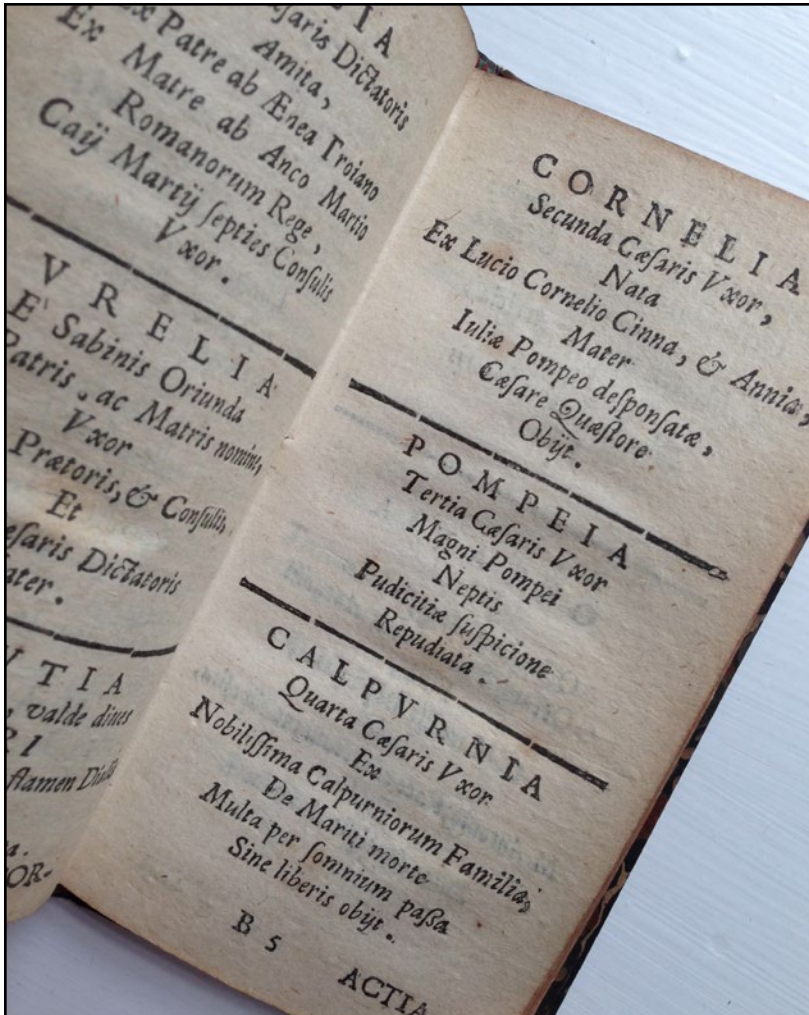


Zoe Abrams Rare Books

1. [BRICCI, Plautilla]. Mayer, Matteo [Elpidio Benedetti]. *Villa Benedetta*. Rome: Mascardi, 1677. \$650

12mo. 127, [1] pp., LACKING ALL THREE PLATES. One woodcut factotum initial and sparse woodcut ornaments. (Very light occasional foxing, first quire browned and trimmed close touching text.) Bound in recent marbled boards, title gilt to green leather spine label, edges speckled red.



FIRST EDITION of this 17th-century pocket guide describing the *Villa Benedetta*, better known as *del Vascello*, DESIGNED BY FEMALE ARCHITECT PLAUTILLA BRICCI (1616-1690) BUT LONG ATTRIBUTED TO HER BROTHER BASILIO (1621-1692), as in this contemporary account diminishing Plautilla's role. One of the earliest female architects, Plautilla received multiple commissions for major works; her relative obscurity today can be explained only by the sexism of the age.

Abbot Elpidio Benedetti, agent of Cardinal Mazarin and later Louis XIV, was owner of the villa and author of this guide (writing under the pseudonym Matteo Mayer). According to *DBI*, Plautilla was friends with Benedetti's sister Maria Eufrosia della Croce, a connection which may have led to her commission. For certain, Plautilla had a hand not only in the architectural design of the villa, but also in its paintings, for which she is better known.

The focus of this detailed guide book is on the decorative scheme, dominated by **complex iconography at once elevating and belittling women** – carved mottoes and rhyming couplets about women and wives (pp. 25-31);

painted portraits of famous women of France and Italy; and a series of 32 window carvings in Latin each devoted to a different illustrious Roman woman (pp. 31-44), all transcribed herein – along with the usual guide book fare describing the architecture and gardens. A visitor would also have seen dicta concerning courtiers, marriage, government, health, and more, throughout the interior and exterior. THE VILLA, LOCATED NEAR THE PORTA DI SAN PANCRAZIO, ROME, WAS VERY DAMAGED IN THE 1849 SIEGE OF THE CITY; THIS BOOK REMAINS A UNIQUE ACCOUNT OF ITS PRIOR SPLENDOR. The text paints a vivid picture despite this copy's lacking its plates.

Dedicated to Ludovico Landgravio d'Hassia, Prince of Hirsfeld and Count of Budinga. An augmented edition was published in 1694. In the U.S., we find only three locations of this edition (Columbia, UPenn, National Gallery); and only four of the 1694 (Columbia, Chicago, Getty, Notre Dame); and none in commerce.

2. [MIDWIFERY]. BOIVIN, [Marie-Anne Victoire], Mme. Veuve. *Mémorial de l'Art des Accouchemens... Deuxième Édition, Corrigée et considérablement augmentée...* [AND]: *Série des Planches... Avec des Notes...* Paris: Chez Méquignon l'ainé, père, Libraire de la Faculté de Médecine et des Hospices, 1817.

[WITH]: TWO MANUSCRIPT CERTIFICATES on printed stationery, folded and inserted: the first naming three distinguished midwifery students including Marie-Henriette Lempereur, and listing three articles instituting this book prize; the second certificate, dated 28 January 1820, is a *temporary diploma awarding the same Marie-Henriette Lempereur the title Sage-Femme (midwife)* based on her defense of 31 December. Both certificates bear the ink seal of the Prefecteur du Departement de L'Yonne. \$2000

Two vols., 8vo. I: [8], xxxii, 398 (r. 430), [2] pp. (final blank). **Signed by the author** on half-title verso to guard against counterfeits; with 6 plates, the first a table in text (plts. 4 and 5 with small tear at inner margin, plt. 5 browned at top). II: 141 ff., of which 136 plates, one after John Bell (plt. 10) and one signed Graveur Godard Allençon (plt. 129, but all of the plates except plt. 10 appear to have been done by the same firm). Bound alike in contemporary tree calf, gilt roll framing covers, spines gilt extra with two morocco labels each (red for title and green for volume), gilt edges and turn-ins, blue marbled endpapers, all edges gilt, ribbon place markers (a few minor scuffs, upper outer corners of vol. I rubbed revealing boards). **Prize bookplates in both volumes for Marie-Henriette Lempereur**, awarded second place in the Cours Théorique et Pratique d'Accouchemens on 31 December 1819 in L'Yonne, signed in manuscript by three professors of the course.

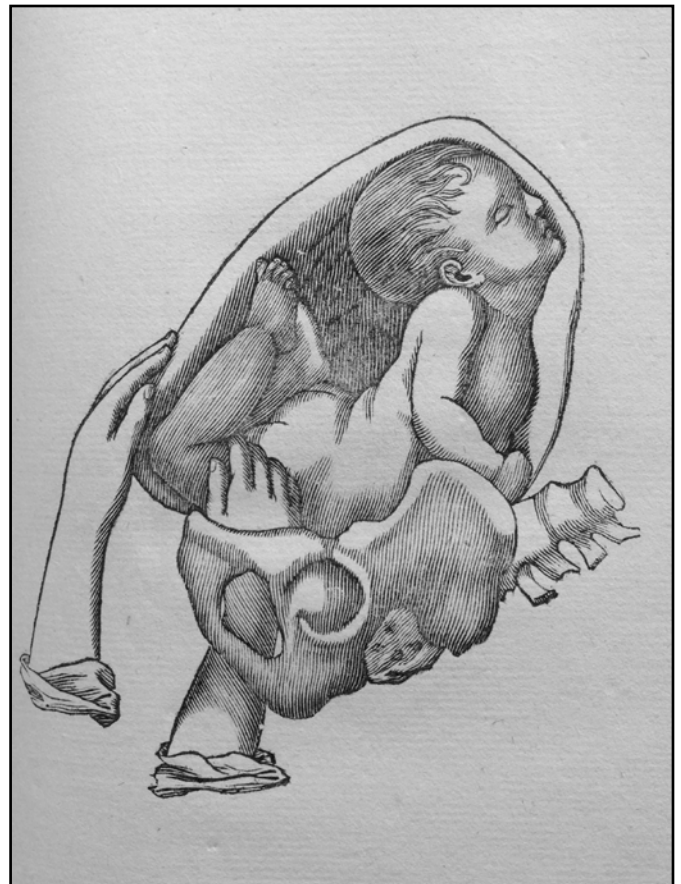
GRADUATING MIDWIFE'S PRIZE SET of this corrected and much enlarged second edition of Madame Boivin's essential MANUAL ON MIDWIFERY with folding tables and 136 ANATOMICAL PLATES. This elegant two-volume set was awarded to Marie-Henriette Lempereur upon distinguished completion of her midwifery course, for which she also received the aforementioned TWO MANUSCRIPT CERTIFICATES AUTHORIZING HER TO WORK AS A MIDWIFE AND AWARDING HER THESE BOOKS.

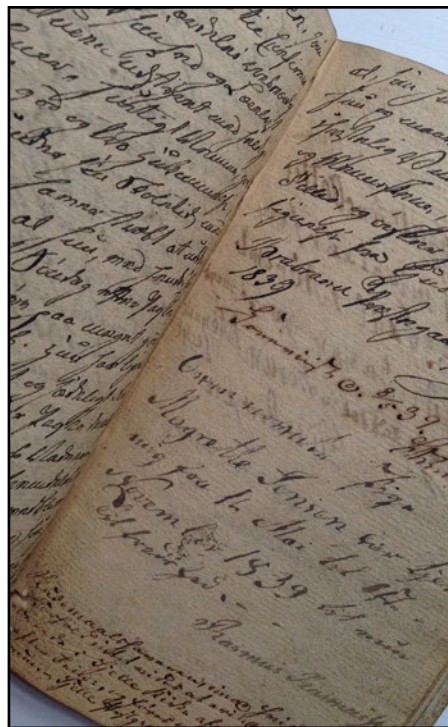
The author Marie-Anne Victoire Boivin (1773-1841) was a renowned midwife whose contributions to obstetrics were of the greatest importance: among other notable achievements she perfected the speculum and was one of the first people to use a stethoscope to listen for a fetal heartbeat. She was awarded honorary degrees by the universities of Marburg and Berlin; but never properly recognized by the French academy.

Garrison & Morton 6165 (first edition, 1812). Gay-Lemmonyer I, 862. NLM/Krivatsy 3586. Waller 2664. Wellcome I, 1975. Only three copies on COPAC (British Library, Oxford, and Wellcome).

3. JENSEN, Margrethe. *Skudsmaalsbog for Fruentimmer [Employment Book for Women]*. Aarhus: S. Marberg, 1838 [-1870]. \$500

8vo. 48 pp. plus added certificate at front (certificate and front pastedown foxed). First six pages printed articles concerning employment, after which blanks with





printed page numbers, of which pp. 7-20 filled in manuscript. Bound in original quarter calf over patterned paper boards, two deliberate holes in lower inner corner of front cover for multicolored tie affixed to rear pastedown by wax, blue edges (boards faded and rubbed, leather spine chipped, tie retreated to title-page leaving small hole to certificate in its wake).

MORE THAN THIRTY YEARS OF EMPLOYMENT HISTORY FOR ONE DANISH WOMAN, documented in as many reviews written by her various employers. Starting in 1832, servants in Denmark were required to maintain such reference books describing their duties and character, and to have them signed by an employer and/or local authority upon moving to a new post. This passbook – dating from just a few years after the law instituting employment passbooks – sheds light not only on the movements of one female servant, but also on 19th-century Danish domestic duties and employment practices in general.

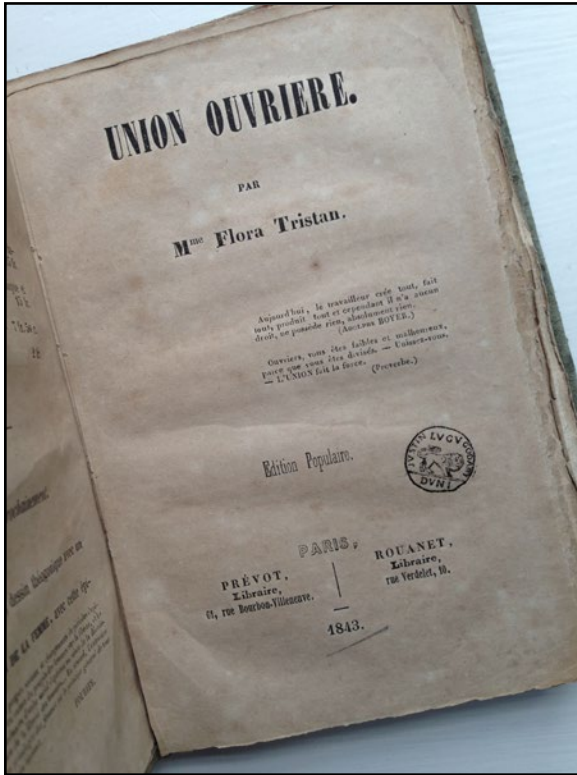
4. [OBSTETRICS]. Chrestien, A.-T. *Discours prononcé le 18 Avril 1838, a l'Ouverture de son cours annuel d'Accouchemens...* Montpellier: J. Martel Ainé, 1838. \$120

8vo. 28 pp. (occasional light foxing but paper still very fresh.) Removed from a nonce volume with traces of glue on spine.

FIRST EDITION of this speech delivered by the instructor at the opening of his obstetrics course at the Montpellier medical school, advocating “*l’enseignement libre*.” In its review of the history of obstetrics the article refers to *the important role of SAGES-FEMMES (MIDWIVES), naming Mme. Boivin [see no. 2, this list] among the most influential*, and outlines specific medical advancements in the 19th century relevant to the profession. [Not shown.]

5. [UTOPIAN SOCIALIST FEMINISM]. Tristan, Flora. *Union ouvrière. Edition populaire*. Paris: Prévot et Rouanet, 1843. \$2500

12mo. xx, 123, [1] pp. including a five-page list of subscribers, pp. xvi-xx, and author's advertisement on half-title verso (browned throughout with some foxing). Later newspaper article entitled "*Un précurseur de Marx à Lyon*," discussing Tristan and her work, including this book, tipped in at end. Bound in blue cartonnage, vellum spine (recased without endpapers, one quire loose, edges of final two leaves sunned). Ex libris Justin Godart (1871- 1956), Lyonnais politician and bibliophile, with his small stamp on title-page.



FIRST EDITION OF THIS SOCIALIST-FEMINIST ESSAY
(BY PAUL GAUGUIN'S GRANDMOTHER).

French-Peruvian activist Flora Tristan (Flore-Celestine-Thérèse-Henriette, Tristan-Moscato, 1803-1844) was among the first philosophers to link women's and workers' rights. In this, her most important essay, she calls on the proletariat to ORGANIZE AND SELF-EDUCATE TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS FOR WORKING MEN AND WOMEN, whom she regards as the very center of society. "*Dans la vie des ouvriers la femme est tout... – Si elle leur manque, tout leur manque... C'est la femme qui fait ou défait la maison...*" (p. 51): "In the life of workers the woman is everything..."

Tristan was greatly influenced by contemporary Utopian-Socialist thinkers such as the Saint-Simonians and Fourierists; however, she was revolutionary for SPEAKING TO WORKING MEN AND WOMEN DIRECTLY, as here, addressing her essay "*Aux ouvriers et aux ouvrières...*" (p. [3]). In fact, for this essay she had over 120 subscribers *including common working women and men* as well as famous women and men – Mademoiselle Emélie, "*ouvrière en modes*," and Pierre Moreau,

"*ouvrier serrurier à Auxerres*," were listed among other workers and their professions; and the famous George Sand, Marie Dorval, Louis Blanc, Paul Renouard, et al.

"[Tristan] realiz[ed] that the fight for workers and women's rights had to be a unified struggle. She also insisted that the emancipation of the working class could not happen without the liberation of women, since their subordinated position fractured the whole class. In this respect she was truly a pioneer in socialist feminism [bold, mine].... Her propositions were not merely theoretical, but very practical and focused on everyday needs: the proposed Union from her essay was envisaged as a body collecting dues of all members to pay for institutions dedicated to education and safety – primarily of women and children. She proposed that unions should construct 'a series of "worker's palaces" to educate their children, to aid "the wounded of work," and to care for the aged'..." (Moses).

Another edition, more common, was published the following year. Of this original edition we find only one location in the U.S. (NYPL), plus seven more worldwide of which three in France.

C. G. Moses, *French Feminism in the Nineteenth Century* (Albany: State University of New York Press, 1984), p. 109. See also: D. and P. Beik, *Flora Tristan: Utopian Feminist: Her Travel Diaries and Personal Crusade* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993).

6. [Smith, Josephine]. *[Group of employment documents]*. Augusta and West Gardner, ME, 1863-1868. \$200

5 ff. and two envelopes, comprising: one printed report card completed in manuscript; three manuscript letters of examination/recommendation; a printed teaching certificate completed in manuscript; and two original envelopes addressed to Miss Josephine Smith (letters folded, creases in teaching certificate and report card, envelopes lightly dustsoiled with a few short tears).

According to her report card from Augusta High School, 1863, Miss Smith received highest marks in all her subjects: Deportment, Spelling, Arithmetic, History, and Latin. The card was signed each week by her father, Charles A. Bennett. The accompanying documents suggest she *sought employment as a (summer) school teacher* in nearby West Gardner four and five years later; the three letters of examination/recommendation, dated December 1866, June 1867 and June 1868, attest to her “moral character” and “capacity for the government and discipline of a school,” as well as her abilities in various subjects. *[Not shown.]*

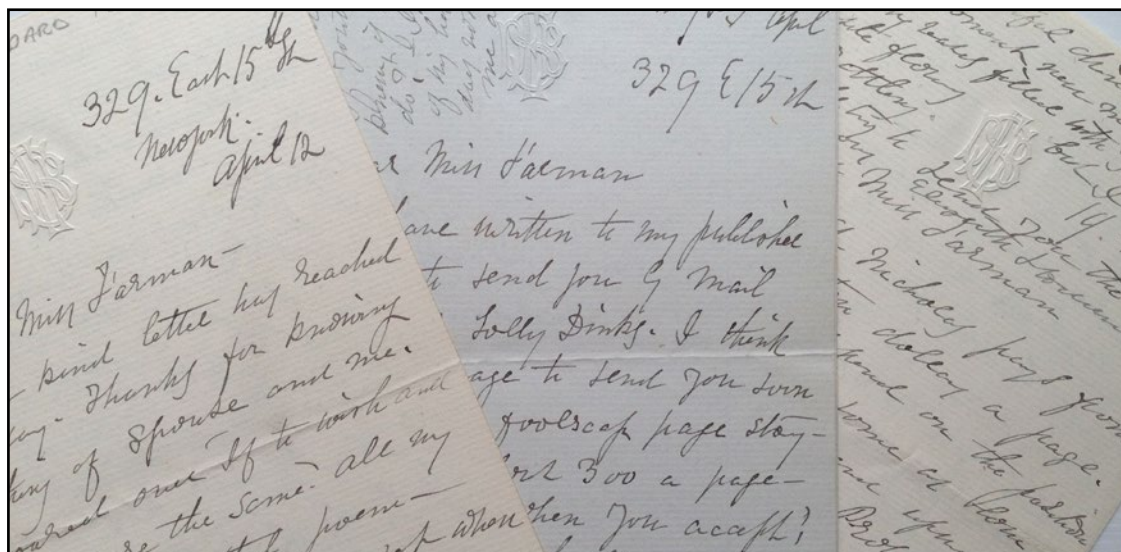
7. [STODDARD, Elizabeth Drew Barstow]. *[Three Manuscript Letters]*. New York City, April 12-May 23, [1875?]. \$500

Three autograph letters in ink to “Miss Farman” (Eliza Anna Farman Pratt, aka Ella Farman, 1837–1907), all signed: 12 pp. on three sheets of E.D.B.S.-embossed stationery, 17.5 x 11.2 cm (folded), all written from Stoddard’s New York City address (329 E. 15th St.). Together in protective mylar sleeve.

A REVEALING GROUP OF LETTERS FROM ONE FEMALE WRITER TO ANOTHER COMPLAINING ABOUT MONEY AND CRITIQUING OTHER AUTHORS.

Elizabeth Drew Barstow Stoddard (1823-1902) wrote three successful novels – *The Morgesons* (1862), *Two Men* (1865), and *Temple House* (1867) – and numerous short stories, and contributed regularly to some of America’s most popular 19th-century periodicals including Harper’s Monthly, Harper’s Bazaar, and The Atlantic Monthly. She was in fact a famous writer in her own day, if not financially successful, something she complains about frankly in these letters. Her style was exceptionally outspoken. In her own words here: *“I do say my say... My enemies say I have a bitter tongue, and my friends that I am alarmingly candid.”* [Letter II]

[Continued]



“Uncommon for her time, [Stoddard’s] work questions the conventions of gender roles and is rooted in an unsentimental, irreverent realism.” (Poetry Foundation online).

I: In this letter dated April 12, Stoddard thanks Farman for hers and “for knowing something of spouse and me.” She “roar[s] over” her husband’s poem, “If to Work and to Have Were the Same”; derides *The Atlantic*, to which she was in fact a frequent contributor (“I hate it and hate Boston minds...”); praises Farman’s “Two Girls”; asks about what writing she should send Farman; and COMPLAINS ABOUT MONEY, “I made a hundred and thirty dollars out of my three novels. The wretched Stoddards are the much celebrated pair in America for want of success. Chock full of reputation, but nary dollars...”; and advises Farman, **“Don’t make your magazine [Wide Awake] goody,” adding that Farman’s boss, publisher Daniel Lothrop (1831-1892), “must be an angel.” Lothrop hired Farman as editor in 1875, so we can presume this letter dates to shortly thereafter.** In a postscript on the final verso, Stoddard compares her earnings to her husband’s, “...his prices are high... I get good pay for articles – my Harper stories are 100...”

II: Dated April 23, this letter opens with Stoddard sending Farman a copy of “Lolly Dinks” (*Lolly Dinks’s Doings*, 1874, a children’s book) through her publisher, and asking about money for future stories (“I average about 300 [words?] a page – Do you pay when you accept? Latter years both [Mr.] Stoddard and myself are paid that way.”) She warns Farman, “don’t be too sanguine, I have seen so many such [publishing] enterprises go down,” following up with a list of failures including projects by Scribner’s, Appleton’s, Lippincott... “Literature is a poor crutch,” she scolds, unless Farman can “get a home circulation.” She suggests contacting Lucretia Hale, whose stories made Stoddard and Bayard Taylor (American writer, 1825-1878) “laugh till we ached.” *She praises Lewis Carroll, “If you could get her to write you could not fail...but you would have to pay,”* and then, always pressing her own agenda, “Can you give me twenty-five dollars a story?” She concludes proudly, “I do say my say...”

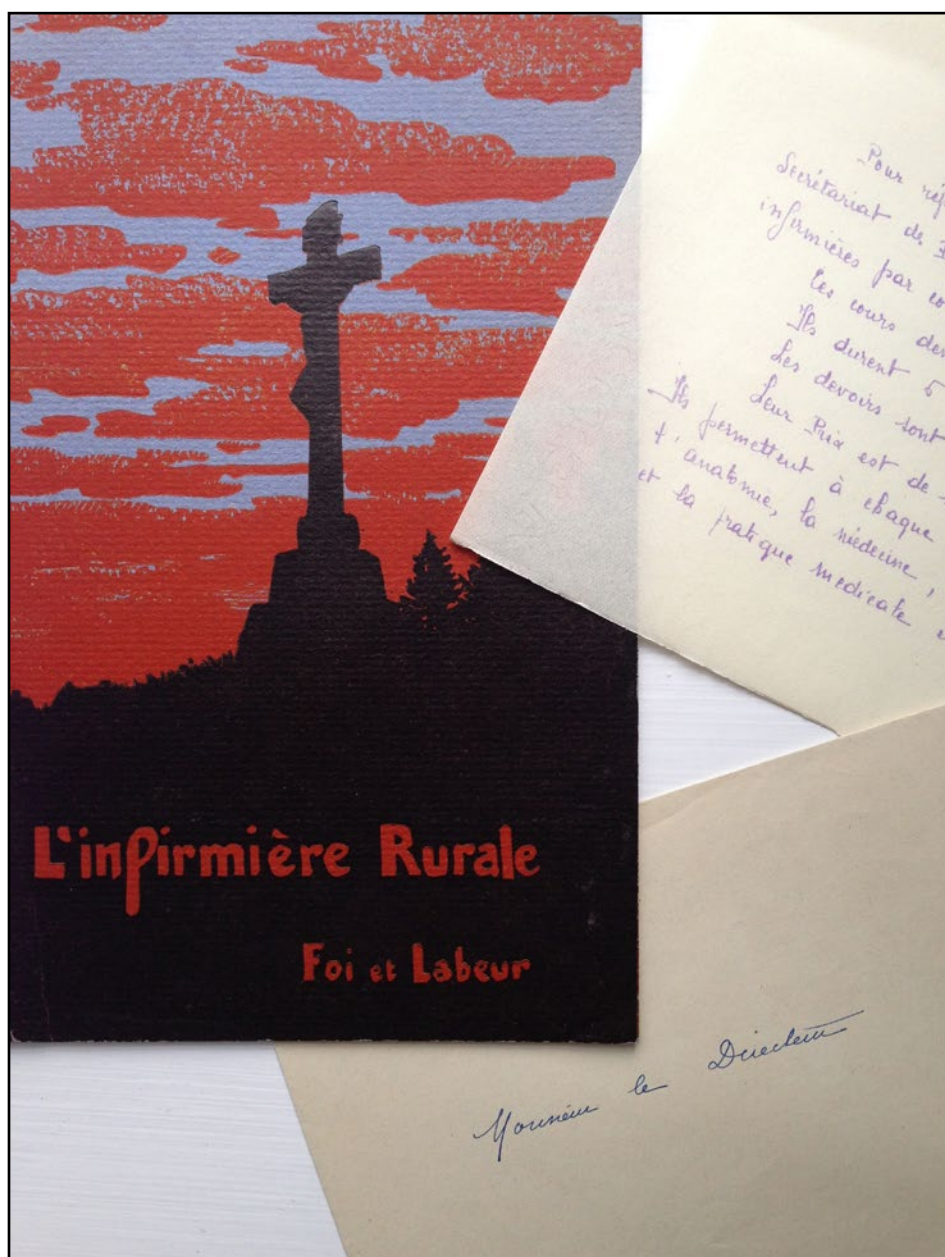
III: Dated 14 May, talking of money, as always, this letter begins, “The St. Nicholas pays from eight to ten dollars a page... I know that Miss Booth of the Bazar started with five thousand a year...” The next topic is a party, where Mr. Stoddard sat next to Julia Ward Howe (E.D.B.S. and her husband Richard Henry Stoddard, also a writer, were regulars in the New York City literary party scene), then onto more personal matters, “I sent you the last photograph of Lorimer [her son]... He is pretty good for a spoiled child...,” going on about his artistic ability. She laments getting older, “Now [Mr. Stoddard] is gray and broken...,” and then tries to console herself, “We love beautiful things, and have them – though our nose[s] are aware of the grind stone of poverty...,” concluding with a promise to send a story soon.

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8. [NURSING]. *“Foi et Labeur.” L’Infirmière Rurale dans la Pensée Catholique.* Nancy: Lucien Pagel, [ca. 1935]. [WITH]: *[Two-page manuscript letter and envelope from Secretary Mlle. Mayency to (unnamed) Director, dated 21 February 1935 at Nancy].* [AND]: *[Her one-page manuscript note concerning the course].* \$135

8vo. 13, [3] pp.; plus manuscript letter, envelope, and note (inserted). Stamp of *Infirmieres Rurales Catholiques* Nancy to letter recto. Booklet stapled in original illustrated wrappers (short tear on front cover).

DIRECTOR’S COPY of this pamphlet describing the purpose and function of the “rural nurse,” sent to him by the secretary of the *Infirmieres Rurales Catholiques* with her manuscript letter introducing the booklet and soliciting the Director’s help spreading the idea of rural nurses in the principal villages of France. The booklet comprises sections on Preparation and Formation; Diplomas; Organization; and Collaboration.



No. 8 [Nursing]

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