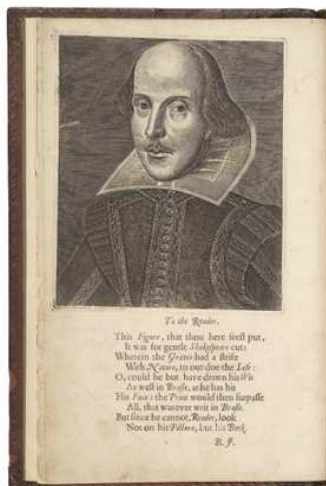


Pierre Bergé's Cache of Rare Books to be Auctioned at Sotheby's

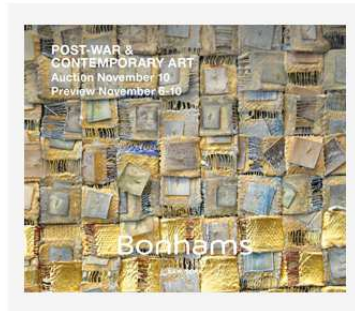
BY MICHELLE TAY | AUGUST 24, 2015



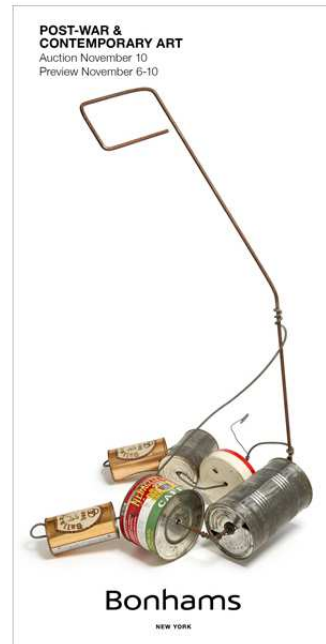
(l-r) William Shakespeare's "Comedies, Histories, and Tragedies" (London, 1664); Louise Labé's "Euvres de Lovize Labé Lionnoize" (Lyon, 1555); and Miguel de Cervantes' "El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha" (Lisboa, 1605)
(Courtesy Pierre Bergé & Associés/Sotheby's)

The fashion designer Yves Saint Laurent once declared of his partner Pierre Bergé: "The world will talk about a Goût Bergé, just as it speaks of a Goût Noailles."

As the \$484 million auction of the couple's art collection at Christie's in 2009 can attest to, this "Bergé taste" is the epitome of a keen eye, and a penchant for objects with great history and pedigree. Over the next two years, more examples of Bergé's fine collectibles are scheduled to go under the hammer in Paris — in the form of 1,600 precious books, manuscripts and musical scores from his personal library that date from the 15th to the 20th century. The sale, organized by Pierre Bergé Associés in association with Sotheby's, will take place at Drouot.



A literature buff, Bergé was known to seek out the works of his favorite authors in their original languages. As a young man, the couture boss, now 85, worked as an antiquarian book dealer, and gradually developed a passion for collecting. Initially guided by writers who were both mentors and friends, including Pierre Mac Orlan, Jean Cocteau and Jean Giono, he developed a keen interest in both texts and the quality of the books — fine- and large-paper copies, contemporary bindings, inscribed or annotated copies.



An initial cache of 150 books will hit the block first, on December 11 in Paris at the Hôtel Drouot. This first part of the library will comprise works spanning six centuries, from the first edition of St Augustine's "Confessions," printed in Strasbourg circa 1470, to a very rare third edition of Miguel de Cervantes' "Don Quixote," printed in Lisbon in 1600, to William Burroughs' Scrap Book 3, published in 1979.

An autographed first edition of Gustave Flaubert's "Madame Bovary" from 1857 is estimated to fetch between €400,000 and €600,000; William Shakespeare's "Comedies, Histories and Tragedies," printed in London in 1664 could go for €200,000 to €300,000; and an autographed manuscript of the Marquis de Sade's last novel "The Days of Florbelle" from 1807 is asking between €200,000 and €300,000.

To preview the sale, a selection of about 60 works will form a traveling exhibition starting at Sotheby's in New York from Sept. 10-13, followed by showcases in Hong Kong from Oct. 2-7 and London from Nov. 6-9.

The thematic sales to follow in 2016 and 2017 will feature not only literary masterpieces, but also tomes on botany, gardening, music and the exploration of major philosophical and political ideas.



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<http://www.blouinartinfo.com/news/story/1223437/pierre-berges-cache-of-rare-books-to-be-auctioned-at-sothebys#>