
The rare, expanded second edition of Benjamin Bacon’s important 1856 survey, featuring additional statistics and analysis regarding incarceration rates. Conducted and published by order of the Board of Education of the Pennsylvania Society for the Abolition of Slavery, this is the third such study of Philadelphia’s African-American population, preceded by a Society of Friends census in 1849 and a first in 1838, also by Bacon on behalf of the Abolition Society. In fitting with the mission of its sponsor, the present study focuses in particular on literacy rates, libraries (including the Library Company of Philadelphia), schools, and other educational organizations, and employment in “the higher departments of labor, such as clerkships, &c.” The report contains statistics for leadership and attendance of each of the public and private schools in the city, tables for religious and adult education institutes, and general
employment. This second edition is extended considerably from the first, including a valuable contribution from William J. Mullen, Prison Agent, who reports comparative statistics on convictions and incarceration rates for Blacks in Philadelphia penitentiaries up to 1859, along with a somewhat less scientific analysis of how the “use of intoxicating drinks” factors in to these numbers.

A scarce and important statistical study of Philadelphia’s African-American population on the eve of the Civil War; OCLC locates copies of this edition at fourteen institutions, and Rare Book Hub records only one other copy at auction.

LIBRARY COMPANY, AFRO-AMERICANA 751. SABIN 62293. $2250.
An Astronomical DIARY: OR, ALMANACK
FOR THE YEAR OF OUR LORD CHRIST, 1762.
Being the 2d Year after Bisextile or Leap Year. Calculated for the Meridian of Boston in New England, Lat. 42 Deg. 25 Min. North.

CONTAINING
Eclipses; Aspects; Courts; ſt Weight and value of Coin; Feasts & Falls of the Church; ſt Table of Gold and Silver; Spring Tides; Lunations; ſt Weight, in old Tenor; Judgment of the Weather; ſt from one Grain to an Ounce; Sun & Moon's Rising and ſt An Extra Table to Bring Setting, &c.; The Roads & ſt Old Tenor into Lawful Modes of Stages. A Table of the ſt day, from 7½ d. to 500 L. A Page for the Ladies.—On T.E.A.—On Nursing Children.

By NATHANIEL AMES.

Now we the long expected Year behold, Which Astrologick Prophecies foretold, And great Events since Time began conceal'd Rusht forth, and are to open View reveal'd: Th' Obsector says, 'What things are come to pass? Does not every Scene continue as it was?'

No. 1.
The helm of Kings hath laid his Scepter down, And Grosstan the Third adorns the British Crown: New conquer'd Realms join to his Boundless sway; And Savage Chiefs their willing Homage pay: He reigns per Realms to former Kings unknown, While vanquish'd Monarchs due submission bow.


An early almanac by one of the most prolific almanac makers in colonial America, whose publications predated Benjamin Franklin's Poor Richard's by eight years. Ames had a long and notable career, producing popular and highly-regarded almanacs for more than half a century. Contains a long essay addressed to the fairer gender discussing the virtues of drinking tea and the importance of breast-feeding one's children.

This Portsmouth edition of Ames is a very early New Hampshire imprint, and also probably pirated. Not in Evans or NAIP. DRAKE 4618. $600.
Rare California Water Map

3. [California]: HONEY LAKE VALLEY LAND AND WATER COMPANY...PLATE No. 4 SHOWING RESERVOIR, CANALS AND DITCHES. [San Francisco. 1891]. Lithographed map, 19 x 15¾ inches. Old folds. Small separations at three crossfolds, with slight loss. Edge wear. Good.

Detailed map of waterways owned by the Honey Lake Valley Land and Water Company. Honey Lake is located just inside the California border, between Lassen National Park and Pyramid Lake. The map is done on a scale of one inch to the mile. OCLC locates a single copy of this map alone, at the University of California at Berkeley, and there is also a copy in the David Rumsey map collection. This map was originally published as part of the company’s very rare 1891 publication, Engineers’ Reports to the Honey Lake Valley Land and Water Company on Its Irrigation System in Honey Lake Valley, Lassen County, Cal.

OCLC 26651109. ROCQ 2622 (ref). $300.
CITY OF KEOKUK IN 1856.

A VIEW OF THE CITY, EMBRACING ITS
Commerce and Manufactures,
AND CONTAINING THE
INAUGURAL ADDRESS OF MAYOR CURTIS,
AND STATISTICAL LOCAL INFORMATION;
ALSO, A
SKETCH OF THE BLACK HAWK WAR AND HISTORY OF THE
HALF BREED TRACT.

Keokuk, [Ia.]: Printed by O. Clemens, 1856.

A fine piece of early Twainiana, as well as an early Iowa promotional. This pamphlet was written and published by Orion Clemens, the older brother of Samuel Clemens, pseudonymously known as Mark Twain. Twain worked for his brother Orion as a typesetter, printer and editor in 1851; and then, after several years as a journeyman, again from 1853 to the fall of 1856 in Keokuk. Both brothers certainly had a hand in the present production, likely in both its editorial and production ends.

The small settlement in the corner of Iowa grew out of a reservation set aside by the 1824 “Half-Breed Tract” for mixed-race descendants of the local Sauk and Fox tribes, until that land was opened to settlers in 1834. About a quarter of the text is devoted to a discussion of this tract and of Black Hawk’s War, after which the Sauk leader, Keokuk, who had opposed Black Hawk and argued for peace at the beginning of the conflict, became the town’s namesake. The remainder of the text begins with the inaugural address of Mayor Samuel R. Curtis before progressing to a detailed analysis of the present state of manufacturing and commerce in Keokuk, also providing descriptions of local churches, schools, and other organizations such as railroad and fuel companies.


$3000.

Rare second edition of this anonymous account of the Dolphin’s voyage to the South Seas, written by “a Midshipman on Board the said Ship,” generally assumed to be Charles Clerke, who later sailed with Cook on all three voyages, serving as commander of the third voyage for the last six months. “Early in 1764 the Hon. John Byron (‘Foul-Weather Jack’ [and grandfather of Lord Byron]) was appointed in command of the Dolphin Frigate, the first English vessel to be sheathed with copper, and ordered to proceed to the East Indies, with secret instructions...to sail to the Pacific Ocean on an exploring expedition. The vessel sailed westward across the Pacific from the Straits of Magellan and managed, almost miraculously, to avoid discovering any islands except in the northern part of the Low Archipelago....He completed the circumnavigation of the globe in twenty-two months, an easy record up to that time, but a record which should not have been made on a voyage intended for discovery” – Cox.

The voyage did make it to the Falklands (and Britain’s first claim to them), seven of the Tuamotu Islands, Tinian, and one of the Marianas. “Although the voyage was not noted for its discoveries, it stirred the Admiralty to fresh investigation of the South Seas. This narrative was published six years before Hawkesworth’s official account, and became famous because of its description of the Patagonian giants, still something of a mystery” – Hill. Clerke also published on the supposed giants of Patagonia in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society (1768; vol. LVII, pt.1, pp.75-79).

OCLC and ESTC list a total of nine copies, at the University of Minnesota, University of Hawaii, Lilly Library at Indiana, John Carter Brown Library, the National Library of New Zealand, National Library of Australia, State Library of New South Wales, the British Library, and the University of Queensland.

ESTC N29109. OCLC 16342337, 220668543, 319057398, 222122200. HILL 311 (ref). COX I, pp.53-54 (ref).

$3000.
Admittedly Derived from Beaumont


A clean copy of this very interesting book which, in this second edition, brought the findings and observations of William Beaumont to the English reading public. Combe readily admits his heavy indebtedness to Beaumont’s 1833 Experiments and Observations on the Gastric Juice: “In preparing the present volume for the press, I have derived the utmost advantage from a very valuable work by Dr. Beaumont....I have not scrupled to make the freest and most ample use [of Beaumont’s work, it] being still inaccessible to the British reader....” In 1838, Combe edited the first Edinburgh edition of Beaumont’s work. Thomas W. Streeter, in his note regarding that edition, states: “There is a long reference to an earlier book by Dr. Combe, in which he quotes extensively from Beaumont, in the publisher’s preface to the Burlington, Vermont, 1847, edition of Beaumont.” This is that work.

Combe was a physician and phrenologist, and with his brother was one of the founders of the Phrenological Journal.

STREETER SALE 4157 (note). $250.
First French Collection of the New U.S. Constitutions


The earliest collection of the constitutions of the constituent American states published in France, and the predecessor for the more generally known translation by the Duc de la Rochefoucauld of The Constitutions of the Several Independent States of America (Philadelphia, 1781 and Paris, 1783). This work was compiled by Regnier, and dedicated via a letter herein printed to Benjamin Franklin, who ordered the printing of the 1783 collection. Also included is an exceptionally early appearance in book form, in French, of the Declaration of Independence. An important early gathering.

Interestingly, this title appears under two false imprints, “En Suisse” and “A Philadelphie,” the latter of which the present copy bears. The practice of using false imprints during pre-Revolutionary France was a common one, and is evidence of the flexibility in the government’s relationship with the printing press – often giving the government the safety net of official denial, should any objections be raised in the face of a controversial publication. At a time when the Enlightenment was struggling with the forces of reaction in France, the use of the Philadelphia imprint, the city that engendered America’s own revolution, conveyed a strong liberal-minded message, a profound sympathy with the American ideal, and an apparent prescience of what was to come.

HOWES R111, “aa.” $1500.
This collection prints those portions of the entire Journal of Congress for that session which had not been printed earlier for British readers in the British edition of *Extracts from the Votes and Proceedings...* (1774). Pages 57-66 reprint, in its first English edition, the Petition for the Redress of Grievances, the last real effort to reach a resolution with the Crown. AMERICAN CONTROVERSY 74-84c. SABIN 15544. REESE, REVOLUTIONARY HUNDRED 20 (ref). $2250.
With Lewis and Clark Material


Styled “Eighth Edition” on the titlepage, but actually the sixth known edition, after those of 1802, 1804, 1806, 1808, and 1811, the first two surviving in a few copies only. This edition is considerably enlarged over all previous efforts, with a woodcut map of Pittsburgh, thirteen woodcut maps of the Ohio from Pittsburgh to the Mississippi, and thirteen woodcut maps of the Mississippi almost to New Orleans. The appendix, with information on Lewis and Clark, was first included in the 1808 edition, but much more geographical information on the western country is given in this edition, especially relative to the upper waters of the Mississippi. There are also a number of firsthand accounts of the famous New Madrid earthquake of 1812 and of tributary streams of the Mississippi. Cramer’s guide was the first navigational guide to the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers. This was the final edition of The Navigator... to be prepared by Cramer himself, who died in 1816.

Presentation Copy

10. De Smet, Pierre Jean: WESTERN MISSIONS AND MISSIONARIES: A SERIES OF LETTERS.... New York: James B. Kirker, 1863. 532pp. This copy lacks the portrait found only in very few copies, as well as the 8pp. of ads at the rear – the book is still complete without them. 12mo. Publisher’s brown cloth, elaborately stamped in blind, spine gilt. Cloth rubbed, light wear to the corners and spine ends. Internally clean. Overall very good.

A presentation copy, inscribed by Father De Smet on the front free endpaper: “Presented to Mrs. Ghebard with profound respect & esteem – P.J. De Smet, SJ.” Presentation copies of this book are quite uncommon – this is only the second copy we have handled.

This collection of letters was written by Jesuit missionary Pierre-Jean De Smet between 1848-1851 as he travelled among Native American nations including the Assiniboine, the Delaware, the Blackfeet, the Sioux, the Flathead, the Potawatomie and the Osage. This work was originally published in Paris in 1858 as Cinquante Nouvelles Lettres..., but was not issued in translation for five years due to bankruptcy proceedings that involved the publisher. Evidently the sheets were printed and sat for some time (thus accounting for the 1859 copyright date), and when they were first issued in 1863, they appeared under three different New York imprints with cancel titles. The copy at hand contains the imprint of James B. Kirker. Several of De Smet’s journeys receive notable attention here, especially his visit to the Sioux in 1848, and his passage from the Missouri River at Fort Union to Fort Laramie in 1851.

Presentation copies of De Smet’s writings are rare and desirable.

Clicking on any item – text or image – will take you to our website for easy ordering and to view any additional images.
Presentation Copy from Lundy’s Son


A presentation copy from Benjamin Lundy’s son, Dr. B.C. (Benjamin Clarkson) Lundy (1826-61) to Dr. L.R. Johnson (1824-89), the medical examiner for the United States Pension Office. Johnson was an active abolitionist, whose father belonged to the Union Humane Society, Benjamin Lundy’s first anti-slavery organization. Lundy (1789-1839) was a prominent Quaker abolitionist and this account of his life and travels was compiled under the direction of his children, making a copy presented by his son as close to an authorial presentation copy as one will find.

“Contains Lundy’s journal kept on his second and third journeys to Texas, 1833-34 and 1834-35, in search of suitable places for the colonization of freed slaves. On the second trip his route was by steamboat from Cincinnati to Nashville, thence to Memphis and New Orleans, and by sea to Brazoria; on foot to San Felipe; to San Antonio de Bexar, where he worked at his trade of saddler while planning a colonization scheme, August-October 1833, and to Monclava, where he remained until January 1834. The third journey began at Nashville, from which he went by steamboat to New Orleans, back up the Mississippi and Red River to Natchitoches...On each of these tours he kept day-to-day accounts of his itinerary and activities. There are also some excellent descriptions of Texas” – Clark. “...A most interesting Texas book because of Lundy’s three journeys to Texas...to secure a colonization grant. Lundy was a keen observer and in his journeys refers to many of the prominent Texans” – Streeter. Scarce, and an important chapter in Texas history.

Letters of Life and Politics in Late Colonial Maryland


"Valuable as indicating the state of public feeling anterior to the Revolution. 'Mr. Eddis's letters are forty in number. The first contains an account of the country, the government, trade, manners and customs of the inhabitants, followed by others, giving an account of the progress of the war, till his departure from New York. The concluding letters narrate the difficulties and dangers which the author experienced, in consequence of his refusing to take the oath tendered him by the Americans.' – Monthly Review..." – Sabin. Most of Eddis' time in America was spent in Maryland, particularly Annapolis. He treats in detail the social life in the American colonies, describing the theatre, the races, the prevalence of the latest British fashions among the elite, the problems of getting good servants, and so forth. "The work provides an intelligent and sensitive picture of life in late colonial Maryland and an unparalleled commentary on the political crisis unfolding between the colonies and Britain" – ANB.

Land Promotion in Florida, 1821


A guide to East Florida at the time it was ceded to the U.S., designed to attract investors and settlers to the “Forbes Purchase,” encompassing over one million acres on the Apalachicola bay and river. An appendix reprints some historical documents, including a bilingual version of the treaty of cession. Sabin does not note the map, and Howes states it was not issued in all copies. It depicts the Apalachicola river and bay and includes a plan of Collin Mitchell’s proposed town of Colinton, with street names, squares, etc. Mitchell’s claim was apparently invalid, and his dreams of a town with his name started and ended with this map. A rare piece of early American Floridiana, here in the first and only edition. This copy with the bookplate of Edwin Stanton Fickes, a civil engineer and executive of the ALCOA company, who lived near Pittsburgh and was a major collector of Western Americana. The dormitory Fickes Hall at the University of Pittsburgh is his former home, and most of the extensive collection he maintained there was sold privately by Peter Decker in the 1960s.

Galloway, one of the most outspoken prominent Loyalists, had been very critical of General Howe and the British ministry regarding their conduct of the war following the evacuation of Philadelphia. In the present hearing Lord Germain retaliated in part, grilling Galloway for several hours and attempting to discredit him (which he succeeded in doing to some extent). Galloway himself saw his testimony as a triumph and purchased hundreds of copies.

ESTC T13512. AMERICAN CONTROVERSY 79-49a. HOWES G37. $2500.
First edition of this major biography of the first ordained African-American clergyman, with introductory remarks by William B. Sprague. Haynes (1753-1833) was born in West Hartford, Connecticut where the circumstances of his birth are controversial. He was indentured at the age of five months to a couple who saw conscientiously to his education and proper upbringing. He served with the Granville Minutemen and in the garrison that held Fort Ticonderoga after its capture. Early on he wrote an essay that has only recently been discovered: “Liberty Further Extended: Our Free thoughts on the illegality of Slave-keeping...” in which his condemnation of slavery on Calvinistic religious grounds is firmly established. He was licensed to preach in 1780 and ordained in 1785. During his active years, he served congregations in Connecticut, Vermont, and New York. This first edition is quite uncommon in the market. A second edition was published in 1839.

WORK, p.474. SABIN 16366. AMERICAN IMPRINTS 55142. HEART-MAN 120:442.

$1750.
Early Report of the Kansas Pacific


A report on the Kansas Pacific Railway Company's earnings and expenses for the year 1868. Includes discussions of Texas cattle shipped from Abilene, the need for “speedy settlement” of the company's lands “by an active producing population,” a projected extension through New Mexico and Arizona, the planned completion of the extension to Denver, and the eventual connection with the Union Pacific via the Denver Pacific between Denver and Cheyenne. Reproduces the text of three congressional acts, including the joint resolution dated March 3, 1869, authorizing the company's name change from “the Union Pacific Railway Company, Eastern Division” to the “Kansas Pacific Railway Company.” William J. Palmer was a member of the Board of Directors of the Kansas Pacific, his own much more complicated and torturous efforts to run a railway line through southern Colorado, into New Mexico, and thence to the Pacific Ocean still in his future. This report was published in St. Louis, and is scarcer than another edition of the report, with a New York imprint. RAILWAY ECONOMICS, p.314. LITERATURE RELATING TO THE UNION PACIFIC, p.229. EBERSTADT 137:301 (New York ed).

$650.
Includes an Early, Large Map of Ohio

17. Kilbourn, John: THE OHIO GAZETTEER, OR TOPOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY; CONTAINING A DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL COUNTIES, TOWNS, VILLAGES, SETTLEMENTS,

ROADS, RIVERS, LAKES SPRINGS MINES, &c. IN THE STATE OF OHIO...Sixth edition, improved. Columbus [i.e. Chillicothe]: Published and sold by J. Kilbourn, 1819. 176pp., including twenty in-text maps, plus two folding maps and a folding plan. 12mo. Contemporary calf-backed drab wrappers. Wrappers a bit stained, backstrip rubbed, chipped at head of spine. Later pencil inscription on copyright page, closed tear in lower gutter of first four leaves. Lightly tanned and foxed, foredge trimmed close. Overall very good.

The first guide and gazetteer issued in Ohio, originally published in 1816 (two editions were issued that year) and annually thereafter, making this the sixth edition. The book contains information on the character and manners of the populace, religion, education, natural resources, climate trade and manufacturing, and government, and provides an alphabetized list of cities, towns, villages, rivers, streams and other places of geographic importance. Each county is illustrated by a woodcut map within the text. The folding plan shows the city of Columbus, with one of the folding maps showing Ross County and the then-capital city of Chillicothe, with hand-painted borders around the county townships. The folding map of the state found at the end of the preface has handcolored outlines for each county and is considered one of the earliest large format maps of the state. Only the second copy we have handled, and in attractive, original condition. HOWES K129. MORGAN, OHIO IMPRINTS 491. THOMSON 672. $2500.
Important Colorado Rarity


Printed in a small edition for private circulation by William Larimer Mellon. “General Larimer lost his large fortune in the depression of 1854 and started life anew in Nebraska, leaving his wife and nine children in Pittsburgh. Late in 1855 they joined him in La Platte, a town above Omaha founded by the General. In the fall of 1858, the General, his son W.H.H. Larimer, then not quite 18 years of age, and four others made the overland journey from Leavenworth, Kansas, by way of Bent’s Fort to the new gold discoveries at Cherry Creek. Arriving at Cherry Creek on November 17, 1858 the General a few days later founded the Denver City Town Company. The son’s narrative tells of these journeys and the founding of Denver by his father and life there until the Civil War. From page 210 to 237 the editor tells from family letters of the Civil War services of the General and his son and of the General’s death in 1873. Ordinarily reminiscences are inferior to day by day contemporary accounts, but these are so skillfully edited and so buttressed by contemporary letters and extracts from note books that they form one of the best accounts of an overland journey across the plains and perhaps the best account of the founding of Denver and of life there for the first few years that we have” – Streeter.


From an edition limited to 950 copies. A classic account of the Missouri fur trade, edited by Elliott Coues.

HOWES C800, “aa.” GRAFF 2404. RADER 2204. SMITH 5700. HUBACH, p.77. $675.
Landmark Event
in the History of Free Speech and Abolitionism

The published transcripts for the two trials stemming from the 1837 Alton Riot, in which Elijah P. Lovejoy, journalist, newspaper editor, abolitionist, and Presbyterian minister, lost his life while trying to protect his printing press from destruction by a pro-slavery mob, becoming “the first American journalist slain for his work” (Ellingwood).

The events of the trial were transcribed by William Sever Lincoln (1811-89), son of Levi Lincoln Jr., a lawyer himself and the 13th Governor of Massachusetts. Following his graduation from Bowdoin College, the younger Lincoln took a position as a lawyer for the city of Alton, Illinois, and practiced in the municipal court there for ten years before returning to Massachusetts.

At the time Elijah Lovejoy died and the Alton trials took place, “the States and not the Federal Government held the primary responsibility for both defining and protecting American privileges and immunities...there were but a few absolute national rights that States were bound to respect...whether an American citizen could speak freely [and] publish his thoughts...depended on...state law” (Lash). As such, it was easy for the pro-slavery forces to “muzzle anyone who would criticize the institution – whether they be journalists, abolitionists, or members of Congress. In so doing, slavery’s defenders created a de facto censorship regime during the antebellum years unlike any the United States had seen in peacetime” (Ellingwood).

It was in this stifled environment that Elijah P. Lovejoy (1802-37), found his calling as a Presbyterian minister, and through the study of scripture was drawn to the abolitionist cause. He became a publisher and journalist to further his abolitionist principles. After college, Lovejoy moved from his birthplace in Albion, Maine to St. Louis, Missouri (a slave state at the time) to begin his work in journalism as the coeditor of the St. Louis Times. After he became a minister in 1833, Lovejoy became the editor of a religious newspaper sponsored by Presbyterian donors called the St. Louis Observer and began to write strong abolitionist and anti-Catholic articles. After death threats from pro-slavery members of the St. Louis community, Lovejoy moved his family across the river to Alton, Illinois, but a pro-slavery mob followed him and destroyed his printing press on the Alton dock. Lovejoy began to publish the Alton Observer, which maintained the abolitionist character of its St. Louis predecessor, infuriating the pro-slavery faction in Alton. Lovejoy lost two additional presses to pro-slavery foes, and when his fourth press arrived, he and some friends armed themselves and decided to spend the night in the warehouse where it was stored to protect it. When a pro-slavery mob arrived at the warehouse on the night of November 7, 1837, bent on destroying the press, Lovejoy was shot and killed in the ensuing violence.

Elijah Lovejoy’s murder at the hands of the rioters sent a shockwave through the North, reminding them of the freedoms they had effectively lost and galvanizing support for free speech. Twenty years after Lovejoy’s death, Abraham Lincoln wrote to the Reverend James Lemen, “Lovejoy’s tragic death for freedom in every sense marked his sad ending as the most important single event that ever happened in the new world” (as quoted in Gibson). “Lovejoy’s persistence as an abolitionist editor places him among the leading defenders of a free press in American history. At the time, the Alton riots were used by abolitionists to support their contention that slavery menaced the liberties of all people. To that extent, Lovejoy’s death contributed to the growth of the antislavery movement and of the sectional controversy” – ANB.

A significant primary account of an important event in the history of abolitionism and freedom of the press.

21. Myers, John Bernard: [editor & publisher] SEMI-COLON. New York: Tibor De Nagy Gallery, [1953-1956]. I:1-3, 5 and II:2-4. Seven numbers (of twelve published). Quarto. Seven folded [4]pp. leaflets. The first four numbers bear the 1955 receipt stamp of International Publications (see below), number II:2 is oversize and a bit rumpled at top edge and has some old transparent liquid discoloration in from the upper fore-edge that also slightly affects the top leaf of II:3, but otherwise very good. Edited by John Bernard Myers, and printed in editions reputed to have hovered in the range of three hundred copies per number. A decent broken run of this important periodical forum for the literary associates of the Tibor De Nagy Gallery, with contributions by O’Hara, Denby, Ashbery, Merrill, Lieben, Tyler, Calas, Goodman, Bellow, Kallman, Fowlie, Auden, Koch, W.J. Smith, Stevens, Golffing, Jackson, C/H/ Ford, Fairfield Porter, V.R. Lang, et al. Intercultural Publications was the subsidiary of the Ford Foundation, headed by New Directions publisher, James Laughlin responsible for the excellent periodical, Perspectives USA. $750.
Early and Important Case of Federal Seizure of Private Land


The New Orleans batture case was one of the bitter controversies of Jefferson's presidency and beyond. Jean Gravier, a major landowner in New Orleans, and then his successor to the property, Edward Livingston, a prominent New Orleans attorney, claimed ownership of a strip of beach (the batture) at New Orleans which had long been used as a common, publicly-accessible boat landing. President Thomas Jefferson took up the case for the city of New Orleans, asserting government ownership up to the high water mark, and had a federal marshal forcibly dispossess Livingston. In 1807, the Louisiana Supreme Court had awarded judgement to Gravier. This resulted in a celebrated, extensively-litigated case over the use of federal power which was bitterly argued, and continued by Gravier's successor in title, Edward Livingston, who battled not only the city of New Orleans but the national government in years of court struggles which became constitutional in nature, and resulted in Jefferson writing the one major published legal brief of his career. It also brought about one of the few civil suits ever allowed against a sitting President. The case set important precedent in the interaction of federal and state power, as well as having significant local ramifications.

The present work prints several affidavits, from French and American public officials and citizens dating back to the 1790s, supporting the municipality's claim that the rights to the use of the New Orleans batture should be shared by the citizenry, and not by private interests. The present documents speak loudly for the nullity of Gravier's title to the contested batture. This copy bears the ownership signature on the titlepage of Vermont Senator Stephen Row Bradley. Bradley (1754-1830) graduated from Yale and served in the Continental Army and in a variety of judicial and political posts in Vermont before becoming the first United States Senator from that state, in 1791. He served in that position until 1795, and again in the U.S. Senate from 1801 to 1813, as a Democratic Republican

An uncommon and important entry in the New Orleans batture controversy, with only fifteen physical institutional copies in OCLC. This is only the second copy handled by this firm; the previous copy was in a sammelband of ten pamphlets relating to the batture case.


A financial report detailing the expenditures and donations made to the institution. Includes a brief history of the institution, which began operations in 1818 after several years of organization, and the text to “An Act to Provide for the Instruction of the Indigent Deaf and Dumb Within This State,” which was passed in April of 1822. This school was the second in the country organized to teach deaf children, only preceded by Gallaudet’s famous American School for the Deaf, which began in Connecticut in 1816.

AMERICAN IMPRINTS 17414. $250.
24. O’Flarrity, Paddy [probable pseudonym]: THE LIFE OF PADDY O’FLARRITY, WHO, FROM A SHOE BLACK, HAS, BY PERSEVERANCE AND GOOD CONDUCT, ARRIVED TO A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, INTERSPERSED WITH MANY CURIOUS ANECDOTES, CALCULATED TO IMPROVE AS WELL AS DIVERT THE YOUTHS OF AMERICA. WRITTEN BY HIMSELF. [Washington, D.C.] 1834 [copyright taken in 1835]. xii, 56pp. 12mo (17.5 x 11 cm). Plum muslin over boards, printed cover label. Early ink name at top of rear cover, moderate foxing and occasional staining, some nicks and creases, free endsheets excised, cloth and label somewhat spattered and soiled. Just a good, sound copy.

First edition of this cheaply printed, rare bit of satirical political fiction. The printed label on the upper cover is enticing: “A SPUR TO YOUTH; OR DAVY CROCKETT BEATEN PRICE 37½.” The post-dated copyright “is presumed part of the parody...of a political figure of the time, probably either Thomas Hart Benton, Missouri senator, or Adam Huntman, Tennessee congressman, who defeated Davy Crockett in the 1834 election” (AAS #238134). Charles Fanning, in The Irish Voice in America: 250 Years of Irish American Fiction (2nd edition, University of Kentucky Press, 2000), discusses this work at some length (pp.19-21 in E-format): The narrative “parodies American rags-to-riches, moralizing fiction.” The label title “indicates a specific target – the popular Crockett biography published in the same year....An even more relevant target was President Andrew Jackson, then in his second term, the Tennessee-bred son of Scotch Presbyterian immigrants from Ulster. Published appropriately in Washington, D.C....[it] is story of a wily, amoral, immigrant Irish boy’s rise in the world of American politics. It is written with deliberately outlandish grammar...which contributes to the cynical message that traditional education and abilities count for nothing in the race for political advancement in America.” Tellingly, the narrative concludes: “I leave you now to guess who I am.” Rare Book Hub reports five appearances, the last in 1920, in Part III of the Du Puy sale.

25. [Press of Will Ransom]: Wilde, Oscar: AVE IMPERATRIX! A DIRGE OF EMPIRE. Snohomish, Wa.: [Printed by Will Ransom at the Handcraft Shop], 1902. [38] leaves, printed on rectos only. Frontis. Small octavo. Gilt lettered soft calf over boards, edges untrimmed. Apart from some modest edgewear and a bit of dark spotting to calf, a very good or better copy of a book in a binding usually seen with major blemishes and structural flaws.

Copy #70 of 150 copies printed on Whatman paper, with an Introduction, frontis, and elaborate decorative frames for the text, each with a decorated handcolored initial highlighted in gold. Inscribed by Ransom on the front free endsheet: “To Mrs. F.H. McMillan with the hope that the memory of your visit may be a pleasant one. Will Ransom Chicago 25 October 1907.” The second title by Ransom that he cites in his own checklist of his press’s work. OCLC/Worldcat locates 11 copies. RANSOM, p.392. OCLC: 2380714. $1125.
French Deny Legitimacy of Rebels at Start of Haitian Revolution


Dated December 21, 1791, this letter responds to one from December 8, sent by the administrating council of the rebel army, and inveighs against a rebel appeal to the non-white population of the western province of Saint Domingue. The letter, issued by Ignace-Frédéric de Mirbeck and Roume de Saint Laurent as commissioners to resolve the crisis, rejects the legitimacy of the council, its proclamations, and their justifications for the rebellion, and urges obedience to French law. Rare, as is all printing from the Caribbean, with no copies in OCLC, and not in Roquincourt.

$3950.
A SHORT COMPRENDIUM
OF THE
CATECHISM
FOR THE
INDIANS,
with the approbation of the
Bishop of Saut Sainte Marie,
1864.

REV. N. L. SIFFERATH,
Missionary of the Ottawa and Ojibway Indians.

BUFFALO, N. Y.
C. WIECKMANN, (Aurora Printing House.)
1869.

Catechism in the Ottawa Dialect

27. Sifferath, N.L., Rev.: A SHORT COMPENDIUM OF THE CAT-
ECHISM FOR THE INDIANS, WITH THE APPROBATION OF
THE RT. REV. FREDERIC BARAGA, BISHOP OF SAUT SAINTE
plain blue wrappers. Near fine.

Written in the Ottawa dialect. A rare and surprisingly well-printed lin-
guistic work.
PILLING, PROOF-SHEETS 3601a. $500.


A slightly later edition of one of Colton’s most popular guidebooks, after the first of 1839, covering the states and territories of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys in detail. Situated firmly in the context of Manifest Destiny, Colton’s preface proclaims that the “westward star of empire takes its way” to “the great region of the North and West.” Though the text is ultimately in service of the impressive map, it nonetheless supplies prospective visitors and emigrants with a wealth of valuable information about the Midwest, including geography, climate, public land laws, cities and towns, and present government and infrastructure. The map itself is carefully hand-colored and illustrates Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Wisconsin and Iowa, “Showing the Township lines of the United States Surveys...,” with a table of routes and distances, surrounded by a decorative border and a small inset illustration of Maiden Rock in Wisconsin. Colton’s Western Tourist was extremely successful, and was reprinted nearly fifteen times between 1839 and 1857. The map itself is largely identical across early editions, changing primarily in peculiarities of title and imprint. An important and popular early guide for the rapidly growing Midwest. This 1844 edition is not in Rumsey.

First American Edition


The first American edition of this important English voyage, after the first London edition of 1805. “Turnbull set out in 1800 with an expedition on the Margaret, intent on taking advantage of the lucrative fur trade on the northwest coast of America. Turnbull was the business manager of the expedition. Though the voyage was a financial failure, it did obtain interesting information about various South Sea Islands, such as Norfolk Island, Tahiti, Hawaii, and the Tonga Islands, and made the discovery of the Margaret, Phillips, and Holt islands in the Tuamotu Archipelago. Phillips Island was named for the publisher Sir Richard Phillips. They also visited Brazil and South Africa....The American edition is very scarce” – Hill.

Turnbull includes descriptions of Australia and various Pacific islands, with much material about the natives, including King Kamehameha’s residence at Lahaina and his activities at the time. Page number 277 is misnumbered 281 in all copies of this edition, and the new pagination is continued to the end. An important Pacific voyage, and one of the first to be published in the United States.

HILL 1725 (ref), 1727. FORBES 414. SHAW & SHOEMAKER 21538. $1750.
Early Printing of Vermont Laws


Early Vermont laws and imprint. This copy bears a presentation inscription from Henry Burnham, Brattleton, to the Vermont Historical Society, dated July 1861. Burnham was Brattleton/Brattleboro’s town historian. EVANS 20827. McCORISON 136. SABIN 99103. $1250.
HISTORY OF THE WAR

BETWEEN

THE UNITED STATES AND THE SAC AND FOX NATIONS OF INDIANS, AND PARTS OF OTHER DISAFFECTED TRIBES OF INDIANS,

IN THE YEARS

EIGHTEEN HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SEVEN, THIRTY-ONE, AND THIRTY-TWO.

BY JOHN A. WAKEFIELD, ESQ.

JACKSONVILLE, ILL.
PRINTED BY CALVIN GOUDY.
1834.

Black Hawk War


A scarce and valuable account of the Black Hawk War and other Indian troubles, by a firsthand witness, including the account of the captivity of the Hall sisters as related by Sibley Hall. Wakefield based his account of the 1827 campaign on oral reminiscences and newspaper accounts, but he was a participant in the last two campaigns. He served as a scout and dispatch-bearer and was wounded at the battle of Axe River. This is not the first printing of an account of the Hall captivity, but that contained in the 1832 pamphlet, Narrative of the Capture and Providential Escape of..., was so full of errors that this may be noted as the first accurate account, and the first in book form. Interestingly, many participants in this war were to become prominent (e.g. Abraham Lincoln, whose company was disgraced for being intoxicated; Jefferson Davis; Zachary Taylor; and James Clyman, the latter a famous mountain man who rode with Jedediah Smith in 1824 and was mess mate to Lincoln). “One of the few first-hand accounts of the Indian wars in Illinois and Michigan” – Eberstadt. Not in Ayer. Nebenzahl bought the Streeter copy for $175 in 1968.

An important history of the Indian wars in Illinois.
Early Topographical Map of Iowa

32. Williams, Jesse: A DESCRIPTION OF THE UNITED STATES LANDS IN IOWA: BEING A MINUTE DESCRIPTION OF EVERY SECTION AND QUARTER SECTION, QUALITY OF SOIL, GROVES OF TIMBER, PRAIRIES, LEDGES OF ROCK, COAL BANKS, IRON AND LEAD ORES, WATER-FALLS, MILL-SEATS, etc., etc., etc. WITH AN APPENDIX. New York: Published by J.H. Colton, 1840. 180,[1]pp., plus folding handcolored map, 21 x 32 inches. 12mo. Original brown publisher’s cloth, stamped in blind and gilt. Spine sunned, spine ends and corners bumped. Colton’s printed label tipped to the front pastedown, previous owner’s blindstamp on front free endpaper. Light scattered foxing. Map clean and bright. A very good copy.

An uncommon guide to Iowa lands published by J.H. Colton, marking the opening of Iowa, with a large, handsome map. Compiled by Iowa Territorial Auditor, Jesse Williams, the book includes a full topographical map of the surveyed portions of the territory – unusual for its time – as well as a “minute description of every section and quarter section, quality of soil, groves of timber, prairies, ledges of rock, coal banks, iron and lead ores, water-falls, mill-seats, etc.” The majority of the text is concerned with the detailed description of the land and all the natural resources available within each township. A twenty-page appendix provides a brief description of the form of government, a list of territorial officers and militia officers, and a description of the “Aboriginal Tribes” inhabiting portions of the territory. “...Compiled largely from the original field notes of the surveyor, and including historical sketches on the settlement, boundaries, form of government, officers, militia, counties and population, Indian tribes, etc.” – Eberstadt. The attractively-colored map is in very nice condition and is entitled, “Map of the Surveyed part of Iowa; Exhibiting the Sections, Townships and Ranges Compiled from the United States Surveys by Jesse Williams....” It contains the location of all the surveyed townships and provides detailed topographical markings. The map also contains two insets – one showing the detail of the Rock Island Rapids area and the other showing the detail of the Des Moines Rapids area.

Jesse Williams (1818?-79) received his early training in the Ohio Surveyor General’s office and left Ohio for Iowa in 1838 with Robert Lucas, the first Iowa Territorial Governor. Lucas gave Williams the
post of Territorial Auditor in 1840, and Territorial Agent in 1841. Williams was elected Territorial Secretary in 1845, and later became a land speculator, and with Bernhart Henn, formed the land brokerage firm of Henn, Williams and Company, known for their early Iowa maps. Goodspeed’s paid $250 for the Streeter copy in 1968, and only one other copy has appeared at auction since. HOWES W459, “b.” EBERSTADT 114:421. STREETER SALE 1880. GRAFF 4678. SABIN 104241. J.T. Johnson, “Jesse Williams” in The Palimpsest Vol. 21, No. 6 (1940) pp.184-96. $2500.