

FIRST SESSION

TUESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 9TH

179. COMIC ALMANACK, THE, 1835-53. Plates by G. Cruikshank, a few COLOR (a few plates slightly discolored), and woodcuts. Nineteen vols. in 9, 12mo and 16mo, full blue polished calf, gilt backs, gilt tops, original covers bound in, by ZAHNSDORF, (Goodwin) London, 1835-53

FIRST EDITION OF EACH VOLUME. With most of the advertisements. The vols. for 1845 and 1848 are of the second issue.

180. CONFEDERATE PRIVATEERS COMMISSION. [Broadside]. Headed Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States of America. N.p., 1861. Oblong folio, slightly frayed.

181. COPTIC TEXTILE. A piece of Coptic textile. Height 5; width 5 inches. Egypt: 5th Century, A.D.

AN INTRIGUING ILLUSTRATIVE SPECIMEN displaying two rows of merrily dancing cherubim. There are worn places, but this specimen is in good condition. The upper row displays four angels embroidered in dark blue and light reds. Dark colored horizontal bands separate the designs above and below. The embroidered designs are also carefully finished on the reverse side.

182. COPTIC TEXTILE. A piece of Coptic embroidery displaying two fields of design. Height 11; length, 12 1/2 inches. (Cohn)

Egypt: 5th Century, A.D.

IN GOOD CONDITION despite the few worn spots and the two small pieces torn out of the lateral margins. The cloth is the color of gold and the highly decorative pattern is in rich brown, with a few touches of green threads. The pattern is lionine with the lion motif repeated. In the centers are medallions, each differing in design. A MOST INTERESTING SPECIMEN.

A SIGNED CORVINUS CODEX

183. CORVINUS CODEX PIUS II. POPE [Enea Silvio de' Piccolomini]. Collected writings. Illuminated manuscript on vellum. 327 leaves. Written in a fine humanistic hand, 31 lines to the page. First page within a beautiful Renaissance border of interlacing vine-tendrils in green, blue, vermillion, and burnished gold. In lower part of the border the painted coat of arms enclosed in a laurel wreath, also a large ornamental initial "P" in burnished gold on colored ground. There are, in addition, over 60 large initials, most of them in burnished gold on a colored ground of interlaced white stem-work. Small folio (11 1/4 by 3 inches), contemporary brown leather on

[Continued]

\$1250⁰⁰



[NUMBER 183]





Number 133—Concluded

wooden boards, worn, on the sides several concentric frames formed by blind fillets and a pattern of interlaced ropework. Four clasps and catches (two in front, one on top, one at the bottom). (*Baltimore Private Collector*)

[Italy, 1464-5]

This beautifully written codex consists of two parts, the Letters, written between 1360 and 1364 by Pope Pius II, who is better known as *Eneas Silvius de' Piccolomini*, and the History of the House of the Hunyadi in Hungary. It is the splendid work of an Italian calligrapher, who twice signs as "*Leonardus Iul'*" (on 44 verso and 1332 recto). We know, as the scribe of another codex written for *Matthias Corvinus*, King of Hungary (1440-1490), who in his days had the largest library in Europe. He kept these scribbles continually employed at Buda, and several more at Florence, among them the famous *Attavante*. Unfortunately his palace and library of many thousand codices were destroyed when Buda was taken by the Turks after the battle of Mohács in 1526. Very few volumes were rescued and they are now to be found in a few great libraries (only two *Corviniana* are in the *Pierpont Morgan Library*, New York). Some of these codices cannot be longer identified because later private owners changed the coat of arms. It is truly believed that the present volume passed into the hands of a Hungarian nobleman who had King Matthias' arms on the first leaf replaced by his own. Text written, and binding suggest that it also came out of the treasure-house at Buda.

For additional information about the *Corvinian* codices see A. de Hevesy, *La Bibliothèque du Roi Matthias Corvin*, Paris 1923, and especially Fraknoi, Fögel, Gulyás & Hoffmann, *Bibliotheca Corvina*, Budapest 1927.

[See illustrations on the two preceding pages]

65 131. COX, PALMER, *The Brownies' Latest Adventures*. Illustrated by the author. Small 160. wrappers, dent. In a blue morocco-backed cloth case.

New York [1910]

FIRST EDITION. Proof copy retained by the printer. One the front wrapper is written in ink "job 5. 153 and 1892 of 1910". The eighth volume in Cox's well known series of "Brownie" books.

IN CONTEMPORARY RED MOROCCO

40 135. COWLEY ABRAHAM, *Works* . . . Consisting of Those which were formerly printed: and Those which he Design'd for the Press. Now published out of the Authors Original Copies. Portrait by Faithorne. Small folio, FULL CONTEMPORARY RED MOROCCO with a rich, delicately gilt tooled pattern on back and sides, conventional floral decorations and pontillé, gilt edges; a few leaves time discolored. In a cloth case. (*Greenhill*)

London, 1680

THE BINDING IS IN A FINE STATE OF PRESERVATION having successfully evaded restorations. A most desirable and characteristic specimen of delicately tooled binding of the period. Note in the volume states that the portrait is in the third state, and also that this volume is from the library of Felix Slade.

