

**Heures Royales dédiées à Madame la Dauphine contenant les Offices qui se disent à l'Église pendant l'Année en Latin et en François.** Nouvelle edition. Paris: Guillaume de Hansy, 1770.



**Bound by Louis-François Le Monnier**

3 ½" x 5 ¼". 563pps with a frontis of the Dauphine at prayer and two other engravings within the text. Bound in contemporary red morocco with both covers decorated at the center with a mosaic of a pomegranate in green and brown. Each corner bears a small mosaic of a tulips in green and gold. The borders show a roll of a floral image with bees and dragonflies above. The spine has five raised bands with title "Heures de Cour" in gilt over green panel and floral motifs repeated in the spine panels. Ownership initials surround the central image of a pomegranate on the front cover. The letter "B." in gilt is incised at bottom of the rear cover. Linen endpapers, bookplate of S. Antoine de P. Edges worn, a few minor scuffs; otherwise a rich and lustrous binding.

This type of mosaic binding popular in mid-18<sup>th</sup> century France is variously attributed to l'atelier de Louis Douceur or to the Ateliere a la Tulipe or the Atelier aux Bouquets de Fleurs (See Michon pp51-51). The most persuasive research, however, shows that the binding is done by the Paris atelier of Louis-François Lemonnier (fl 1737-1776). The Wittcock example of a very similar binding,

cited by P. Culot, discusses Lemonnier as “a specialist bookbinder, in the middle of the 18th century, engaged in the manufacture of inexpensive bindings for religious books.” Culot cites bindings characterized by a simple mosaic composed of a central bouquet and a tulip image at the corners, framed by a pretty floral roll flown over by butterflies or dragonflies. Culot’s meticulous analysis of 18th century binding tools identify these “pomegranate” bindings with certainty as from the Lemonnier workshop. Culot has so far identified 6 copies of **Heures** published by Hansy in this type of binding.

Louis-François Le Monnier was made master bookbinder on October 14, 1737. His bindery remained at rue Saint-Jean de Beauvais until his death, after 1776. His son Jean-Charles-Henri, called Le Monnier Le Jeune, was a master bookbinder from 1757. Jean-Charles-Henri attained the post of official bookbinder for Monseigneur the Duke of Orleans.

The Parisian publisher Louis Guillaume de Hansy flourished during the 1760s and 1770s. Hansy published primarily religious literature, including Catholic missals and psalters, books for various monastic orders, Bibles, sermons, and books on theology and morality.

Our title is not located in OCLC.

Refs: Culot, Paul. “Some bindings from the Lemonnier workshop” in *Bibliophiles et reliures. Mixtures offered to M. Wittock*, 2006. pp. 199-20; Michon, Louis-Marie. *Les Reliures Mosaïquées du XVIIIe Siecles*. Paris: Société de la Reluire Originale, 1956.

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