

BRAQUE, George.
HESIOD.
Theogonie.

Paris: Aimé Maeght, 1955.

Folio, (438 x 330mm).

Printed in Greek in sans serif Europe capitals, the headlines and page numerals inked in brown. Illustrated with an etched frontispiece printed in black and tan, 16 mixed etching plates, mixed-etching headpiece and tailpiece vignettes, illustrated table of the etchings, etched front cover of original wrappers printed in colours and varnished in yellow, all by George Braque, the frontispiece and plates blind-stamped in margins with monogram GB within a circle.

Bound in crushed black morocco by Paul Bonet, each cover with two abstract sculptural onlays, one a mosaic of yellow morocco on a recessed vertical panel of black calf, the other a mosaic of green morocco on a recessed vertical panel of white calf, the smooth spine with the title lettered vertically in yellow morocco Greek-letter onlays, doublures of mustard reverse calf edged with black calf, linings of forest green reverse calf edged with white calf, edges gilt, original wrappers bound in, signed by Bonet on the front turn-in and dated 1960 on the lower. Slipcase and half morocco chemise.

One of 150 numbered copies, this one being number 98, all on papier d'Auvergne, signed by Braque on the justification leaf; the present is one of a few undesignated copies that include 3 photogravures made from early printings of three lost etched plates by Braque (cf. Castleman Century).

A spectacular Bonet binding.

Braque's illustrations for this classical text had been commissioned by Ambroise Vollard, and the sixteen etchings accompanying the text were completed in 1932. The Vollard edition was abandoned, however, and when Maeght revived it twenty years later, Braque added the two etched vignettes as well as the etchings for the frontispiece and front cover. "Braque's intricate and interwoven line has created classical figures combining decorative abstraction with the incisive outline of Greek vase painting" (Artist & the Book).

Bonet Carnets 1295; Artist & the Book 38; Manet to Hockney 96; Rauch 108.