



Bodin Jean. Vniversae Natvrae Theatrvm. In Qvo Rervm Omnivm Effectrices Causae.. 1596



3 800 EUR

Signature : Bodin Jean

Period : 16th century

Condition : Bon état

Material : Paper

Width : 10,6

Height : 17

Description

Description Bodin Jean (ca. 1530-1596).
Vniversae natvrae theatrvm. In qvo rervm
omnivm effectrices causae, e fines quinque libris
discutuntur.. Lvgdvni, apvd Iacobvm Rovssin
Typographum Regium. 1596.First
editionContemporary full vellum binding;
woodcut on the title page. First edition in a very
rare variant characterized by only four
preliminary leaves instead of the usual eight, with
a different printer's device on the title page and
the author's name given as Ioan. rather than Io., as
seen, for example, in the copy preserved in the
British Museum Library. Other equally rare
copies of the same variant are recorded at the
Royal Library of Belgium and the Stockholm
Library (OCLC 1445719692; OCLC
938535314).Universae naturae theatrum is

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structured as a symbolic dialogue between Theorus, the figure of the observer and contemplator, and Mystagogus, the initiatory guide who leads toward the understanding of the hidden meaning of things. Inspired by the Bible, Neoplatonism, and the Kabbalah, the work represents one of the most complex and least studied texts by Jean Bodin, to the point of discouraging many modern commentators (Crahay). Published in 1596, the year of the author's death, and composed, according to Bodin himself, around 1590, the work constitutes the most systematic exposition of his vision of the world. The *Theatrum* represents the culmination of Bodin's methodological inquiry, aimed at unifying human, natural, and divine history within a single path of knowledge that, through the study of nature, leads to the contemplation of God. Deeply religious in conception, the work presents nature as a true "theatre" set before the eyes of humankind so that they may recognize and love the majesty, wisdom, and providence of the Creator. Although it remained without an English translation and has been studied far less than Bodin's other writings, the work nevertheless received an early French version (*Le Théâtre de la nature universelle*, 1597), a sign of its importance within the intellectual landscape of the late Renaissance. Adams B2248; Caillet 1280; Crahay Isaac Lenger, *Bibliographie critique des éditions anciennes de Jean Bodin*, Brussels, 1992, pp. 297-299; A. Blair, *The Theater of Nature*. Jean Bodin and Renaissance Science, Princeton, 1997. Dimensions 8° (6,69x4,17in) Provenience Private collection Condition Leaves slightly yellowed. Occasional foxing. Manuscript ex-libris on the front flyleaf.