

Johann Michael
FAUST
Trattato Alchemico
(1706)

[REUSNER, Hieronymus]: Compendium Alchymist.
Novum, sive, Pandora Explicata & Figuris Illustrata... [with]
Lexicon
Alchymisticum Novum; Summarischer Begriff. Franckfurt und
Leipzig :
Verlegts Johann Zieger, dated 1706.

17 (of 19) plates of alchemical symbolism, with 18 (of 19) keys to the plates, with Reusner's notes on one side and Faust's to the other. The plates and keys are lettered 'A' to 'T' with plates 'B' and 'G' and the key 'H' lacking. Eleven large woodcuts showing the allegorical changes in the flask during the alchemical process and various smaller woodcuts of symbols etc. within the text. Engraved title and title page laid down, with some loss to the margins, but only just touching the images and the text. Light browning to pages, heavier to last few leaves which also have loss to the corners, affecting page numbers but not touching the text.

This is Faust's revision and extensive expansion of Reusner's 'Pandora' of 1582; adding extracts, mainly in Latin, from many authorities with commentaries in German. The series of emblems is based on one of the earliest German alchemical manuscripts *Der buch der Heiligen Dreifaltigkeit*, the earliest known example dating from around 1415.

This copy has the two further works, Faust's lexicon and *Summarischer Begriff*... separately paginated but with

corresponding catchwords, which are often missing. Only three copies at auction since 1934.

Caillet [3836]; Ferguson I [265]; Wellcome III [13] not in Duveen.