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On the cover: Item no. 33. On this page: Item no. 39.
Dodoens' New Herbal, 1619


Click for more info

Revised fourth edition in English of Dodoens' Cruydeboeck, with ornate woodcut border on title page and numerous woodcut headpieces and initials.

Dodoens was the first of the great Flemish botanists, “and both in his Cruydeboeck, 1554, and his Stirpium Historia Pemptades Sex, 1583... he helped to forward the growing interest in classification which had begun to be evident as early as 1539 in Bock’s Neu Kreuterbuch” (Hunt 67). The Cruydeboeck, his first botanical work, “was a national herbarium devoted to species indigenous to the Flemish provinces. The merit of this book was that rather than proceeding by alphabetical order, as Fuchs had done, Dodoens grouped the plants according to their properties and their reciprocal affinities” (DSB). Henry Lyte's English translation (made from the 1557 French version by Charles de l'Ecluse) was first published in 1578. Lower corner of title page torn, just affecting border rule, a few leaves with some expert paper repair, some occasional soiling and dampstaining, a few marginal wormholes throughout. A very good copy in contemporary calf. Scarce.
“His Volumes Are The Journal Of Adam In Paradise”


[Click for more info]

First edition of this “solitary classic of natural history,” with folding frontispiece panoramic view of Selborne and six engravings (one folding) by Peter Mazell and Daniel Lerpiniere after drawings by Samuel Grimm. An uncut copy in original marbled boards.

“Selborne may be obscure; but it is a beautiful village in a beautiful country eminently suited for the purpose of White in making it the center of a life's work of zoological research and observation... His *Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne* holds a unique position in English literature as the solitary classic of natural history... The book was immediately popular both with the general public and with all naturalists, many of the most eminent of which class have successively edited it with additional and corroborative notes” (*Cambridge History* X, Chapter XI, Section 16). Bookplate of noted Boston book collector Frank Brewer Bemis. Early dealer description tipped in. Text fine, some foxing to plates, contemporary marbled boards worn with some early paper repairs to boards. A very good uncut copy in a contemporary boards.

“A pioneering English naturalist who transformed the way we look at the natural world.” –West, Natural History Museum London
1817 Two-Volume Quarto Edition Of Buffon’s *Natural History*, Featuring 52 Splendid Hand-Colored Copperplate Engravings

BUFFON, Count de. *A Natural History, General and Particular... Translated from the French by William Smellie. A New Edition Corrected and Enlarged. To Which is Added A History of Birds, Fishes, Reptiles and Insects... By Henry Augustus Chambers.* London, 1817. Two volumes. Tall quarto (9 by 11 inches), contemporary full tree calf gilt. $3800. [Click for more info](#)

1817 two-volume edition, of the first English translation of Buffon’s magnum opus, with the important translation of Scottish naturalist William Smellie, this corrected and enlarged edition also featuring Chambers’ History of Birds, Fishes, Reptiles and Insects, with frontispiece of Buffon in each volume, containing 52 beautiful hand-colored engravings, scarce in contemporary tree calf.

“Natural history, prior to Buffon, had all the earmarks of an avocation, a hobby. Buffon is the one who raised it to the status of a science” (Mayr, 336). First translated into English in 1781 this work of Buffon provides, for the first time, “a complete survey of natural history in a popular form... His belief in the mutability of species implied clearly some preparation for the thought of Darwin... Buffon was the first to present the universe as one complete whole and to find no phenomenon calling for any but a purely scientific explanation” (PMM 198). For the naturalist, Buffon’s *History* was “a splendid and well-illustrated account” (Knight, 92). Contemporary owner signature. Occasional faint marginalia. Text and plates generally fresh with light scattered foxing and a few minor expert paper repairs, mostly marginal, expert restoration to attractive contemporary full calf-gilt bindings. Scarce.
Illustrated With Two Volumes Of Over 700 Finely Engraved And Beautifully Hand-Colored Plates


Click for more info

First edition of this impressive early 19th-century natural history encyclopedia, complete with all 720 steel-engraved plates, virtually all of which are hand-colored, depicting in stunning detail a comprehensive range of life, handsomely bound in seven volumes (five of text, two of plates).

From humble earthworms and common insects to such imposing beasts as the elephant and the hippopotamus, from all manner of birds and fish to men and women (including several plates illustrating medical abnormalities), as well as a wide range of lovely flora, the plates present their varied subjects in intricate detail. The vast majority of the plates are beautifully hand-colored (a few are instead printed in sanguine); many boast especially brilliant bursts of color in such details as a butterfly’s wings or the crest of a bird. Text volumes bound with half titles. Text in French. Plates clean with colors vivid. A very good copy.
With Over 900 Wood Engravings
Of British Birds, Fishes And Reptiles


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*First editions of Yarrell’s two great natural histories, together with the second edition of Bell’s work on British reptiles, profusely illustrated with over 900 fine wood engravings, in handsome uniform morocco-gilt bindings by E. Riley & Son.*

“These works... contain accurate figures, with accompanying descriptions, of every known variety of British fish or bird; and they have from the first taken their position as the standard authorities on the subject in our language. Few books on natural history are more agreeable to the general reader: the style is ever pleasant, and the truth with which he describes the habits of the birds is such as might have been expected from the keen sportsman who had so often watched their motions when at liberty in their native haunt” (Allibone, 2882).

Armorial bookplates. Text and plates quite clean. An about-fine set of important natural histories, uniformly and handsomely bound.
With Hundreds Of Wood-Engravings Of Aboriginal Life By The Dalziel Brothers

WOOD, J.G. The Natural History of Man; Being an Account of the Manners and Customs of the Uncivilized Races of Men. London, 1868-70. Two volumes. Tall, thick octavo, contemporary three-quarter brown morocco gilt.

First edition of Wood’s popular anthropological study designed for “non-scientific minds,” with hundreds of magnificent full-page and in-text wood-engravings by the Dalziel Brothers.

John Wood’s sole purpose for producing his Natural History series was “to popularise the study of natural history by rendering it interesting and intelligible to non-scientific minds” (DNB). “Wood merely passed over such subjects as Darwinism and natural theology in silence and concentrated on persuading his readers that observing natural history ‘is far better than a play, and one gets fresh air besides’” (Samuel Weston-Smith). His Natural History of Man is divided into two volumes: “Africa”; and “Australia, New Zealand, Polynesia, America, Asia, and Ancient Europe.” They contain hundreds of in-text wood-engravings by the famous Dalziel brothers. “Until photo process put an end to reproductive wood-engraving, the most familiar name in Victorian book illustration was Dalziel” (Hodnett, 148). Fine condition, handsomely bound and beautifully illustrated.
Galton’s Law Of Ancestral Heredity


Click for more info

First edition of Galton’s paper on genetics, attempting to prove his law of ancestral heredity, in the original July, 1897 issue of the Proceedings of the Royal Society in original wrappers.

According to Galton’s “law” of ancestral heredity, in a newborn the average contribution of each parent is 1/4, of each grandparent 1/16, and so on, the total of these amounts summing one or close (DSB). However, Galton adds that “a wide though limited range of observation assures us that the occupier of each ancestral place may contribute something of his own personal peculiarity, apart from all others, to the heritage of the offspring” (page 403). While he proposed this law in his 1889 book Natural Inheritance, as he notes in this paper: “I stated it briefly and with hesitation... because it was then unsupported by sufficient evidence” (page 403). In this paper he sets out to provide proof of his law via a study of coloration in Basset hounds. Index slip laid in. Owner ink signature on front wrapper. Interior clean, spine largely perished, stitching intact and sound. A very good copy, scarce in original wrappers.

Click for more info

“Autograph Edition,” one of only 750 copies signed by Burroughs and the publisher, additionally signed and inscribed by Burroughs: “This set of my books has been specially bound for John Jakob Raskob. John Burroughs Feb 18, 1916,” and has an autograph letter signed by Burroughs tipped into Volume I.

“Burroughs, under the influence of Emerson and Thoreau, became the greatest writer of nature essays after his two Transcendentalist masters” (Hart, 111). In addition to his nature writing, this set includes Whitman: A Study, Burroughs’ homage to his friend and mentor. Complete in 22 volumes with an additional volume containing minor later works that was added in 1922. Illustrated with frontispieces and numerous plates from original photographs and etchings. The tipped-in autograph letter, initialed by Burroughs, regards the identification of birds that Burroughs’ correspondent had inquired about. With bookplate of recipient John Jakob Raskob, executive at both DuPont and General Motors, head of the Democratic National Committee from 1928 to 1932, and builder of the Empire State Building. Spines evenly toned to brown. Fine condition, very handsomely bound.
First Edition Of Skinner’s The Behavior Of Organisms: An Experimental Analysis, 1938


Click for more info

First edition of the foundational work in behavioral analysis and experimental analysis of behavior, in scarce original dust jacket.

This work established methods of experimentation in behavioral analysis and the theory underlying them. “Skinner outlines a science of behavior which generates its own laws through an analysis of its own data rather than securing them by reference to a conceptual neural process... The factual part of the book deals largely with this behavior as studied by the author in extensive researches on the feeding responses of rats. The conditioning of such responses is compared with the stimulus conditioning of Pavlov” (American Psychological Association). Owner signature of Dr. Charlotte Z. Brown, a psychiatry/community health professor at the University of Pittsburgh. Book fine, scarce dust jacket with a bit of wear and toning to extremities. A near-fine copy.

“A landmark in the experimental analysis of behavior.” — University of Toronto
"One Of The Greatest Nature Writers In American Letters"


Click for more info

First edition of Rachel Carson’s pioneering work in environmental pollution, a lovely copy in the original dust jacket.

“The first work to address the larger issues of environmental pollution” (The Book in America, 133). “Silent Spring became a runaway bestseller, with international reverberations... It is well crafted, fearless and succinct... Even if she had not inspired a generation of activists, Carson would prevail as one of the greatest nature writers in American letters” (Mattheissen, Time). Containing numerous in-text illustrations. Owner signature. Book fine; light edge-wear to bright near-fine dust jacket.

“The most alarming of all man’s assaults upon the environment is the contamination of the air, earth, rivers, and sea.”
"The First Experimental Scientist In The Modern Sense"


First edition of the “first tract in English upon the determination of specific gravity,” containing engraved frontispiece of weighing scales, bound with Catalogue of Philosophical Books at rear, a handsome copy in contemporary boards.

“A disciple of the empiricism and rationalism of Bacon and Descartes, Boyle devoted his life to establishing an empirically based, mechanistic theory of matter” (Norton I:298). A pillar of the Scientific Revolution with Locke and Newton, “Boyle was arguably the most influential figure in the emerging scientific culture of late 17th-century Britain,” and is substantially viewed as “the first experimental scientist in a modern sense” (Hunter, 1). “*One of Boyle’s last writings and important as the first work in English on determining specific gravity*. The catalogue at the end is rare and was added to only a few copies” (Neville I:200). Bound with second edition of *Catalogue of the Philosophical Books and Tracts* (first issued in 1689): separately paginated with separate title page containing publisher’s imprint dated the same as *Medicina* title page. First edition of *Medicina*: “leaf A1 was a title page, subsequently cancelled,” replaced with pi2 (engraved frontispiece and title page within double-ruled border). “Table” at rear identifying the specific gravity of ivory, coral, copper and other materials. Half title with early owner bookplate. Occasional early marginalia. Interior fresh with lightest scattered foxing and toning, a few marginal paper flaws, faint marginal dampstaining to early leaves. A most desirable copy of a signal work in the history of science.
"The First Systematic Attempt To Place The Theory Of Probability On A Firm Basis"


First edition of this collection of important mathematical works, including a substantial portion of Bernoulli's Doctrine translated into English, Wallis' Discourse of Combinations, Alternations, and Aliquot Parts, and numerous treatises by other renowned mathematicians—a lovely copy in contemporary marbled calf.

This extraordinary collection of mathematical works contains some of the most influential writings of the 17th and 18th century. Included is Bernoulli's *Doctrine*, which comprised the preface and first three chapters of the second part of his *Ars Conjectandi*—here in the original Latin and translated into English. Although *Ars Conjectandi* was not finished at the time of Bernoulli’s death, it remains a seminal work of probability theory. *Ars Conjectandi* was first published in Latin in Basel, 1713. Contemporary gift inscription. Interior clean, expert repair to joints, spine ends and corners. An extremely good and handsome copy in contemporary marbled calf.
“Extraordinary Achievements Of Central Importance”


First edition of Faraday’s collected papers in chemistry and physics, documenting important discoveries from one of the world’s greatest scientists, with three engraved plates (one folding). A fine copy in the original cloth.

“This collection of physical and chemical papers, reprinted from the Philosophical Transactions and elsewhere, includes Faraday’s account of the production of the first known compounds of chlorine and carbon... which was achieved by substituting chlorine of hydrogen in ethylene—the first substitution reaction. Also present are his announcement of the discovery of benzene, his account of the liquefaction of chlorine and other gases, and works on the composition of lime, the production of high-grade steels, and optical glass. One of the most important physical papers in this collection is the one on ray vibrations, in which Faraday tentatively put forward an explanation for the transmission of light through a vacuum without a vibrating machine; this is an embryonic form of the electromagnetic theory of light” (Norman 765). Without errata slip at page 445. Simmons, The Scientific 100 11. A touch of rubbing to lower front corner. Still a fine copy.

“It is a great beauty of our science, chemistry, that advancement in it... opens the doors to further and more abundant knowledge.”
“A Pioneer Work... Well Ahead Of Its Time”


Click for more info

First edition of Jevons’ seminal treatise on logic and the scientific method, with engraved illustration and detailed description of his “logical piano”—“the first logic machine with enough power to solve complicated problems with superhuman speed” (Hook & Norman).

“The wide range not only of Jevons’ interests but of his important contributions to knowledge is as remarkable as his path-breaking, fundamental originality of thought... *The Principles of Science* (1874) has been recognized as a pioneer work, in important respects well ahead of its time. Especially notable was his development of the fundamentals of formal logic on the lines of George Boole, and his construction of a machine, still extant... for the mechanical solution of deductive problems—an anticipation of modern computing machines [depicted on the frontispiece]... Jevons also developed the hypothetico-deductive approach, expounded more recently by Karl Popper, in that he rejected the Baconian conception of scientific enquiry as starting from the accumulation of facts, and stressed the role of conjectures and hypotheses. ‘Inductive investigation’ he wrote, ‘consists in the union of hypothesis and experiment’” (IESS). Early owner signatures. Cloth of rear joint of Volume I with one inch split, inner hinges expertly reinforced, occasional light foxing. A near-fine copy in original cloth.

“We only learn the laws and relations of things in nature by observing those things.”
Schiaparelli’s First Major Work On Mars, With Five Plates


Click for more info

First appearance of Schiaparelli’s first major work on the planet Mars, with five plates (one folding) of diagrams and illustrations, including a large folding map and a chromolithographic map of the surface of Mars.

Schiaparelli’s work had tremendous impact on the scientific understanding of Mars. “In 1877, using a Merz refractor far superior to the antiquated instruments he had previously used, Schiaparelli turned his attention to the study of Mars... During the great opposition of Mars in 1877 Schiaparelli observed the planet thoroughly, detecting even the smallest surface features... He was the first to classify the features as ‘seas’ and ‘continents’”. The illustrations include a double-page aerographic map, a map of the southern hemisphere, and a color plate showing four views of the planet. Stamps of the Chemical Society on title page and spine. Plates and text fine, light wear to extremities of contemporary morocco. An excellent copy.
The Scientific Foundation For Radio, Television, And Radar


Click for more info


“Hertz demonstrated what Maxwell had predicted, that electromagnetic waves radiated in space with the speed of light. Hertz determined these waves to be of greater length than light and that they could be reflected, refracted and polarized. This discovery and its demonstration led directly to radio communication, television and radar” (Dibner 71). The experiments were reported periodically from 1887 onwards in the *Annalen der Physik und Chemie* before being collected, with an additional preface and explanatory notes, in book form. With 40 in-text diagrams. Text in German. Owner ink stamp to flyleaf, title page and dedication leaf. Interior quite clean and fine, minor rubbing to extremities, spine gently toned to brown. A handsome copy.
Boldly Signed And Presented By Edison To A Suffragette

17. EDISON, Thomas Alva. Photograph signed. No place, circa 1920. Vintage silver print measuring 6-1/2 by 8-1/2 inches; framed, entire piece measures 12 by 14 inches. $9200.

Click for more info

Very scarce vintage photographic portrait of Edison seated in a library, inscribed and signed by him with a bold flourish on the mount: “To Mrs. Blauvelt, from a believer in woman suffrage, Thos A. Edison.”

This scarce vintage photographic portrait of Thomas Edison is an especially splendid portrait of “the patron saint of electric light” (Stross 1:284). The “father of many new industries, including phonograph and sound recording; dictating machines; electric lighting and associated electric utilities; electrical manufacturing; and motion pictures… Edison stands tall among the pantheon of American heroes” (ANB). Recipient Adele Picot Wilson Blauvelt (1867-1938) lived in Syracuse, where her husband worked as a metallurgist. At a Republican party convention that July, she made the following statement, “Like many thousands of other New York women, I am waiting to see the platform statement of the different parties on national suffrage for women, and will decide my party allegiance by their stand on that issue.” Light wear to upper corner of mount only, print fine, inscription and signature bold.

“Mr. Edison believed that the universe was alive and that it was responsive to man’s deep necessity.” —Henry Ford
"One Of The First Technological Books Of Modern Times": Inscribed And Signed By Translator Herbert Hoover


Click for more info

First edition in English of this lavishly illustrated landmark scientific work, translated by the 31st President of the United States, Herbert Hoover, inscribed: “Compliments of Herbert Hoover.” With a program of the 1930 Fifty-sixth Annual Convention of the American Bankers Association, where President Hoover was the keynote speaker, signed by Hoover, laid in.

Hoover, a mining engineer before entering politics, annotated this edition; his wife, a former Latin teacher, was responsible for the bulk of the translation. Includes a life of Agricola, and an appendix of his works. One of an estimated 1476 copies printed (Norman 21). With reproductions of all 270 woodcut diagrams and illustrations included in the 1556 first Latin edition. Expert restoration to rear board and joints, front flyleaf used to replace front pastedown, expert paper repair to inscribed blank leaf not affecting signature, last dozen leaves with expert cleaning and minor paper restoration. A very attractive copy.
Einstein’s *Sidelights On Relativity*, 1922 First English Edition


Click for more info

First English edition of two of Einstein’s lectures on “some of the fundamental ideas of Relativity and their relation to the older theories.” A very nice copy in the original dust jacket.

These two lectures, discussing some aspects of relativity, are titled “Ether and the Theory of Relativity,” delivered in Leyden in 1920, and “Geometry and Experience,” delivered in Berlin in 1921. “In the course of a single decade, Einstein discovered special and then general relativity, and in so doing overturned the conceptions of space and time that our species had held for thousands of years” (Brian Greene). The impact of his general theory of relativity “upon 20th-century science and thought can hardly be overstated” (Norman 695). With eight-page publisher’s catalogue at rear. Publisher’s four-page advertising leaflet and promotional postcard laid in. Interior clean, cloth with minor toning along upper edge, dust jacket with mild toning to spine. A lovely copy, very nearly fine.

“One reason mathematics enjoys special esteem, above all other sciences, is that its laws are absolutely certain and indisputable.”
Presentation Copy Of Einstein’s Special And General Theory, Inscribed With An Original Poem In German And Signed By Albert Einstein


Later printing, presentation copy, of Einstein’s own explanation of his special and general relativity theories, wonderfully inscribed with an original poem in German: “[translated] This book, unique, among my scribblings, / Remains alone without some siblings, / Because, as I have always believed, / At present there is too much to read. Albert Einstein 1933.”

Einstein’s theories are the most important discoveries of 20th-century physics. “The theory’s impact upon 20th-century science and thought can hardly be overstated” (Norman, 252). “From the general theory of relativity issues all of 20th-century cosmology—from an explanation of the ‘red shift’ that indicates the universe is expanding, to the notion of black holes” (Simmons, The Scientific 100). In this “Popular Exposition,” Einstein endeavors to present “in the simplest and most intelligible form,” the revolutionary ideas he revealed to the scientific community in his famous Annalen der Physik articles of 1905 and 1916.
Originally published in Germany in 1917, under the title Über die spezielle und die allgemeine Relativitätstheorie, Gemeinverständlich; the first edition in English was published in London in 1920. The first American edition was published in 1920 by Henry Holt; this is a later printing of that edition.

Below the inscription, an inscription in an unknown hand referring to later owners reads: “Presented to Dr. Harold L. & Elizabeth Simons. Great Neck, N.Y. about 1950 and passed on to Harold Lee Simons. Thanksgiving – Nov. 25, 1982 at West Newton, Mass.” Elizabeth Reiman Simons was born in Vienna, but fled to America in 1941 to escape the Nazis. She studied at Cooper Union and obtained a bachelor’s degree in Chemical Engineering—the only woman in the 1950 graduating class to do so. She later received her PhD from Yale, where she met her husband, Harold L. Simons. Reiman Simons taught and researched at Harvard before becoming a tenured biochemistry professor at Boston University School of Medicine. This book was likely a cherished gift, particularly given the couple’s shared passion for science.

Faint dampstaining mainly to text block margins, wear to extremities, mild toning to spine gilt. An extremely good copy, unique and most desirable with a poem written and signed by Albert Einstein.
Exceptional Presentation/Association Copy Of Soddy’s
*Interpretation Of The Atom*, Inscribed To Physicist John Joly


Click for more info

First and only edition, presentation copy, of Frederick Soddy’s second book on physics and radioactivity, with two folding tables and dozens of half-tones, inscribed on a tipped-in slip: “J. Joly Esq. F.R.S., Somerset House, Temple Road, Dublin. Thanks for the use of illustrations. FS. October 1932.”

Soddy’s second book is an analysis of the rapid developments in radioactivity and atomic theory in the early decades of the 20th century. A pioneer in atomic theory, Soddy was Rutherford’s collaborator in, among other things, the crucial alpha-ray experiments that led to their revolutionary disintegration theory of radioactivity. In 1921, he was awarded the Nobel Prize. This copy is inscribed to Irish physicist John Joly, thanking him for photographs, including the one at Figure 33 that depicts “Haloes of Unknown Origin in Ytterby Mica.” A near-fine inscribed copy with an outstanding association.
Inscribed By Nobel Prize-Winning Chemist Frederick Soddy


Click for more info

First separate edition of Soddy’s 1952 lecture to the Second Meeting of Nobel Prize Winners, inscribed on the front wrapper: “With the Author’s Compliments—Frederick Soddy,” and additionally labeled “Isotopes” in his hand.

Soddy and Rutherford “showed how the radioactive element thorium decayed at a fixed rate over time into a series of other elements... [which] led to the concept of ‘half life’” (Simmons, The Scientific 100 19). As a result of their experiments in radioactivity, Soddy independently became the first to recognize that chemically identical atoms of different atomic weights were all varieties of the same atom, leading him to coin the term “isotope” (Jenkins-Jones, 446). In 1921, he was awarded the Nobel Prize “for his contributions to the knowledge of the chemistry of radioactive substances and his investigations on the occurrence and nature of isotopes” (Callum & Taylor, 143). First published in Number 123 of The School Science Review in March of 1953. About-fine condition.
“Very Soon Television Would Relegate Our Present Programmes To A Position Analogous To Silent Films”


First edition of this early history of television, “the missing link to complete home radio entertainment,” amply illustrated with 230 line cuts, diagrams, and photographs “dealing with every branch of television.”

This two-part work covers the elementary principles of building televisions as well as short-wave and ultra-short-wave radio telephony. Camm was the editor of the journals Practical Wireless, Practical Television and Practical Mechanics, in addition to authoring of a number of works pertaining to mechanics and wireless construction. Includes a dictionary of television terminology. Without scarce dust jacket. Light scattered foxing to edges. A near-fine copy.
Large Photographic Print Of George Washington Carver, Signed By Him


Click for more info


Born the son of slaves, Carver, considered by many as the inventor of peanut butter, struggled to find a college that would accept him. Ultimately, he earned a master’s degree in agriculture in 1896 from Iowa State University; that same year, he accepted Booker T. Washington’s offer to “head the agricultural department at Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Macon County, Alabama... in both his teaching and his research his primary goal was to alleviate the crushing cycle of debt and poverty suffered by many black farmers who were trapped in sharecropping and cotton dependency. As director of the only all-black agricultural experiment station, he practiced what was later called ‘appropriate technology,’ seeking to exploit available and renewable resources” (ANB).

Accompanied by negative produced from this photograph (i.e. with signature in the negative). Numerous news agency notations on verso. A few faint creases. Near-fine condition.
From Nobel-Winning Physicist Richard Feynman's Personal Library, With Feynman's Owner Signature And Pencil Annotation


*Click for more info*

First edition of the first book ever published on quantum theory. The copy of Richard Feynman, with his owner signature and pencil annotation. Text in German.

“Wentzel’s lectures... have always awed listeners by their exquisite elegance. This quality is borne out in his textbook, *Einführung in die Quantentheorie der Wellenfelder*, written during the war. This first book ever on quantum field theory was translated into English at war’s end, and has been the formative textbook of the postwar generation of theoretical physicists” (Freund, et al.). Without dust jacket. This copy—from Feynman’s personal library—features his owner signature in all capitals “R.P. FEYNMAN CORNELL UNIV,” as well as a single pencil annotation on page 162 adding to a printed equation. Richard Feynman was an “American theoretical physicist who was widely regarded as the most brilliant, influential, and iconoclastic figure in his field in the post-World War II era” (*Britannica*). Feynman’s work was a natural extension of Gregor Wentzel’s and this book was considered the primary authority on quantum theory until Feynman’s own theories supplanted Wentzel’s. Rear inner paper hinge starting, slightest foxing to pastedowns, faintest staining to cloth, light wear and toning to extremities. An extremely good signed copy.
“The Undisputed Father Of Modern Rocketry”


[Click for more info](#)

First edition in book form of Goddard’s two seminal papers on rocket fuel, proposing that liquid-fueled rocket propulsion could be used to attain escape velocity and thereby land a projectile on the moon. With portrait frontispiece and numerous photographic plates.

“Goddard became posthumously world-famous as one of three scientific pioneers of rocketry... He worked out the theory of rocket propulsion independently; and then almost alone he designed, built, tested, and flew the first liquid-fuel rocket on 16 March 1926... His earlier publication in 1919 of *A Method of Reaching Extreme Altitudes*... laid the foundation from which team workers could launch men to the moon” (DSB). This is the first combined printing of the two famous reports “on which all modern jet propulsion and rocket engineering are based,” first published in the *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections*. Documented with numerous photographs showing launch apparatuses and tracking equipment. Book fine, dust jacket with only slightest rubbing and toning to extremities. A very nearly fine copy.
Signed By Nobel
Laureate Francis Crick


Click for more info

Scarce 1953 offprint of Nobel laureate Crick’s seminal paper on the packing of alpha-helices into coiled-coil structures, issued the same year as its appearance in the journal *Acta Crystallographica*, signed by Crick.

In this key paper, a related 1953 paper, and a 1952 paper in *Nature*, Crick showed “that, if alpha-helices were to twist around each other at an angle of about 20°, their side-chains would interlock systematically... close packing interactions of hydrophobic residues in the core would provide the energy required to distort the helices, a remarkable insight at a time when the biophysics of protein folding were unknown and even the exact sequence of a protein still remained to be determined” (Lupas & Gruber, 70). “Subsequent determinations of coiled-coil-protein sequences and structures confirmed the key features of Crick’s model and established it as a fundamental concept in structural biology” (Woolfson, *Journal of Structural Biology*). With these insights, Crick learned “useful lessons about the need for simplifying assumptions and the importance of visualizing reality as well as analyzing it... All these ingredients would be *crucial in the story of the double helix*” (Ridley, 43). Initially issued in the journal *Acta Crystallographica* VI:689-697; the same journal volume as his accompanying paper, “The Fourier Transform of a Coiled-Coil” (*Acta Crystallographica* VI:685-689). Small owner signature. A fine signed copy.
Offprints Of All Three Parts Of *The Genetic Code*, 1962-66, One Inscribed By Marshall Nirenberg And Two Signed By Francis Crick


Click for more info


The three offprints in this collection are: “The Genetic Code” (October 1962); “The Genetic Code: II” (March 1963), and “The Genetic Code: III” (October 1966). Despite its status as a popular science magazine, *Scientific American*’s long list of distinguished contributors could not be more illustrious. While Crick’s landmark discovery of the structure of DNA was published in *Nature*, he often turned to *Scientific American* to work through the many questions surrounding his original breakthrough. These offprints were printed from a three-part article authored by Crick and his fellow biochemist and geneticist, Marshall Nirenberg, meant to expand on the idea of DNA as a hereditary agent and discuss information and theories such as how bases determine the order of amino acids in a protein; the nature of encoding in the manufacture of proteins; and the conversion of DNA’s four-letter language into the 20-letter language of proteins. While intended for a mainstream audience, Crick’s and Nirenberg’s writings attracted the notice of their colleagues in the field and scientists such as Pauling wrote to Crick with comments and even criticism. Part II with accession stamp (“JUN 1 1967”), stamp of Baltimore’s Southern High School (SHS) library to the front wrapper, and stamp of William A. Kulick also of SHS, who wrote to various prominent scientists requesting further information about their accomplishments—likely acquiring this inscribed offprint in the process. Part II neatly hole-punched for binder. Very nearly fine condition.
“One Of The Most Influential Modern Works Of The History And Philosophy Of Science”


Click for more info

First edition, first issue, of Thomas Kuhn’s landmark work, an exceptionally pristine copy in original wrappers.

“Great books are rare. This is one” (Ian Hacking). Structure of Scientific Revolutions is “one of the most influential modern works of the history and philosophy of science... Kuhn stresses that the history of science is not a smooth progressive accumulation of data and successful theory, but the outcome of ruptures, false starts, and imaginative constraints that themselves reflect many different variables. In his account, science during a normal period works within a framework of assumptions called a paradigm, but in exceptional and revolutionary periods an old paradigm breaks down and after a period of competition is replaced by a new one” (Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy, 209). Conceived to be published in the International Encyclopedia of Unified Science, this book was released as Volume II, number 2 in their series. First issue, with yellow wrappers. A fine copy.
“A Pioneer In The Study Of Genetic Mutations”


Click for more info

First edition of a key work on genetic mutations by Auerbach—“one of the first scientists to understand the dangers of nuclear radiation”—with numerous full- and in-text illustrations, in original dust jacket.

Auerbach, a Jewish woman born in Germany, fled in the 1930s for Edinburgh, where she completed her PhD. “She was a pioneer in the study of genetic mutations... one of the first scientists to understand the dangers of nuclear radiation” (National Library of Scotland). Best known for discovering “that mustard gas could induce mutations in the chromosomes of living cells,” she began researching it when the War Office was looking into the gas’s wider effects. “Although she hated to be described as the ‘mother of chemical mutagenesis,’ in a very real sense she was” (Genetics Society of America). In this major 1956 work, she shows how “the atomic age which we are about to enter will see an increase in the force of Mutation.” Small owner signatures. Text quite fresh with only light foxing to preliminaries, trace of tape removal to flaps, minimal edge-wear to colorful dust jacket. A handsome about-fine copy.

“Although she hated to be described as the ‘mother of chemical mutagenesis,’ in a very real sense she was.” —Kilby, Genetics Society of America
The Search For The Higgs Boson


First edition of this early and important paper in the search for the Higgs boson—a crucial theoretical particle that at the time of this paper’s publication had just been named.

In 1964, three teams proposed related but different approaches to explain how mass could arise in local gauge theories. Papers were written by the three teams: 1) François Englert and Robert Brout; 2) Peter Higgs; and 3) Gerald Guralnik, C. Richard Hagen, and Tom Kibble [the present paper], and all are credited with the prediction of the Higgs boson and Higgs mechanism which provides the means by which gauge bosons can acquire non-zero masses in the process of spontaneous symmetry breaking. The mechanism is the key element of the electroweak theory that forms part of the Standard Model of particle physics, and of many models, such as the Grand Unified Theory, that go beyond it. The papers that introduce this mechanism were published in Physical Review Letters and were each recognized as milestone papers by PRL’s 50th anniversary celebration. Additionally, all of the six physicists were awarded the 2010 J. J. Sakurai Prize for Theoretical Particle Physics for this work. In July of 2012, CERN, the European Organization for Nuclear Research, announced the discovery, at its Large Hadron Collider, of a particle with properties consistent with those predicted for the Higgs Boson. Thus, the existence of the Higgs boson is considered to be confirmed. Mailing label on rear wrapper. Staples a bit rusty, toning to edges of wrappers. An extremely good copy.
Sixty-nine vintage black-and-white photographs documenting the assembly and transportation of Surveyors 2 and 3, two of the spacecraft NASA used to scout lunar landing sites for the Apollo program.

“Following the Ranger missions, NASA’s Surveyor program was designed to find a way to safely land on the Moon. After three practice missions, five of the seven Surveyor spacecraft made it to the Moon” (NASA). This intriguing archive of 69 black-and-white photographs documents the assembly and transportation of Surveyors 2 and 3. The Surveyor 2 mission was unsuccessful. When one of the craft’s three thrusters failed to ignite, it spun out of control and crashed southeast of Copernicus crater on September 23, 1966. Surveyor 3, however, landed on April 20, 1967 and “made further inroads into preparations for human missions” (Jet Propulsion Laboratory). The Apollo 12 crew retrieved pieces of Surveyor 3 so that scientists could study how the lander’s exposure to the lunar environment affected it. Verso of each photograph stamped with date and explanatory text. Some photographs with marginal punch holes, indicating they were, or were meant to be, grouped in a catalogue. A fascinating collection of photographs in excellent condition.
Striking Large Color Photograph Of The Doomed Challenger’s 1985 Launch, Three Months Before It Exploded, Signed By 24 Members And Staff Of The Rogers Commission Which Investigated The Disaster

33 (NASA) ROGERS, William P. **Photograph signed.** No place, circa 1986. Folio color photograph, measuring 11 by 14 inches; matted and framed, entire piece measures 21 by 25 inches.

[Click for more info]
Exceptional large color photograph of the Challenger taking off on its last successful mission three months before its disastrous explosion, signed and/or inscribed by 24 members of the Rogers Commission (the body that investigated the crash) including Sally Ride, Neil Armstrong, and Richard Feynman. This item belonged to Lt. Col. John B. Hungerford, who was the launch director for the Titan rocket program.

This large color photograph depicting the Challenger taking off is signed or inscribed on the mat by 24 members of the Rogers Commission, which investigated the Challenger tragedy. The photograph’s mat is signed as follows: “John, Thanks for all your help. Best Wishes for the future. Gene Covert” (former Chief Scientist of the U.S. Air Force); “John—Thanks! Sally Ride” (first female astronaut in space and two-time Challenger astronaut); “Frog, It’s been good. I look forward to seeing you at Cocoa during the next launch. John Chase” (investigator of pre-launch activities and USMC major); “John—a truly great experience to have a chance to work with you. Keep the darts flying as well as the Titans. Best regards always. Frank Gillen” (word processing supervisor for the report); “Jello ‘Girl!’” (unidentified); “Frog—Remember, before you launch the next Triton [sic], just before you push the button, think of all the little things that can go wrong. Hope to see you down South. Jack Macidull” (investigator of accident analysis from the FAA); “Frog—It’s been great fun working and laughing with you in the Skunkvarks! I’ll never forget you, cause you’re one of a kind. Best wishes always. Patt” (administrative assistant, from NASA); “John—Thanks very much for your advice and constant support. Your dedication and cooperation will always be remembered and appreciated. It is especially appreciated given the personal sacrifice it required—With great respect, Al Keel” (executive director, from the White House); “Frog—You’re the best amphibian I’ve ever had the pleasure to work with. Remember, if you pull the tongue too hard, it will go off. Larry Malloy was right. I, too, would do it all again. Keep your Titans out of the water! Til we meet again in Cocoa, love Emily [Trapnell]” (coordinator of general investigative activities and FAA attorney); “[sketch of award ribbon labeled ‘Hero’] ——Medal for surviving same space with Patt Steve & Bill. Good job! John Shepherd” (NASA tasking coordination, attorney, and captain in the U.S. Navy); “Frog—Fellow Skunkworker, Blue Suiter and Secret Sealer. It was a grand experience. Keep’ m Flyin’ Steve Hyle” (administrative assistant, from NASA); “Frog—Keep those Titons [sic] flyin’! Will see you in Cocoa Beach, one way or the other. Randy Kehrli” (evidence analyst and DOJ attorney); “Frog—Thanks for your help. It sure was fun. Tom Reinhardt” (executive secretary and major in the U.S. Army); “Frog, it has been great fun working with you. You are the first and probably the only real Frog that I have had the pleasure of meeting. Keep in touch. Vera Barnes —NASA—” (secretary, from NASA); and signed by Neil Armstrong (astronaut), David Acheson (diplomat and son of the former Secretary of State), Bob Hotz (editor of Aviation Week and Space Technology), Robert W. Rummel (executive at TWA and consultant to NASA), Joe Sutter (engineer for Boeing and 747 developer), Jane M. Green (secretary, from NASA), William P. Rogers (chairman of the Commission, former Secretary of State, and Attorney General), Don Kutyna (Air Force general specializing in ICBM and shuttle management), Bud Wheelon (physicist and developer of the CIA’s aerial surveillance program), and Richard Feynman (Nobel Prize-winning physicist). This item was inscribed for Lt. Col. John B. Hungerford, the former launch director of the Titan rocket program. “John Hungerford” in an unidentified hand on verso. Photo agency description affixed to verso. A few inscriptions a bit faded but still legible. About-fine condition.
Inscribed By John Glenn


Click for more info

First trade edition of the astronaut and senator’s “utterly plainspoken yet thrilling autobiography,” boldly inscribed: “To C— and A— John Glenn 3-20-00.”

In 1962, Glenn became the first American to orbit the Earth; 36 years later, he returned to space aboard the shuttle to investigate space’s effect on the aging process. “Glenn’s utterly plainspoken yet thrilling autobiography will put a lump in readers’ throats. The astronaut and four-term U.S. senator from Ohio seems to embody the best old-fashioned American values of integrity, personal discipline, love of country, honesty, courage and responsibility... Told without an ounce of pretension, this is a memorable autobiography” (Publishers Weekly). With 16 pages of black-and-white photographic illustrations. Co-authored with Nick Taylor. Preceded by a signed limited edition of 3500 copies. A fine copy.
The First Work On Midwifery
By An Englishman, 1653 First Edition


First edition in English of this essential midwifery text, with engraved frontispiece portrait of Harvey by William Faithorne (often missing).

“Harvey was among the first to disbelieve the erroneous doctrine of the ‘preformation’ of the fetus... The chapter on midwifery in this book is the first work on that subject to be written by an Englishman” (Garrison & Morton 467). “Nothing had equaled it in this field since the time of Aristotle” (Castiglioni, 516). First published in Latin as Exercitationes de generatione animalium, London, 1651. Text generally clean. An exceptionally good copy of this important work.
Rare First Edition Of The 1754 Anatomical Atlas By William Smellie, With 39 Extraordinary Elephant Folio Engravings, The First Accurate Images Of The Fetus In Utero, One Of Only 80 Copies Published

38. SMELLIE, William. A Sett of Anatomical Tables, with Explanations, and an Abridgement, of the Practice of Midwifery, With a View to illustrate a Treatise On that Subject, and Collection of Cases. London, 1754. Elephant folio (14-1/2 by 21-1/2 inches), contemporary half brown calf gilt, custom clamshell box. $15,000. Click for more info

Rare first edition of the pioneering 1754 anatomical atlas by William Smellie, “one of the most important obstetricians of all times,” with 39 striking copper-engraved plates, the first accurate illustrations of the fetus in utero and during labor, far superior to any before seen, after drawings by Jan van Rymsdyk, Peter Camper and Smellie, accompanied by text and published under the supervision of Smellie’s close friend, author and physician Tobias Smollett. One of only 80 copies printed.

The foremost British physician of his time, “William Smellie contributed more to the fundamentals of obstetrics than virtually any individual” (Garrison & Morton 6154). “Until Smellie’s time, operative obstetrics consisted largely in destructive procedures on the fetus… Against this background emerged the genius of William Smellie… ‘One of the most important obstetricians of all times and countries, Smellie was the first to measure the diagonal conjugate of the pelvis… His name is associated with the manual maneuver for assisting the aftercoming head in breech deliveries. Smellie’s most important contribution to obstetrics, however, is thought by many to be his description of the mechanism of labor” (Speert, 490-1, 495). The expressive folio engravings appearing here “are the first accurate anatomical illustrations of the fetus in utero” (Norman 1955). This is the first edition of the first of two volumes of case studies and was published two years after Smellie’s landmark Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Midwifery, a work based on 1,150 deliveries. Intended to accompany that 1752 text and drawn from his own case histories, this “celebrated atlas… is a complete work in itself” (Garrison & Morton 6154,1) “The plates in this classic of obstetrical illustration are far superior to any that had appeared before. They give everywhere a masterly representation, true to nature, of the relations of the parts of mother and child, and have perhaps contributed more to spreading correct ideas of labor than all the books that have ever been written on the subject” (Grolier, 100 Medicine 43B). “Only 80 copies are believed to have been printed” (Speert, 491). Bookplate to title page. Plates beautiful and unusually fine, title page reinforced on verso, with expert repair, contemporary binding worn, joints cracked, cords holding firm. Great and important rarity of medical illustration.
“Unrivaled For... Elegance Of Style And Accuracy Of Description”: 
With 21 Engraved Plates (Most Hand-Colored, Three Folding)


Click for more info

First editions of two seminal early works by Scottish surgeon Bell—Anatomy of the Brain (1802) and Series of Engravings (1803), with Anatomy wonderfully illustrated with 12 stipple-engraved anatomical plates (11 hand-colored) and nine copper-engraved plates (three folding) in Series of Engravings, a splendid volume in contemporary calf and marbled boards.

This volume brings together two exceptional early works by Scottish-born surgeon Sir Charles Bell—Anatomy of the Brain (1802) and Series of Engravings (1803). “Trained in art as well as medicine,” Bell crafted beautiful anatomical drawings in connection with lectures by his brother John Bell (Norman 168). Moving to London in 1804, Bell “developed his experimental techniques involving the peripheral nerves in order to discover how the brain functions... Bell introduced new methods of determining the functional anatomy of the nervous system... His techniques and observations led to Johannes Müller’s generalizations on the sensory functions of the nervous system” (DSB). Bell’s 12 plates in Anatomy of the Brain “are among the most beautiful in neuroanatomy. Plate I is important for its accurate portrayal of the cerebral gyri,” and the nine plates in Series of Engravings are exquisite renderings of the body’s nerves, muscles, arteries and veins (Norman 168). Series bound without rear leaf of ads. Bookplate of American naval physician Dr. I.H. Hazelton, who served in the Civil War aboard the U.S.S. Vermont. Text and plates fresh with light scattered foxing, mild rubbing, edgewear to boards, expert restoration to contemporary calf corners.
“One Of The Most Elegant Works Of The 19th Century”


Click for more info

First edition of this highly successful medical sourcebook, a collaboration between innovative 19th-century surgeon John Lizars and his artistic brother William Home Lizars, with 101 folio plates of the human body, 15 vividly hand-colored.

“Lizars served as an assistant surgeon in the Royal Navy, ‘where he saw extensive practice, especially in the treatment of gun-shot wounds’... In the days before antiseptics and anaesthetics he was the first in Britain to perform ovariotomy, to ligate the innominate artery for aneurysm, and to remove the lower jaw. His boldness as a surgeon is revealed by such prophetic proposals as ‘to puncture the brain in acute hydrocephalus, and to treat prostate by cutting out the entire gland’” (Simon Behrman).

“In 1831 Lizar was appointed to succeed John Turner as professor of surgery in the Royal College of Surgeons at Edinburgh... He had in 1822 issued the work by which he is chiefly known, A System of Anatomical Plates of the Human Body. Although the letterpress is necessarily out of date, the numerous and beautifully executed plates (done by his brother William under Lizars’ close supervision) are still valuable to the anatomical student. They were extensively used by medical students of the last generation” (DNB) and represent the highest quality of artistic work produced in Scotland at the time. First published in 12 parts between 1822-27, “the sale of [Lizars’ System] in its various forms was reported to be immense” (Roberts & Tomlinson, 505). This first edition of the atlas is an early issue, with all plate numbers printed (some earlier copies are found with first several plate numbers pasted on; this copy has the sequential numbers 1-101 pasted on at an early date). The atlas was issued in both colored and uncolored versions—the plates of the brain and nervous system were colored for both issues. Due to the high cost of hand-coloring, it is likely that only a small number of copies of this edition were colored. Without the three octavo volumes of text, as often. In later editions, the text was reset in folio and the plates were incorporated into the text. Plates generally clean, occasional light foxing, faint marginal dampstain toward rear not affecting images, some scuffing to contemporary boards. An extremely good copy of this impressive folio volume.
Quain’s Complete Five-Part Series Of Anatomical Plates In Lithography, With 204 Beautiful Full-Page Elephant Folio Lithographs, Almost All Hand-Colored


Click for more info

First edition of this forerunner to Gray’s Anatomy, with frontispiece and 203 elephant-folio lithographs by William Fairland, almost all of which are hand colored. Rarely found complete.

While serving as professor of anatomy and physiology at London University, Quain began research on this ambitious series of anatomical illustrations, “with references and physiological comments, illustrating the structure of the different parts of the human body.” The work of an “elegant and accomplished scholar,” Quain’s accomplishments would serve as the basis of all major anatomy books for decades (DNB), including Gray’s famous Anatomy (1858). This first edition of the Series, edited by Quain’s pupil W.J.E. Wilson, acknowledged founder of modern dermatology, is comprised of a text volume and five plate-volumes (bound in two), each with a separate title page: Vessels (1837) with 50, [1] plates, Nerves (1839) 38 plates, Bones and Ligaments (1842) 30 plates, Muscles (1836) 51 plates, and Viscera (1840) with 32, [1] plates. Bookplates in plate volumes. Hand-coloring quite vivid, occasional scattered foxing as often, minor edge-wear to contemporary marbled boards. An exceptionally good copy.
“A Museum Of Skulls… Larger Than All The Collection In British Public Museums Put Together”


Click for more info

First edition, with plate volume containing 60 full-page engraved plates of skulls on heavy stock, in addition to numerous in-text illustrations. A handsome copy.

A craniologist and medical practitioner, Davis “for many years devoted himself to craniology, and gradually collected a museum of skulls and skeletons of various races, nearly all with carefully recorded histories, larger than all the collections in British public museums put together... In 1856 he commenced, in conjunction with Dr. John Thurnam, the publication of Crania Britannica. Supported by a grant from the Royal Society they traveled abroad to gather material to compare with British specimens, many excavated from burial mounds, seen as representing the various races which made up the British population” (DNB). Expert restoration to contemporary morocco bindings. An attractive copy, plates bright and fine.
“One of the best known and most influential books of the Georgian age, dealing with what we would now call psychiatric disorders.” —Roy Porter

A Pioneering Work In Psychiatry


First edition of one of the most influential early books on what was to become the discipline of psychiatry, probably the most widely read and influential English language book on the subject in the 18th century.

“Cheyne’s term ‘English malady’ refers to depression, the causes of which Cheyne listed as moist air, the variable English climate, too much meat and alcohol, sedentary habits and overcrowding... Cheyne’s work inspired an interest in England in exploring the metaphysical relationship between mind and body” (Norman 471). “Like many authors on nervous diseases of the depressive kind, Cheyne wrote from personal experience... He described how difficult it was—as it still is—to explain the nature of their illness to patients and relatives, for ‘nervous distempers’ were even then ‘under some kind of disgrace and imputation’” (Hunter & MacAlpine, 351). Early owner signatures on title page, dedication page, and first page of table of contents. Moderate foxing to text, morocco binding attractive and fine.
Defoe’s History Of The Great Plague Of London, 1754, Rare Second Edition, Issued For The First Time With Journal Of The Plague Year At Marseilles, In The Year 1720

42. DEFOE, Daniel. The History of the Great Plague In London, in the Year 1665... By a Citizen, who lived the whole Time in London. To which is added, a Journal of the Plague at Marseilles, in the Year 1720. London, 1754. Octavo, period-style full speckled brown calf-gilt. $4200.

Click for more info

Elusive 1754 edition of Defoe’s 1722 anonymously issued account of the 1665 Great Plague, a fictional yet largely accurate record—“his most journalistic novel”—that compares the Black Death in London to “a great Fire.” This timely second edition is the first printing of Defoe’s History to be issued with the early English translation of a French work documenting the devastating 1720 Marseilles Plague.

Journal of the Plague Year “may be Defoe’s most under-appreciated great novel.” While his fictional narrator “H.F.” presents Journal as an eyewitness account of the 1665 plague, Defoe was barely five years old at the time, so it is likely he based it on journals written by his uncle. As the plague continues to rage, his account notes that “Dead-Carts began to go about... the Plague is like a great Fire... the best Physick against the Plague is to run away from it... many fled too late” (emphasis in original). With printed initials “H.F” (287). Small owner signature. Interior very fresh with scant marginal edge-wear to two rear leaves not affecting text. Beautifully bound.
Prichard’s 1837 Treatise On Insanity, The First To Identify “Moral Insanity”


Click for more info

First American edition of this crucial treatise on mental illness, published two years after the London first edition.

“An invitation to write an article on insanity in the Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine led [Prichard] to pursue the subject, and to publish in 1835 his Treatise on Insanity and other Disorders affecting the Mind. This was long the standard work on this branch of medicine” (DNB). “It was Prichard who first put at the center of the psychiatric map the many mental disorders which reveal themselves only by disturbances of affect and behavior and which had been largely neglected at the periphery... it was a considerable advance, almost revolutionary, to equate with insanity proper cases without those twin features delusions and hallucinations which had long been and indeed still are considered the hallmark of the mad” (Hunter & MacAlpine, 836-8). Also published in the same year by Haswell, Barrington, & Haswell of Philadelphia, no priority established. Text with light foxing, title and dedication pages trimmed slightly short, contemporary sheep worn. A very good copy.
First edition of this treatise and defense of the practice of homeopathy.

Founded by the German scientist Samuel C. F. Hahnemann at the end of the 18th century, the system of homeopathy is based partly upon the Paracelsian belief that diseases or their symptoms are curable by those drugs producing similar pathologic effects on the body, and that the effect of a drug is heightened by administration in extremely small doses. While debunked today, at the time some homoeopathic principles and practices could prove less harmful than standard medical practice, which still might incorporate bloodletting, purging, and potentially toxic medicinal compounds. Short closed tear to W2, affecting text but not legibility, some foxing to text, boards with light edgewear. Very good condition.
“William Morton’s place in history is clear; he was the first to show how ether could be used to allay the pain of operations.” — Adams, Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine

“Morton Convinced The World, The Credit Is His” (Osler)


Click for more info


“Before Oct. 16, 1846, surgical anesthesia did not exist” (Osler 1354). It was on that day that Boston dentist Dr. Morton “demonstrated the effectiveness of ether anesthesia during an operation performed at the Massachusetts General Hospital” (Grolier 100 Famous Books in Medicine, 236). Morton “intended to keep the identity of his anesthetic substance a secret so that he could patent it,” but when it was revealed in 1846, he sought compensation for his discovery from Congress. In 1852 “a bill calling for an award of $100,000 to Morton was introduced in the U.S. Senate… The report of this Select Committee was passed in the Senate but failed in the House… and Morton never received any remuneration” (Heirs of Hippocrates). Consensus remains that “full credit… must be given to Morton” (Osler 1365). With 33-page Senate Committee Report No. 421 bound in at rear. This rare presentation copy is inscribed in what is likely a secretarial hand to the Franklin Institute Library of Philadelphia. Library bookplate, small numerical notations. Text generally fresh with tiny bit of expert archival restoration to corner of endpaper, light edge-wear, rubbing to contemporary boards. An extremely good presentation copy.
Wonderful Autograph Letter Signed From “Angel Of The Battlefield” Clara Barton, Written During The Civil War

BARTON, Clara. Autograph letter signed. WITH: Autograph letter. Washington, 1861. One leaf, measuring 8 by 10 inches, folded, for four pages total, with original autograph envelope. WITH: One leaf, measuring 8 by 5 inches, writing on both sides. $12,500.

Click for more info

Wonderful autograph letter signed by Clara Barton written during the Civil War, expressing concern for her brother who was still in the South, evoking Lincoln, John Brown, slavery and secessionists, together with a related autograph letter draft by Barton.

After the Baltimore Riot of 1861 against Massachusetts troops, Barton nursed 40 of the victims back to health and learned valuable lessons about aiding soldiers. She began collecting medical supplies and distributing them to soldiers.

In August 1862, she received permission from Quartermaster Daniel Rucker to work on the front lines. Throughout the war, she distributed medicine and food to wounded soldiers in close proximity to the battles of Cedar Mountain, Second Bull Run, Antietam, and Fredericksburg. In 1864, General Benjamin Butler placed her in charge of hospitals at the front of the Army of the James. For her Civil War service, Barton became known as the “Angel of the Battlefield” and the “Florence Nightingale of America.”

In this letter, Barton appeals to Major General Augustus Morse and Major Fletcher of Massachusetts to pass along information to Major General Benjamin F. Butler about her brother in North Carolina. In 1855, Stephen Barton had purchased a lumber mill in North Carolina and established the town of Bartonville. After secession, he remained in North Carolina as a nonbelligerent unionist to protect his property. He was at last captured in September 1864 by Union forces and sent to a prison in Norfolk. Responding to a request from Clara Barton, general Benjamin F. Butler had Stephen Barton released and delivered to her on the James River near Richmond; he died a few months later, still under his sister’s care. The second autograph letter, an apparent unfinished draft written just one week before the First Battle of Bull Run, has Barton writing to Benjamin F. Butler about her brother just over three weeks later. It seems that Major Fletcher did respond to Barton’s request and spoke to General Butler, advising Barton to write directly to Butler. Expected fold lines. Letters of Clara Barton written during the war are exceptionally scarce and very few are known besides these.
"From A Friend Who Honors Him, Clara Barton": Presentation Copy, Inscribed And Signed By Clara Barton To A U.S. Senator


Click for more info

First edition of this early annual report of the International Red Cross, presentation copy, inscribed: “To Senator Preston U. Plumb of Kansas, from a friend who honors him, Clara Barton, President of the American National Red Cross, Washington, DC, March 18, 1891.”

After working as a nurse during the Civil War, and then with the International Red Cross in Switzerland, Clara Barton returned home in 1873 to urge America’s ratification of the Geneva Convention, which the Senate finally ratified in 1882—“a tribute to Barton’s foresight, courage and perseverance. For the next 22 years, Barton was president of the American National Red Cross... Sensing that peacetime emergencies would be more compelling than war service, she began to use her society to aid in relief of natural disasters.” Recipient Preston Plumb was one of the founders of Emporia, Kansas, who was elected to the Kansas House of Representatives in 1862, rose to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel in the 11th Kansas Cavalry during the Civil War, then returned to political service, becoming a Senator in 1877 and serving until his death. Text in French. Bookplate of R.E. Plumb of Emporia, Kansas, a descendant of Senator Plumb. A bit of rubbing to extremities, mild toning and soiling to cloth. A very good copy, scarce and desirable inscribed.
“Women Should Have Legal And Political Rights For Themselves”

48. LIVERMORE, Mary. My Story of the War: A Woman’s Narrative of Four Years of Personal Experience as Nurse in the Union Army. Hartford, Connecticut, 1888. Thick octavo, original red gilt-stamped red cloth. $850.

Click for more info

First edition of Livermore’s influential history of the life-saving efforts of women volunteers and army nurses in the Civil War, with 18 full-page steel-engraved illustrations, including eight striking chromolithographs of Civil War flags, a handsome copy in original gilt-stamped cloth.

“The Civil War marked a milestone in the transformation of nursing from a menial service to a genuine profession” (McPherson, 482-84). Suffragette and abolitionist Mary Livermore brought her experience as a Union Army nurse to document the work of nurses in My Story of the War. With steel-engraved frontispiece and nine full-page engraved illustrations, along with eight full-page chromolithographs of Civil War flags. Frontispiece with facsimile inscription below portrait. Faint contemporary gift inscription. Interior quite fresh and bright, only tiny bit of rubbing to very bright cloth, front inner hinge expertly reinforced.
First Edition Of Pavlov's Groundbreaking Lectures On
The Work Of The Principal Digestive Glands, 1893

PVLOV, I.P. Lectures on the Work of the Principal Digestive Glands [in
Russian]. Moscow, 1897. Octavo, early three-quarter brown morocco, custom
clamshell box.

$16,800.

Click for more info

First edition of Pavlov’s groundbreaking work, with far-ranging implications in the
fields of both physiology and psychology, substantially responsible for him being
awarded the Nobel Prize in physiology in 1904.

“Pavlov was able to demonstrate that the effects of feeding were transmitted
to the gastric glands by nervous channels, so that gastric juice could be made
to flow from the gastric glands even when food was prevented from entering
the stomach. He called the flow of gastric juice that occurred without the actual
ingestion of food in the stomach ‘psychic secretion,’ his name for glandular
activity produced mentally rather than physiologically... Pavlov summarized his
experiments in a series of lectures given in 1896 and published in Russian the
following year... For his work on the physiology of digestion Pavlov was awarded
the Nobel Prize in 1904” (Norman, One Hundred Famous Books in Medicine 85).

Text in Russian. With a photographic portrait of Pavlov laid in. Interior generally
fine, with inner paper hinges split, binding handsome. Rare and important.
“It Holds A Position Similar To That Of Newton’s Principia In Physics” (Walshe)


Click for more info

First edition of this important medical treatise on the nervous system, in original cloth.

Sherrington won the Nobel Prize in 1932 along with Edgar Adrian “for their discoveries regarding the functions of neurons.” There is some debate as to whether the London edition preceded the New York edition or vice versa. It seems likely that there was a single printing and each publisher took half the sheets, as the text and typesetting of both “editions” is identical, but for the imprint statement. Ex-libris The Royal Scottish National Institution, a turn-of-the-century psychiatric hospital, with bookplate and stamps. Near-fine.

“A landmark in physiology.” –Burke
Wonderfully Inscribed By Freud To His Colleague And Friend Rudolf Reitler, The First Practitioner Of Psychoanalysis After Freud


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First edition in original wrappers of all three volumes of one of Freud’s most popular works, the Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis, inscribed to Rudolf Reitler, a friend and colleague of Freud who was instrumental in the development of psychoanalysis as a discipline and the first person after Freud himself to perform analysis on patients: “Herr Dr. R. Reitler mit herzlichen Gruss. Verfasser” [Dr. R. Reitler with warm regards. The Author].

By 1915, Freud was internationally famous, a respected doctor and a professor at the University in Vienna. In October of that year, “Freud began giving his accustomed lectures on ‘An Introduction to Psychoanalysis.’ He found, evidently to his surprise, an audience of 70, a great contrast to the audience of three when he gave his first lecture on dreams only 15 years before; in the following month it had mounted to over a hundred. So he decided to prepare them more carefully than usual, and after a little reflection made up his mind to publish them in book form. The acute [Otto] Rank at once interpreted this as a plan to make further lectures unnecessary, and he was right. Freud had been lecturing for 30 years... these lectures were his last” (Jones, Life and Work of Sigmund Freud II: 218).

Rudolf Reitler, to whom the second volume in this set is inscribed, was a close friend and colleague of Freud. Reitler himself was “the first person to practice psychoanalysis after Freud” (Jones II:7), a fact often acknowledged be Freud. He died unexpected in 1917, only one year after this inscription. Modest soiling to all volumes, with expert repairs to Volume II. A wonderful inscribed item, with an association linking it to the very beginnings of the psychoanalytic movement.
“The First Important English Handbook On Birth Control”


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First edition of the first British textbook on the theory, history, and provision of birth control by birth control advocate and sexologist Marie Stopes, the author of Married Love, in very scarce original dust jacket.

“As a scientist, [Marie] Stopes is still a figure of some interest. Her major claim to fame, however, rests on her work as birth control advocate and sex educator. She played a unique and essential role in publicizing contraception and making it a topic for discussion” (DNB). Stopes offered medical and legal professionals the tools (and perhaps permission) to deal with contraception, popularizing the idea that contraception should no longer be taboo and that healthy, happy, desired babies were the proper outcome for British women. “The first important English handbook on birth control” (Garrison-Morton 1641.2). Book with only light rubbing to extremities, dust jacket with faintest staining and light rubbing and toning to extremities. A near-fine copy.
“By The Intelligent Use Of Birth Control A Woman Takes Into Her Own Hands The Power To Control Not Only The Number Of Children She Desires To Have, But The Times And Seasons At Which They Are Conceived”


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First edition of trailblazer Marie Stopes’ practical guide to birth control, in scarce original dust jacket.

Stopes “created a new genre of marriage manual with Married Love, a book which literally changed lives” (DNB). Birth Control To-Day is essentially an extension of that book, explaining in practical terms how to use birth control and which devices and methods to trust. It also includes several controversial illustrations that frankly depict anatomy, including a folding diagram explaining diaphragm insertion. Although Birth Control To-Day attracted the notice of customs officers and censors worldwide, it remained highly popular during the decades before the pill. Book near-fine with a few small spots to cloth, gilt bright. Scarce dust jacket about-fine.
Presentation/Association First Edition Of
Margaret Sanger’s Autobiography, 1938, Warmly Inscribed By Her

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First edition of the autobiography of Margaret Sanger, who spearheaded the movement for contraceptive rights, a memorable presentation/association copy, inscribed: “To Dr. Maurice William, My friend and Coworker in many causes, Margaret Sanger Aug 27/45.”

“As the originator of the phrase ‘birth control’ and its best-known advocate, Margaret Sanger survived Federal indictments, a brief jail term, numerous lawsuits, hundreds of street-corner rallies and raids on her clinics to see much of the world accept her view that family planning is a basic human right.” In 1936 her efforts influenced the reinterpretation of the Comstock law “to provide for distribution of contraceptive information” (New York Times). Sanger founded and served as president of the American Birth Control League, organized the first World Population Conference in Geneva, and was the first president of the International Planned Parenthood Federation. A colleague of Sanger’s, Dr. Maurice William understood the struggles of New York’s poor and their need for access to reliable clinics and physicians. In the 1930s Dr. William became the first secretary and a founding member of the board of directors for the American Bureau of Medical Aid. Text fresh, marginal dampstaining to early leaves and corner of front board; light edge-wear, small chip to upper rear edge of scarce dust jacket. A near-fine inscribed copy.
Boldly Signed By Dr. Benjamin Spock


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Later printing of this classic manual for raising a child, with illustrations by Dorothea Fox, boldly signed by Dr. Spock.

Over 70 “years ago today, one of the most revolutionary books in American history was published. True, Dr. Benjamin Spock’s *Common Sense Book of Baby and Child Care* probably didn't look like much when it first came out in 1946—just in time for the baby boom. But with his conversational tone and his concise, practical tips on everything from toilet-training to calming a colicky baby, Spock helped to usher in a new era of American home life” (*Time*). Without dust jacket. Owner signature on inscription page. Front inner paper hinge expertly reinforced, slight toning to interior, minor toning and soiling to cloth. An extremely good signed copy.

“Trust yourself, you know more than you think you do.”