

Jean Paul, Sämtliche Werke, 60 parts in 30 volumes (complete edition), Berlin 1826–1828, Verlag G. Reimer, 19,1 × 11,8 cm, semi-leather bindings with gold-embossed spine labels. Bindings minimally rubbed and minimally discolored, partially minimally stained. Signs of age. Overall very good condition. Handwritten note by the previous owner: „Erste Gesamtausgabe / 60 Bde. In 30 geb.“

Contents of the volumes: 1-4) Die unsichtbare Loge. 5-6) Grönländische Prozesse. 7-10) Hesperus. 11-14) Siebenkäs. 15-16) Auswahl aus des Teufels Papieren. 17) Biographische Belustigungen. 18-19) Palingenesien. 20) Jubelsenior. 21-25) Titan. 26-29) Flegeljahre. 30) Mars und Phobus. 31-32) Komischer Anhang zum Titan. 33) Dämmerungen für Deutschland. 34) Frieden-Predigt an Deutschland. 35) Briefe. 36-38) Levana oder Erziehlehre. 39) Das heimliche Klaglied der jetzigen Männer. 40) Das Kampaner Thal. 41-43) Vorschule der Aesthetik. 44-45) Kleine Bücherschau. 46-48) Herbst-Blumine. 49) Museum. 50) Reise nach Flätz. 51-53) Dr. Katzenbergers Badereise. 54) Leben Fibel's. 55) Über die deutschen Doppelwörter. 56-58) Der Komet. 59) Gesammelte Aufsätze und Dichtungen. 60) Briefe an F. H. Jakobi.

Provenance: Purchased by the previous owner from the Munich antiquarian bookshop Hauser in 1982 for DM 4,200 (!).

Johann Paul Friedrich Richter (Wunsiedel 1763 – 1835 Bayreuth), known by his pseudonym Jean Paul, which he chose out of admiration for the French philosopher Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712–1778), was one of the most important German poets and writers of the Goethe era. Occupying a special position in literary history between the Classical and Romantic periods, his oeuvre includes novels, short stories, and theoretical writings. His works have been set to music by many important composers.

Coming from a strictly Protestant family—his father was the teacher and organist Johann Christian Christoph Richter, his mother the clothier's daughter Sophia Rosina Kuhn—he was particularly influenced by the pastor of the neighboring village of Rehau, Erhard Friedrich Vogel, who introduced him to the ideas of the Enlightenment. From 1779, he attended grammar school in Hof, where he met Johann Bernhard Hermann, who became a close friend and the model for many of his fictional characters. A few months later, his father died, leaving the family in financial straits. Nevertheless, he was able to begin studying theology in Leipzig in 1781. During this time, he tried his hand at writing for the first time, unsuccessfully, under the pseudonym J. P. F. Hasus, so that in 1784 he had to flee from his creditors to his mother's house in Hof. He would later process this experience in his novel *Siebenkäs* (1796/97). The poverty of these years weighed heavily on him, as did the death of a close friend and the suicide of his brother Heinrich in 1789.

However, literary success began to come his way in 1793. Through the mediation of the important writer Karl Philipp Moritz (1756–1793), he was able to publish the novel fragment *Die unsichtbare Loge* (The Invisible Lodge). This was followed in 1795 by the novel *Hesperus oder 45 Hundposttage* (Hesperus or 45 Days of Dog Post), which became the greatest literary success since Goethe's *Die Leiden des jungen Werthers* (The Sorrows of Young Werther, 1774) and made Jean Paul famous overnight. While the book was rejected by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe (1749–1832) and Friedrich Schiller (1759–1805), Johann Gottfried von Herder (1744–1803) and Christoph Martin Wieland (1733–1813) received it enthusiastically. In 1798,

Jean Paul moved to Weimar – a period marked above all by all kinds of erotic entanglements with married women or women of unsuitable social standing.

In 1800, on a trip to Berlin, he met Karoline Mayer (1777–1860), daughter of Johann Siegfried Wilhelm Mayer, Privy Councilor at the Supreme Court in Berlin, and married her a year later. As his works were highly revered in Berlin – among others by Queen Luise of Prussia (1776–1810) – he remained there and befriended the most important early Romantics, such as the brothers August Wilhelm (1767–1845) and Friedrich Schlegel (1772–1829), Johann Ludwig Tieck (1773–1853), and Johann Gottlieb Fichte (1762–1814).

Although his novels *Titan* (1800–1803) and *Flegeljahre* (1804/1805) are now considered among his major works, they were not as well received by the public at the time as his earlier novels. In the years that followed, his fame continued to fade. After spending time in Meiningen and Coburg, he moved to Bayreuth in 1804, where he lived until the end of his life. His final years were overshadowed by various illnesses and the death of his young son.