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First Edition Of Agricola’s Treatise On Weights And Measures, 1533


Click for more info

Rare first edition of Agricola’s treatise on weights and measures, with five elaborate woodcut initials, printed at the famed Froben press in Basel in 1533.

“The work can hardly be called an arithmetic, but is a valuable book of reference on the history of ancient measures. The book is also valuable to the student of Roman and Greek numerals, and of the various symbols of measures. Such works explain the origin of certain systems of measures employed before the metric system developed, and of such symbols as are still used by apothecaries” (Smith, 171). Although best known for his 1556 work on mining and metallurgy, De Re Metallica, Agricola first established his reputation as an important scholar and humanist with De Mensuris & Ponderibus.. Text in Latin. The rear wrapper shows a title page for a 1750 theological work printed in Venice on the inner flap. Occasional light marginal dampstaining, text overall crisp and clean, restoration to spine of 18th-century paper wrappers. Rare.
“Relatively Few Copies Of The 1832-33 Philadelphia Editions Are Known To Survive”:
Very Scarce 1833 First American Edition Of Austen’s First Novel, Sense And Sensibility, In Original Boards


First American edition—an edition of only 1250 copies—of Jane Austen’s first novel, on “the twin themes of prudence and benevolence, reason and passion, head and heart, or sense and sensibility,” in original boards.

Sense and Sensibility “does brightly respond to an interesting religious and ethical debate over the philosophy of sentiment... A debate was in full swing by the 1790s when novel after novel took up the twin themes of prudence and benevolence, reason and passion, head and heart, or sense and sensibility” (Honan, Jane Austen, 275-77). “It may be... that the availability of London editions in North America satisfied early local demand for Austen’s novels, but, whether or not that is so, no... American edition [other than Emma (1816)] is known before the issue of all six titles, each in two volumes, by Carey & Lea of Philadelphia in 1832-33... Relatively few copies of the 1832-33 Philadelphia editions are known to survive; one good result of the lack of appreciation of these editions’ rarity... has been that most copies survive in original binding” (Gilson, 97-98). “The most striking feature of the first American editions is the amount of textual variation,” including in spelling, punctuation, and the elimination of God from vulgar exclamations (Gilson, 98). With leaf of publisher’s ads preceding title page in each volume. Gilson B6. Keynes 14. Early owner ink signature. Text professionally cleaned, with some faint evidence of foxing, light wear to boards. A very good uncut copy in original boards of this scarce and desirable edition.
Born of Thomas Cranmer’s desire for liturgical texts upon which all of Europe’s Protestant, English-speaking churches could agree, the beautiful and dignified language of the Book of Common Prayer, first issued in 1549, has considerably influenced not only ecclesiastical practice but also literature in English. “The language of the Prayer Book is now part of the whole language... and as a source of spiritual inspiration, it is for most Englishmen second only to the Bible” (PMM 75). Ornamented with fine engraved frontispiece (dated 1710), decorative headpieces and woodcut initials. Griffiths 1723:1. A few ink corrections and marginal annotations. A few short wormtraces, text clean, evidence of cloth ties, corners expertly restored. A very handsome volume.
Splendid 18th-Century Bible And Book Of Common Prayer, With 51 Finely Engraved Plates


Click for more info

Mid 18th-century editions of the King James Bible and the Book of Common Prayer, extra-illustrated with engraved frontispieces and additional title pages, six engraved folding maps and plans and 51 finely engraved plates, elegantly bound together in full contemporary morocco-gilt.

First published in 1611, the King James Bible is “the only literary masterpiece ever to be produced by a committee”; Macaulay praised it as “a book, which if everything else in our language should perish, would alone suffice to show the whole extent of its beauty and power” (PMM 114). This copy extra-illustrated with additional engraved frontispiece and title page, 51 engraved plates and six engraved folding plans and maps of “sacred geography.” Includes Apocrypha and separate New Testament title page. This Bible bound together with a contemporary edition of the Book of Common Prayer. This copy with additional engraved title page and engraved frontispiece portrait of King George II. A contemporary edition (1752) of Downame’s Brief Concordance, first published 1630, is bound in at the end. Bible: Herbert 1110. Book of Common Prayer: Griffiths 1755:4. Engraved presentation page dated 1756. Armorial bookplate of Sir Graham Eden Hamond, admiral in the Royal Navy. Interior generally fine, contemporary morocco-gilt binding exceptionally beautiful. A lovely and impressive bible.
“The Highest Point In English Bible Printing”: Baskerville’s Masterpiece, The Magnificent 1763 Folio Bible, Beautifully Bound In Full Morocco-Gilt

5. (BIBLE) The Holy Bible, Containing the Old Testament and the New. Cambridge, 1763. Large, thick folio, early full black morocco gilt rebacked with original spine laid down. $18,000.

Click for more info

First Baskerville edition, one of only 1250 copies, an impressive folio production splendidly bound in early full morocco gilt.

“This edition ‘has always been regarded as Baskerville’s magnum opus and is his most magnificent as well as his most characteristic specimen’” (Herbert 1146). “Aesthetically, the highest point in English Bible printing so far was John Baskerville’s folio printed at Cambridge in 1763... The Bible uses his types, paper and ink, and shows his characteristic ‘machine-made’ finish: very smooth and even in color and impression, with glossy black ink on smooth paper. The design is traditional, but the quality of material and workmanship is so high, and the conventions are so delicately modified and consistently applied that the result is extremely impressive” (Cambridge History of the Bible, 464). Beautifully printed in two columns of large type. With Apocrypha. List of subscribers present, in third state. Gaskell 26. Darlow & Moule 857. Herbert 1146. Huntington Library, Great Books in Great Editions 6. Leaf C2 with marginal closed tear, faint marginal staining to leaves 8K1-2, occasional very faint foxing, interior generally quite clean and fine, very handsome morocco-gilt binding expertly restored. An excellent copy of this landmark fine press Bible.


Click for more info

Handsomely bound 1775 Cambridge edition of the magisterial King James Bible—“the most celebrated book in the English-speaking world” (Campbell, 1), together with a 1781 Book of Common Prayer, magnificently bound in matching contemporary full morocco-gilt.

“Other translations may engage the mind, but the King James Version is the Bible of the heart” (Campbell, 275). With a Book of Common Prayer in a matching binding dated 1781, which is bound with a metrical psalter and A Companion to the Altar. Includes Apocrypha. Separate New Testament title page dated 1776. Darlow & Moule 920. Griffiths 1781:1. Bible with early owner inscriptions, contemporary signature on title page. Just a bit of faint marginal dampstaining to text, binding in exceptional condition.
First Edition Of Boswell's Life Of Johnson, 1791


Click for more info

First edition, first state, of "the most famous biography in any language, one of Western literature’s most germinal achievements."

"The Shakespeare of biographers" (Macaulay), James Boswell "excelled in insight into human nature and in ability to dramatize a situation. For such purposes [Dr. Samuel] Johnson was God's plenty... Completeness of portrayal was certainly Boswell's aim—and his accomplishment" (Baugh, et al., 1065-66). "If there had been no Boswell, Johnson would have been one of the most famous names in English literature; but that he has become a household name... is due to the chance that brought Boswell into his company... The fascination of their dialogue, that dialogue of mind, heart and voice round which Boswell organized his great Life, is that it is not merely between two very different men but between two epochs. In its pages, Romantic Europe speaks to Renaissance Europe, and is answered" (Wain, 229).

"Sales exceeded all expectations. Of a total of 1750 sets printed, 800 were sold in the first two weeks, 1200 by the end of August, 1400 by December and 1600 by August 1792... Boswell's Life of Johnson remains the most famous biography in any language, one of Western literature’s most germinal achievements" (DNB). Volume I is first state, with "gve" uncorrected on page 135, line 10 (a change made before publication).


“He who has provoked the lash of wit, cannot complain that he smarts from it.”
“Produced A Great Effect Upon The Mind Of The American Colonists During The Revolution”: Rare First Edition Of Burgh’s Powerful Political Disquisitions, 1774-75, Edited By Benjamin Franklin


Click for more info

Rare first edition of this major revolutionary work, an important influence on America’s Founding Fathers, praised by John Adams as “a book which ought to be in the hands of every American who has learned to read.” Washington, Jefferson, Hancock and other leaders of the Continental Congress read this powerful work, and both The Federalist Papers and Common Sense refer to it. Edited by Burgh’s close friend, Benjamin Franklin.

John Adams declared Burgh’s Political Disquisitions “a book which ought to be in the hands of every American who has learned to read” (Wood, 165). A well-known Scottish reformer, Burgh was a close friend of Benjamin Franklin, who excerpted a work by Burgh in his Poor Richard almanacs and notably edited this highly influential work. Political Disquisitions is “perhaps the most important political treatise which appeared in England in the first half of the reign of George III” (Hay, “Benjamin Franklin, James Burgh,” William and Mary Quarterly 32:1:112).

Here Burgh powerfully targets issues such as freedom of speech, armies and militias, taxation without representation, and British oppression of the colonies. Issued in Philadelphia shortly after this rare English edition, Political Disquisitions “produced a great effect upon the mind of the American colonists during the Revolution” (Sabin 9246). Owned and read by many of the Founding Fathers, including Washington and Jefferson, this is cited in the Federalist Papers, and in Paine’s Common Sense.

Each volume issued separately in London (the first two in 1774, the final volume in 1775). With half titles in all volumes. Adams 74-13, 74-14, 75-14. Sabin 9246. Sowerby 2720. Volume I title page with early paper repair to small section likely excised for owner signature, not affecting text. Text generally quite fresh with only lightest scattered foxing, beautifully bound.
Rare First Edition Of Burke’s Influential Treatise On The Sublime, Igniting British Romanticism And His Later Work On Revolution


Click for more info

First edition of Edmund Burke’s influential work, a touchstone in the development of British Romanticism and the theoretical foundation for his celebrated 1790 work, Reflections on the Revolution in France, very scarce in contemporary tree calf. An early association copy with the owner signature of American physician and historian Dr. Franklin James Didier.

One of the single greatest influences on British Romanticism and the rise of the Gothic, Burke’s landmark essay was propelled by debates surrounding a 17th-century translation of the classical essay “On the Sublime.” His analysis of pleasure and fear became the first to carefully explore “the imaginative power of the unbounded and infinite, and the unstated and unknown” (Blackburn, 52). The Philosophical Enquiry much “anticipates the themes that dominate Burke’s political thinking throughout his career” (Yolton I, 144). This first edition, issued anonymously, was “a rather small edition, possibly like the Vindication limited to 500 copies.” First issue, first state, with the corrected “SECT. VI” on page 179, “SECT. VII” on page 180: both corrected late in the printing. No priority established as “most copies exhibit one mixture [of formes] or another” and none exist in a completely uncorrected state (Todd 5a). ESTC T42248. This association copy contains the contemporary owner signature of American physician, author and historian, Dr. Franklin James Didier, who was highly regarded for his work on Benjamin Franklin and an 1831 article in which he predicted the Civil War, “saying that the contention about slavery would be the cause of it” (Rutherford, 688). Later owner inkstamp. Interior very fresh with faintest soiling, expert repairs to joints, corners and spine ends of attractive contemporary tree calf. A very elusive near-fine copy.

“The first and the simplest emotion which we discover in the human mind is Curiosity.”
First Edition Of Cartier-Bresson’s
Decisive Moment, 1952, In Original
Dust Jacket Designed By Matisse

10. CARTIER-BRESSON, Henri. The Decisive
Moment. New York, 1952. Folio, original pictorial
boards, dust jacket, caption booklet. $6500.

Click for more info

First edition in English, published simultaneously
with the French, with 126 photographic illustrations
by “the Raphael of 20th-century photographers,” a
splendid copy with laid-in original caption book and
the colorful dust jacket with design by Matisse. An
association copy with the owner signature of award-
winning American artist Edgar A. Batzell.

Cartier-Bresson “is famous for his theory of the
‘decisive moment’—that is seizing the split second
when the subject stands revealed in its most
significant aspect. Today he ranks as one of the most
important and influential photographers of this
century” (Blodgett, 96)—“the Raphael of 20th-century photographers” (Icons
of Photography, 58). Decisive Moment is Cartier-Bresson’s most famous work,
containing his most comprehensive and important statement on the meaning,
technique, and utility of photography. “The simultaneous publication [of this
edition with Images à la Sauvette] in New York in July 1952, with a cover by
Matisse (who had just had his retrospective at the Museum of Modern Art) was a
tremendous success” (Roth, 134). Separate caption pamphlet (rarely found) laid
toning to extremities and expertly repaired tear to front panel. A near-fine copy.

“The world is movement,
and you cannot be stationary
in your attitude toward
something that is moving.”
“The Finest Edition Of Don Quixote That Has Ever Been Printed”:
Ibarra’s Superb 1780 Illustrated Edition, Handsomely Bound


Click for more info

The magnificent Ibarra Quixote, with engraved portrait of Cervantes, engraved frontispiece in each volume, 31 full-page engraved plates, numerous headpieces, tailpieces and historiated initials, and a double-page map showing Don Quixote’s route through Spain and the sites of his adventures. Text in Spanish. A handsome set in full morocco-gilt.

Don Quixote won instant fame for its “variety, liveliness, and gibes at the famous” (PMM). It was this edition, carefully prepared by Spain’s master printer Joaquin de Ibarra, illustrated by artists from the Academia de San Fernando and overseen by Cervantes scholar Vincente de los Ríos, that solidified the novel as part of the literary canon. Ibarra’s “chief fame rests on the Sallust of 1772 and the Don Quixote of 1780 in four volumes, the latter commissioned and supervised by the Spanish Royal Academy. Both are elegant editions, with numerous engraved illustrations, type, paper, and all details Spanish, deliberately made to be national treasures, which, indubitably, they are” (Pierpont Morgan Library, Art of the Printed Book, 28). “The Life of Cervantes” and “Analysis of Don Quixote” by Vicente de los Ríos far surpassed all similar biographical sketches and studies of the novel that had been previously published. “The finest edition of Don Quixote that has ever been printed” (Updike II: 73-75). This copy with the frontispiece for Volumes I and II repeated and bound in as the frontispiece for both Volumes I and II, and with frontispiece for Volumes III and IV repeated and bound in as frontispiece for those volumes, as issued. Part I first published in 1605; Part II first published in 1615. Cohen de Ricci 218-219. Palau 52024. Updike II:73-75. Text and plates generally quite clean and fine, expert repairs to most joints. A beautiful copy of this landmark of world literature.

“I read [Don Quixote] every year, as some do the Bible.”
—William Faulkner
First Folio Edition Of
The Workes Of King Charles,
The First Royally Sanctioned
Edition Of Eikon Basilike, 1662


Click for more info

First folio edition of the works of King Charles I—the enormously popular (and vainly suppressed) testament to the executed monarch’s political principles and spiritual devotion—the first edition directly approved by Charles II, beautifully printed with three magnificent double-page copper-engraved plates, engraved frontispiece (by Hollar) and title page, in lovely morocco-gilt with the king’s coat of arms stamped in gilt on the covers.

In late 1647, with tensions between Charles I and Parliament mounting, the king fled from Oliver Cromwell and the army. In November, he escaped “to the Isle of Wight, where he seems to have expected that Colonel Hammond, the governor of Carisbooke Castle, would protect him... Hammond, however, was faithful to his trust, and Charles became a resident, and before long a prisoner in the castle” (DNB). The next year, he would be tried and executed. “A few hours after the King’s execution, his Eikon Basilike was in the hands of the people... So marvelous was its effect, that contemporary authorities declare that nothing but the Government’s ingenious and persistent condemnations of the work prevented an immediate restoration of the crown” (Almack, 3). “The work is a masterpiece in its expression of Charles’ principles... and by making a martyr of this Stuart king, [it] exercised a considerable influence on English history” (Kunitz & Haycraft, 212), helping prepare the way for the 1660 Restoration of Charles II. This collection features the first royally sanctioned printing of the Eikon Basilike. Directly approved by Charles II and licensed exclusively to London printer Richard Royston, this majestic and wide-margined folio printing was seen as the finest production of the late king’s writings. Without the extra and frequently absent leaf bearing the epitaph “M.S. Sanctissimi Regis.” Without additional frontispiece, noted in some copies only. ESTC R9377. Almack 61. Wing C2075. Madan 65. Engraved armorial bookplate (“Thomas Walpole”). With two pages of 19th-century owner’s ink annotations in a neat hand bound in as flyleaves. Without front and rear free endpapers. Only very faint evidence of dampstain to lower corner of a few leaves, text and plates generally quite clean and fresh, a bit of rubbing to joints and spine ends, morocco-gilt binding quite sound and very handsome.
First Edition Of Churchill’s Important Second Book, *The River War*


Click for more info

*First edition, first printing, of Churchill’s rare second book, one of only 2000 copies printed, in original cloth.*

Churchill served in the 21st Lancers during Lord Kitchener’s campaign on the Upper Nile in the late 1890s and was a participant there in the last great cavalry charge of the British Army. “Hopping on a ferry, and not bothering to trouble his commanding officer in distant South India for leave, Winston turned up in the Abbasya barracks in Cairo on August 2, 1898, and joined the 21st’s A Squadron. He was fully outfitted, had bought a horse, and was, most important of all, equipped with a commission from the *Morning Post* to send dispatches at £15 a time” (Keegan, 46). “Far from accepting uncritically the superiority of British civilization, Churchill shows his appreciation for the longing for liberty among the indigenous inhabitants of the Sudan; but he finds their native regime defective in its inadequate legal and customary protection for the liberty of subjects. On the other hand, he criticizes the British army, and in particular its commander Lord Kitchener, for departing in its campaign from the kind of civilized respect for the liberty and humanity of adversaries that alone could justify British civilization and imperial rule over the Sudan” (Langworth, 27). This account includes 34 maps, 20 of which are printed in color and folding, and 58 illustrations, including tissue-guarded frontispieces, photogravure portraits, and numerous in-text illustrations. *First printing*, second state, with the final quotation mark after the words LONDON GAZETTE on page 459 of Volume II. With publisher’s 32-page catalogue at rear of Volume I, dated 10/99; “in most copies which contain a catalogue, it will be dated 11/99” (Gilbert). Without original dust jackets, so rare as to be unobtainable. Cohen A2.1.b. Woods A2(a). Langworth, 27-30. Volume I without front flyleaf (blank), interiors with several expert paper repairs to dog-eared corners (none with loss), text blocks and inner hinges expertly repaired, spines gently toned, cloth clean. An extremely good copy.

“When an army in the field becomes imbued with the idea that the enemy are vermin who cumber the earth, instances of barbarity may easily be the outcome.”
“If the Slave-trade should be really abolished, the bad usage of the slaves in the colonies... if not the slavery itself, would fall.”

First Edition Of Clarkson’s History, 1808, With Famous Folding Plate Of The Slave-Ship Brookes


First edition of Clarkson’s classic history of the slave trade, with the famous large folding engraving of the arrangement of slaves on decks of the slave-ship Brookes according to the “humane” Dolben Bill of 1788, in contemporary tree calf boards, a handsome copy.

Thomas Clarkson, who was “the heart and soul of the campaign for abolition,” led a handful of fervent activists working to untie slave-holding from the fabric of British life (Thomas, 495). His *History* would prove a vital document in the abolitionist struggles of Britain and America. The famous folding engraved plate of slaves closely fitted on decks of the slave-ship Brookes is one of the most powerful and influential images in the history of the anti-slavery movement. The Dolben Bill of 1788 had exacted a limit of the number of slaves per ship’s tonnage at five slaves per three tons. Anti-slavery activists obtained the measurements of the *Brookes* and imposed slaves on its decks in the ratio required by the “humane” Dolben Bill with stupefying results. In 1789, William Wilberforce had a scale model of the *Brookes* built (with images from this plate pasted on its decks), which he presented to the House of Commons during one of his most passionate and persuasive speeches. Diagram of the *Brookes* in Volume II; also with folding map and engraved plate of shackles in Volume I. Dumond, *Antislavery*, 169. Sabin 13486. Kress B5319. Goldsmiths 19725. McCulloch 316. Interior generally fresh with light scattered foxing, folding plate and map with expert repairs, handsome tree calf boards with light wear to edges.
“One Of The World’s Literary Masterpieces”:
First Edition Of Joseph Conrad’s Lord Jim—The Doheny Copy


Click for more info

First edition, first issue, of Conrad’s brilliant exploration of morality and the torment of guilt, unusually bright in the original cloth—the Doheny copy, with her morocco bookplate.

“There is nothing more enticing, disenchanting... than the life at sea.”

To critic Cedric Watts, Conrad’s Lord Jim is “one of the world’s literary masterpieces... Conrad, like Britannia, rules the waves... a book of the rare literary quality of Lord Jim is something to receive with gratitude and joy.” Lord Jim would prove a major influence on Fitzgerald’s Great Gatsby and on the works of Faulkner, Hemingway and Robert Penn Warren, who have each “acknowledged the importance of Conrad’s fiction” (Cambridge Companion). With all first-issue points. Serialized in Blackwood’s Magazine, beginning in late 1899. As issued without dust jacket. Cagle A5.a. Keating 25. Smith 5. Wise 7. This volume is from the celebrated collection of Estelle Doheny and bears her morocco-gilt bookplate. “One of the earliest female book collectors in the United States, Estelle Doheny, purchased her first rare book in 1931 and continued buying books and manuscripts until her death in 1958” (DePaul University). Mild foxing to fore-edge and first few and last few leaves, light rubbing to joints, binding sound, cloth clean, gilt bright. A near-fine copy, with excellent provenance.
First Serial Printing Of The U.S. Constitution:
Mathew Carey’s 1787 American Museum, Especially Rare In Original Boards


Click for more info

First edition of a true American classic: Mathew Carey’s American Museum for 1787 (Volume II: Nos. I-VI), containing in the September issue the first serial printing of the U.S. Constitution and featuring the first serial printings of the first six Federalist papers issued outside of New York City, in original marbled boards.

Mathew Carey’s pioneering magazine, The American Museum “shares with Columbian Magazine the honor of being the first successful American magazine” (Mott, 100). The American Museum fast became the source of first resort for governmental information, including the proceedings of Congress, activities of cabinet departments, texts of state constitutions, treaties with foreign countries, and current international developments. The September 1787 issue is especially important offering the first serial printing of the U.S. Constitution—arguably the most important of all American documents (276ff.). While Columbian Magazine also contains the Constitution in its September issue, evidence gathered from newspaper advertisements of the time suggest The American Museum’s issue preceded Columbian’s by two days. Carey’s “magazine of great excellencies,” also presents among the first serial printings of the initial Federalist papers, printing “the first six papers in November and December 1787” (Crane, 590). With list of subscribers, including Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton and John Dickinson. Mispagination as issued without loss of text. Evans 20194. Sabin 1162. ESTC P5392. Early owner signature of Samuel L. Lewis. Trace of early inked initials to fore-edge. Occasional faint marginalia. Interior generally fresh with light scattered foxing, faint occasional dampstaining, tiny bit of scattered marginal edge-wear without affecting text, mild rubbing to original marbled boards.
Inscribed By Francis Crick And Signed By James Watson


First edition of Watson’s controversial personal account of the DNA discovery, inscribed: “Best wishes to A— and R— G—. Francis Crick” and signed by James D. Watson.

“One of the investigators, more than any of the others, realized the decisive importance of the DNA molecules in biology, and it was this understanding which urged him relentlessly to push this work toward a successful conclusion, in spite of his rather modest technical qualifications for this task” (Mayr, 823). “He has described admirably how it feels to have that frightening and beautiful experience of making a great scientific discovery” (Richard Feynman). With numerous diagrams and photographic illustrations, and six pages of facsimiles. Book fine, dust jacket with a bit of faint shallow dampstaining along top edge, two small tape repairs to verso. Very unusual and desirable signed by both Watson and Crick.

“Worrying about complications before ruling out the possibility that the answer was simple would have been damned foolishness.”
First Edition Of John Cotton’s *The Churches Resurrection*, 1642


[Click for more info]

First edition of this learned 17th-century American examination of the Revelation in light of the events of the English Civil War.

“Chief among the guiding spirits of the first generation of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in New England was the Reverend John Cotton, teacher of the First Church in Boston” (Tuttle, 363). In *The Churches Resurrection*, Cotton “describes a much more active role for New England in determining the shape of the last days... Cotton also suggests that a rare opportunity exists for a national gathering of churches to actually serve as the millennial nation if those churches are found to be sufficiently regenerate upon the commencement of the millennium, at that moment when the Jews are converted, the Antichrist destroyed, and Satan bound” (John Hales, “American Millennialism and The Crater”). Writing during the English Civil War, “Cotton asserted that... it was in New not Old England that there was to be a ‘resurrection... from resting in forms.’ There the church was ‘but a company, a body of godly persons’, demonstrating signs of saving grace and all were ‘spiritual priests and kings unto God.’ To those tempted to return to their native country, as it was rent by civil war, Cotton presented a choice between sacred and reprobate communities, Jerusalem and Babylon” (Sharpe, 131). ESTC R27919. Wing C6419. Sabin 17054. Armorial bookplate of Fairfax of Cameron, specifically the Scottish peer Albert Kirby Fairfax, 12th Lord Fairfax. Armorial bookplate of the “Fox Pointe Collection. Library of Dr. & Mrs. H.R. Knohl.” Linda and Howard Knohl have earned a reputation as distinguished art and book collectors, with a particular focus on 16th- and 17th-century English literature. A few tiny tape repairs to verso of title page and verso of first page of text, occasional faint foxing to interior. A near-fine copy.

“The houre is coming and now is, when the dead shall heare the voice of the Sonne of God and they that heare shall live.”
“The Most Important Single Work In Science”:
Important Third Edition Of Darwin’s Origin Of Species,
“Extensively Altered” By Darwin

19. DARWIN, Charles. On the Origin of Species By Means of Natural Selection, Or the Preservation of

Click for more info

Third edition, of which only 2000 copies were printed, of “certainly the most important biological book ever
written” (Freeman), published just two years after the first edition and “extensively altered” by Darwin, in
the original cloth.

“This, the most important single work in science, brought man to his true place
in nature” (Heralds of Science 199). The Origin was recognized immediately as
important, revolutionary and highly controversial; the small first edition of only
1250 copies sold out very quickly, and is extremely rare today. By the autumn of
1859 the publisher Murray was asking Darwin to begin revising again at once for a
It was extensively altered, and is of interest for the addition of a table of differences
between it and the second edition... and also for the addition of the historical
sketch” in which Darwin situates his work in relation to his predecessors’ work on
evolution (Freeman, 78). Folding chart opposite page 123, new to this edition and
included in all subsequent editions; two pages of publisher’s advertisements at
rear. Freeman 381, binding variant b (no priority). PMM 344b. Dibner, 199. Owner ink signature on half title.
Penciled annotations. Bookseller’s ticket. Binder’s ticket. Mild foxing to preliminaries and text block edges,
text generally clean, expert reinforcement to text block and inner hinges, unrestored original cloth with light
wear to foot of spine, pinprick hole to rear joint, spine gently toned, gilt bright. An extremely good copy.

“This preservation
of favourable
variations and the
rejection of injurious
variations, I call
Natural Selection.”
First Edition Of Frederick Douglass’ My Bondage And My Freedom, 1855


Click for more info

First edition of Douglass’ second autobiography, with three engraved plates, including the stipple-engraved frontispiece from the classic daguerreotype of Douglass, and printed extracts from his famous speeches, in original cloth.

“The most influential African American of the 19th century” (ANB), Douglass was “the most powerful abolitionist speaker in the country” (Negro History).  Appearing a decade after his initial, brief autobiography, My Bondage and My Freedom is the work “critics have increasingly called Douglass’ ‘true’ life story” (Lee, 99).  Described by Eric Sundquist as “a classic text of the American Renaissance,” this authoritative narrative, published within five years of the Civil War, documents “Douglass’ ongoing critique of American racism... In 1855, more so than in 1845, Douglass realized that his life’s story had the power to influence social and political change for black and white Americans” (John David Smith).  Bound without advertisements.  Blockson 9717.  Sabin 20714.  Faint owner signature.  Interior generally fresh with light scattered foxing, expert restoration to original cloth.
**“Oh, Carrie, Carrie! Oh, Blind Strivings Of The Human Heart!”**


**Click for more info**

Exceptionally rare first edition of Dreiser’s controversial first novel. The Frank Hogan copy, with his bookplate.

According to biographer W.A. Swanberg, Dreiser “seemed to have had no inkling that he was creating a revolutionary work” (De Grazia, 101). He was aware, however, that others would find the novel controversial. Even before it was submitted he had made attempts to revise, or “clean up” his novel, at the urging of his first wife. Alarmed when he returned from Europe to find that his firm had taken the work, Franklin Doubleday “personally edited the proofs and insisted to Dreiser that all the profanities be removed and certain ‘suggestive’ passages altered” (DeGrazia, 103). The expurgated text made Carrie’s motivations incoherent, and bad reviews killed the novel on its first publication. H.L. Mencken spearheaded the novel’s critical reappraisal, and it came to be recognized as a groundbreaking and influential novel of American realism and naturalism. Doubleday’s records indicate, “the first edition consisted of 1008 copies, of which 129 were sent out for review, 465 were sold, and the balance, 423 copies, were turned over to [remainder house] J. F. Taylor & Company” (Orton, Dreiseriana, 17). This first edition is extremely rare. McDonald 28-32. Orton 16-19. Morocco-gilt bookplate of Frank J. Hogan, distinguished attorney and celebrated bibliophile. “His library was an appealing and highly personal selection of literary treasures” (Dickinson, 163-64). A beautiful and exceptional copy, with almost no wear to extremities and the cloth vivid and completely unfaded.

> “It is when the feet weary and hope seems vain that the heartaches and the longings arise.”
Faraday’s First Two Landmark Papers On Electrical Induction


Click for more info

Scarce first edition—preceding their appearance in the first collected edition by seven years—of Faraday’s first two groundbreaking papers in electrical research, illustrated with two engraved plates.

“One of the greatest physicists of the 19th century and one of the finest experimenters of all time,” Faraday made significant contributions to “our knowledge of the nature and potentialities of electricity... He enunciated his theory of ‘lines’ or ‘tubes’ of magnetic force which was the starting point for the revolutionary theories of Clerk Maxwell and later of Einstein... [His discoveries] laid the foundation of the modern electrical industry—electric light and power, telephony, wireless telegraphy, television, etc.” (PMM 308). This volume contains (on pages 125-194) the first two of 29 papers Faraday published in Philosophical Transactions between 1832 and 1852; the first is widely hailed as Faraday’s greatest, as it sets forth his breakthrough discovery of electromagnetic induction. Mottelay, 484. A fine copy, handsomely bound. Scarce.

“Faraday is, and must always remain, the father of that enlarged science of electro-magnetism.”—James Clerk Maxwell
It is the great beauty of our science, chemistry, that advancement in it... opens the doors to further and more abundant knowledge, overflowing with beauty and utility.
Galley Of The Rogers Commission’s Recommendations After The Challenger Disaster, Signed By Commission Member And Nobel Prize-Winning Physicist Richard Feynman


Click for more info

Mimeograph of the galleys of the Recommendations of the Rogers Commission tasked with investigating the Challenger disaster, signed by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Richard Feynman with his additional note: “PRIVATE (CLOSE HOLD).”

The Rogers Commission was formed in the aftermath of the Challenger disaster to investigate the reasons behind the space shuttle’s explosion. Richard Feynman was in the final months of his life and reluctantly accepted the appointment to the Commission, despite believing it would “ruin [his] life.” Feynman was consumed by the investigation, painstakingly analyzing the evidence and eventually reaching a conclusion that exposed systemic problems at NASA that extended well beyond the Challenger. Feynman harshly criticized the culture of NASA, from its poor decision-making to its excessive risk tolerance. This galley of the Commission’s ultimate recommendations takes a more moderate approach. It begins by recommending that the design of the Solid Rocket Motor joint and seal (the infamous O-rings) be improved and goes on to suggest changes to NASA bureaucracy and oversight. This report, unlike Feynman’s minority report, “strongly recommends that NASA continue to receive the support of the Administration and the nation.” Small notation in an unidentified hand above Feynman’s signature reading: “1st gally [sic] 9:45 5/26.” This item was formerly the property of the Feynman family. Original folding creases. Fine condition.
Extraordinarily Rare Bilingual Edition Of The Way To Wealth, 1795, “The Most Popular Of All Franklin’s Writings,” In Original Boards


Click for more info

Rare large-paper Paris printing of one of Franklin’s most famous works, the first edition in English of Franklin’s Way to Wealth to be published in France, featuring engraved frontispiece portrait of Franklin by Dupleisse, one of a very small number of copies printed on large paper, in original boards.

In the 27th and last edition of Poor Richard’s Almanack, Franklin included a preface consisting of “a long speech to a market-day audience by a character named Father Abraham. The speech blended maxims and aphorisms culled from previous almanacs into a promise that men who worked hard, were prudent and frugal, would become rich. The people listened attentively, but once Father Abraham had finished they ‘immediately practiced the contrary, just as if it had been a common sermon,’ Poor Richard remarked ruefully; ‘for the vendue opened, and they began to buy extravagantly, notwithstanding all his cautions, and their own fear of taxes.’ Under the title ‘The Way to Wealth’ the speech would become the most popular of all Franklin’s writings” (Hawke, 162-3). First published separately in 1760, this later English/French edition, “the prettiest yet printed” (Ford 135), was issued in a very limited number, purportedly with only a handful of copies on large paper (Brunet II:1383). With Observations sur les sauvages du nord de l’Amerique, together with French translations of La Science du Bonhomme Richard, Lettres du Franklin, Dialogue entre la Goutte et Franklin, and Quelques Mots sur l’Amerique. Bound with half title; with 31-page publisher’s catalogue at rear. Sabin 25596. Early owner signature on verso of half title. Interior clean and fine (tiny tear to lower corner of frontispiece margin), spine gently toned, printed paper label intact, light wear to extremities, near-fine and much nicer than often found. A most rare and desirable copy in original boards.

"Early to bed, and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise."
“Yours Until ‘Z’ Is For Zero!”:
The Complete Kinsey Millhone Mysteries,
From Alibi To Yesterday, Each Signed Or Inscribed By Sue Grafton

26. GRAFTON, Sue. The Alphabet Series [“A” to “Y”, all published].
    New York, 1982-2017. Together, 26 volumes. Octavo, original paper boards or
    half cloth, dust jackets. $21,500.
    Click for more info

Full first edition set of Grafton’s popular Kinsey Millhone mysteries, each volume signed or inscribed by the author, with the first volume inscribed: “For M— K—- — Sue Grafton. Yours until ‘Z’ is for Zero!”

“By 1982, Grafton was a twice-divorced mother of three children who conceived “A” is for Alibi in preference to murdering her ex-husband... Her award-winning ‘alphabet’ series... has helped transform the predominantly male preserve of American crime writing... Her tightly paced mysteries are shaped by Kinsey Millhone, a feisty, self-sufficient private investigator who is appealingly candid, with a wry wit” (Stringer, 259-60). Tragically, Grafton died of a very rare cancer (appendiceal) while still working on “Z” Is for Zero, rendering the 25-volume “A” through “Y” series a complete run. This set includes a second copy of “I” is for Innocent,” from the first English edition, also signed by Grafton. “C” is for Corpse has also been inscribed by Grafton (“Mysteriously Yours”). A bit of glue residue to endpapers and dust jacket verso of “F” is for Fugitive. Fine condition.
“It Will Live As Long As Aesop’s Fables” (John Bigelow)


Click for more info

First edition, first state, of the first and most beloved Uncle Remus book by Harris, the one American writer of the Reconstruction who “has made the most permanent contribution,” with eight plates and numerous text illustrations by Church and Moser, in original cloth-gilt.

“Harris’ main concern in setting [the stories] down was to preserve the remnants of a folklore which he was sufficiently farseeing to know would one day perish from the earth unless someone who understood the racial psychology and social philosophy behind it acted as amanuensis to its surviving narrators” (Twenty-three Books, Winterich, 102). “Of all the American writers of [the Reconstruction] period, Joel Chandler Harris has made the most permanent contribution” (Braithwaite, in The New Negro, 32). First state, with “presumptive” in the last line of page 9 and no mention of Uncle Remus in the publisher’s advertisements. BAL 7100. Booklabel. Owner signature. A few finger smudges to interior, only light rubbing to extremities, gilt bright. A near-fine copy.

“You may know de way, but better keep yo’ eyes on de seven stairs.”
The First Hebrew Bible Printed In England, 1750


Click for more info

First separate Hebrew Bible printed in England, very rare, preceded only by its appearance as part of the London Polyglot (1655-57), beautifully bound.

Edited by Nathaniel Forster—“a scholar and preacher of the highest order” and later a chaplain to King George II (DNB)—this Bible contains the Pentateuch in Volume I and the Former and Latter Prophets and Writings in Volume II. Text in unpointed Hebrew, based on van der Hooght’s 1705 edition, with titles and chapter heads in Latin. Issued on “large paper” and “common paper,” of which this is the latter. Darlow & Moule 5151. Rumball-Petre 260. ESTC T147721. Zedner, 102. Bookplate. With the occasional marginal ink smudge or dampstain, inner hinges expertly reinforced, a few minor rubs to binding. An excellent copy of this scarce edition, handsomely bound.
First Edition Of Imitations Of Original Drawings By Holbein, A Majestic Large Folio Volume Of 84 Beautiful Color Stipple-Engraved Portraits Of The Court Of Henry VIII, With The Very Rare Extra Suite Of 8 Plates Of The Court Of Francis II


First edition of Chamberlaine’s magnificent volume of 84 color stipple-engraved plates, rarely found complete, an impressive collection of full-page engravings after Holbein’s legendary portraits of Jane Seymour, Anne Boleyn, Sir Thomas More, a young Edward VI, Anne of Cleves, and other court figures, with color frontispiece portraits of Holbein and his wife, with all but four portraits engraved by the great Bartolozzi. With the very rare extra suite of eight Holbein portraits of the court of Francis II, only included with some copies. Beautifully bound.

The majestic portraiture of Holbein, who died in London in 1543, “remains unsurpassed for sureness and economy of statement, penetration into character, and a combined richness and purity of style” (Waterhouse). At the end of the 18th century, John Chamberlaine, in the court of George III, sought to bring together a work to pay tribute to Holbein’s magnificent artistry. As the king’s Keeper of the Drawings, he assembled 84 splendid color stipple-engraved full-page portraits of Edward VI, Anne Boleyn, Thomas More, Jane Seymour, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Anne of Cleves, and other major figures of the age. “One of the most magnificent books that we have ever seen, and, whether we consider the genius of the painter or the talents of the engravers, reflects high honor on the age and nation which produced it” (London Monthly Review). “This magnificent work is surely the finest early example of English color printing” (Ray, English 19). “In every way a splendid book” (Abbey, Life, 205). Initially issued serially in 14 parts from 1792-1800. This volume’s 84 beautiful portraits, some printed on pink paper, were achieved with techniques that admirably succeed in honoring Holbein’s portraiture. The plates were etched or engraved in gray or sepia ink, with additional colored inks applied a la poupee, two hand-colored. Text by Edmund Lodge. The suite of eight additional portraits of the court of Francis II is all that was published of “an intended continuation to Chamberlaine’s Imitations. It will be noticed that all eight are without dated imprints, and it is therefore probable that no copies were issued to the public until the stock was acquired many years later by Messrs. Bohn, who added them as a Supplement to copies of the earlier work” (Abbey, Life, 206). Some plates mounted. One plate with repaired tear, plates exceptionally clean and fresh, binding beautiful. A stunning production.
First Editions Of Gnome Press’ Complete Conan Books


Click for more info


Robert E. Howard “set the most important precedents of all for the future evolution of imaginative fiction in America” (Anatomy of Wonder, 35). In the 17 stories about Conan, the primeval warrior king, that he sold to Weird Tales between 1932 and his suicide in 1936, Howard created a character “whose exuberance is almost irresistible... He is a fomenter, a shaker of the world” (Clute & Grant, 482-83). “Conan... has become one of the myth figures of our time... This is the original, unadulterated Sword-and-Sorcery, and as such it has been extremely influential. Robert E. Howard managed to create a genre” (Pringle, Modern Fantasy, 42-43). In the 1950s Gnome Press published all of Howard’s tales of Conan known to exist at that time, including some material that not previously seen print. L. Sprague de Camp revised (rather too heavily, according to many Howard fans) and completed some stories in Gnome’s latter volumes, and collaborated with Swedish author Björn Nyberg on the last title, The Return of Conan. Mighty Conan has waged his violent way to the silver screen several times, played by Arnold Schwarzenegger in Conan the Barbarian (1982) and Conan the Destroyer (1984), and in Conan the Barbarian (2011) by Jason Momoa. See Fantasy and Horror 5-144. Books with mild embrowning to later volumes’ text blocks, cloth generally fresh. Dust jackets bright (light sunning to spine of Conan the Conqueror) with only minor wear to some spine feet. An excellent set, desirable in such wonderful condition.
Among Quaker Women Of Her Day, Hume Had An Extraordinary Knowledge Of The Arts, Literature And Theology**: Rare First Edition Of Hume’s *Exhortation*, Philadelphia, 1747, In Contemporary Calf

**31.** HUME, Sophia. *An Exhortation to the Inhabitants Of the Province of South-Carolina.* Philadelphia, 1747. Octavo, contemporary brown calf rebacked with original spine laid down, custom clamshell box. $12,500. Click for more info

Very rare first edition of this pioneering and electrifying work by Quaker minister Sophia Hume, famed across England and America for her eloquence, printed with the aid of Philadelphia Quakers and issued by the publishing house of William Bradford, scarce in contemporary calf.

Sophia Hume, born in South Carolina, was a descendant of Mary Fisher, one of the first Quakers to preach in New England. Raised Anglican, Hume moved to England where she joined the Society of Friends. “Like many other women converted during the Great Awakening around 1740, she was accused of ‘Delusion’ and ‘religious Madness.’ But despite the disapproval of her children and former friends, she traveled extensively for more than 30 years, writing and preaching both in England and the colonies” (Moynihan et al., *Second to None*). “Women’s participation in the ministry, traditionally a masculine prerogative, sprang from Quaker belief in both genders’ capacity to be guided by the Holy Spirit in inspired preaching” (Larson, 4). Hume returned home to Charleston where, “to spread her message further, she wrote The Exhortation... and, to get it printed quickly, took the manuscript to Philadelphia” (Boyer, 234). In 1747, “the Meeting of the Society of Friends in Philadelphia promoted a subscription ‘for defraying the charges of printing our frd Sophia Hume’s book’” (Miller 445). With 14-stanza “Divine Love Commemorated” at rear. Sabin 33780. Early owner ink signatures. Some foxing and minor embrowning to text, contemporary calf covers nicely restored. An extremely good copy.
The Burden And The Glory, One Of Only 100 Specially Bound Copies, Inscribed By Jacqueline Kennedy To A Longtime Family Friend And Consultant


Click for more info

First edition of this collection of President Kennedy’s speeches and statements, one of only 100 copies handsomely bound in full morocco gilt-tooled with the presidential seal, inscribed on a tipped-in leaf to the Kennedy clan’s interior designer: “For Robert Luddington with deep appreciation and all my good wishes, Jacqueline Kennedy, Christmas 1965.”

“When Jacqueline Kennedy was pregnant, a man named Robert Luddington was tasked with furnishing a special room for her at Hyannis Port, the Kennedys’ famous Cape Cod compound. Luddington... worked with the entire Kennedy clan for 60 years, serving as an interior designer on multiple homes for the family’s matriarch, Rose Kennedy, and, later, for her children and grandchildren... Luddington started working on President Kennedy’s home on the Cape when it was purchased, furnishing the house in a ‘traditional way’ with early American pieces under guidance from Jacqueline Kennedy... In addition to his work at the Cape house, Luddington also helped supply some furniture for the White House residence” (The Boston Globe). Published mere months after Kennedy was assassinated, this volume explores the priorities of his second and third year in office through a selection of his public statements and speeches, including his second and third State of the Union addresses, his famous “Ich Ben Ein Berliner” speech, remarks on the Cuban Missile Crisis, comments on race relations and an undelivered speech for his trip to Dallas. Edited by Allan Nevins. Foreword by President Lyndon Johnson. This copy, boasting a deluxe calf binding with gilt presidential seal in matching slipcase, is one of only 100 given to those who attended a fundraising dinner for the Kennedy Library in honor of Jacqueline Kennedy, who was making her first public appearance since her husband’s death. Mrs. Kennedy signed copies for those who requested she do so, although few of the copies are inscribed to a specific named individual as this copy is. Fine condition.

“For unless liberty flourishes in all lands, it cannot flourish in one.”
First edition of Keynes’ important work on monetary theory, in rare original dust jackets.

“The world-wide slump after 1929 prompted Keynes to attempt an explanation of... the trade-cycle” (PMM 423). “In 1930, Keynes brought out his heavy, two-volume Treatise on Money, which effectively set out his Wicksellian theory of the credit cycle. In it, the rudiments of a liquidity preference theory of interest are laid out and Keynes believed it would be his magnum opus...[however, criticism was swift and extreme] and the Treatise led to the formation of a reading group, known as ‘the circus,’ composed of young Cambridge economists Richard Kahn and others... Kahn dutifully delivered reports of the Circus’s discussions to Keynes, who subsequently began revising his ideas” (History of Economic Thought). As a result of the controversy over the Treatise on Money, and the subsequent discussions and debates that arose from it, Keynes produced his greatest work, The General Theory, which literally began a revolution in American economics. Books fine, rare unrestored dust jackets in unusually fresh condition, with expected toning to spines, a bit of shallow chipping to spine heads and mild dampstaining to spine head of Volume II. Very desirable in the original dust jackets.
First Edition Of One Of The Rarest Of American Classics, To Kill A Mockingbird, Inscribed By Harper Lee In The Year Of Publication


Click for more info

First edition, third printing, of Lee’s cherished masterpiece—“the Huckleberry Finn of the 20th century”—inscribed in the year of publication: “To ———, with my best wishes, Harper Lee, September 17, 1960.”

Lee’s indelible depiction of life in a small Alabama town during the Jim Crow era immediately became a bestseller, quickly established itself on required reading lists in classrooms across the country, and was honored with the 1961 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. It was “the Huckleberry Finn of the 20th century,” declared biographer Charles Shields. Stated third impression, in stated third-printing dust jacket. New York Public Library’s Books of the Century, 201. Book fine, dust jacket extremely good with shallow chipping to spine ends, a bit of soiling and wear to rear panel. Near-fine condition.

“The difficulty lies, not in the new ideas, but in escaping from the old ones.”

“...You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view—until you climb into his skin and walk around in it.”
Signed By Abraham Lincoln: Appointment For Consul To Singapore, 1861

LINCOLN, Abraham. Document signed. Washington, November 4, 1861. One leaf, measuring 17 by 13 inches, printed on one side and finished by hand; handsomely matted and framed, entire piece measures 21 by 17 inches. $21,000.

Click for more info

Civil-War era document signed by President Lincoln and countersigned by Acting Secretary of State Frederick W. Seward, appointing John Clark as Consul to Singapore.

The document reads, in part: “The President of the United States of America, to all who shall see these presents greeting. Know ye, that, reposing special trust and confidence in the abilities & integrity of John S. Clark, of New York, I do appoint him Consul of the United States of America at Singapore; and such other parts as shall be nearer thereto than to the residence of any other Consul or Vice Consul of the United States... And I do hereby enjoin all Captains, Masters and Commanders of Ships and other Vessels, armed or unarmed, sailing under the Flag of the said States, as well as all other of their Citizens, to acknowledge & consider him, the said John. S. Clark, accordingly... By the President: [signed] Abraham Lincoln. [signed] F.W. Seward Acting Secretary of State.”

When William H. Seward was appointed Secretary of State in 1861, his son Frederick W. Seward—who has countersigned this document—became Assistant Secretary of State in charge of consular service under Lincoln and then Andrew Johnson. He served in the position until 1869. Very faint offsetting from folds, embossed seal intact, signature bold and clear. Fine condition.
Exceptional Presidential Pardon Signed By Abraham Lincoln, Pardoning A Man Convicted Of Manslaughter While Warning Away A Mob Harassing An African-American Boy

LINCOLN, Abraham. Manuscript pardon signed. Washington, June 18, 1861. One wove leaf, measuring 21 by 17 inches, written on both sides, presidential seal intact. $35,000.

Click for more info

Manuscript pardon boldly signed by Abraham Lincoln and countersigned by Secretary of State William H. Seward, granting clemency to Benjamin Ogle, who had served three years of an eight-year prison term for manslaughter, after shooting to death a ten-year-old boy named John Webb of Georgetown in 1858. Webb was one of a group of young boys that had been harassing and throwing stones at an African-American boy. Ogle, whose house stood nearby, emerged with his gun, warned the white boys away, and then shot once, hitting Webb in the back of his head and killing him.

“The power to grant presidential pardons, contained in Article II, Section 2 of the Constitution, has been directly related to—if not the critical feature of—some of the most salient political events in our nation’s history including: the Whiskey Rebellion, Fries Rebellion, the Alien-Sedition Acts, the presidential election of 1800, the Aaron Burr conspiracy trial, the War Between the States, and Reconstruction... The use of clemency powers has played a major role in the development of criminal law’s recognition of an insanity defense, self-defense, and compulsion” (P.S. Ruckman, Jr.). During his presidency, Abraham Lincoln demonstrated this presidential prerogative 343 times. With embossed presidential Great Seal. Countersigned by Secretary of State William H. Seward; docketed on verso. Near-fine condition, with only minor expert paper repairs along three folds.
“The ‘Jewish Socrates’”: Exceedingly Rare First Edition In English Of Moses Mendelssohn’s Seminal Work, Phaedon, 1789

MENDELSSOHN, Moses. **Phaedon; Or, The Death of Socrates.** London, 1789. Octavo, contemporary green calf gilt. $9500.

First edition in English, preceded by the 1767 first German edition, of Mendelssohn’s “classic of rational psychology” on the immortality of the human soul, a defining work by the preeminent philosopher “who launched the Jewish thinking of the modern age,” his tribute to Socrates modeled on Plato’s dialogue the Phaedo.

“A legend even during his own lifetime, Mendelssohn was regarded as the embodiment of the humanist ideal” (*Encyclopedia Judaica*). “The greatest Jewish philosopher of the 18th century... he was called ‘the Jewish Socrates.’” He engaged in a dispute with Swiss clergyman Lavater, who “challenged him to prove the superiority of Judaism over Christianity” or convert (*Encyclopedia of Philosophy*). It was a challenge “Mendelssohn effectively disabled with a plea for tolerance and a series of reasons for refraining from such religious controversy” (*Stanford Encyclopedia*). In 1767 Mendelssohn used Plato’s famous dialogue the *Phaedo* as a model to publish *Phädon* in German. First published in English in this 1789 edition. *First printing*: found with “lix” numbered (this copy) or unnumbered, no priority established. Translated from the German by Charles Cullen, with his dedication to Henry Dundas dated in print “July 12, 1789.” With half title. ESTC N54707. Owner bookplate. Gilt-stamped owner name to front board. Interior fine, joints and boards with expert restoration.

“It would be weakness and folly to treat life with so much indifference, and run willingly into the arms of death.”
**Rare Presentation/Association First Edition Of Huey Newton’s**

*To Die For The People, 1972, Inscribed By Him To Civil Rights Leader Al Lowenstein*


[Click for more info](#)

*First edition of a volume of Newton’s 35 key writings and speeches, with 16 pages of illustrations, in original dust jacket. An exceptional presentation/association copy inscribed to a fellow leader in “civil rights, anti-apartheid and human rights movements”: “To—Al Lowenstein All Power to the People—From—Huey.”*

In 1966 Newton and Bobby Seale sparked a national Black Panther Party with their Ten-Point Program [herein], calling “for Black self-determination, decent housing, education” and an end to police brutality (Joseph, 208-9). When he was charged with killing a police officer, the Panthers initiated a “‘Free Huey’ movement that… galvanized Blacks, resulting in... a national Black Panther Party buoyed by the rallying cry ‘All Power to the People’” (ANB). Found guilty of manslaughter, he was released after an appeal in 1970. In addition to the founding Program, other works included are his Executive Mandates, along with writings on “Black Capitalism,” Vietnam, Angela Davis and much more. To Peniel Joseph, “To Die for the People represents one of the most important analyses of the politics of race, black radicalism, and democracy written during the civil rights-Black Power era.” Edited by Toni Morrison while at Random House. This very memorable presentation/association copy is inscribed by Newton to Al Lowenstein: “a relentless opponent of injustice in the U.S. and throughout the world. His passionate leadership played a crucial role in the civil rights, anti-apartheid, anti-war and human rights movements of the 60s and 70s” (Yale Law School). He “counted among his friends and acquaintances many of the leading political figures of the postwar generation,” including Huey Newton (Washington Post). Book fine; mere trace of edgewear to bright about-fine dust jacket.
Rare First Edition Of Solomon Northup’s *Twelve Years A Slave*, 1853


Click for more info

First edition, rare first printing, of Northup’s powerful first-hand account documenting slavery’s brutality, with engraved frontispiece and six full-page engravings of his torture in a slave pen, his near-escape from a lynching and much more, in original cloth.

Northup, born a free man in New York, was kidnapped into slavery in 1841, leaving behind a wife and young children. He writes of being drugged and suddenly waking up in a Washington D.C., where he was imprisoned in a “slave pen within the very shadow of the Capitol!” Viciously whipped and beaten for refusing to “give in to the foul lie that I was a slave,” Northup was sold to several slave owners in Louisiana for 12 years before he found a way to send news home, leading to his return to freedom in 1853. *Twelve Years A Slave*, published that same year, is “one of the most authentic descriptions of slavery from the viewpoint of the slave himself” (Lieblich). On publication Frederick Douglass praised *Twelve Years* as a work whose “truth is far greater than fiction... It chills the blood.” Basis for the award-winning 2013 film that earned three Academy Awards, including Best Film. *First edition, first printing*. Four pages of publisher’s advertisements. Sabin 55847. Brigano 448. Early inked date of “1854.” Later owner inkstamp. Faint trace of bookplate removal. Interior generally fresh with scattered foxing and light embrowning, expert restoration to text block and original cloth.
Rare First Edition Of Price’s *Civil Liberty*, 1776, A Seminal Influence On American Independence


*Click for more info*

First edition of Price’s powerfully influential British defense of the American revolution, a work of crucial importance in “determining the Americans to declare their independence” (ODNB).

A close friend of Benjamin Franklin and John Adams, Richard Price “was the most influential British advocate of American independence” (Howes P586). His *Observations on the Nature of Civil Liberty* stands as the most important writing by an Englishman sympathetic to the American cause, for “the encouragement derived from this book had no inconsiderable share in determining the Americans to declare their independence” (DNB). In 1778, Price was offered the singular honor of United States citizenship. This rare first edition, which precedes the first American edition, is reportedly one of only 1000 copies published in London in February 1776 and sold out within three days. With half title, often lacking. Adams 76-118a. Adams, *American Independence* 224a. Sabin 65452. ESTC T10138. Goldsmiths 11512. Kress 7243. Half title with contemporary owner signature dated 1776. Text very fresh and crisp, beautifully bound.

“Next to the introduction of Christianity among mankind, the American revolution may prove the most important step in the progressive course of human improvement.”
Limited First Edition Of One Of Roosevelt’s Privately Printed Travel Logbooks, Inscribed By President Roosevelt

42. (ROOSEVELT, Franklin D.) WATSON, Edwin. *Log of the Cruise of President Franklin D Roosevelt in the Gulf of Mexico*. Washington, 1937. Quarto, original half cloth, buff paper wrappers, custom cloth clamshell box. $12,500.

Click for more info

Limited first edition, one of an unnumbered limitation, of this privately printed travel logbook about FDR’s cruise in the Gulf of Mexico, inscribed: “For Paul Hart from Franklin D. Roosevelt.”

According to Roosevelt bibliographer Ernest J. Halter, at least 17 of these presidential cruise logs were issued between 1934 and 1945. Because they were all planographed or mimeographed to maintain their homemade appearance, their production didn’t require a formal publisher and thus the exact number remains unknown. All, however, were issued in restricted editions for private distribution. The present log concerns FDR’s Gulf of Mexico cruise on the *U.S.S. Potomac*. It also includes details of a condolence letter sent from Roosevelt to Hitler about the Hindenburg. It is believed to have been written entirely by Colonel Edwin M. Watson, Roosevelt’s close friend and favorite advisor. During his administration, Roosevelt adopted Watson’s Virginia estate as his Camp David-esque presidential retreat. Watson was also essentially the White House Chief of Staff at a time when the position had not yet been formally created. When Roosevelt wanted to stand at public appearances, Watson was one of only two people (the other being Roosevelt’s son) that Roosevelt trusted enough to use for physical support. Watson served Roosevelt faithfully, until his tragic death from a hemorrhagic stroke while returning from the Yalta Conference. These pre-war logbooks are quite rare; we know of only two examples appearing for public sale. Halter, 191.

From the private estate of Paul M. Hart of Missouri City, Texas. Fine condition.
“The Most Promising Cub Reporter That Ever Came Out Of Hyde Park”: FDR's Public Papers And Addresses, Presented And Inscribed By President Roosevelt To The National Press Club


Click for more info

First trade editions of the first five volumes of Roosevelt’s papers, in the original dust jackets and slipcase, the first volume inscribed: “For the National Press Club, from Franklin D. Roosevelt.”

All the significant public speeches of Roosevelt during some of the most turbulent years of American history, including his fireside chats, messages to Congress, important executive orders and official promulgations from 1928 through 1936. President Franklin D. Roosevelt was awarded membership to the National Press Club in 1933, where he was humorously “assigned” to cover the White House. His job was to “report not only on the detailed doings of the President, but also to provide his fellow correspondents with carbon copies of every presidential pronouncement.” He was described by fellow NPC members as “the most promising cub reporter that ever came out of Hyde Park.” Roosevelt was notoriously friendly with the press, but was an expert at deflecting reporters’ inquiries. Roosevelt’s Public Papers ultimately totaled 13 volumes. These first five volumes were all published in 1938 and issued as a complete set, in a slipcase, which is present. Issued simultaneously with a deluxe edition limited to 500 copies bound in leather. Ink stamp “Property of National Press Club” to text block edges and endpapers. With a 1985 letter of provenance laid in. Text clean, spine cloth darkened, with evidence of shelf labels and some fraying to spine heads, very good. Dust jackets with some minor chipping, toning and rubbing; Volume I with long closed split to front joint fold and to rear flap fold, very good. Original cardboard slipcase expertly repaired at seams. Desirable inscribed by Roosevelt and with an intriguing provenance.

“Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely.”
Rousseau's Emile, Rare 1762 First Edition—A Beautiful Copy In Contemporary Calf-Gilt

ROUSSEAU, J.J. Emile, ou de l'Education. Hague i.e. Paris, 1762. Four volumes. Octavo, contemporary full mottled brown calf gilt. $16,000. Click for more info

First edition of one of Rousseau's greatest works, a vastly influential philosophical novel whose “originality lay in the fact that it was the first comprehensive attempt to describe a system of education according to nature,” with five finely engraved illustrations after designs by Charles Eisen—a splendid copy in contemporary mottled calf-gilt.

Emile expressed Rousseau's primary philosophy of education, the core of which was his belief in encouraging a child to ask his own questions and in allowing a child to demonstrate his interest in a subject rather than forcing learning. “One may justly hail Rousseau as the discoverer of the child” (Curtis & Boultonwood, 264). “Few books have had a greater immediate effect on English educational thought than Rousseau's Emile” (Stewart & McCan, 23-8). The work was condemned by the Parliament of Paris in June, 1762. Emile proved very popular and was rapidly translated and printed throughout Europe. This copy has all four cancels, as usual. McEachern states that “copies of the octavo with cancellanda are exceedingly rare: I have located only one (Stuttgart) containing the two cancellanda of Volume I, and none at all containing the two cancellanda of Volume II.” Volumes II-IV bound with half titles; no half title was issued for Volume I. Text in French. McEachern, 73-81, 1A. Contemporary ink ownership stamp (“Bourlamaque”) to title pages. Printed booklabels (“D.D. Bernard et Auger”). Early ink inscription. Occasional spot of foxing, text generally quite clean and crisp, a few minor rubs to extremities, contemporary bindings quite sound and very handsome, gilt bright. A splendid copy of this rare landmark of education and philosophy.
“I’ll Be Ever’where—Wherever You Look. Wherever They’s A Fight So Hungry People Can Eat, I’ll Be There”

STEINBECK, John. The Grapes of Wrath. New York, 1939. Octavo, original pictorial beige cloth, dust jacket, custom cloth clamshell box. $15,000. Click for more info

First edition, first issue, of Steinbeck’s most important novel, his searing masterpiece of moral outrage and “intense humanity,” winner of the 1940 Pulitzer Prize.

“It is a long novel, the longest that Steinbeck has written, and yet it reads as if it had been composed in a flash, ripped off the typewriter and delivered to the public as an ultimatum... Steinbeck has written a novel from the depths of his heart with a sincerity seldom equaled” (Peter Monro Jack). First issue, with “First Published in April 1939” on copyright page and first edition notice on front flap of dust jacket. Goldstone & Payne A12a. Salinas Public Library, 29. Bruccoli & Clark I:354. Book near-fine, with only slightest soiling along front joint. Dust jacket bright and beautiful. A lovely copy in very nearly fine condition.

“Fear the time when Manself will not suffer and die for a concept, for this one quality is man, distinctive in the universe.”
“Of All The Houses... Not One There Is That Has Been Reduc'd To Stranger Extremities Than That Of The Medicis”:
First Edition In English Of Varillas’ Secret History Of The Medicis, 1686

VARILLAS, Antoine. Anekdota Heterouiaka or, the Secret History of the House of Medicis. London, 1686. Small octavo (4-1/2 by 7 inches), contemporary three-quarter brown calf gilt. $2400.

Click for more info

First edition in English of Varillas’ fascinating anecdotal history of the Medicis, issued only one year after the first, a work also seen by the English as alluding to the controversial reign of King James II, definitive in a genre of court secret histories that peered into how “sex, favoritism and politics... produced intrigues” with often murderous effect.

French historian Varillas published his Les Anecdotes de Florence, ou l’Histoire secrette de la Maison de Medicis at the Hague in 1685, and the next year it “was promptly translated for English readers by Ferrand Spence as Anecdotes of Florence, or the Secret History of the House of Medicis (1686)” (Kelley & Sacks, 162). To English readers of this first publication in English, Varillas’ Secret History was seen not only as an account of the Medicis, but also a veiled history of the England’s James II (1685-8), whose court appeared similarly awash in “the arts of convenience, political as well as sexual” (Schama II:306). Wing 111B. Trace of bookplate removal. Text very fresh, rubbing to marbled boards, expert repairs to calf-gilt spine and calf corners. Extremely good.
CERVANTES. El Ingenioso Hidalgo Don Quixote de la Mancha. Item no. 11.