

AGRIPPA, Camillo.

Trattato di scientia d'arme, con un dialogo di filosofia. "The fine illustration has been attributed to I. A. Michelangelo (a friend of the author)."

Reference: LCS-18609

Edition originale rarissime, "fort recherchée à cause des figures" (Brunet). Roma, Ant. Blado, 1553. In-4. Figures, 4 ff. ; 70 ff ; 1 f. Plein maroquin rouge janséniste, dos à nerfs, filets or sur les coupes, roulette intérieure, tranches dorées; infimes restaurations sans manque à deux planches. Reliure du XIX^e siècle signée de Chambolle-Duru. 225 x 171 mm.

Comment: Edition originale rarissime. «Belle édition, fort recherchée à cause des figures qui sont dans le style de l'école de Marc-Antoine. Il y en a deux grandes, l'une au commencement du livre et l'autre avant le dialogo. Les figures d'escrime sont au nombre de 55, plus, au frontispice, le portrait de l'auteur. Ce livre, qui s'est souvent donné pour 10 ou 12 fr. est plus cher aujourd'hui; on l'a même payé jusqu'à 170 fr. à la vente Riva, en 1856, ce qui est excessif. Jos. Molini en a possédé un exemplaire sur le frontispice duquel se lisait ces mots écrits de la main du Tasse: le figure intagliate da Michel Angiolo Buonarroti. Les éditions de Venise, par Pinagetto, 1568, et presso Roberto, 1608; in-4 fig. sont moins belles et moins chères que celle de Rome.» (Brunet I, 115). « A côté de l'intérêt qu'offre ce Traité de l'escrime ancienne, le bibliophile remarquera les gravures, qui sont de l'école de Marc-Antoine. (.) Un autre côté intéressant pour nous, de cet ouvrage, est de connaître qu'il a été consulté par Saint-Didier dont le Traité parut en France vingt ans après." (Vigeant). First edition of this beautifully illustrated, very important early fencing-treatise, by the highly educated author who introduced a practice reduction in the number of guards to only 4, and who was the first swordsman to have advocated the almost sole use of the point of the sword. "Seventeen years after the first appearance of Marozzo's system of fencing, the printer Antonio Blado published in Rome (.) a remarkable work on swordsmanship, which advocated some very bold and new principles. (.) Agrippa is better known to biography as architect, mathematician, and engineer, in which capacity he wrote sundry books. He is especially celebrated for having brought to a successful issue the operation of raising the needle in the middle of the Piazza di San Pietro. (.) Agrippa devoted much of his time to practice in the schools of fence. Not being a teacher, he was not shackled by any conventions, and accordingly the book is original and much in advance of the popular notions of his days." (Castle). The fine illustrations have been attributed to i.a. Michelangelo (a friend of the author) and to Jan van der Straat. The immense popularity of the author is depicted in one of the full-page illustration: it shows Agrippa surrounded by friends from Venice and Rome, the Venetians dragging him away, the Romans trying to retain him in Rome. Précieux et bel exemplaire de ce précieux et rarissime volume. Ref. En Garde 26 ; Thimm p. 3f ; Pardoel 15; Vigeant p.23f ; Castle, Schools and masters of fence p. XXV and p. 45 ; Cockle 745 ; Lipperheide 2948 ; Harvard, Italian, 6.

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