TWO LANDMARK BOOKS IN THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES

JACOB, LOYUS
Traicté des plus belles bibliothèques publiques et particulières, qui ont à present dans le monde. Divisé en deux parties. Paris: Rolet le Duc, 1644

BOUND WITH

GABRIEL NAUDÉ

$7500.00

First edition of the Jacob Traicté, an important primary source description of the libraries of France (as well as of other countries) when Mazarin dominated 17th century politics and France was the cultural capital of Europe. “This work addresses a relatively wide audience, ranging from the curious amateur to the professional librarian. The author presents his project in a preface “To the reader.” It states in part that his work aims only at libraries composed of a minimum of three to four thousand volumes. Each library is the subject of a brief description giving highlights of the library (and of the owner in the case of a private library) and of books that constitute it. These descriptions are presented chronologically and divided by the geographic location of the libraries. The book thus covers an historical period and a large geographical area ranging from Egyptian, Greek and Roman civilizations through to the large European libraries (e.g. the Vatican Library) of the 16th and early 17th century and even including collections held in Asia.” - cribbed from a French record done by the Ecole Nationale Superieure des Bibliothecaires; thanks to David Richtmyer for this. Jacob’s book has just recently been translated into English by John Warwick Montgomery (The libraries of France at the ascendency of Mazarin; Louis Jacob’s Traicté des plus belles bibliothèques) published in Germany by VKW; it is not as of February 2016 available in America. OCLC locates ten copies of the Jacob book in American libraries.

The Naudé Advis was originally published in Paris in 1627; it was revised by the author himself for this second edition. Naudé and Jacob were friends and colleagues and it is said by Archer Taylor that Naudé inspired Jacob to write his book. The Naudé is well known to the English speaking world; it was translated into English by John Evelyn and published in London in 1661. His Advis “advised collectors to buy books on all subjects, taking pains to seek out the best commentaries and critical editions; the contents were all important, and nothing was to be bought on account of its antiquity, appearance or associations.” - Hobson, Great Libraries, p. 14. Both the Jacob and the second edition Naudé are usually found bound together (they were issued by the same publisher). This edition of the Naudé is rare; OCLC locates but three copies in this country: U of Ill., Columbia, Grolier.