

# GALERIE GOLCONDA

ARCHÉOLOGIE MUSÉALE  
FOSSILES – BIJOUX RARES ET ANCIENS  
CABINET DE CURIOSITÉS DES GRANDES CIVILISATIONS

## CERTIFICATE

### **EGYPTIAN GRAMMAR - First edition of 1836-1841 JEAN FRANÇOIS CHAMPOLLION (1790-1832)**

**DESCRIPTION:** original edition of Champollion Jean-François Le Jeune 's "Egyptian Grammar or general Principles of sacred Egyptian writing applied to the representation of the spoken language" published from the original manuscript upon Mr Guizot's order. 555 PP Paris, Typography Firmin Didot Frères, 1836 (printing finished in March 1841). 1841. In quarto (in-4°) half calf.

Half binding, the rest of the book cover is covered in marbled paper, (8) pages (half-title, title, letter from Champollion to Baron Silvestre de Sacy and the reply); 8 pages for the publisher's preface; 13 pages of introduction and 555 pages for the body of work.

2-tone printing. Some foxing on the pages.

Inscriptions:

On the second page, a handwritten inscription: "acheté mercredi 29 décembre 1880 32f P. Laffitty" ("bought Wednesday December 29, 1880 32f P. Laffitty")

Beneath this inscription we see a rubber stamp in the name of:

Monsieur Joseph MORTIER

73 avenue de la République

78500 SARTROUVILLE

Next to this stamp, a handwritten inscription:

*"acheté le Samedi 5 Décembre 1953 pour la somme de 5.000 frs J. Mortier* ("bought Saturday December 5, 1953 for the sum of 5.000 frs J. Mortier)

Copy enriched by an original letter signed by J.-F. Champollion and sent to Mr Nestor Lhôte concerning his return to France on the ship L' Astrolabe, by a fragment of an original letter (unsigned) from Nestor Lhôte who was Champollion's traveling companion during his journey in Egypt and by an original letter from Auguste Mariette dated 1877. Mariette was the founder of the Museum of Cairo. Plus a handwritten page by J.-F. Champollion titled "Sacred Sculptures of Horus translated from the Egyptian into Greek by Philippe / I – How do the Egyptians represent eternity."

The complex printing of this fundamental work required five years of work. The printer Firmin Didot encountered many difficulties in printing hieroglyphics for the first time.

Work consisting of a foreword, an introduction and thirteen chapters.

Excellent state of preservation, the colours are still very fresh.

**ORIGIN:** J.-F. Champollion began the writing of the Egyptian Grammar in 1830, after his two-year journey in Egypt. But because of his untimely death on March 4th, 1832 at the age of 42 this monumental work, which he called "my business card for eternity", was the result of a posthumous publication by his brother, Jacques-Joseph Champollion Figeac.

It was in 1822 that Jean-François Champollion managed to establish the decoding of hieroglyphs thanks to the in-depth study of the Rosetta stone, the black stele of basalt with a trilingual decree: in hieroglyphs, in demotic (main text) and in Greek. Today exhibited in London at the British Museum. By demonstrating that the system of hieroglyphs includes not only ideograms but also phonetic signs, the young scholar, who knew that his system could be used for all Egyptian texts, supplied the key to decoding a language fallen into oblivion for approximately fifteen centuries.

Named curator of the Egyptian department of the Louvre in 1826, he became a professor of Egyptology in the *Collège de France* in 1831.

**SIZE (FORMAT):** 23cm -9.05'' x 34.3cm -13.38''

Police book registration N°: 1427

