Stocking Stuffers

_African-American Ordnance Corps in Italy During World War II_


Pocket-sized photograph album commemorating the members of the 604th Ordnance Ammunition Company, a unit of African-American soldiers who served as battle support in Italy during World War II. A small line of text on the rear wrapper reads: “Photographs by 1st Lt. E.D. Biggerstaff, Jr.” Edward D. Biggerstaff, Jr. was the commanding officer of the 604th Ordnance Ammo. Company, evidenced by his photograph in the album; he is also pictured with the other white company officers in a separate photograph.

The album opens with a photograph of the entrance to the company’s “Bivouac Area” and an image of the Villa Traxler in Nugola, Italy, which is captioned as “Occupied by 604th Ordnance Ammunition Company.” Then, following the images of Biggerstaff and the senior officers, the album features a series of photographs depicting the African-American junior or non-commissioned officers and personnel, beginning with First Sergeant Leroy Crosby. After Crosby’s photograph, the album includes group photographs of Crosby with his other five staff sergeants; the
company headquarters personnel; the depot office personnel (gathered around a small cannon); kitchen staff; the motor pool (with a separate photograph of their vehicles); separate group pictures of the first, second, and third magazine platoons; the service and supply section; the guard mount; and a photograph of the remaining members of the company who did not appear in the other images. Especially useful in this album are the captioned tissue guards before each photograph, which identify each soldier by name and rank.

The album was likely made by or at the behest of commanding officer Edward D. Biggerstaff in an unknown quantity. It appears to be quite rare, as we can locate no other copies in OCLC, auction records, or the trade.

$750.
Presentation Copy of One of the Classics of Poker

2. Abbott, “Uncle” Jack: A TREATISE ON JACK POT POKER... WITH THE GAME OF SANCHO PEDRO, WHEN PLAYED FOR STAKES. New Orleans: Clark & Hofeline, 1881. 64pp. 16mo. Original pebbled cloth, printed label on front board. Cloth rubbed and stained, the label chipped at the edges. Contemporary printed advertisements mounted to pastedowns, contemporary manuscript notes on rear free endpaper. Presentation inscription on verso of front free endpaper (see below). Titlepage mended along gutter. A bit of staining to the text. Very good overall. In a half morocco and marbled boards clamshell case, spine gilt.

The exceedingly rare first edition of one of the high spots of any poker collection, here in a presentation copy, inscribed on the verso of the front free endpaper: “Compliments of the author / to his old friend Doct. A.B. Snell / J. Abbott / Nov. 21st.” This is almost certainly the prominent Louisiana physician, A.B. Snell, who authored an 1874 report on the yellow fever epidemic in Shreveport in 1873 and was active in the state’s medical society. Abbott notes in his dedication that in 1878 he was employed as a nurse in Holly Springs, Mississippi while a yellow fever epidemic was raging there, and this medical experience likely explains his connection to Dr. Snell. This copy also contains advertisements on the front and rear pastedowns for a New Orleans smoke shop and a liquor store, which were not contained in the only other copy of this title that we have handled.

“Uncle” Jack Abbott may as well have been forecasting the early 21st-century resurgence in the popularity of poker when he writes in his preface: “that Jack Pot Poker is now our National game for gentlemen.” Abbott’s book is a sober, soundly-reasoned assessment of the game. The lengthy preface discusses its history and variations, and the main text contains a thorough description of the rules of the game – those governing players and dealers as well. Abbott refrains from laying out strategy or advice, rightly proclaiming that the beginning poker player can best learn by “bitter experience.” He does offer this wisdom, however: “no unprofessional player should undertake the hazards of an unlimited [i.e. no-limit] game, unless he is prepared and able to pay heavy losses without injury to himself or his family, for there is no possible way of telling what the amount of his losses may be in the course of a year, or even in a night.” The final five pages describe the rules of the rather arcane game of Sancho Pedro. OCLC locates only six copies, at the Historic New Orleans Collection, Tulane University, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, Vanderbilt, Louisiana State University, and the Morgan Library. Rare.

JESSEL 1. OCLC 17538509, 270783890. $6750.


DRAKE 9996. EVANS 12650. ESTC W32698. $1500.
Includes the Articles of Confederation


The present edition of The North-American Calendar... is most notable for its inclusion of the complete Articles of Confederation, which had passed into law upon Maryland's agreement to ratify on March 1, 1781. Published by Benjamin West, noted astronomer and founder of what was to become the New England Almanac, and produced on Providence's first printing press in 1762. Although most remembered for his astronomical skills and numerous almanacs, West also worked fervently to supply the Continental army with clothes, and later served on the faculty of Rhode Island College, later Brown University.

EVANS 17432. DAB XX, pp.5-6. $900.
...sufficiently rare to be looked at twice, or even, less elegantly, to be gaped at."


A bookbinder’s trade label, likely dating to about the 1760s, for Samuel Taylor of Philadelphia. “Samuel Taylor was born in Philadelphia on November 2, 1744. He was apprenticed to William Muir, bookbinder, and was freed upon Muir’s death in 1761. He succeeded to the tools of his master and carried on a large business at the sign of the Book & Hand, Market and Water Sts. Taylor died of a fever on October 8, 1780” – Spawn & Kinsella.

The engraved label consists of a cartouche set atop an ornate Chippendale border. Enclosed within the cartouche is Taylor’s trade sign, showing a detail of an extended arm holding in its hand an open book. The text within the border reads as follows:

“Samuel Taylor / Book-Binder at the Book & Hand / the Corner of Market & Water Street / Philadelphia. / Binds all sort of Books, in the Neatest / Manner, Gilt or Plain, as now Practised in England &c. where Merchants / and others may have all sorts of / Account Books made and Ruled / to any Pattern at the Lowest Prices. / He likewise Sells Bibles, Common / Prayer Books, Spelling Books, Shop / Books, Pocket Books, Writing Paper, / Sealing Wax, Wafers, Pens, Pencills, / and most other Sorts of Stationary / Wares, also all Sorts of Ink &c.”

Handwritten in ink below the decorative border is the binder’s name, “Samuel Taylor.”

Like the trade cards which had come into popular use in the 18th century in England and on the Continent and of which they were a subset, binders’ labels (also called “tickets”) were a form of commercial advertisement. Usually affixed inside the front covers of books
bound by the tradesmen whose shops and services they advertised, binders’ labels served not only to showcase the binder’s craft and skill but to inform customers of the broader range of printed goods and stationery wares that the binder had on offer.

Taylor’s is one of only a handful of examples of binders’ labels to have survived from colonial British North America. As scholar of American bookbinding Hannah French explains, the practice among 18th-century American binders of signing their work “with engraved and printed labels... seems never to have been widespread” and only “became somewhat more extensive in the years after the Revolution” (French, “Early American Bookbinding”). Few examples of American bookbinders’ labels survive from the 18th century and fewer still in their original bindings. Hence, Lawrence Wroth’s observation that “the colonial American binder’s card is sufficiently rare to be looked at twice, or even, less elegantly, to be gaped at.” The most notable survivals are those of the Scottish-born Boston bookbinder Andrew Barclay and those of John Dean, Robert Aitken, and Samuel Taylor, all of Philadelphia.

Taylor’s label exist in at least two variations, with one reading “Book-Binder at the Book & Hand” as here and another reading ”Book-Binder & Stationer.” Institutionally, Taylor’s tickets survive in at least seven examples, with one at the Free Library of Philadelphia in Edward Whittenhall, A Short Introduction to Grammar. For the Use of the College and Academy in Philadelphia... (Philadelphia: Andrew Steuart, 1762) (Rosenbach Children’s 50); one at the American Philosophical Society in The Confession of Faith... (Philadelphia: B. Franklin, 1745); one at Princeton University Library in a bound manuscript by Henry Parkinson, “Notes on College Readings of Philosophy and Ethics” (1765); and one in the Wright Library at Princeton Theological Seminary in James Lyon, Urania: Or a Choice Collection of Psalm-Tunes, Anthems, and Hymns... (Philadelphia, 1761). The American Antiquarian Society holds three other examples, two – one of each variant – in its trade card collection, apart or removed from any binding, and one of the second variation in the Papantonio collection of early American bookbindings pasted into the covers of what was once an account book, its text block having since perished.

An exceptionally scarce example of an 18th-century American bookbinder's ticket – a rare survival.


$3000.
Lovely, Unused California Gold Rush Letter Book


A lovely example of an unused Gold Rush letter book, intended to advertise Joseph Gregory’s California and New York Express Line as a convenient way for gold seekers in California to communicate with friends and family back home. Gregory’s California Express, according to the wrapper, is “one of the oldest established in the business, dispatch messengers BY EVERY STEAMER leaving New-York and San Francisco, in charge of Letters, Parcels, Packages, Gold Dust and valuables, for distribution throughout the United States and California.” Also according to Gregory’s text, “this book is made of the finest letter paper, and of the size of a folded letter, which, with an envelope, will not exceed the weight of a single letter, and is more convenient than paper in sheets. It will be found advantageous to write across both pages.

Copyright secured.

JOSEPH W. GREGORY,
“Gregory’s United States & California Express,”
280 MONTGOMERY STREET,
SAN FRANCISCO:
THOMPSON & HITCHCOCK,
149 PEARL STREET, NEW-YORK:
1851

$850.
Printed by the Students
of the Holy Childhood Indian School


A prayer book in the Chippewa language, printed by Chippewa and Ottawa mission children at the Franciscan mission at Harbor Springs. The children of this mission produced a large quantity of printed material, ranging from other prayer books and pamphlets, to an extensive run of at least two monthly periodicals. $450.
Hymns and Other Rituals


Styled the “sixth edition” on the titlepage. Hargrett credits this work to Alfred Wright and Cyrus Byington, first published in Boston in 1830. Missionaries among the Choctaw for decades, they are responsible for a number of works in the Choctaw language. The hymns, with translator’s initials at the end of each, take up the first two hundred pages, followed by the Articles of Faith, the baptism and marriage rituals, twenty-five pages of hymns in English, and an index of first lines.

A Rare Piece of Cookiana


First printing of this Dublin edition of The Life of Captain James Cook, abridged for young readers from the biography by Andrew Kippis. The wood-engraved frontispiece is a portrait of a facially tattooed South Sea warrior. Not in Forbes.

BEDDIE 1983. $1250.
Bloody Kansas

10. [Fish, Reeder McCandless]: THE GRIM CHIEFTAIN OF KANSAS, AND OTHER FREE-STATE MEN IN THEIR STRUGGLES AGAINST SLAVERY. SOME POLITICAL SEANCES, INCIDENTS, INSIDE POLITICAL VIEWS AND MOVEMENTS IN THEIR CAREER. By One Who Knows. Cherryvale, Ks.: Clarion Book & Job Print, 1885. [4],145pp. 16mo. Modern marbled cloth. Very good. In a half morocco box.

This copy bears the bookplate of William Elsey Connelly and two inscriptions concerning this book and its history. In one he writes: “Topeka, Aug. 20, 1913. J.B. Abbott did not write The Grim Chieftain of Kansas. It was written by Reeder M. Fish, associate editor of ‘The Baldwin Criterion.’ Lillie K. Sherwood was the daughter of Reeder M. Fish.” A rare account of James Lane’s struggles in organizing the Free-State party in Kansas. “The most graphic and complete presentation of an era altogether the most remarkable in the history of the most important personage (i.e., James Lane) known in the early struggles of Kansas” – Preface. “Lane was, to say the least, a controversial figure; many of his actions could be criticized. Still, he had his defenders and Fish was one of them” – Graff. This is an important narrative of the bitter wars on the Kansas border preceding the Civil War. Goodspeed’s bought the Streeter copy for $125 in 1968.

First French Edition


The first French edition of Franklin’s famous work on electricity, a translation of the first part of his English publications on his experiments, originally published in London the previous year. This was the first edition issued in a foreign language, and the foundation of Franklin’s fame in France, where a quarter century later he was greeted as the great sage of the New World.

HOWES F320, “aa.” FORD, FRANKLIN 80. $4000.
Signed by Edward Gorey

12. Gorey, Edward: *Q.R.V.* Boston: Anne & David Bromer, 1989. Miniature book (3.5 x 3 cm; 1.5 x 1.25”). Decorated boards, paper label. About fine. First edition. Twenty-nine illustrations by Gorey, each opposed by text relating to the mysterious liquid, Q.R.V. The published edition consisted of 400 copies printed by Darrell Hyder, of which 110 were specially bound, slipcased, with coloring by Gorey. This is an uncolored copy, in the variant binding executed on the colored copies, denoted as out-of-series (‘os’) and signed by Edward Gorey. The second true miniature by Gorey. $850.
Early Description of the British Columbia Gold Rush


Includes descriptions of the Gold Rush, which had begun the same year as the publication of this work and radically changed the character of the region, which had until that time been mainly a source of furs for the Hudson's Bay Company. Reprinted in the appendix is the act of Parliament dated Aug. 2, 1858, which called for a separate government for British Columbia. Hazlitt also treats the natives of the region and includes a brief Chinook vocabulary. He “[d]rew on primary sources – letters, and reports from the London Times correspondent – for his description of the gold fever” (Streeter).

TPL 3818 (lacking map). GAGNON I:1635. LANDE 1219. SABIN 31126. WAGNER-CAMP 300b. SMITH 4272. LOWTHER 73. STREETER 3411.

$1750.
Catechism for German Immigrant Children,
in a Charming Contemporary Binding

14. Henkel, Paul: DER CHRISTLISCHE CATECHISMUS, VERFASST ZUM UNTERRICHT DER JUGEND IN DER ERKENNTNISSE DER CHRISTLICHEN RELIGION.... Neu-Market, Va.: S. Henkel, 1816. [6],167pp. 16mo. Contemporary cloth-backed, patterned paper boards. Some staining along fore-edge of rear leaves, some tanning, but a very nice copy.

Second German language edition, following a printing of 1811. Paul Henkel was “the great Lutheran home missionary of his generation” (DNB), preaching throughout the South, Ohio, and Indiana. In 1806 he helped his sons, Ambrose and Solomon, establish the first Lutheran publishing house in the United States. The present title is an early product of that endeavour. The work is intended as “an introduction to the knowledge of the Christian Religion” for children, written in plain, straightforward language. It explains basic Christian tenets in a question-and-answer format. SWEM 8242. SHAW & SHOEMAKER 37828. DNB VIII, pp.538-39. $750.
"Best handbook...[of] the time" – Howes

15. Horn, Hosea B.: HORN'S OVERLAND GUIDE, FROM THE U.S. INDIAN SUB-AGENCY, COUNCIL BLUFFS, ON THE MISSOURI RIVER, TO THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO, IN CALIFORNIA. New York: Published by J.H. Colton, 1852. 83,[1]pp. plus 18pp. publisher’s advertisements at rear. Leaf with pp.77-78 bound in reversed (as is sometimes the case). Large folding map, with route marked by hand in red. 16mo. Original rust cloth, stamped in gilt and blind. Slight wear to corners and spine ends. Early ownership signature on front pastedown. Upper outer corner of two front fly leaves, titlepage, and following two leaves a bit frayed (likely during the printing and binding process), else quite clean and fresh internally. Map with some glue residue showing through in left margin where tipped in, else very crisp and fresh. Overall, near fine. In a cloth chemise and half morocco and cloth slipcase, spine gilt.
Horn's Overland Guide,

FROM THE
U. S. INDIAN SUB-AGENCY, COUNCIL BLUFFS,
ON THE MISSOURI RIVER,
to the
CITY OF SACRAMENTO, IN CALIFORNIA;
CONTAINING
A Table of Distances,
AND SHOWING ALL THE
RIVERS, CREEKS, LAKES, SPRINGS, MOUNTAINS, HILLS,
camping-places, and other prominent objects;
WITH REMARKS ON THE COUNTRY, ROADS, TIMBERS, GRASSES, CURiosITIES, ETC.; THE ENTIRE ROUTE HAVING BEEN TRACKED BY A ROAD-MEASURER, AND THE DISTANCES FROM PLACE TO PLACE, AND FROM THE MISSOURI RIVER, ACCURATELY ASCERTAINED.

With a Complete and Accurate Map.

BY HOSEA B. HORN.

NEW YORK:
PUBLISHED BY J. H. COLTON,
NO. 86 CEDAR STREET.
1852.

$8500.
An early San Francisco book, and one of the first California imprints related to Hawaii. Reverend Dwight Hunt visited all the missionary stations in the Hawaiian islands and had a great deal of contact with the natives during a four-year period. Here he provides a comparative view of social, political, and religious conditions before and after the introduction of Christianity, as well as accounts of early missions. Included in those accounts are “Things to be Regretted,” in which he describes the sometimes indiscreet actions of former members of the mission who left to become government employees. The present work reorganizes Hunt’s church lectures as chapters, which generally discuss the work of the American Protestant Mission and emphasize the ameliorative effects of conversion on the islands.

This copy belonged to William Drake Westervelt and his son Andrew. Westervelt moved to Hawaii in 1899 and married Caroline Dickinson Castle, a descendant of the Samuel Northrup Castle who was a foundational member of the Honolulu Mission. Westervelt wrote numerous books and articles popularizing Hawaiian folklore and legends, many of which are still considered the best English language versions – the pencil annotations in this volume are possibly in his hand.

“This text is derived from a series of eight lectures given by Hunt in San Francisco, first from March to May 1852, and repeated again in 1853. Notices printed in the San Francisco newspaper, the Alta California, during this period indicate that the lectures were both popular and well attended” – Forbes. This was the first book-length work printed by the noted San Francisco printer, James Weld Towne. An uncommon and early California imprint, issued in an edition of only 500 copies, with interesting provenance.

FORBES 1946. GREENWOOD 388. Johnson, James Weld Towne, p.130. $1500.
A Token for Children:
BEING AN EXACT ACCOUNT
OF THE CONVERSION,
HOLY AND EXEMPLARY LIVES,
AND JOYFUL DEATHS
OF SEVERAL YOUNG CHILDREN.
IN TWO PARTS.

By the Reverend James Janeway,
LUKE X. 14.—Suffer little Children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God.

BOSTON:
Printed for Caleb Bingham,
No. 44 Cornhill.
1802.

Rare Religious Children’s Book from the Early Federal Period


A later edition of this influential religious juvenile, first published in America in 1700. All editions, including and before this one, are rare in the market. Earlier editions are recorded only by single or very few copies, or simply known to have existed through advertisements in other contemporary works. Juvenile works such as this were often used to pieces, resulting in scarcity, especially in the American trade. This edition of the work was printed for early American educator, publisher, and bookseller Caleb Bingham, most famous for his *Columbian Orator*. Bingham’s publications were notable for portraying non-Anglo characters in a more positive light than traditionally represented in American educational literature. It was, in fact, a copy of the *Columbian Orator* that inspired young Frederick Douglass to train himself as a public speaker.

Life of Jesus in Algonquin Dialect


An later state of the second edition of this work, with “Montreal” spelled correctly on the titlepage. The life of Jesus rendered in the Nipissing dialect, a derivative of Algonquin. Originally published in 1861 as Ka Titc T ebeniminang Jezos, Ondaje Aking, this work had been attributed to the missionary and accomplished linguist, Jean-Andre Cuq, who wrote the preface to this edition. Cuq, however, informed Pilling that Mathevet was the actual author. Jean Claude Mathevet (1717-81) was a missionary at the Lake of Two Mountains, now Oka, on the Ottawa River near Montreal. His Algonquin name was “Wakwi,” and along with his work in that language he composed prayers, sermons, and grammars in the Iroquois language.

“For with thee is the fountain of life…”


Copy #25 of an edition of 64 numbered copies handprinted by Washburn. BRADBURY (WASHBURN) 16. $450.
The Only Grabhorn Miniature Book

20. [Miniature Book]: Koopman, Harry Lyman: MINIATURE BOOKS BY.... Los Angeles: Dawson’s Book Shop, 1968. Miniature (5 x 3.5 cm). Bound in full parchment over limp boards, lettered and decorated in blue, blue typographical decorative borders on each page. Two small spots on lower board, one small spot on upper board, otherwise about fine.

First edition of the only miniature to appear under any of the Grabhorn imprints. One of 400 copies printed in black, red, and blue on English mould-made paper. A historical essay concerning miniatures by the former librarian at Brown University and president of the American Library Association. The type was originally set for Bruce Rogers by Mackenzie and Harris, but the proofs arrived the day Rogers died, May 21, 1957. The text was finally printed in 1968 by the Grabhorn-Hoyem Press in this edition for Dawson’s Book Shop. BRADBURY 1711. $250.
Views in Montana


A volume of interesting views of these mining towns in western Montana, just west of Helena and not far from the Anaconda copper mine. Granite, which thrived in the 1890s as a silver mining center, is now a ghost town, although Philipsburg still exists, with a population of 820 in the 2010 census. Though undated, this volume was likely produced during the area’s silver mining heyday and features views of the towns of Granite and Philipsburg. Also included are views of a number of mines (with their names given), mining company offices, mining equipment, and miners themselves. There are also views of local schools, churches, hotels, homes, residences, shops, and a fishing scene, as well as an interesting view of Main Street in Granite on June 9, 1891, showing the street flooded with rushing water. Charles Weitfle, a German immigrant, was a Union photographer during the Civil War and is best known as a producer of stereoviews. He was based in Colorado in the 1870s and 1880s, until a Denver fire consumed his studio in 1883. He eventually moved to Cheyenne, and then to Granite County, Montana. $750.

Clicking on any item – text or image – will take you to our website for easy ordering and to view any additional images.
Guide for New York Residents and Visitors

22. [New York]: PHELPS’ NEW YORK CITY GUIDE; BEING A POCKET DIRECTORY FOR STRANGERS AND CITIZENS TO THE PROMINENT OBJECTS OF INTEREST IN THE GREAT COMMERCIAL METROPOLIS, AND CONDUCTOR TO ITS ENVIRONS, WITH ENGRAVINGS OF PUBLIC BUILDINGS. New York. 1853. 96pp. plus large color folding map. 18mo. Original printed wrappers. Light wear to wrappers. 20th-century bookplate on front pastedown. Light tanning and foxing, heavier to initial leaves. Very good.

A scarce edition of this attractive guide to mid-19th-century New York City. The volume contains extensive descriptions and numerous illustrations of the sights, as well as a street directory and information on travel within the city and to neighboring locales. It includes further information on attractions in Queens, Brooklyn, and Staten Island. The work also contains a large and detailed color folding map of Manhattan below 90th Street.

An attractive copy of an ephemeral item, in original wrappers. OCLC locates only six holdings of this edition.

$850.
Essays by Mordecai Noah


An interesting work on saving and thrift by a consequential American diplomat. Most of the essays blame poverty and bankruptcy on moral faults such as reckless spending and devotion to fashion. Among the examples of moral failings Noah offers are rowdy teens at a late-night oyster house, and Wall Street wives bidding recklessly at a silverware auction. Mordecai Noah (1785-1851) was U.S. Consul in Tunis during the Barbary Wars, and as such was responsible for freeing American seamen. Noah was notable as one of the first American Jews to hold an important diplomatic post, and was ultimately removed from office for anti-Semitic reasons. He was editor of the National Advocate in New York for over a decade beginning in 1817.

SHOEMAKER 2557. WOLF, UNRECORDED JUDAICA 50. BAL 14997. $2500.

Printed in English on the left and Ojibwe (Chippewa) on the right. Facing pages have the same number. A short catechism and prayer book for the use of Native Americans. Includes a few pages of prayers and the creed before launching into the familiar question-and-answer format of the catechism. Scarce.

$400.
Well-Preserved Ambrotypes
of a Minister and His Wife

25. [Photographica]: [PAIR OF AMBROTYPES, CASED TOGETHER, FEATURING A MINISTER AND HIS WIFE]. [N.p. ca. 1855]. Two sixth-plate ambrotypes, each in oval frames measuring 3½ x 3 inches. Minor degradation to the man’s image, else very good. Housed together in a thermoplastic Union case.

An attractive pair of ambrotypes featuring a married man and woman around the middle of the 19th century. The man sports a Donegal beard and is wearing clerical bands; the woman is decked out in a flowing dress with large sleeves. $275.
Shuffle Up and Deal

26. [Photographica]: [ORIGINAL TINTYPE PHOTOGRAPH SHOWING TWO MEN PLAYING CARDS], [N.p. ca. 1865]. Sixth-plate tintype, 3¼ x 2¼ inches. In original velvet-lined “Union Style” case, with clasp. Hinge of case repaired with later cloth. Image clear and in fine condition.

A very interesting and engaging tintype photograph, showing two men playing cards. The two are very well dressed and seated at a table. One appears to be picking up cards while the other, who has turned to face the camera, shows the cards in his hand. A wonderfully playful image of an unusual scene, demonstrating the growing popularity of card playing in 19th-century America. $1000.
Scarce Pocket-Sized Edition of a Captivity Classic


A rather scarce early pocket-sized edition of this classic captivity narrative, printed by William Walker of Otley, West Yorkshire. Mary Jemison was captured by the Senecas at age twelve in 1755, the rest of her family perishing in the raid. She was initially taken from near Fort Pitt to eastern Ohio, but after the French and Indian War the tribe moved north to western New York State. This volume includes long accounts of the Revolutionary War in upstate New York, as well as incidents of frontier fights throughout the War of 1812, and Mrs. Jemison’s life in the area around Buffalo from the Revolutionary period to 1823. Frederick Strecker, bibliographer of the Jemison narrative, notes that “considerable of the history of the settlers of western New York, has its source in the Jemison narrative.” The compiler and editor of this narrative, James Seaver, interviewed Jemison personally when she was seventy-seven years old. She continued to live with the Seneca people until her death at ninety, despite long being free to return if she wished. The narrative became as popular in Britain as it was in America, and this is one of three editions printed in Otley by William Walker. Walker was a printer best known for his prolific output of chap books, juvenile literature, books of tricks and legerdemain, and penny dreadfuls, so the unusually small physical size of this edition was likely rather comfortable for him.

“One of the most authentic and interesting of captivity narratives, told by one who spent a long life among the Senecas and was the first white woman to descend the Ohio” – Howes.

“Mary Jemison, who lived her entire adult life among the Seneca Indians, is probably the most famous captive of the nineteenth century. The text remains one of our best accounts of the history and culture of the Senecas, with the appendices presenting Mrs. Jemison’s firsthand descriptions of feasts, religion, dances, government, funerals, and agriculture” – Siebert.

This immensely popular narrative was printed in more than twenty editions. This particular one is relatively rare and is not included in the entries on this work in Pilling, Howes, Field, or Sabin; OCLC records it at nine institutions worldwide.

19th-Century Iowa Infantry Roster
with an Original Photograph of Its Members


A small roster recording the names and ranks of commissioned and non-commissioned members (including those deceased) of the 52nd Iowa Infantry during the Spanish-American War. The roster includes a variety of photographic illustrations showing their activities, camps, and equipment. The 52nd Iowa was mustered in May 1898 and was preparing to enter the conflict in Puerto Rico, although the war ended before they saw active service. Despite the fact that they never saw combat, their leader (Col. William B. Humphrey) declared in his report that “Had the opportunity presented, the regiment would have acquitted itself with honor and credit to the State.” The photograph depicts eight men posing in front of a tent in varying degrees of uniform. They have set up a tripod of rifles in the center of their group, and one of the seated men is holding a small dog. The reverse of the photo mount contains the stamp of the Neal Brothers, Photographers, “In all the latest styles and sizes.” Edwin Neal operated a photography studio in Keota, Iowa for over half a century, where he supposedly only used one camera throughout his entire career.

Only one copy of this roster is recorded on OCLC, as part of an archival collection at the U.S. Army War College. An interesting remnant of a short-lived regiment, with an original photograph of the men who were a part of it.

OCLC 794007555.

$450.
Norse Voyages to America


A rare 18th-century scholarly paper presenting evidence of visits of the Northmen to America, and describing the location of Vinland with respect to Greenland and North America.

A compelling diary by Emil Milton Woerner, recounting his service with a mobile field hospital on the Western Front during World War I. Apparently drafted, Woerner (1894-1968) reported for duty with Company “A” of the 311th Infantry Regiment at Camp Dix, New Jersey on April 3, 1918. Although he does not go into detail about his beliefs in this diary, Woerner was a conscientious objector, and a few days after his arrival, he requested a “transfer to medical or other non-combat branch of service....” He was referred to the captain, who tried to convince him that the infantry “was the ‘best and only’ branch of the service and stated that my C.O. principles were pro-German. Gave him quite an argument and he finally referred me to Col. Stokes in a written communication.”

After convincing the colonel he was serious, the process began; in the meantime, Woerner applied for a “rear guard” position and was assigned as bookkeeper to the supply sergeant, but this was not the transfer he was looking for. The lieutenants kept trying to convince him to stay, and by mid-May, “Rumors of going abroad were everywhere prevalent. Every other day saw an overseas inspection of some kind.” Finally, on May 21, “Just two days before Co. A left for embarkation, received my transfer to 309th Field Hospital, 303rd Sanitary Train.” The 303rd Sanitary Train was part of the soon-to-be-renowned 78th Infantry Division, the “Lightning Division,” which played a key role in the Meuse-Argonne offensive during the final push of the war. Incidentally, the unit he was originally assigned to (311th Infantry) was folded into the 78th Infantry, so it seems Woerner was destined for this regiment.

His new hospital unit mobilized on June 3; they took trains to Jersey City, and embarked on the massive Cunard ocean liner, the Mauretania. Although they were packed into the former dining salon “like cattle,” Woerner writes that he was able to stay above deck as they sailed through
New York Harbor and saw “the Statue of Liberty fade behind us....” They reached Liverpool on June 11, took the train to Southampton, crossed the Channel to Le Havre, France, and then took a train to Vitrey-sur-Mance in Haute-Saône, arriving June 18, 1918. They remained for several weeks training and drilling, especially with gas masks, and then action began. In early September, they marched and drove some 140km north to “Tremblecourt in time to hear and see the first big American barrage which started at 1:00 A.M. in St. Mihiel sector.”

Although Woerner had avoided infantry service, he did not miss any of the horrors of war. From this point, his entries are briefer and more disjointed, often just lists of objects and people he encounters. On September 15, he writes: “Montmore: German dugouts, railroads, trenches, dead Americans and Germans, gas alarms all nite, aeroplane battles, observation balloons.”

The next day, they proceed to Thiaucourt, which had just been taken by American forces: “...arrived Thiaucourt at 2:00 pm where we received our baptism of shell fire....Shells every 5 minutes, hospital in dugout, slept in dugouts. Nite of terror: shells, bombs, machine guns and gas.” They kept moving along the front, often setting up mobile hospitals only to pack up a few hours later and move again to avoid new waves of shelling. They were finally able to stop for a while at St. Jacques, and “...took over hillside dugouts for hospital....Surgical hospital at N.T.S.W. Good sleeping, many patients, operations...sterilizing room.” Two weeks later, they’re on the road again: “Left St. Jacques, motor lorries for Verdun front...big barrage on, held in reserve for div. entry.”

By October 12, Woerner and his troop are camped in the Argonne Woods, listening “in on another big barrage. Rumors of armistice and abdication of Kaiser. German dugouts, dead, graves. Saw grave of ‘Werner.’” A few days later, they reach Apremont where they “opened Gen. Hospital and had beau coup patients immediately after opening....Air battles, Mystery gun, Maj. Gen. McRae’s visit [commander of 78th Infantry], Bombs, Shelling.” Finally, on November 11: “Left on truck for Braux St Remey. Passed thru Ste. Menchould and heard that armistice had been signed.”

Woerner does not record much about the next seven months, but on May 15, he writes, “Left at 5:00 P.M. on ‘Santa Barbara’ bound for the USA...Shower, Storms.” They reached Camp Dix at 3am on May 29, and later that day, Woerner makes his final entry: “Headed to Discharge Board at 1:00 P.M....” At the rear of the diary, Woerner has gathered a series of addresses, including two pages of addresses from individuals from Paris, followed by two pages of American addresses, and then a nineteen-page section titled, “Personnel of 309 Field Hospital.” The addresses are all written in different hands, presumably by the individuals themselves.

World War I was the first time the federal government had to deal directly with the issue of conscientious objection to military service. The government did not allow men to hire a substitute or pay a commutation fee as they had in the past. The Selective Service Act of 1917 made allowances for conscientious objectors, but only for those who were members of a “well-recognized religious sect...whose existing creed or principles forbid its members to participate in war in any form....” Because of the ambiguous wording of the Act, draft boards were often arbitrary in whom they classified as C.O.s. The biggest problem though, was the lack of alternative service opportunities, since those who received C.O. status were not exempt from military service. Solutions varied from base to base, and it was not until March 1918 that President Wilson formally defined noncombatancy as service in the Medical, Quartermaster, or Engineering Corps.

Emil Woerner did not sign his name to this diary and offered precious few clues to his identity. However, internal evidence has led to an identification of this diary as his. One entry in May, 1918 offers good clues to the author's identity. He spent a weekend on leave from Camp Dix, at home with “Ma, Pa, Karl & M.E.Z....Asked M.E.Z. to wait until I returned to civil life before entering into matrimony and she asked for time to consider. Walked to the station with M.E.Z. and had the last glance of Netherwood I was to have for some time.” This suggests that the author lived near Netherwood Station in Plainfield, New Jersey, had living parents and a brother named Karl. In his second entry after arriving at Camp Dix, April 7, 1918, the diarist wrote “Sent an original joke to Judge.” Judge was a weekly humor magazine which offered modest prizes to soldiers whose jokes were published. Knowing his regiment, a search for “311th” turned up a joke in the May 4, 1918 issue which won the $5 grand prize. The soldiError in error correction?r was Private E.M. Woerner of the right company and regiment—and it was a joke about a clueless rookie who had just arrived yesterday. More research shows Woerner in the 1915 census with his parents and brother Karl; he registered for the draft from Plainfield, N.J.; and the 1920 census found him working in Manhattan as a salesman of silk hosiery, living with his wife, Matilda E. Woerner, nee Zaisser.

A very interesting World War I diary of an American who—despite his moral objections to the conflict—still saw plenty of action and carnage in France.