

Daumier's most celebrated work



DAUMIER, Honoré (1808-1879) and Charles Philipon (1800-1802)

Les Robert Macaire [Caricaturana].

Paris: Chez Aubert, 1836-1838.

Folio. One hundred hand-coloured lithographed plates; publishers catalogue bound at back. Original publisher's blue cloth, title stamped in gilt on front cover. A fine copy

First edition with the plates in their coloured state. **Very rare in the publisher's binding.**

"*Les Robert Macaire* remains Daumier's best-known work. Baudelaire chose it for specific discussion in his essay on French caricaturists and Carteret accorded it a place in his bibliography. Its contemporary popularity was immense. As an album it was published by Aubert in an edition of 2500 copies, a far larger number than for any other series. Yet so persistent was the demand that 6000 two-volume sets of reduced copies, called *Les cent-et-un Robert Macaire*, were published in 1839." (Ray).

"When politics became a forbidden topic in *Le Charivari*, where *Caricaturana* first appeared, Daumier and Philipon turned to social satire. If they could not attack Louis-Philippe directly, they could at least show the kind of society that flourished under his gross and venal regime. Taking the flamboyant and florid swindler Macaire from the character that Frederick Lemaître had created in a hack melodrama called *L'Auberge des adrets*, they showed him ranging through all kinds of commercial enterprise, in the stock market, in the banks, in the courts, and in dozens of other public settings, never failing to find eager dupes. Though Daumier's designs are superb in themselves, they would be incomplete without the unfailing wit and point of Philipon's captions" (Ray).

Ray, *Art of the French Illustrated Book*, 161. Beraldi V, p. 124.