

W. Graham Arader III

*Historically important and aesthetically pleasing
maps, books and prints in the finest condition*

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THE AMSTERDAM ELEPHANT FOLIO

Cognizant of major changes in value in all editions of the Audubon Birds, we are offering our best customers a final opportunity to purchase, under old market conditions, the best plates from the Amsterdam set. These 36 prints are considered the most desirable of all the Birds.

The last great edition of the monumental Birds of America was the most technologically perfect in reproducing each detail of Audubon's life-size depictions of the birds in their natural settings. No expense or modern technical advance was spared by the publisher, the internationally recognized bookman Nico Israel, in production of the Amsterdam Edition in the original gigantic Double Elephant Folio format. The entire project was supervised by a panel of expert ornithologists and authorities on Audubon; their publishing achievement is comparable in significance and beauty only to the earliest Havell edition.

It is unlikely that anyone ever again will undertake the massive task of issuing, with this high level of craftsmanship, the 435 plates of 1,065 separate subjects on huge sheets well over three feet in height and two feet in width. Only a trained eye can detect the subtle variations between the Havells and these much more affordable plates, which have become nearly as scarce. (And only with both sets in the room would any differences at all become apparent.) A single series of just 250 sets was issued in 1971-73, and few are thought to have been broken up into individual offerings.

The Audubon Elephant Folio, of course, had already become the single rarity in current American collecting, and undoubtedly the most beautiful, by the time the Amsterdam Edition was dispersed. Subject to prior sale, we offer each plate from that edition as printed in full color and on one-hundred per cent cotton rag mat. Traditionally, individual plates have more than kept pace with the Havells, averaging one-tenth of their former auction value---the price at which we temporarily continue to offer them here. With the major Sotheby auction held in New York City on June 16 and 17, 1983, the Havell prices soared, and the Amsterdam plates will soon follow suit. On September 15 our prices will jump to reflect these stunning increases at auction.

The list that follows is a sample comparison of our previous prices for a selection of the Amsterdam birds, with the latest auction price brought in the next column, followed by our upcoming increases which will go into effect by the end of the summer.



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