Seventeen carte de visite sized albumen photographs, each mounted on card; cards measure approximately 4 x 2.5 inches (10 x 6.5 cm); most have trimmed corners and/or edges; tone and focus varies as seen in scans.

The V ocano Lover

Published in London in 1825 by T. Cadell. First 1825 edition, lacking the dedication page.

First separately published account of the discoveries at Herculaneum. An anonymous description of the initial excavations at Herculaneum has been a bibliographic puzzle almost since its publication. Recent scholarship generally attributes it to Guillaume-Marie D'Arthenay, for nineteen years secretary to the French ambassador to the Kingdom of Naples. D'Arthenay was at the heart of the foreign plundering at Pompeii and Herculaneum, and the excavations at Herculaneum has been a bibliographic puzzle almost since its publication. Recent scholarship generally attributes it to Guillaume-Marie D'Arthenay, for nineteen years secretary to the French ambassador to the Kingdom of Naples. Perhaps best known to eighteenth-century readers was the sequence of letters he wrote to the French Academy of Sciences, published in 1777 in Paris under the title Observations sur le Vesuve. In these letters, D'Arthenay reported his observations of Vesuvius and Etna, and echoed Sir William Hamilton's enthusiasm for the antiquities of the area.

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OBSERVATIONS ON VESUVIUS AND ETNA BY SIR WILLIAM HAMILTON, L. O. F. R. S., VISCOUNT HAMILTON OF DRUMMORE.

London: T. Cadell.

Octavo, 5.5 x 8 in (14 x 20 cm); iv, 179 pages; fold-out map 11.75 x 15 in (30 x 38 cm), 5 full page plates. Contemporary plain cloth with gilt board edges. A short list of items relating to Vesuvius, Herculaneum, and the Bay of Naples, containing lapidarium entry cards, early maps and engravings, a comic book, and an autograph manuscript of a piece of musical notation. 17 x 11 inches (43 x 28 cm). Signed D. Ardito. Undated, could be late nineteenth through mid-twentieth century. Will be shipped framed with shipping billed at cost.

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Pompeii and Herculaneum played a major role in the area's tourism. Born in Frankfurt in 1834, Sommer opened a studio in Naples in 1857 and lived there until his death in 1914. His photos of Pompeii and Herculaneum were made during this period. He also took photos in Italy, Greece, Spain, and Morocco. Sommer is known for his high-quality work and his ability to capture the essence of his subjects. He was especially skilled in capturing the atmosphere of the ancient sites. His photos were in high demand and he had a successful career as a photographer.

The publication of the opera seria L'Ultimo Giorno di Pompei is significant in the context of the Napoleonic wars and the subsequent political changes in Italy. The work was commissioned by the Bourbon king of Naples, Charles VII, and was intended to glorify his kingdom. The libretto was written by Andrea Leone Tottola and the music by Giovanni Pacini.

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