

**BIBIENA, F. GALLI.** *Direzioni A' Giovani Studenti nel Desegno dell' Architettura Civile, nell' Academia Clementina Dell' Istituto delle Scienze.-*

Direzioni Della Prospettiva Teorica, Correspondenti a quelle dell' Architettura Istruzione A' Giovani Studenti di Pittura, e Architettura nell' Academia Clementina Dell' Instututo delle Scienze.

Bologna, Lelio dalla Volpe, 1745 & 1732. 2 vols. Small 8vo. Contemporary vellum, red marbled edges. With numerous geometrical figures and architectural plans and designs on 74 full-page engraved plates in the first volume, and numerous perspective projections and perspective architectural plans and designs on 58 full-page engraved plates in the second volume, of which 18 folding. (12), 143, (1); 159, (1) pp.

Rare early edition of the first volume and first edition of the second volume of art students' text books of the 18th century, published by Ferdinando Galli Bibiena (1657-1743), teacher at the Academia Clementina, and the founder of the famous dynasty of scenographic designers. He had been trained in the Bolognese school of illusionists and later returned to Bologna to continue the tradition.

The first volume of the present student's manual, first published in 1725, contains a concise text book on architecture for students at the Academy Clementina at Bologna, based on the author's "Architettura Civile" from 1711, much reduced and abridged for the convenience of the students of architecture. It is divided into five parts, teaching practical geometry, the architectural orders according to Vitruvius, Serlio and Palladio, the architecture of Galli Bibiena, and the division of architecture according to Vignola. The book richly and clearly illustrates what is taught, in fact, the text gives not much more than an explanation of the figures and illustrations on the plates. The second volume of our student's text book, teaching drawing and designing in perspective, is here in first edition. It teaches in a similar manner by means of figures and illustrations on the numerous engraved plates everything about perspective students of art and architecture should know. It also was based on the first edition of 1711, which had been epoch-making on the subject of perspective, quadratura and stage settings for the theatre.

The text book is also divided into five parts, teaching general perspective for use of artists and architects, perspective projections of geometrical bodies, perspective for theatrical scenes, perspective of lights and shadows, and finally also teaching mechanics for the lifting and moving of objects for use in the theatre. The beautiful and original plates include some beautiful Baroque settings for theatrical scenes. Bibiena's perspective designs for theatre scenery revolutionized the Baroque stage, and also profoundly influenced artists like Piranesi. Fine copies in contemporary Italian vellum. Fowler 135 (ed. of 1725 of the first vol. only); Berlin Kat. 2630 (ed. of 1777); Cicognara 432 (ed. of 1745 & 1753); Vagnetti EIVb36 (ed. 1754 & 1731); Comolli III, pp. 40-42; Kemp, *The Science of Art*, p. 140 ff.; cf. A. Hyatt Mayor, *The Bibiena Family*, New York, 1945.