



RARE FRENCH AUCTION CATALOGUE OF THE PRINCE SOLTYKOFF SALE – MEDIEVAL TREASURES COLLECTED BY A RUSSIAN PRINCE IN THE MID-19TH CENTURY AND NOW OWNED BY THE WORLD’S MOST IMPORTANT MUSEUMS

Prince Peter Soltykoff, grandson of highly-decorated Russian army commander Prince Nicolas Soltykoff (1736-1816), amassed a highly significant collection of medieval art – “the most celebrated private collection of its kind” – while living in Paris in the 1840s.* This rare catalogue, annotated with prices, was published to accompany the auction of the collection, held at Hotel Drouot in Paris from April 8 to May 1, 1861.

Catalogue des Objets d'Art et de Haute Curiosité composant la célèbre collection du Prince Soltykoff. Charles Pillet, Hotel Drouot, Paris. April 8-May 1, 1861. Hardcover. 260 pages. 1109 lots. In French. Priced.

Soltykoff’s collection included reliquaries, altars, chalices, monstrances, crosses, candlesticks, shrines, incense holders, ivories, enamels (including portrait miniatures), paintings (of religious and secular subjects, including French royalty), altarpieces, furniture, art objects, clocks and watches, European pottery (including statuary by Lucca della Robbia), glass, silver, jewels, metalware, seals, medals, Chinese and Indian art objects, and stained glass. Many of these objects are now owned by the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, most notably the celebrated Gloucester Candlestick and the Eltenberg Reliquary. Other items from the collection now belong to three of the world’s most important museums – the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, the British Museum in London, and the Louvre in Paris.

The catalogue is in fine condition. The text is dark and very clearly legible, and the binding is strong.

\$450.00

* “Prince Peter Soltykoff”. Victoria & Albert Museum website.

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/content/articles/p/prince-peter-soltykoff/> Accessed Oct. 17, 2014.