

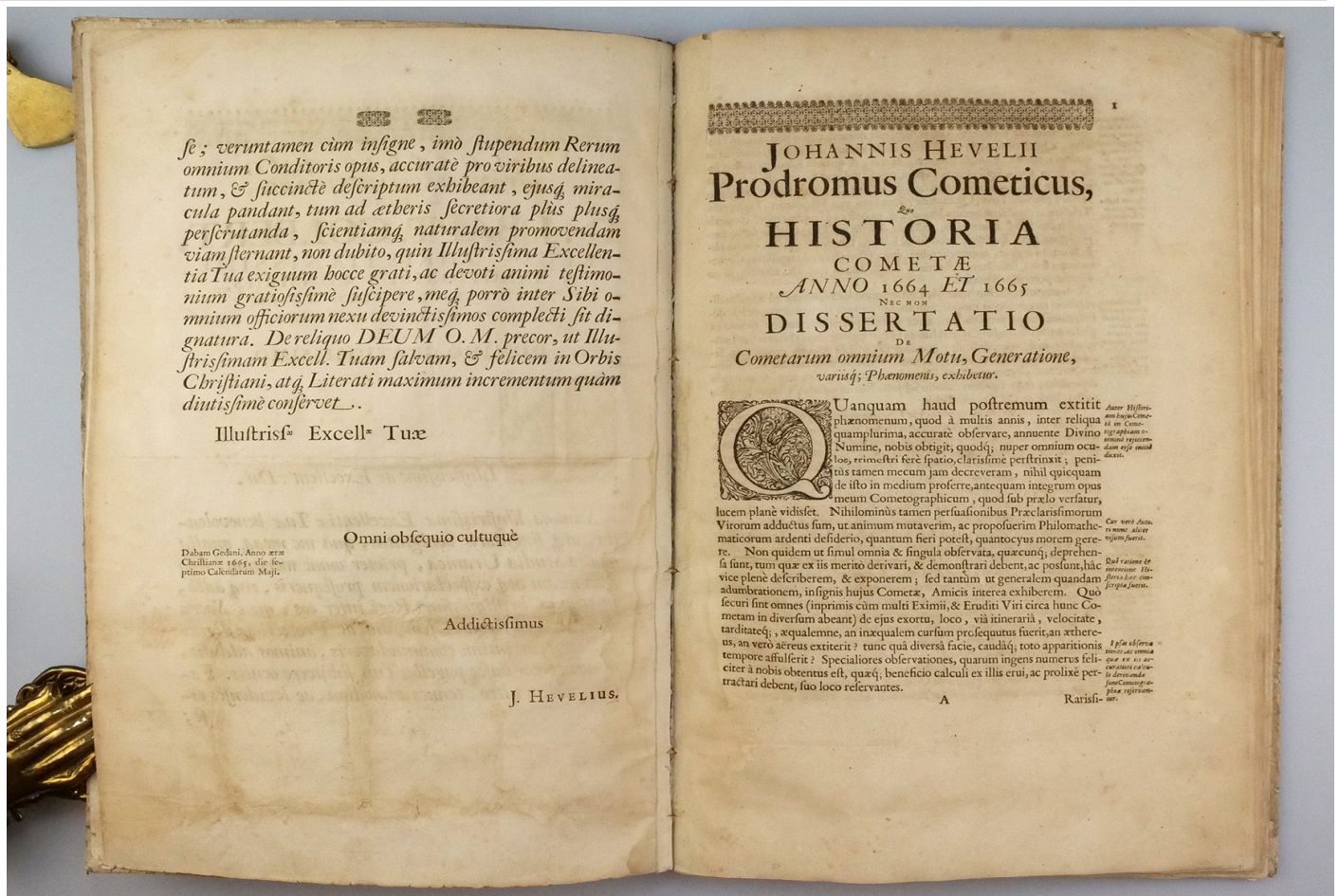


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Hellmut Schumann Antiquariat has an experience of nearly 200 years buying and selling excellent quality rare books. We are always looking to buy high quality books, especially first editions and manuscripts but we are also interested in buying entire libraries.



FIRST EDITION OF ONE OF THE FIRST SCIENTIFIC WORKS ON COMETS

HEVELIUS, Johannes. *Prodromus cometicus*, quo historia, cometæ anno 1664 exorti cursum, faciesque diversas capitæ ac caudæ accurate delineat completens; nec non Dissertatio de cometarum omnium motu, generatione, variisque phenomenis, exhibetur. Ad...Dn. J. Bapt. Colbert, Regis Christianissimi a Sanctoribus Consiliis,.... With engraving on title-page showing the city of Danzig, 3 engraved plates (1 double-page) numbered A-C, woodcut initials, head- and tailpieces. (2) ff., 64 pp. Folio (374 x 232 mm.). Contemporary boards. Gedani (i.e. Danzig/ Gdansk), Simon Reiniger for the author, 1665 (1666).

EUR 24800.-

First edition of a rarely found scientific book on comets by Johannes Hevelius (1611-1687). He took on the roles of observer, engraver, and publisher to ensure consistency between observation and publication. His fine and accurate engravings record the appearance and course of comets through the heavens in 1664-65. Along with Kepler and Cassini, Hevelius is the first to deal systematically and scientifically with comets. His observatory was considered the best in Europe (Dibner), and Hevelius' naked-eye observations were then famed for their accuracy. After Haller visited him in 1679 he could confirm to the Royal Society that whose position determinations were as accurate as those taken with the micrometric telescope Halley had brought with him. Hevelius' examination of the 1664 comet contains his observations that scholars prefer to speculate on the significance of the appearance of comets than their physical characteristics. His measurements and hypotheses about cometary motion contributed to the gradual shift from Aristotelian cosmology to a more Newtonian understanding of the solar system, although Newton's Principia would come later (1687). - Light occasional pale soiling, few partly large dampstains or brownings, some old repairs. Rare.

VD17 39:125104Y; not in Norman; cf. Dibner 10.