as well as for his erotic illustrations.

◆ **WorldCat does not locate any U.S. institutional holdings.**

◆ Publisher's white paper wrappers, printed in black and red, spine slightly creased. Pages and plates clean, with just a little expectable age-toning. A very nice copy. (30166)

### That's Obscene!

**Cleland, John.** *Memoirs of Fanny Hill*. Paris: The Obelisk Press, 1950. 8vo (17.5 cm, 6.9"). 223 pp. **\$150.00**

◆ The *Memoirs of a Woman of Pleasure*, a.k.a. “Fanny Hill,” was first published in 1749 and immediately caused a sensation among readers who were both scandalized and tickled by this underground bestseller, “the first original English prose pornography, and the first to break away from the dialogue form into the style of the novel” (Foxon, p. 45).

◆ **Spoiler alert!** Fanny is a good country girl who falls in (bed) with a bad crowd. Yes, it was banned.

This Obelisk Press production is scarce, *NUC Pre-1956* locating **just one copy in the U.S.** and WorldCat none.

◆ On the erotic genre in England, see: D. Foxon, *Libertine Literature in England, 1660–1745*. Publisher's red printed wrappers. Extremities lightly rubbed, else externally and internally fresh. (30164)

### Illicit Traveller's Companion

**Crannach, Henry [pseud. of Marilyn Meeske].** *Flesh and bone*. Paris: The Olympia Press, April 1957. 12mo (17.6 cm, 6.9"). 160 pp. **\$40.00**

◆ First edition of this tale written by a female author using a male pseudonym. A modern entry in the ancient genre *Sex in the Convent*, it opens with a novice's blasphemous vision of Christ embracing a young woman who looks not unlike herself; in an interpolated episode, a newly married man and wife find his birthmark on her face following their first night together.

This is no. 38 in the popular “Traveller's Companion” series of dirty books published by Maurice Girodias at Olympia.

◆ Publisher's grass green wrappers printed in black and white; binding very lightly bumped at spine ends, but wholly tight and clean. Paper of interior creased in the press, yet **white, bright, and fresh**. (30184)

### Playing Doctor — (NOT) Printed in “Tangier”

**Denkryden, Alfred.** *Many about Eve's daughters*. Tangier [i.e., Paris]: Volu-Publo, 1962. 12mo. 121, [1] pp. **\$100.00**

◆ Sole edition. Printed by one of the Parisian competitors of Olympia, this is the explicit tale of **a New York doctor who sets out to outdo the Kinsey reports** in exploring sex.

English was apparently not the author's native tongue; or does that effect play with idea of books printed in “Tangier” as naturally less than perfect in their execution of English?

◆ **Why not make this an addition to your false imprints collection?!**

◆ Publisher's blue paper wrappers printed in red; slightly cocked, spine lightly creased, back wrapper with line of minor discoloration along lower edge, overall generally crisp and unworn. Pages age-toned, otherwise clean. (30194)

### 18th-Century Hedonism, Illustrated

**Denon, Vivant, & Boissy, Louis de.** *Point de lendemain ... suivi de Les filles femmes et les femmes filles ou le monde changé*. Paris: Le Livre du Bibliophile, 1957. 12mo. [4], 194, [8] pp.; 12 plts. **\$100.00**

◆ Uncut, unopened copy of two classic novellas and one shorter story, issued as part of the “Coffret du bibliophile illustré” series. Often translated as “No Tomorrow,” the first work here was originally printed in 1777 and is still critically acclaimed as an insightful, ironic look at themes of 18th-century hedonist thought; the second piece, first published in 1751, posits how women would behave if they ruled the world. The two are followed by “Les quinze minutes ou le temps bien employé”; the three works are illustrated with a total of **12 saucy plates done by Pierre Noël**, tinted with touches of salmon color.

WorldCat locates **only two U.S. institutional holdings** of this edition, both in California.

◆ Publisher's white paper wrappers, printed in black and red, slightly age-toned; front wrapper and spine creased. Pages uncut, unopened, and pristine. (30163)



### Very “Adult” Indeed

**Desmond, Robert.** An adult's story. Paris: The Olympia Press, 1954. 12mo. 206, [2] pp. **\$100.00**

◆ First edition of the author's first published novel: A youthful widow and mother discovers her insatiable desire for violent sex, while incidentally corrupting the morals of her young maid and even younger son; there is also a sex-and-power-in-the-workplace thread here. This is no. 8 in the popular “Atlantic Library” of erotic books, written by an author who provided several works for the series and published by the same operation as the “Traveller's Companion” series.

◆ Publisher's printed orange paper wrappers; binding slightly cocked and a little soiled, spine creased and sunned, front wrapper creased. Front free endpaper with small inked numeral in lower outer corner. Two pages with small spots of staining in margins, not touching text. Slightly worn but still a solid copy. (30178)

### “What Delights of Lasciviousness Were Safe, What to Be Avoided”

**[Farmer, John Stephen?].** Love and safety or love and lasciviousness with safety and secrecy a lecture delivered with practical illustrations by the Empress of Asturia (the modern Sappho); assisted by her favorite Lizette and others. London & New York: The Erotica Biblion Society, 1908 [really, ca. 1930]. 12mo. 160 pp. **\$100.00**

◆ Second edition, following the first of 1898, of an erotic look at sexual activities which do no damage to ladies' health or reputation. A ♣ **discussion of contraceptives and their use** is included, as well as recipes for aphrodisiacs, offered in between explicitly described scenes of decadent excess led by the titular empress. After the main work follows the short story “Only a Boy, or a Summer Amour,” about the sexual initiation of a 12-year-old boy.

Straight's online bibliography of famous publisher of pornography Charles Carrington suggests that he may have been responsible for this volume.

◆ Straight, “Charles Carrington,” 133. Publisher's printed paper wrappers, taped some time ago into a translucent oilcloth protective wrapper. Light spotting along inner margins, pages otherwise clean. (30192)

### Exploits of a French Nobleman

**Kolney, Fernand.** The amorous adventures of a gentleman of quality. Paris: Librairie “Astra”, 1951. 8vo (18.3 cm, 7.2”). 234 pp. **\$35.00**

◆ Later edition of the French “biography” of the Chevalier de Biron — a handsome nobleman of ignoble inclinations — first published in 1929 in French and in English in 1933. The anarchist French writer Fernand Kolney (1868–1930) was well versed in the libertine literature of the 17th and 18th centuries, and the ideas of the Reverend Thomas Robert Malthus (1766–834); his writing is considered “neo Malthusian,” and anti-utopian.

Cover “slugs” assert that this was “PRIVATELY PRINTED” and “Not to be sold in England Or U.S.A”!

◆ Publisher's wrappers printed in red and black. Text block cocked, light shelf-wear, and some pages cut carelessly (in haste by an eager reader?); else nice. (30170)

### Tasty Morsels of Scandal

**Laurent-Tailhade, Marie-Louise.** Courtesans, princesses, lesbians. Paris: Librairie “Astra”, 1952. 8vo (18.3 cm, 7.2”). 206 pp. **\$75.00**

◆ Real royals, really naughty. Translated from the French by “G.M.C.” [Gilson MacCormack], these collected shorts on ♣ **Marie-Antoinette and her lesbian encounters** are based on “documentary evidence” first published by scandalmongering pamphleteers. The front cover promises that this was “PRIVATELY PRINTED” and a note on the rear cover says explicitly that it is “Not to be sold in England Or U.S.A.”

◆ Publisher's paper wrappers printed in red and black. Cocked, paper a bit creased over spine and with other shelfwear; sewing wanting to break. Clean. (30168)

### What Made Grandma Blush

**Lebeck, Robert.** Playgirls von damals. Dortmund: Harenberg, 1979. 12mo (17.5 cm, 6.9”). [79] ff. **\$45.00**

◆ Second edition of 77 photographs, some in color, of “yesteryear's playgirls” (with a variety of props), on postcards collected by Robert Lebeck (b. 1929), a German photojournalist who began acquiring 19th-century photographs in the 1960's. Picture postcards first appeared at the turn of the century; erotic ones like these were manufactured to boost the male market.

This is an abridged version containing the photographs only, issued as no. 57 in the series *Die bibliophilen Taschenbücher*, “pocket books for bibliophiles.”

◆ Publisher's neon rose wrappers lettered in black, with a photo of a woman strumming a well-placed guitar on the front cover, and printed spine label; extremities ever so slightly rubbed, else ♣ **like new**. (30185)



### Purportedly “from the Manuscript Notes” of a Woman Living by Her Wits

**Lengel, Frances** [*pseud. Trocchi, Alexander Whitelaw Robertson*]. Helen and desire. Paris: The Olympia Press, 1954. 8vo (17.9 cm, 7.05"). 200, [4] pp. **\$250.00**

◆ First edition of the first novel by British writer Alexander Whitelaw Robertson Trocchi (1925–84), and no. 2 in the Olympia Press' “Atlantic Library” of erotic books published by the same operation as the “Traveller's Companion” series. Young Helen yearns experience both of sex and of The World, and she gets both from Australia to Algiers.

Scarce, with *NUC Pre-1956* locating ♣ **just two copies in the U.S.** and WorldCat none.

◆ Publisher's bright orange printed wrappers; spine lightly rubbed, else like new. (30174)

### Miller's Second Novel

**Miller, Henry.** Black spring. Paris: The Obelisk Press, 1945. 8vo (19.2 cm, 7.56"). 269, [3] pp. **\$150.00**

◆ First post-war edition, the third edition printed by Obelisk, and the fourth overall, of Miller's second published novel. According to Miller's bibliographers, the 1945 printing uses the same plates as the 1938 edition, explaining why the copyright reads “Reprinted October 1938,” confusing this with the second Obelisk printing. “The actual date of publication is 1945 and is documented in a letter Miller wrote to Ben Abramson in August of that year” (Shifreen & Jackson). Like the copy seen by Shifreen and Jackson, the present copy's leaves vary in size, so that many are shorter than others.

◆ Shifreen & Jackson A12e. Publisher's steel gray wrappers with white boxes lettered in black; faded and shelf-worn, paper on the lower spine cracked to reveal quires beneath. Age-toning resulting from poor paper quality, as usual for this edition; sewing brittle. Far from pristine; definitely showing evidence of its readership. (30196)

### Based on a Writer's (Sex) Life

**Miller, Henry.** The rosy crucifixion. Book one: *Sexus*. Paris: The Obelisk Press, July 1950. 16mo (17.2 cm, 6.8"). [1-8], [9]-634, [2] pp. **\$50.00**

◆ First paperback issue of the first novel in a trilogy based on Henry Miller's life with his second wife. *Sexus* was first published the year prior in two hardbound volumes, with this paperback having the same pagination as the first combined clothbound edition (also published in July, 1950).

◆ Shifreen & Jackson A76d. Publisher's Sahara brown wrappers lettered in white (imitating the clothbound version of the same year); extremities rubbed, one negligible chip at upper edge of front fly-leaf, else good. (30193)

### Based on a Writer's (Sex) Life, Continued

**Miller, Henry.** The rosy crucifixion. Book two: *Plexus*. Paris: The Olympia Press, April 1953. 8vo (18.1 cm, 7.13"). 2 vols. I: [1–6], [7]–342, [4] pp. II: [3–8], [9]–348, [2] pp. **\$235.00**

◆ First English edition and first Olympia Press edition of this novel in two volumes, together forming the second part of a trilogy based on Henry Miller's life with his second wife. First published the year prior by Corrèa in French, the duo were both published in April 1953 at 2200 francs together in an edition of 2,000 numbered copies. The copy number has been erased from these two volumes, which could be a composite set.

◆ Shifreen & Jackson A83b (vol. I) & A83c (vol. II). Publisher's peachy taupe wrappers lettered in black, with white stars and bars; extremities rubbed and spine paper lightly creased. ♣ **Small pink pen strokes marking explicit passages in both volumes** and a small hole in the middle of one leaf in vol. I. Upper portion of final leaf in vol. I excised; last leaf and upper part of colophon leaf in vol. II also cut away without loss to text. Edition copy numbers erased as above. (30204)

### Based on a Writer's (Sex) Life, Continued in another Edition . . .

**Miller, Henry.** The rosy crucifixion. Book two: *Plexus*. Paris: The Olympia Press, July 1956. 8vo (17.8 cm, 7"). 683 pp. **\$125.00**

◆ First one-volume edition and second Olympia Press printing of this novel, the second in a trilogy based on Henry Miller's life with his second wife. It is complete and unabridged from the first Olympia edition (1953). A note on the rear cover warns, “Not to be sold in the U.S.A or U.K.” and this was ♣ **banned in France until 1968**.

◆ Shifreen & Jackson A83g. Publisher's yellow wrappers lettered in black. Covers a little dusty and with spine bumped/creased, but overall clean and even fresh. (30171)

### . . . & Continued in another Volume . . .

**Miller, Henry.** The rosy crucifixion. Book three: *Nexus*. Paris: The Obelisk Press, June 1960. 12mo (17.8 cm, 7"). 378, [2] pp. **\$125.00**

◆ First English edition and first Obelisk Press edition of the final novel in a trilogy based on Henry Miller's life with his second wife (and, in this volume, her female lover, too), first published in Denmark in 1959 and then in France a month prior to the present volume.

◆ Shifreen & Jackson A120c; N. Pearson, *Obelisk: a history of Jack Kahane and the Obelisk Press*, A-68. Publisher's white wrappers lettered in red and black. Covers a little dusty, paper of spine a little crinkled, overall very good. (30181)

### The Book That Defined Miller's Career

**Miller, Henry.** *Tropic of Cancer*. Paris: The Obelisk Press, January 1939. 8vo (19.3 cm, 7.6"). [1-6], 7-[318], [2] pp. **\$225.00**

◆ Fifth Obelisk printing of the book that “afforded [Miller] his literary voice” (Shifreen & Jackson).

“I start tomorrow on the Paris book: first person, uncensored, formless — fuck everything!” So wrote Miller to Emil Schnellock in 1931. Three years later, after some financial difficulty, Jack Kahane published *Tropic of Cancer* at Obelisk in Paris with money Anaïs Nin borrowed from a psychoanalyst. It is the story of Miller's first year in Paris, living hand-to-mouth as a struggling writer.

This edition is the same as the fourth edition in all but wrappers (and the same as the third in pagination, except for necessary variations on the copyright page: “Fifth printing” and “Reprinted January 1939”); our copy's **☛ binding is blue and white, lettered in black**, not the light green wrappers lettered in darker green called for by Shifreen & Jackson.

◆ Shifreen & Jackson A9h. Binding as above; wrappers faded and creased along the spine, upper joints cracking. A copy that clearly was read more than a few times. (30191)

### “Enough, Gamiani, Enough”

**[Musset, Alfred de; & George Sand].** *Gamiani or two passionate nights* by Baron Alcide de M\*\*\*. Paris: Mont Venus Press, [1952]. 12mo (19 cm; 6"). 134 pp. **\$75.00**

◆ Tales of of rape, remorse, passion, fear, loathing, lesbianism, *ménages à trois* (two female, one male), bestiality, domination, auto-eroticism, and more. Authorship, at least of the first part, is attributed to Alfred de Musset, while the second part is attributed by some to his lover George Sand, whose sexological portrait may be congruent with that of the Countess Gamiani. The title-page states this to be “a literal translation of the original French edition (Brussels, 1833),” which was a runaway bestseller.

The limitation opposite the title reads, “This edition printed for private circulation is limited to one thousand copies,” this copy not numbered. The publication date appears on the front wrapper but not on the title-page.

Sheryl Straight's online bibliography at eroticbibliophile dot com has a page devoted to Gamiani and lists this edition as number eleven among the twelve translations into English.

◆ Publisher's textured and printed wrappers. **☛ A very nice copy.** (30212)

### Not for the Faint

**[Nicolas-Edme Restif], Restif de la Bretonne.** *Pleasures and follies of a good-natured libertine*. Paris: Imprimerie Mazarine for the Olympia Press, 1956. 8vo (18.1 cm, 7.12"). 260, [8] pp. **\$25.00**

◆ Second Olympia Press edition of the French libertine novel *L'Anti-Justine, ou les délices de l'amour*, first published in 1798. Nicolas-Edme Restif (1734–1806) was nicknamed the “Voltaire of the chambermaids” for championing certain (often lesbian) liberties.

☛ **Don't be fooled by the “good-natured” title.** This celebrates “the voluptuousness of incest” and there are passages involving sexually-sparked dissection or perhaps vivisection; people get hurt here. The author was “anti-” de Sade's politics, not his sexual license.

◆ Publisher's red printed wrappers. A bit of wear at the extremities, else **☛ like new.** (30169)

### A Frenchman Invades

**Paterson, Carol [pseud. of Jacques-Henri Juillet].** *Nights in Scotland*. Paris: Grand Damier, 1956. 8vo (17.8 cm, 7"). 178, [4] pp. **\$85.00**

◆ First edition in English of the French erotic novel *Nuits écossaises* (1955), or “The Lost Castle,” published as part of the *Lustful Hoirs* [*sic* for Hours?]series.

Jacques-Henri Juillet (1919–89) wrote numerous books at Paris in the years 1952–60, under various pseudonyms: Rick Arnold, Yann R. Patrick, Yannick Williams, Roland Patrick, Jacques Marlet, and Carol Paterson.

The French could handle it, but a note on the rear cover is explicit: This book is not to be sold in England or the U.S.A, and is strictly “FORBIDDEN TO MINORS”!

◆ Publisher's wrappers, the same for the whole series: spine and front cover red with the title in a white garlanded oval on the front, white on the back with a printed warning (above); lightly worn at extremities, else like new. (30172)



### Coarse but Witty Words \*&\* Pictures

**Perceau, Louis.** La redoute des contrepèteries. Paris: C. Briffaut, 1959. 12mo. Frontis., 171, [3] pp.; 28 plts.

**\$100.00**

◆ Dedicated to the fine art of the suggestive spoonerism, this book collects a rather impressive number of phrases that go dirty if the French-fluent reader mentally transposes just a few letters. Perceau was a journalist, activist, and bibliophile as well as a prolific writer, editor, and publisher of erotic literature. His present work, first published in 1934 (not again until 1949) and appearing here as part of the “Coffret du Bibliophile Illustré” series, is illustrated by Jacques Touchet with **☛ a frontispiece and 28 double-side plates offering a total of 59 images** — comical, cartoonish visual interpretations of the questionable sentences.

◆ Publisher's printed paper wrappers, spine creased, very slight wear and dustsoiling to edges. Pages and plates clean. (30176)

### Marquis de Sade Translated by an American in Paris

**Sade, Donation Alpose Francois, comte, called Marquis de.** The bedroom philosophers. Paris: The Olympia Press, May 1953. 12mo (18.7 cm, 7.4"). 216, [4] pp. **\$150.00**

◆ First English edition of *La philosophie dans le boudoir* (1795), translated from the French by Austryn Wainhouse, a.k.a. Pieralessandro Casavini, an American Harvard graduate employed by the Olympia Press in Paris. Wainhouse primarily translated works by the Marquis de Sade, including the first unexpurgated English version of his *Justine* in 1953. He received the National Book Award in 1972 for his translation of Jacques Monod's *Chance and Necessity*.

◆ Publisher's gray wrappers printed in black and white. Spine paper creased and corners a tad bumped, else **☛ like new**. (30182)

### The Marquis de Sade's First Book — One of Olympia's First Printings

**Sade, Donation Alpose Francois, comte, called Marquis de.** Justine, or Good conduct well chastised. Paris: The Olympia Press, June 1954. 8vo (18.1 cm, 7.1"). 330, [4] pp. **\$200.00**

◆ Second Olympia Press printing of the **☛ first unexpurgated English edition** of de Sade's first published book, *Justine ou les malheurs de la vertu* (1791). First published by Olympia the year prior, *Justine* was translated from the original French by Austryn Wainhouse, a.k.a. Pieralessandro Casavini, as to whom see above.

◆ Publisher's yellow wrappers lettered in black with white stars and stripes on the front. Spine paper lightly scuffed and corners bumped, else bright and **☛ like new**. (30183)

### Is It Art?

**Scheid, Uwe.** Das erotische Imago II. Das Aktphoto von 1900 bis heute. Dortmund: Harenberg, 1986. 12mo (17.5 cm, 6.89"). Vol. II of two. 190, [2] pp. **\$25.00**

◆ Erotic photographs of the 20th century, presented as a history of the provocative genre with notes exploring the technical and moral dimensions of “artful” nudes. Uwe Scheid (1944–2000) was a prominent collector of erotic art daguerreotypes and photographs especially from the period 1840–1940.

This is no. 485 in the series *Die bibliophilen Taschenbücher*, “pocket books for bibliophiles,” published two years after the first volume, *Der Akt in frühen Photographien* (no. 449, 1984).

◆ Publisher's black wrappers printed in white, with a photo of a naked woman on front cover; extremities ever so slightly rubbed, else like new. (30175)

### Preparation for the Wedding Knight

**Sermaise, Robert, pseud.** The fleshly prelude. Paris: The Vendôme Press, [1939?]. 8vo (19.5 cm, 7.7"). 198 pp.

**\$40.00**

◆ Early edition in English. In this “realistic novel,” an uncle advises his nephew on bedding his beloved new bride as **☛ politely** as possible — the “prelude” refers to serious foreplay — with the happy result that ecstasy accompanies affection. (It is notable, and for the genre remarkable, how much this couple likes each other.) The first French edition, *Prélude charnel*, was published by Robert Denoël (Éditions la Bourdonnais) at Paris in 1934.

The Vendôme Press was jointly owned by Henri Babou and Jack Kahane of the Obelisk Press.

*Provenance:* Old bookseller's label on title-page for a Paris dealer in technical books!

◆ Publisher's flesh-colored and white wrappers lettered in black and white, with a white vignette of bride and groom on the front; wrappers separating from the text block, paper at spine base peeling to reveal quires beneath. Dusty and clearly well read, but relatively clean for a “dirty book”! (30188)



### Oral Fixations

[Swinburne, Algernon Charles]. *Flossie*, a Venus of fifteen. By one who knew this charming goddess and worshipped at her shrine. No place [France]: Cleopatra Press, no date [ca. 1955]. 12mo (17.1 cm, 6.7"). 64 pp. \$160.00

◆ First published ca. 1897, *Flossie* is said to have been written by English poet Algernon Charles Swinburne (1837–1909) about a love affair of his, although no attribution has been definitively proven. There is evidence, at least, of Swinburne's interest in libertine literature; according to the *DNB*, “[He] became obsessed with [the Marquis] de Sade and *La nouvelle Justine, ou, Les malheurs de la vertu*, frequently quoting or burlesquing this work in his letters.”

The story concerns a young man who gets involved with an older lady friend and her young protégée, Flossie, who is permitted to do any sexual act provided she remain a virgin. This edition of *Flossie* was printed for the Erotica Biblion Society of London and New York. It is no. 2 in the Social Studies of the Century series.

Scarce, WorldCat finding • **no copies** of *Flossie* with the same pagination and publisher combination.

◆ On Swinburne, see: *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography* online. Publisher's stone green wrappers lettered in black. In every aspect but age, quite • **new**. (30189)



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