

LEO CADOGAN RARE BOOKS

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PLANT NOTES

[Botanical manuscript:] *[France] [c.1810-1840].*

9 vols., 8vo. (19.2 cms. x 14 cms. in binding). Approx. 3718 unnumbered pages (fols. c.[187], [250], [179], [174], [172], [185], [243], [221], [248]). Latin plant names and headings throughout, sometimes multiple per page, a third of the pages have further content besides these, or different content (notes and citations, French-language observational remarks, French-language notes on different types of fruit and vegetables, introductory schemata, fold-out tables, etc.) There are very occasional interim blanks. Headings in red and blue to vols. 7 and 8, some red ink to vol. 9. Occasional extra loose, folded-in material. Very good, bound in half-calf and block-printed paper boards, spines decorated in blind with blue and orange labels, pastedowns and endpapers of a block-printed white dot on blue pattern corresponding to that on the covers (the covers are of a darker tone). All edges red. (Bindings rubbed, vol. 9 with some peeling and cracking to spine and joint and wear to side, bindings on the whole very good).

Handsome and copious botanical manuscript containing entries for 3551 different plants, arranged according to Linnaean principles, with notes often added. The notes themselves include citations from botanical authorities, variations in nomenclature, etymology, and physical observations. The volumes were probably compiled prior to binding rather than written into as-bound notebooks - they have different numbers of pages, the endpapers appear to be of different paper stock, there are pages of different stock and sizes bound into the manuscript (including fold-outs). True perhaps to a manuscript that continued to evolve after binding, there are also crossings-out, pasteovers, and occasional loosely inserted MS and printed material.

Some of the plant names in the last volume are noted taken from the 'Encyclopédie Nouvelle', the unfinished encyclopedia incompletely issued in instalments from 1834. In the first volume is found loosely folded in a printed news report from 1811. These pieces of evidence may indicate the duration of the period in which the manuscript was compiled, and perhaps that the volumes were compiled sequentially. A testimony to many years of plant study, and the draw of plant systematisation.

[ref: 3211] **£3000**