

LITERATURE, MUSIC AND ART:

***The Annotated Sale Catalogues of
Puttick and Simpson***

Part Three: 1864 Thru 1867

From the British Library, London



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RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS LTD
50 Milford Road
Reading
Berkshire RG1 8LJ
England

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

This publication of the annotated sale catalogues of Puttick and Simpson is an event of the first importance for bibliographers and historians, whether of music, art, literature or commerce.

Firstly, because Puttick and Simpson were the leading auctioneers of 'Literary Property, Music and Works of Art' in the second half of the nineteenth century. The quality and quantity of their sales surpassed those of their rivals Sotheby's and Christie's, and this was a period of unprecedented sales activity.

Secondly, because only one complete set of the catalogues survives - the company's own original marked-up copy - and this is enhanced with full details of prices made, and the names of buyers.

Thirdly, because the catalogues provide a vast body of information unobtainable elsewhere.

In particular, the catalogues provide detailed descriptions of items no longer accessible, descriptions of collections subsequently dispersed and unique information on provenance. They also supply a wealth of information on taste and cultural values.

Music scholars have already used the catalogues to track down 'missing' manuscripts and to trace the provenance and dispersal of musical instruments.

Literary scholars will be able to trace the composition and dispersal of major libraries, and can measure the fashion of the period in question.

The provenance and selling price of major works of art can also be traced through the Art Sales, as can the voluminous trade in engravings, watercolors and other media. Indeed, for many lesser-known items, the descriptions in the catalogues are the only firm evidence we have that they existed.

This project makes available a complete run of the annotated sale catalogues for the period 1846 to 1870, when Puttick and Simpson were at their peak. Part One covers 1846 to 1856. Part Two covers 1856 to 1863. Part Three covers 1864 to 1867. Part Four covers 1867 to 19 January 1871.

Every effort has been made to ensure the legibility of the items filmed. Many volumes have been disbound to enable text to be read that would otherwise be left in the central gutters. A low reduction has been used to provide a large, readable image.

William Pidduck
Development and Production Director

THE ANNOTATED SALE CATALOGUES OF PUTTICK AND SIMPSON 1846-1870
FROM THE BRITISH LIBRARY, LONDON

Part Three: 1864-1867

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