TEMPLE
RARE BOOKS OF OXFORD

Stone Talk [Lithophonema]: Being Some of the Marvellous Sayings of a Petral Portion of Fleet Street, London, to One Doctor Polyglott, Ph. D

Sold

[Burton, Richard]; Baker, Fred D.O.N.

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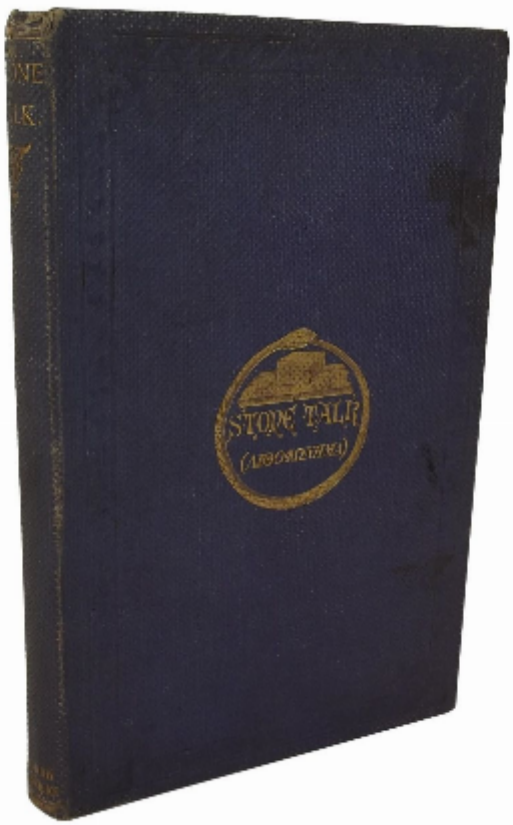

REF: 1368

Description

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[6], 121pp, [1], original violet cloth. Title and publisher in gilt to spine, title inside an ouroboros to upper cover, blind stamped device to lower cover, covers with blind stamped border, black endpapers.

Spine slightly faded and slightly rubbed to extremities, outer edge of upper cover with small amounts of black ink staining, internally a few pencil marks to margins, but generally quite bright and clean, with the errata leaf. Ink inscription to head of title 'From a friend' and with Burton's engraved book label 'Captain Sir Richard Burton' to front free endpaper.

Now housed in a leather backed drop down box made by Temple Bookbinders, with title in gilt to spine.

One of the rarest of Burton's works, a blank verse satire, "enumerating many of the crimes which England has committed, and castigating her hypocrisy. It is certainly one of the cleverest of all Burton's books, although it is practically unknown. It is very rare. Its scarcity is increased by the fact that Lady Burton bought up and destroyed a large number of the copies, to save her husband from possible trouble with the 'authorities' ... of the 200 copies, 128 went to the Press and author" (Penzer, pages 77-78). This copy is probably one of a few copies Burton received from the printers, surviving his wife's round-up by being gifted to a close friend.

See Penzer, 77-78

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