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ANTIQUARIAAT FORUM

Dear Friends & Clients,

Listed below are 12 interesting rare books and photo albums concerning Ceylon (present-day Sri Lanka). Visit our website for more items on this subject.

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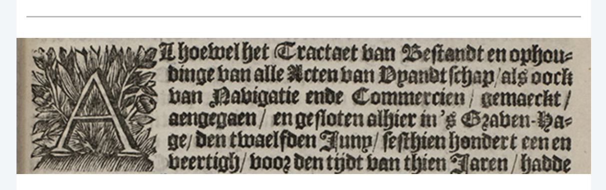
Ceylon

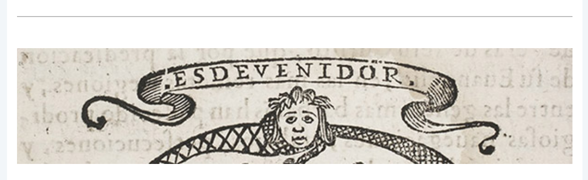


Provisional agreement between the Netherlands and Portugal over Ceylon

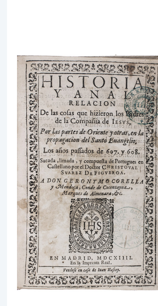
[CEYLON].
Provisioneel ende particulier tractaet, gemaeckt, gearresteert ende besloten in 's Graven-Hage, den 27. Martii, 1645. tusschen de heer Francisco de Zousa Continho, raedt ende ambassadeur van den doorluchtighsten grootmachtigen Koningh van Portugael, Algarves, &c. ...; ende de ... Staten Generael van de Vereenighde Nederlandtsche Provincien, &c. aengaende de controversie over de jurisdictie ende territorie van 't Fort Galle [in Ceylon], &c.

The Hague widow and heirs of Hillebrandt Jacobsz. van Wouw, 1645 [= The Hague, Paulus Scheltus, ca. 1697?]. 4to. Modern plain-paper wrapper.

☞ More information and images.



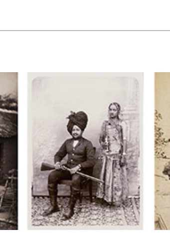
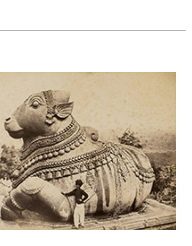
Rare account of the efforts of Jesuit missionaries in India (Goa, Cambay, Malabar Coast, Kochi, Madurai, etc.), South East Asia, the East Indies and Africa



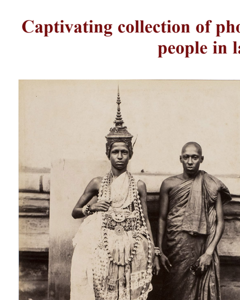
[GUERREIRO, Fernão (ed.)]. and Christobal SUÁREZ DE FIGUEROA (transl.).
Historia y anal relacion de las cosas que hizieron los padres de la Compañia de Jesus, por las partes de Oriente y otras, en la propagacion del Santo Evangelio, los años passados de 607. y en 608.

Madrid, Imprenta Real, sold by Juan Hasrey, 1614 (colophon 1613). 4to. With a woodcut IHS Jesuit device in a decorated cartouche on the title-page, the whole in a border built up from typographic ornaments and acorns; the large woodcut coat of arms of the dedicatee, Don Geronimo Corella y Mendoza; a large woodcut scrollwork tailpiece; 6 woodcut decorated initials (6 series); and headpieces built up from arabesque typographic ornaments. Set in roman types with extensive italic, some cut by François Guyot in Antwerp. 20th-century sheepskin parchment over flexible boards, turned in at the fore-edge, sewn on 3 alum-tawed thongs laced through the joints, with the title in thin textura lettering down the spine.

☞ More information and images.

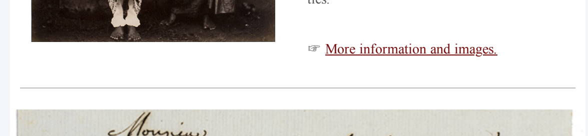
Captivating collection of photographs of notable sites, buildings and people in late-19th-century India



[INDIA - PHOTOGRAPHY]. [G.W. LAWRIE & Co.; Francis FRITH & Co. W.L.H. Skeen & Co. (photographers)].
[Collection of photographs of India].

[India], ca. 1880s-1890s. Photographs ca. 20 x 27 cm; boards ca. 34 x 27 cm. 80 albumen print photographs mounted on 56 boards, the majority with manuscript captions below the photographs. The photographs are mounted on paper boards, sometimes displayed in passe-partouts and kept in a blue-ish grey cardboard box and a large half red cloth and red and black decorated paper sides portfolio with red ties.

☞ More information and images.

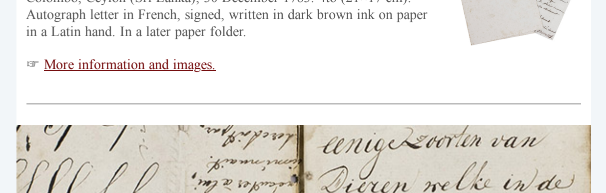


Letter from the VOC's governor of Ceylon

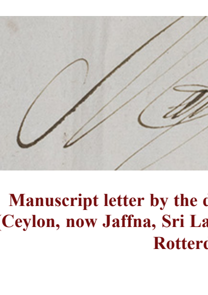
[AUTOGRAPH]. KRAYENHOFF, Cornelis Dionysius.
[Letter to Thomas de Saint Laurent].

Colombo, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), 30 December 1783. 4to (21×17 cm). Autograph letter in French, signed, written in dark brown ink on paper in a Latin hand. In a later paper folder.

☞ More information and images.



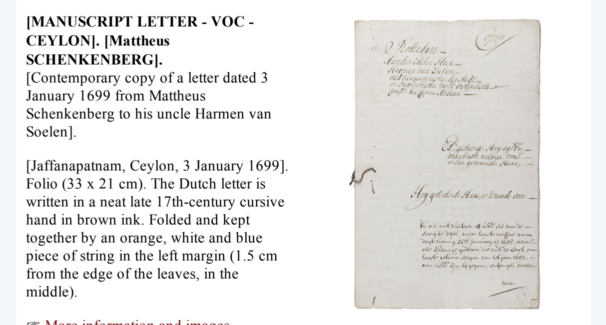
Short manuscript descriptions of various birds, animals, plants and trees found in the forests of Ceylon (Sri Lanka)



[MANUSCRIPT - CEYLON - NATURAL HISTORY].
Schets van eenige zoorten van dieren welke in de bosschen omstreeks Cijlon gevonden worden.

[Ceylon (Sri Lanka) and the Netherlands?], [18th or 19th century?]. 8vo (16.5 x 10.5 cm). Written in a late 18th-century or early 19th-century cursive in French and Dutch.
With:
(2) [MANUSCRIPT - FRENCH & DUTCH POEMS AND SONGS]. [Quelques Chansons]. Contemporary decorated paper wrappers.

☞ More information and images.



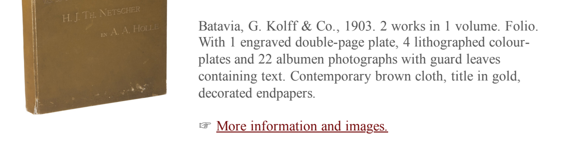
Manuscript letter by the director of the VOC fort at Jaffanapatnam (Ceylon, now Jaffna, Sri Lanka) to his uncle, a VOC and city official in Rotterdam, asking for support

[MANUSCRIPT LETTER - VOC - CEYLON]. [Mattheus SCHENKENBERG].
[Contemporary copy of a letter dated 3 January 1699 from Mattheus Schenkenberg to his uncle Harmen van Soelen].

[Jaffanapatnam, Ceylon, 3 January 1699]. Folio (33 x 21 cm). The Dutch letter is written in a neat late 17th-century cursive hand in brown ink. Folded and kept together by an orange, white and blue piece of string in the left margin (1.5 cm from the edge of the leaves, in the middle).

☞ More information and images.

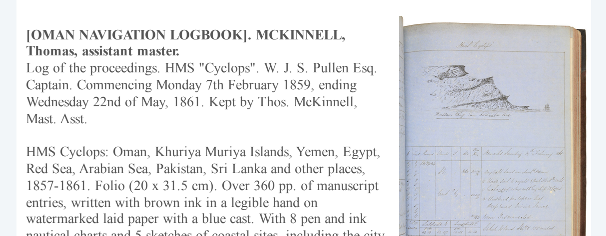
Tea and its cultivation in Asam and Ceylon investigated: presentation copy, with 22 original albumen prints



[CEYLON - TEA]. NETSCHER, H.J.Th., and Alexander Albert HOLLE.
Verslag eener reis naar de thee-districten van Britsch-Indie en Ceylon ondernomen door de heeren H.J.Th. Netscher en A.A. Holle in opdracht van de Cultuur Maatschappij Parakan-Salak.
Including:
Harold Hart MANN. Het ferment in het theeblad en zijne verhouding tot de hoedanigheid der thee.

Batavia, G. Kolff & Co., 1903. 2 works in 1 volume. Folio. With 1 engraved double-page plate, 4 lithographed colour-plates and 22 albumen photographs with guard leaves containing text. Contemporary brown cloth, title in gold, decorated endpapers.

☞ More information and images.

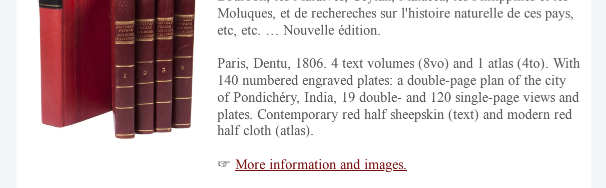


Manuscript log of a voyage from Suez through the Red and Arabian Seas to Bombay, Karachi and Colombo, with 8 excellent nautical charts and 5 beautiful sketches, including one of the city of Muscat

[OMAN NAVIGATION LOGBOOK]. MCKINNELL, Thomas, assistant master.
Log of the proceedings. HMS "Cyclops". W. J. S. Pullen Esq. Captain. Commencing Monday 7th February 1859, ending Wednesday 22nd of May, 1861. Kept by Thos. McKinnell, Mast. Asst.

HMS Cyclops: Oman, Khuriya Muriya Islands, Yemen, Egypt, Red Sea, Arabian Sea, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and other places, 1857-1861. Folio (20 x 31.5 cm). Over 360 pp. of manuscript entries, written with brown ink in a legible hand on watermarked laid paper with a blue cast. With 8 pen and ink nautical charts and 5 sketches of coastal sites, including the city of Muscat (8 on the logbook pages and 5 on separate thick album leaves). Contemporary brown cloth over boards, rebacked in period-style black calf with the spine lettered in gold: "Log H.M.S. Cyclops".

☞ More information and images.



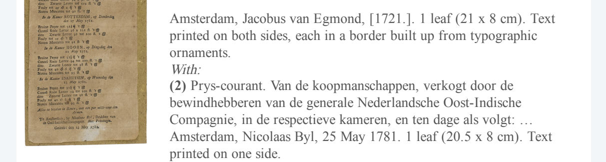
Much enlarged edition of a classic of natural history and discoveries in the Far East

SONNERAT, Pierre.
Voyage aux Indes Orientales et à la Chine, fait par ordre de Louis XVI, depuis 1774 jusqu'en 1781; dans lequel on traite des moeurs, de la religion, des sciences et des arts des Indiens, des Chinois, des Pégouins et des Madégasses; suivi d'observations sur le Cap de Bonne-Espérance, les îles de France et de Bourbon, les Maldives, Ceylan, Malacca, les Philippines et les Moluques, et de rechereches sur l'histoire naturelle de ces pays, etc, etc. … Nouvelle édition.

Paris, Dentu, 1806. 4 text volumes (8vo) and 1 atlas (4to). With 140 numbered engraved plates: a double-page plan of the city of Pondichéry, India, 19 double- and 120 single-page views and plates. Contemporary red half sheepskin (text) and modern red half cloth (atlas).

☞ More information and images.

First edition of Thunberg's famous journey to South Africa, Indonesia, Japan and Ceylon in the years 1770 to 1779, in Swedish.



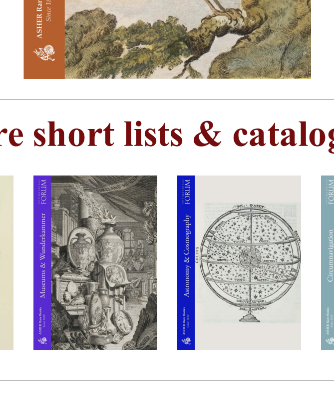
Unique manifest and price lists of colonial wares sold and brought in by the VOC in 1721, 1788 and 1853

[VOC - COLONIAL TRADE].
[Drop-title:] Generale carga, ofte lading van twee- en-twintig Oost-Indische retour scheepen; te weeten, Valkenisse, Steenhoven; … van Batavia; ... van Ceylon, voor de Kamer Amsterdam, ... Delft; ... Rotterdam; ... Hoorn en Enkhuyzen, ... zynde de Bataviase schepen, op den 15 November 1720 vertrokken, en die van Ceylon op den 15 November 1720, en alle behouden in de havenen dezer landen gearriveert.

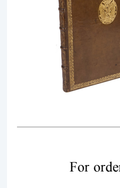
Amsterdam, Jacobus van Egmond, [1721.]. 1 leaf (21 x 8 cm). Text printed on both sides, each in a border built up from typographic ornaments.
With:
(2) Prys-courant. Van de koopmanschappen, verkogt door de bewindhebberen van de generale Nederlandsche Oost-Indische Compagnie, in de respectieve kameren, en ten dage als volgt: … Amsterdam, Nicolaas Byl, 25 May 1781. 1 leaf (20.5 x 8 cm). Text printed on one side.
(3) Prys-courant der ruwe suikers.
Amsterdam, printed for A.E. de Wit & sons, 1853. 1 leaf (17.5 x 8 cm). Text printed on one side.

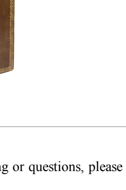
☞ More information and images.

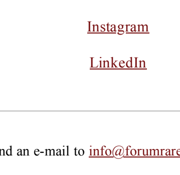
2024 Autumn Catalogue



More short lists & catalogues







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Kind regards,

Laurens Hesselink

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