

On June 7, 1990, Jacques Guérin, the illustrious bibliophile, offered 64 "Exceptional Books" for sale.

Under n°41, he described Lapeyrou's *Poétique de la musique*, 2 volumes bound in red morocco with the arms of the dauphin Louis-Joseph-François-Xavier de France, the eldest son of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette, who died in June 1789, at the age of eight, with this comment: "The volumes bound with the arms of this young prince are extremely rare and we have listed only two - including this one - in the private domain".

These two volumes were sold for nearly 200,000 F ( $\approx$  30,000 €) 23 years ago, surpassing the previous lot, No. 40, Queen Marie Antoinette's *Manon Lescaut*, which was then sold for 160,000 F plus expenses (27,500 €).

Jacques Guérin was aware of the existence of the present copy - this famous second copy listed in the private domain which he mentions - but this time it is a text of universal importance and an edition dedicated to King Louis XVI, who is none other than the father of Louis-Joseph-François-Xavier de France.

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**HOMERE.** L'ILIAD ET L'ODYSEE traduction nouvelle dédiée au Roi (Louis XVI). Avec des notes géographiques, historiques et littérales, dont la Partie qui rapproche la géographie ancienne des noms modernes, a été rédigée par M. Mentelle, Historiographe de Monseigneur le Comte d'Artois. Paris, Serviere, 1784.

8 volumes 12mo, green morocco, contemporary binding.

166 x 95 mm.

Beautiful edition of the complete works including *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* (volumes I to VII). The last volume contains the *Batrachomyomachia*, the Hymns, and other pieces attributed to Homer.

Remarkable copy of the edition of the *Fight of the Rats and the Frogs* and of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* dedicated to King Louis XVI, bound in contemporary green morocco with the coat of arms of the dauphin Louis-Joseph-François-Xavier de France, eldest son of Louis XVI and Marie-Antoinette, who died in June 1789, at the age of eight.

"The volumes bound with the arms of this young prince are extremely rare and we have only listed two in the private domain" (Jacques Guérin, *Livres exceptionnels. Provenances illustres*, Paris, 7 June 1990, n°41).

The *Batrachomyomachy* or *Fight of the rats and the frogs*, a burlesque poem attributed in antiquity to Homer, deals, with a solemn tone and a whole epic apparatus, with a subject similar to those of Aesop's Fables: a rat who has come to quench his thirst in a swamp is invited by a frog to climb on his back to visit his house; but the frog, frightened by the sight of a water snake, rushes into the water, and our rat drowns. From there is born a bloody war preceded by a solemn assembly of the divinities of Olympus. Zeus invites Athena to intervene in favor of the rats which populate a great number of his temples; but Athena, irritated as well against them because they gnawed her peplum as against the frogs which disturbed her sleep, does not want to take part in the fight and advises the others to do the same: also the frogs are put to evil. But Zeus, taken with pity, throws his thunderbolts: frightened, the rats do not know where to turn, and find themselves face to face with the terrible army of crayfish; bitten and pursued by the latter, the rats are finally put to flight. The poem belongs to a pleasant genre of which the Antiquity knew other examples: the comic is born from the contrast between the solemnity of the epic tone and the simplicity of the subject.

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**19 000 €**

