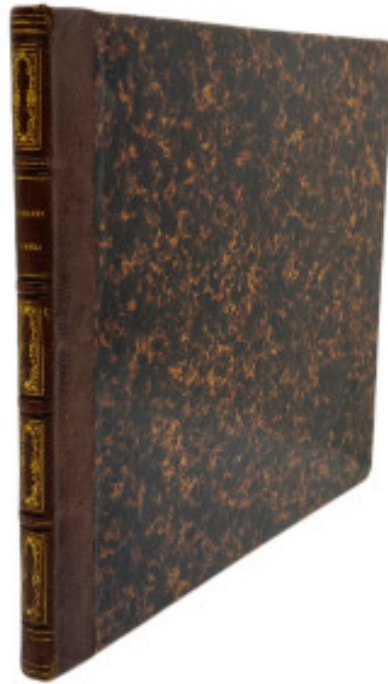




MARGARITA DE DIOS

GIOVANNI BATTISTA BETTI - ARTISTIC ALPHABET - 1785



Subject: Old book from the 18th century. Art. Alphabets. Calligraphy - Giovanni Battista Betti.

Publication: Florence, Pagni, 1785. Second edition.

Physical description: 22 x 26 cm. Frontis + 24 copper engraved plates. Half-bound leather binding (19th century).

Notes: Each sheet represents a letter of the alphabet, finely engraved and inserting inside the letter an allegorical-mythological decoration with natural motifs in sumptuous ornamental Rococo style. The mixture of the serious and the comic, the contrast of the Olympic figures with the playful animals and 'putti', dress the alphabet with a feigned and heroic mood. It combines the grandiose and the frivolous in a very eighteenth-century manner to please the taste of the fans to whom it is dedicated.

Biography of the author: Giovanni Battista Betti was an artist and engraver born in Florence in the first half of the 18th century. He developed his activity mainly in the Tuscan city -although some sources also mention him working in Rome- and there is information about Betti's activity in a period between 1754 and 1785. There he produced engravings of Maratta, Dürer, Guercino and Giambologna and was responsible for a series of portraits of artists. His engravings are preserved in the collections of the National Central Library in Florence, the Biblioteca Marucelliana and the Uffizi Gallery.

Conservation: Good condition. Paper with slight points of oxidation, somewhat denser in the first two sheets and the last two. Restorations of xylophages on the margins of the sheets. Pen signature on the previous owner's respect sheet.

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