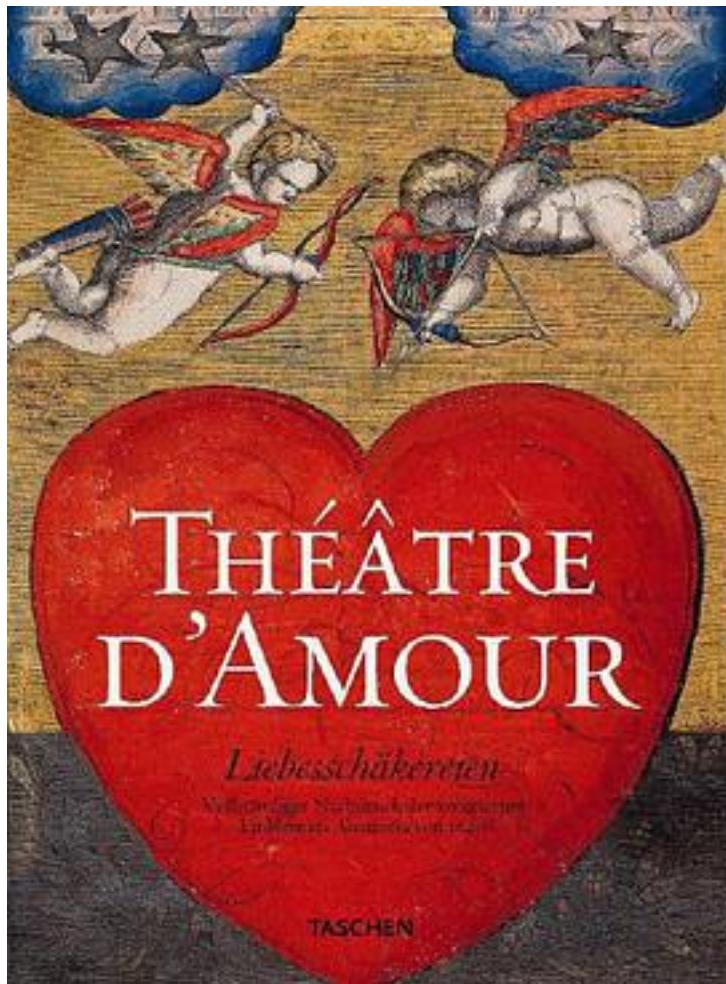


# Theatre D'Amour



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著者:Carsten-Peter Warncke

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The gift of love This collection of late 16th and early 17th century love emblems was amassed around 1620 by an unknown lover, doubtless consumed by passion and fiery

loins, and given to his or her lover as a token of romance and affection. Composed of mythological, allegorical, and even erotic prints, the emblems (created by printmakers such as Abraham Bloemaert, Pieter I Brueghel, Agostino Carracci, and Jacob Goltzius) illustrated scenes like The Trades of Cupid, The Seven Deadly Sins, The Seven Virtues, The Muses, The Loves of the Gods, and Five Senses. Publication, or collecting and binding, of love emblems was a novel and popular pastime in the Netherlands in the early 17th century, and the particular album reproduced here is an outstanding example. Meticulously colored and heightened with gold and silver, these prints surely won the heart of their lucky receiver. Though the album's exact provenance is unknown (due to the removal of the original insignia by a later owner), the outstanding quality, coloring, and extensive use of gold and silver suggests that it was produced for a rich, cultivated, and probably infatuated client. Since use of color was rare and albums were often one of a kind, it is likely that this copy is completely unique; its 143 folios are all reproduced here in their original size (25.3 x 18.5 cm), complete with an introduction and accompanying descriptions by author Carsten-Peter Warncke. What would the original owner have said if he or she knew the album would end up, 400 years later, warming the hearts of so many?

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