DAVID BRASS RARE BOOKS, INC.

Like Father, Like Son…

But the Son Had More Horse Sense!

VICTOR ADAM · ALBERT ADAM

TWO GENERATIONS OF FRENCH LITHOGRAPHY



Horses · Carriages · Military Dress · Caricatures · Animals · Satire

OCTOBER 2026

Meet Victor and Albert Adam

Meet Victor and Albert Adam — Two Generations of French Artists Who Certainly Knew How to Horse Around!

Victor Adam (1801–1866) was one of France's most prolific and celebrated equestrian lithographers. His son Albert (1833–1900) followed enthusiastically in his father's footsteps—or should we say hoofprints? But there was a twist. The distinguished equestrian bibliographer General Mennessier de La Lance considered Albert's drawings of horses more anatomically accurate than those of his celebrated father!

Victor may have been the more famous artist, but apparently Albert knew a thing or two about horses that his father didn't.

Between them, they produced some of the most delightful nineteenth-century French lithographs of horses, riders, runaway carriages, spectacular tumbles, and the many perils of staying in the saddle. This week, David Brass Rare Books celebrates a wonderfully talented father and son who made an art of horsing around!

Album de Sainte-Pélagie, Prison de la Dette

Paris & London, ca. 1830



Twelve vivid scenes of the Parisian debtors' prison

First edition, oblong folio, with twelve numbered, superbly hand-coloured lithographs and four pages of descriptive text. Bound in nineteenth-century quarter red calf over marbled boards. A captivating and exceptionally scarce pictorial record of life within the walls of Sainte-Pélagie, from the prisoners' lodgings to their social amusements. The present copy is without the printed title-page, as noted in the full description.

$4,500

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ↗

Album Militar

Madrid, 1846



The Spanish Army in magnificent colour

An exceptionally rare expanded first edition, with a pictorial lithographed title and thirty-two finely hand-coloured plates of Spanish military dress, principally lithographed by Victor Adam after José Villegas, with at least one plate by Hippolyte Lalaisse. The plates are bound out of numerical order in three-quarter red morocco. A spectacular gathering of uniforms and cavalry in the reign of Isabella II.

$12,500

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ↗

Collection des Costumes Militaires, Armée Française 1832

Paris, ca. 1840



A panorama of the French military wardrobe

First edition, complete with forty-two superb hand-coloured lithographs, all heightened with gum arabic, depicting regiments, officers, cavalry, artillery and uniforms of the French Army. A fine copy in red morocco and cloth, bound by the Atelier Bindery for Charles Scribner’s Sons; the original pictorial wrapper is mounted inside. Especially desirable in this complete and beautifully coloured state.

$7,500

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ↗

Combat du Taureau / Corrida de Toros

Paris, ca. 1830



The bullring in all its danger and pageantry

First edition, oblong folio. Twelve magnificent hand-coloured lithographs, heightened with gum arabic, follow the drama of the Spanish bullfight. A handsome copy in three-quarter dark-blue morocco, further distinguished by an autograph presentation inscription signed by Victor Adam and mounted inside. Among the most arresting pictorial suites of the Romantic period.

$12,500

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ↗

La Foire aux Idées — Original Folio Edition

Paris, 1851–1854



A hundred leaves of ideas, inventions and delightful nonsense

The complete original large-quarto edition, with one hundred numbered lithographic leaves, many containing numerous vignettes. Animals, figures, horses, fashions, jokes and fantasies abound in this extraordinary display of Adam’s inexhaustible imagination. Preserved in the publisher’s green morocco-backed black cloth, with gilt lettering. The impressions in this copy are uncoloured.

$2,850

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ↗

La Foire aux Idées — Extract Album

Paris, ca. 1855



A pocket-size carnival of caricature

A charming small oblong quarto extract album comprising twenty-two lithographed leaves adapted from Adam’s original large-format Foire aux Idées. The publisher’s embossed red boards retain an attractive gilt title cartouche, with the bookplate of Yves Marchand and a bookseller’s label within. The first plate is partly coloured; the remaining plates are uncoloured.

$650

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ↗

Les Frères d’Armes

Paris, 1860



'Brothers in Arms' — the campaigns of 1855 and 1859

First edition, folio (12 × 8¾ inches; 305 × 222 mm.). Six fine hand-coloured lithograph plates by Victor Adam and Antoine Léon Morel-Fatio, depicting the Battle of Magenta, the bombardments of Kinburn and Sveaborg, and the capture of the Malakoff. Text by Th. Midy. Publisher’s coloured pictorial boards, with some chipping to spine ends and slight cracking to joints; the plates remain bright and fresh. A particularly scarce military and naval colour-plate book.

$3,500

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ■

Panidochème ou Toutes Sortes de Voitures

Paris, 1830



A lively illustrated procession of early nineteenth-century carriages

First Charles Motte edition, preceded by a larger hand-coloured issue. Twelve impressive uncoloured lithographs show the astonishing variety of coaches and horse-drawn vehicles of the age: landaus, tilburies, calèches and travelling carriages. A handsome oblong-folio copy in quarter black morocco over marbled boards, with occasional modest marginal defects as recorded in the full description.

$1,250

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ↗

Un An de la Vie d’un Jeune Homme

Paris, 1824 · Copy A



The artist’s first book — an extraordinary association copy

First edition, with a lithographic title-page and seventeen hand-coloured plates telling the fortunes and misfortunes of a young provincial in Paris. Particularly notable for the Sazerac et Duval blind-stamps and the provenance of collector Bernard Franck, whose small library stamp appears on the title-page and endpaper. A lively early example of a continuous pictorial narrative.

$5,500

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ↗

Un An de la Vie d’un Jeune Homme

Paris, 1824 · Copy B



A second copy of Victor Adam’s spirited debut

First edition, with seventeen hand-coloured lithographs. A very good copy in modern royal-blue cloth with a facsimile title mounted on the cover. The plates follow a youthful hero through Parisian pleasures, embarrassment, debt and eventual marriage. Distinct from stock 05978, this copy has different condition and provenance details; both are offered separately.

$3,850

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ↗

Le Jardin des Plantes en Estampes

Paris, ca. 1860



A vibrant menagerie in twenty-four plates

First edition, large oblong quarto. Twenty-four splendid hand-coloured lithographs, heightened with gum arabic, portray the animals of the Paris Jardin des Plantes, from giraffes and elephants to birds of prey and big cats. A bright copy in the publisher’s pictorial gilt-stamped black cloth, with a dated 1860 ownership inscription. A remarkably engaging example of Albert Adam’s animal drawing.

$2,500

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ↗

Scènes Comiques d’après Nature

Paris, 1860



Humour, horses — and disaster just around the corner

A delightful album with hand-coloured lithographed title and sixteen numbered hand-coloured plates, many bearing several comic incidents. Preserved in its charming original pictorial green boards, neatly rebacked to style. This is the sixteen-plate form; DBRB has previously handled a larger consecutively numbered thirty-two-plate example. Particularly appealing for its equestrian mishaps and original-board survival.

$2,250

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ↗

Tribulations Parisiennes et Campagnardes

*Paris, undated [traditionally ca. 1840]**



A comic encyclopaedia of mishaps and misadventures

A very scarce caricature album with thirty-two hand-coloured compositions, heightened with gum arabic and printed on sixteen sheets, often incorporating several amusing scenes. Finely bound in full dark-green straight-grain morocco, elaborately tooled in gilt and blind. From tooth extractions to runaway vehicles, Albert’s wit is everywhere apparent. *The conventional ca. 1840 date warrants verification against his 1833 birth date.

$5,500

FULL DESCRIPTION & PHOTOGRAPHS ↗

DAVID BRASS RARE BOOKS, INC.

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— ROBERTSON DAVIES —

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