

Bonnard, Pierre. (1867-1947). **Les Pastorales, ou Daphnis et Chloë**. By Longus Sophista. Paris: Ambrose Vollard, 1902. Copy #114 of 200 regular copies on Van Gelder paper with watermark “Daphnis et Chloë”. Entire edition 250: 50 on special paper; 200 on Van Gelder as this. Translation by Messire J. Amyot. Edited by Paul-Louis Courier. Printed at L’Imprimerie Nationale at the presses of A. Clot.



Folio 10 1/4" x 12". Bound by Jacques Anthoine-Legrain in a wonderful mosaic binding that hints of two figures within a pattern of undulating flames. Against a background of pale red there is an inlaid design of blues, greens, whites and golds. Edges gilt, morocco doublures. Protected by a chemise of morocco tipped boards with matching slipcase signed by J. Anthoine Legrain. Dated 1959.

Bonnard relocated the ancient story from Lesbos to a modern settings. He photographed children at play and worked to capture the unaffected innocence of the young. He also represented himself and his lover in a garden as they acted out the roles of Daphnis and Chloë.

With 151 original half-page lithographs by Bonnard. These are “quick, unstudied sketches, which appeal above all through their freshness. The simple grace of the pastoral life which they depict supplies a fitting background for the developing passion between Daphnis and Chloe.” (#384 *The Art of the French Illustrated Book 1700-1914* by Gordon N. Ray. Cornell and Pierpont Morgan Library, 1982).

Like Bonnard’s first illustrated book *Parallement* (1900), **Daphnis et Chloë**, went through a two decades of unpopularity. Ultimately, in 1932 the Lausanne publisher Mermod republished an edition of the text with thirty six reproductions of the lithographs. The book is today considered “one of the finest of its period”. (The Artist and the Book n°28). The Messire J. Amyot translation of the text was used again by the Ashendene Press edition of 1933 illustrated with 26 wood engravings by Gwendolen Raverat.

The binder Jacques Anthoine-Legrain (1907–c. 1970) was Pierre Legrain’s stepson and assistant. Beginning in 1929, he continued the work of his step-father, perfecting the former’s geometric aesthetics by using Pierre’s maquettes and later developing his own style of using subtle manipulation of spaced curves. Jacques Anthoine-Legrain’s bindings are included in most of the important “reliure” collections formed since 1950.

Daphnis et Chloë is the work of the Greek poet Longus, (flourished 2nd/3rd century AD; perhaps from the island of Lesbos). It is considered the first pastoral prose romance in Western culture.

References: Garvey 28; MoMA 22; Skira 22; Rauch 22. Vollard, *Catalogue Complet* 291; Roger-Marx. Bonnard Lithographe #95; Carteret (1946) IV, 242. Mahé, II, col. 695.

\$9,500.00