

A GENERAL DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE

A LEGACY OF BOOKS FOR ALL AGES TO
ENLIGHTEN AND DELIGHT



THAYER MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Celebrating 150 Years of Public Library Service, 1862-2012

PREPARED BY LESLIE PERRIN WILSON, WITH A FOREWORD BY MARGE FISCHER

A GENERAL DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE

An exhibition to show volumes from the Rare Book Collection
of the Thayer Memorial Library, Lancaster, Massachusetts
January 15-April 21, 2012

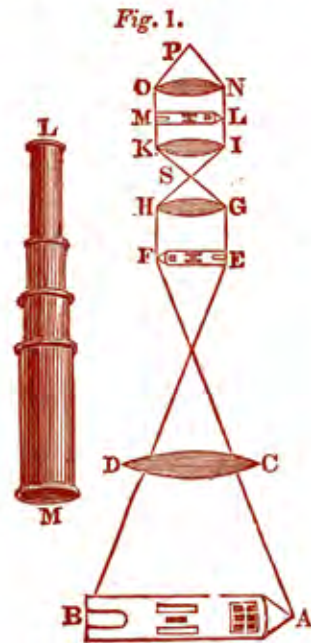


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INTRODUCTION

In 2012 the Thayer Memorial Library in Lancaster, Massachusetts, celebrates 150 years of service as a free, public library. Our anniversary year opens with "A General Diffusion of Knowledge," an exhibit which includes books that were part of the original collection when the Lancaster Library opened its doors in 1862.

It seems remarkable that the Town voted to support a public library during the Civil War. As the United States struggled to determine whether the country would remain a united, democratic nation, perhaps it was fitting to open a library for all citizens. Townspeople believed that access to knowledge and information was vital to the ideals of democracy upon which the country was founded. After the vote in 1862, over 600 books from earlier private libraries and individual collectors were donated to form the general collection of the new Lancaster Town Library.

This exhibit was first shown in 1984-85. With our milestone anniversary in 2012, Library Director Joseph Mulé suggested to the Board it was time to showcase these books again. Leslie Perrin Wilson, who developed and presented the first exhibit, agreed to serve again as Curator for the 150th anniversary showing. Museum exhibit specialist Frank E. Graham provided expertise with exhibit design and execution. Working under the guidance of these professionals the 150th Anniversary Committee Exhibits Group prepared and updated the exhibit and catalog. An accompanying lecture series will enhance understanding of the importance of the books on display. Thank you to the specialists, volunteers, speakers, and staff who brought "A General Diffusion of Knowledge" to the public for enjoyment and reflection.

The volumes selected for this exhibit depict the history of ideas, the importance of education for children and adults, and the message at the core of public library service – a general diffusion of knowledge for the benefit of all. It is unusual for a town library, (in fact, *any* public library in the country) to have been in operation for 150 years. It is a privilege to serve on the Board of an institution which has so long held a special place in the hearts of Lancaster's people.

Emily J. Rose
Chair, Board of Library Trustees
Thayer Memorial Library
December 2011

A GENERAL DIFFUSION OF KNOWLEDGE

Sunday Lecture series:

Leslie Perrin Wilson, Exhibit Curator:

"Books are the best of things, well used": The Value of Lancaster's Rare Book Collection

Warren Rassmussen:

Mary Rowlandson—Minister's Wife, Redeemed Captive, First Best-selling American Author

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Searching for the Heart of the Community—Religious Books in the Rare Book Collection

Kevin Doyle:

Lancaster in the Civil War and *Gardner's Photographic Sketchbook of the War*

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FOREWORD (1985 EXHIBIT)

This exhibition, "A General Diffusion of Knowledge," prepared according to the provisions of the Constance V.R. Dexter endowment established in 1976, is the first major exhibition of material from the Rare Book Collection of the Lancaster Town Library.

Mrs. Dexter, daughter of Bayard Thayer (fifth son of Nathaniel and Cornelia Van Rensselaer Thayer) and Ruth Simpkins Thayer, was born in 1900 at Boston, and married William Dexter of Boston in 1923. Her early life in Lancaster was spent at Hawthorne Hall (more recently called the Cenacle) on George Hill Road. After her marriage, she and her family lived at Hillside, also on George Hill Road. They were the parents of four children, Constance V.R. Dexter White of Boston, Nathaniel Thayer Dexter of Boston and Lancaster, Philip Dexter of St. Louis, Missouri, and Mary Ann Dexter Streeter of Wenham, Massachusetts.

A member of the Board of Library Trustees, Mrs. Dexter continued the family tradition of service to the Lancaster Library, which began with her grandfather Nathaniel (on the Board from 1873-1883), and continued with her uncles Nathaniel Jr. (1883-1885), Eugene (1886-1889), and John Eliot (1887-1933), her brother Nathaniel 2nd (1924-1927) and her sister Ruth Thayer Greene (1927-1928). Mrs. Dexter served on the Board from 1928 to 1976, bringing the family's total commitment to the town's public library to more than 113 years.

Members of her immediate family, including her sister Mabel Bayard Thayer Storey, were active in the planning and dedication in 1927-1928 of the Children's Room, a gift to the children of the town by Mrs. Bayard Thayer and a memorial to her son Nathaniel. This event marked the opening of one of the earliest rooms especially to be set apart for children in the history of public libraries.

From the earliest days, the collection of the Lancaster Town Library has always been carefully selected to include "from among the most valuable books in the market, whether for standard merit or beautiful illustrations" (Annual Report of 1870). In a report for the Massachusetts Board of Library Commissioners in 1891, Henry Nourse wrote that "the old town of Lancaster has long boasted a possession of one of the best selected libraries as well as the largest library in proportion to its population in the Commonwealth." That same tradition has been carefully adhered to during these many years, both in the addition of books to the circulating collection and in their removal from the stacks for inclusion in the Rare Book Collection.

It was during Mrs. Dexter's chairmanship of the Library Board (1957-1976) that a rare book room was established. Until 1965 all books, with the exception of the Washburn and Lancaster Collections, were on open shelves. With the help of the Central Massachusetts Regional Library system's director, Jack Bryant, Librarian Virginia Dunning reorganized the collection. Older valuable books were culled for a rare book collection; American history (Indian, Colonial, Massachusetts, Civil War, and the like)

was shelved on the balcony. Older standard works were stored in the lower stack area, the circulating collection in the upper stack area, and reference and new books in the main room. After consultation with the Council on Library Resources and the American Antiquarian Society, the Board of Trustees voted to establish a rare book collection. The Town, by vote at the September 30, 1968 Special Town Meeting, provided the necessary funds to convert the former adult reading area to a climate-controlled room to house the collection.

The Rare Book Room opened on November 14, 1971. Shortly thereafter the entire collection of books was chemically sterilized and George Cunha of the New England Document Conservation Center was engaged to repair and restore selected volumes. Further measures to protect and preserve the collection included the installation of a security system, light filters to prevent paper damage and discoloration from ultraviolet rays, and a new display case for the Audubon elephant folio. Librarian Grace Comes, involved in a state library conservation program sponsored by the Massachusetts Bureau of Library Extension and the New England Document Conservation Center, received federal funds to further the restoration of Lancaster's rare books and manuscripts. The Lancaster Town Library was a pioneer among small public libraries in its concern for the preservation of special collections.

According to Mrs. Dexter's will, the continuation of her favorite library project is provided for as follows:

"To the Town of Lancaster, Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000) the income only therefrom to be used by the Trustees of the Public Library of said Town for the care, maintenance, preservation and exhibition of its collection of rare and historic books and maps published prior to the twentieth century belonging to said Library as the Trustees in their discretion deem proper and appropriate."

The Library is fortunate to have had Leslie Perrin Wilson, former Assistant in Special Collections at Wellesley College and former Rare Book Cataloger at the Concord Free Public Library, as a Rare Book Consultant during the past six months. She has inventoried the collection, upgraded the cataloging to include the provenance of each item, implemented an in-house conservation program, written a set of policies for the collection, and last, but not least, has put together this exhibition of materials from the Rare Book Collection.

It is with much appreciation from the citizens of the Town that the room which houses this collection of books is formally dedicated to the memory of Constance V.R. Dexter. This exhibition and accompanying lecture ("Why Rare Books in Lancaster?") by Dr. Eleanor L. Nicholes, former Curator of the Harry Elkins Widener Collection at Harvard University and former Special Collections Librarian at Wellesley College, are offered as part of the celebration surrounding the dedication.

Marge Fischer
Library Director
December 24, 1984

PREFACE (1985 EXHIBIT)

In October of 1790, a committee of five men was chosen to frame the by-laws of the Lancaster Library (later named the Lancaster Social Library), the earliest predecessor of Lancaster's free public library. The committee wrote in the preamble to their regulations:

"We the subscribers to the following Articles, being sensible that a general diffusion of knowledge has a tendency, not only to promote individual happiness, but to strengthen the bonds of society, by making 'man mild and sociable with man;' and it being incumbent on us as members of a free and independent community, to use our endeavors to preserve the liberty, freedom and happiness we enjoy; and convinced that we cannot effect this in a more eligible way than by enlarging our minds with such useful knowledge as will best serve to increase our estimation of such invaluable blessings,—do for the purpose aforesaid severally and reciprocally promise to agree to and with each other that we will associate ourselves together, and purchase a Library . . ."

This idealistic statement of purpose reflects the prevailing concern with the dissemination of knowledge that characterized both Europe and America during the eighteenth century. Lancaster's first organized library was as much a product of the Enlightenment as was, for example, the great French vernacular encyclopedia of Diderot and d'Alembert.

Today, that "general diffusion of knowledge" so admired by the founders of the Lancaster Library is a fact of life that most of us take for granted. Developments in the technology of printing and the rise of other forms of communication have made available to all an abundance of information too vast and too diverse for any one person to assimilate. Given the overwhelming volume of printed material at our command, it is reasonable to question why we create special collections to house the printed books of previous centuries. Specifically, **what is the purpose of the Rare Book Collection in the Lancaster Town Library?**

Several answers to this question are possible, but one among them is by far the most important in explaining the value of this collection. Above all, the Constance V.R. Dexter Rare Book Room exists to preserve a collection of books that may be regarded as documentary evidence of the past, whatever their intrinsic intellectual or esthetic value. Volumes from the collection illuminate various aspects of history—for example, the history of ideas in many disciplines, the history of printing, publishing, and the book-trade, and the history of taste and culture in and around Lancaster. Some of the historical evidence provided by books in Lancaster's Rare Book Collection may also be found in special collections elsewhere; much of it is offered only by the particular copies located here.

Perhaps in a less apparent way, but no less importantly, the Rare Book Collection in the Thayer Memorial Library also exists to promote the "general diffusion of knowledge" that served as

the stated goal of those who organized the Lancaster Library in 1790. Rare books and special collections are usually housed in college and university libraries or in urban research libraries, not in small public libraries. There are some notable exceptions to this generalization, however, and Lancaster's Rare Book Collection is one of them. The accessibility of material in this collection to the general population of the town—whether through exhibition, lecture, tour, or individual research—suggests the endurance of that sense of the importance of democratizing knowledge that acquired such significance during the eighteenth century.

Consisting of some 1,500 volumes, Lancaster's Rare Book Collection is small, but the diversity of material that it contains is remarkable. Amidst this diversity, six major categories of printed books comprise the bulk of the collection and are actively sought for addition to it. The primary strengths of Lancaster's collection are:

- Volumes that reflect the history of libraries or of book collecting in the Town of Lancaster
- New England imprints, particularly Massachusetts imprints, up to the mid-19th century
- Volumes produced by European printers and/or publishers important in the history of the book, whether significant in the history of printing, publishing, typography, book illustration, or some other aspect of bookmaking or the book-trade
- Illustrated works in botany, horticulture, gardening, and natural history, through the 19th century
- Sermons and other religious works, American and English, up to the mid-19th century
- Historical writings of all descriptions, up to the mid-19th century, with special emphasis on American history

The purpose of this exhibition is simply to acquaint the viewer with the full range of materials in the Rare Book Collection of the Lancaster Town Library. The display has therefore been organized around these six major collecting areas. It is hoped that greater public awareness of the nature of the Rare Book Collection will both advance the "general diffusion of knowledge" and, at the same time, encourage the gift to the Library of materials that further enhance the existing strengths of the collection.

Leslie Perrin Wilson
Rare Book Consultant
Lancaster Town Library
December 24, 1984

Note: The Library's Lancaster Collection—the local history collection containing both manuscript and printed materials relating to the history of Lancaster, genealogical volumes, works by and about the town's residents, and the like—is separate from the Rare Book Collection. Although the Lancaster Collection is a valuable and much-used resource, items from it have been intentionally excluded from this exhibition. The kinds of material included in the Rare Book Collection and in the Lancaster Collection differ, as does the general purpose of each collection. The two collections complement each other, but they cannot both be adequately represented in a display the size of this one.

VOLUMES ILLUSTRATING THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES AND OF BOOK COLLECTING IN LANCASTER

The majority of volumes in Lancaster's Rare Book Collection came to the Library as gifts by local residents. A large proportion of donations was made during the nineteenth century, in the several decades following the foundation of the Town Library, when public interest and support were strong. Many of the early gifts circulated for decades, becoming part of the Rare Book Collection only with the creation of the Rare Book Room in the 1960s.

Provenance—that is, the history of previous ownership of a book—is in itself a significant aspect of many volumes in Lancaster's collection. The identity of previous owners, whether individuals or institutions, is revealed through the presence of inscriptions or bookplates within volumes and through consulting the Library's early accession records. The provenance of books in the Rare Book Collection reflects the history of trends in intellectual, literary, and social history, the degree of learning and sophistication of earlier members of the community, and the relationships between individuals of importance in local history. Evidence provided by the books themselves—for example, the bookplates of the various libraries that antedated the Lancaster Town Library—confirms and supplements the written records of Lancaster and its inhabitants.

The Rare Book Collection includes remains of four earlier Lancaster libraries: the Lancaster Social Library; the Library of the Lancaster Sabbath School Association; the school district libraries; and the Lancaster Agricultural Library. A representation of books from each of these collections is included in this exhibition. From the many individual donors whose gifts might receive special emphasis here, six—Nathaniel Thayer, Alexander C. Washburn, George M. Bartol, Sally Flagg, Henry S. Nourse, and J.L.S. Thompson—have been selected on the basis of the extent or particularly interesting nature of their donations.

PREDECESSORS OF THE LANCASTER TOWN LIBRARY

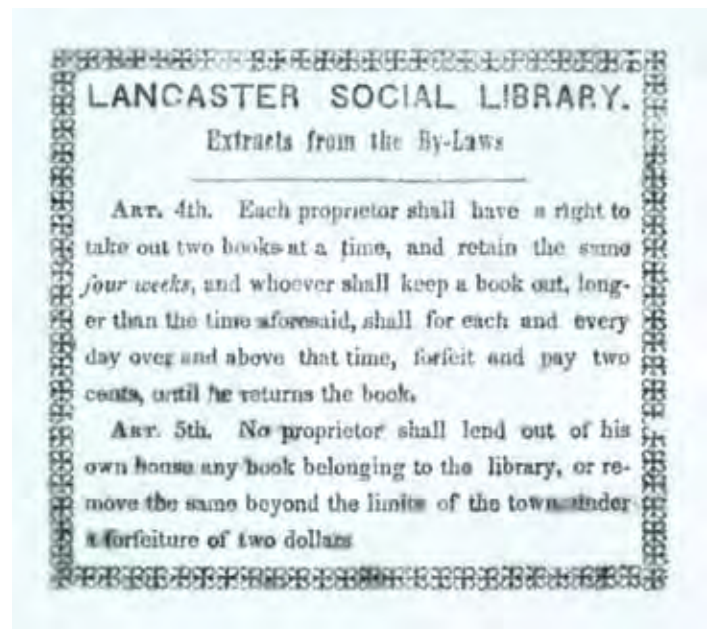
THE LANCASTER SOCIAL LIBRARY

The social library as an institution was introduced to America in 1731, when Benjamin Franklin founded the Library Company of Philadelphia. Roughly defined as a partnership of individuals each contributing money towards the maintenance and expansion of a commonly-owned book collection which each member has the right to use, the social library was well established in England before it made its appearance in this country.

The Lancaster Social Library (called for its first decade simply the Lancaster Library) was founded in 1790, at the beginning of the half-century of the most rapid increase in the number of social libraries in New England. There were seventy-four original proprietors. New proprietors could be added through election by a two-thirds vote, payment of at least three dollars, and signing the articles of agreement. The by-laws of the Lancaster Library as framed in 1790 stipulated that the collection was to be housed not more than a mile-and-a-half from the meeting-house.

During the sixty years of its existence, the Lancaster Social Library survived reorganization, the rewriting of its regulations and by-laws, the tardiness of some proprietors in paying their dues, and the vicissitudes of taste in reading. In 1850, the separation of Clinton from Lancaster raised the question of how to divide the collection for use by members now living in two towns. Consequently, the books were sold at auction, many of them to individuals who had been proprietors of the Social Library. The Library Club of Lancaster, formed in 1851, filled the place of the earlier Social Library until the establishment of the Lancaster Town Library in 1862.

A number of the Social Library books auctioned in 1850 made their way into the Town Library, some through the gift to the town of the entire Library Club collection (which incorporated such volumes from the earlier library as had been purchased at auction by future proprietors of the Library Club), some through donation by individuals. These books, originally part of the Town Library's circulating collection, are now housed in the Rare Book Room.



1. *The American Spectator*

The American Spectator, or Matrimonial Preceptor. A Collection ... of Essays, Epistles, Precepts and Examples, Relating to the Married State, From the most celebrated Writers ... Adapted to the State of Society in the American Republic ...
Boston, printed by Manning & Loring for David West, 1797.
Presented by Josiah Stickney.

This compilation, modeled on an earlier English work of similar nature, consists of selections from authors as diverse as Cicero, Dr. Johnson, and Elizabeth Bonhôte. It illustrates an important characteristic of American social library collections during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century. In general, these collections were varied in nature, including a mixture of history, travel, biography, literature, and theology, with the presence of fiction and of science increasing during the nineteenth century. While theological and philosophical works were included, amusement was as important an object of social libraries as was instruction. A volume like *The American Spectator*, varied in its contents yet designed (according to the prefatory "Advertisement") to promote "the essential interests of society," fulfills both the entertaining and the didactic functions.

The Rare Book Collection contains more than a dozen Social Library volumes presented by Josiah Stickney. The books came from the library of Mr. Stickney's great-grandfather, Charles G. Stevens, who purchased them at the 1850 auction of the Lancaster Social Library. Judge Stevens was important in instigating and overseeing the separation of Clinton from Lancaster.



Above from Item 25

2. John Mason (1706-1763)

Self-Knowledge. A Treatise, Shewing the Nature and Benefit of that Important Science, and the Way to attain it ... The Eleventh Edition.

London, James Buckland and C. Dilly, 1784.

Presented by Henry S. Nourse.

3. Philip Doddridge (1702-1751)

The Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul: Illustrated in a Course of Serious and Practical Addresses ... The Tenth Edition, To which is added, A Sermon on the Care of the Soul.

London, J. Buckland, W. Strahan, J. and F. Rivington, [and others], 1773.

Presented by Henry S. Nourse.

Contemporaries John Mason and Philip Doddridge were both English nonconformist (that is, non-Church of England) ministers, teachers, and authors of popular works. The first edition of Mason's *Self-Knowledge* appeared in 1745. Numerous later editions followed throughout the eighteenth and into the nineteenth century. Doddridge's *The Rise and Progress of Religion in the Soul*, also first printed in 1745, was much-reprinted and, in addition, translated into a number of other languages, among them French, Italian, Syriac, Dutch, German, and Danish. The inclusion of these two popular works in the Lancaster Social Library suggests an attempt to appeal to a general audience in the selection of theological works for the collection.

These volumes both bear inscriptions dating their addition to the Lancaster Social Library at 1790 (the year of the library's founding). Moreover, both titles are listed in the original manuscript catalog of the Social Library, now in the possession of Old Sturbridge Village. Also, both have the earliest bookplate of the Social Library (found in most of the items shown here). Henry S. Nourse, the donor of both volumes, was an authority on the history of Lancaster and the surrounding towns and a writer on topics of local history. (See Items 36 and 37.)

4. John Adams (1735-1826)

A Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America, Against the Attack of M. Turgot ... In Three Volumes ... The Third Edition.

Philadelphia, printed by Budd and Bartram for William Cobbett, 1797.

Presented by Mrs. G.R.M. Wirthington.

John Adams, second president of the United States, wrote his *Defence of the Constitutions ... of the United States* while he was in England, serving as envoy to the Court of St. James's. The first edition came out in 1787. Along with Jefferson's *Notes on the State of Virginia* and Barlow's *The Vision of Columbus* (two other titles from the Social Library which survive in the Rare Book Collection), it reflects the growing sense of national identity that followed the American Revolution.

5. François Marie Arouet De Voltaire (1694-1778)

The History of Charles the XIIth, King of Sweden. Translated ... By W.S. Kenrick. To which is added, the Life of Peter the Great. Translated by J. Johnson ...

London, Fielding and Walker, 1780.

Presented by Josiah Stickney.

Historical writings comprised the single largest subject category in the earliest Lancaster Social Library collection. This work by French philosopher, historian, dramatist, and essayist Voltaire—first published in French in 1731—is one of a number of original Social Library titles dealing with European

history. The first proprietors of the Social Library maintained a balance in adding historical volumes to the collection, which included a nearly equal representation of titles in American, English, European, and ancient history.

6. Alexander Pope (1688-1744)

An Essay on Man ... Enlarged and Improved by the Author. Together with his MS. Additions and Variations as in the last Edition of his Works. With the Notes of William, Lord Bishop of Gloucester.

London, A. Strahan and T. Cadell, 1786.
Presented by Lucius Farwell.

7. Joel Barlow (1754-1812)

The Vision of Columbus: A Poem, in Nine Books ...

London, C. Dilly and J. Stockdale, 1787.
Presented by Josiah Stickney.

Literature formed the second largest group of books in the original collection of the Lancaster Social Library. English literature was represented by the works of such writers as Addison, Goldsmith, Pope, and Sterne, American literature by those of Dwight and Barlow.

The first edition of *An Essay on Man* by English satirical poet Alexander Pope was published anonymously, the four epistles comprising the work appearing in 1733 and 1734. Although critics and scholars have found a variety of faults in *An Essay on Man*, the work achieved—in translation—considerable circulation among Continental European readers.

Connecticut-born poet and statesman Joel Barlow spent the spare time of eight years (1779-1787) writing *The Vision of Columbus*, the first version of his epic poem about America. Published both in Hartford and in London in 1787, this grandiose work achieved popularity in an America marked by a growing desire for a literature of its own. The success of the poem is illustrated by its inclusion in the Lancaster Library in 1790, only three years after its publication. Barlow later extensively revised and rewrote *The Vision of Columbus*; the new version appeared in 1807 under the title *The Columbiad*.

THE LIBRARY OF THE SABBATH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

During the nineteenth century, the Sunday school library was in New England, as elsewhere in America, a force for the promotion of religious and moral instruction. Like the social library, the Sunday school library achieved popularity in England before America. At first consisting primarily of works for the edification of children, these libraries came to include religious tracts, periodicals, and books calculated to attract an adult readership. The American Tract Society, American Sunday School Union, and individual religious denominations were influential in publishing material suitable for Sunday school libraries.

The nature of the Sunday school library developed through the nineteenth century in such a way as to ensure continued appeal to a general audience. Fiction, popular science, history, biography, travel, and the historical novel all made their way into these collections. As general and religious publishers began to offer standard sets of titles appropriate for the Sunday school libraries, there was an increasing uniformity among the collections. The number of volumes in Sunday school libraries varied, as did their organization and rules for membership and use.

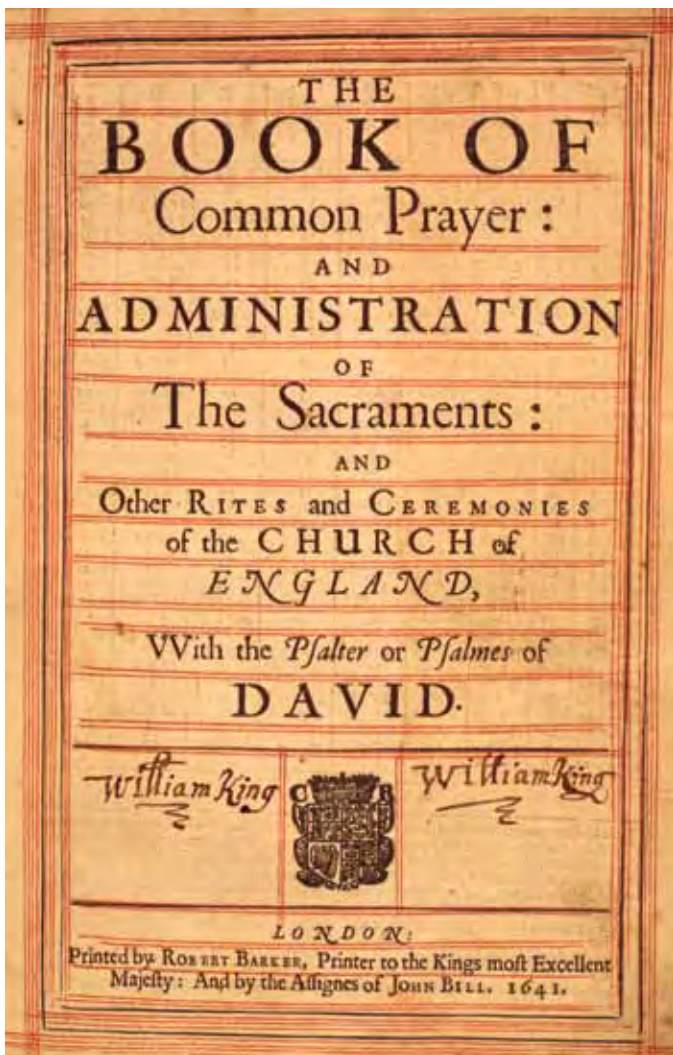
In Lancaster, both the First Parish Church (now called the First Church of Christ) and the Evangelical Congregational Church offered Sunday school library collections. Volumes from the Lancaster Sabbath School Association, many given to the Town Library by the First Parish Church in the 1890s, have become part of the Rare Book Collection.



The Sunday school of the First Parish Church was established in 1817, during the ministry of Dr. Nathaniel Thayer. In 1846, the constitution of the Lancaster Sunday School Association and a catalog of its books were printed in a ten-page pamphlet, a copy of which is available in the Lancaster Collection of the Town Library. The preamble to the constitution reads:

"Inasmuch as it is highly desirable that parents and teachers should be furnished with information in regard to the Religious Education of the young, and have their interest enhanced in this great subject,—we agree to form an association for this purpose ..."

The articles that follow the preamble specify that the association was to be called the Lancaster Sabbath School Association. Anyone could become a member by paying a fifty-cent admission fee and a twenty-five cent assessment at every subsequent annual meeting. This early catalog (one of a series issued for the library) listed some 135 titles arranged under the following headings: History; Biography; Sermons and Practical Ethics; Commentaries; Theology; Travels; Philosophy & Natural History; Poetry; and Miscellany. The Library of the Lancaster Sabbath School Association survived into the early twentieth century.



Bound with Item 68

8. George Washington Burnap (1802-1859)
Lectures on the Doctrines of Christianity, in Controversy Between Unitarians and Other Denominations of Christians...

Baltimore, Wm. R. Lucas & R.N. Wight, 1835.

9. Clarke, James Freeman (1810-1888)
The Christian Doctrine of Forgiveness of Sin: an Essay...

Boston, Wm. Crosby and H.P. Nichols, 1852.

The First Parish Church became Unitarian under the liberal ministry of Dr. Nathaniel Thayer, which spanned from 1793 until 1840. As might be expected, the remains of the collection of the Lancaster Sabbath School Association include works by prominent Unitarian clergyman.

George Washington Burnap was for more than thirty years pastor of the First Independent Church of Baltimore, Maryland. Spurred by wide-spread misunderstanding of Unitarianism, he was an avid public speaker and writer on the subject. His other writings include *Expository Lectures on the ... Passages of the Scriptures Which Relate to the Doctrine of the Trinity* (1845)

and *Popular Objections to Unitarian Christianity Considered and Answered* (1848).

James Freeman Clarke, founder and minister of the Church of the Disciples in Boston, was a friend and associate of Dr. William Ellery Channing and of Ralph Waldo Emerson and others among the New England Transcendentalists. Believing reform activity to be part of his duty as a clergyman, he was involved in the temperance, antislavery, and women's suffrage movements. He was also a member of the State Board of Education, a trustee of the Boston Public Library, and a member of the Board of Overseers of Harvard College. He wrote voluminously, publishing many pieces in newspapers and periodicals.

Clarke's *Christian Doctrine of Forgiveness of Sin* is one of a number of volumes from the Library of the Lancaster Sabbath School Association in the Rare Book Room bearing spine labels hand-numbered with the shelf-numbers of the books. (It is labeled #327.)

10. Isaac Taylor (1787-1865)

Wesley and Methodism ...

New York, Harper & Brothers, 1852.

English artist, inventor, and popular author Isaac Taylor was a prolific writer on a variety of subjects, theological topics primary among them. *Wesley and Methodism* (first published at London in 1851) was the second of two biographical works by Taylor; it was preceded by *Loyola and Jesuitism in Its Rudiments* (London, 1849).

Like most of the other Lancaster Sabbath School Association books in the Rare Book Room, this volume bears the bookplate of the association. Its shelf-number—269—appears on both the bookplate and the spine label attached to the book



Bound with Item 68

11. William Carpenter (1797-1874)

Scripture Natural History: or, A Descriptive Account of the Zoology, Botany, and Geology of the Bible. Illustrated by Engravings ...

London, Wightman and Cramp, 1828.

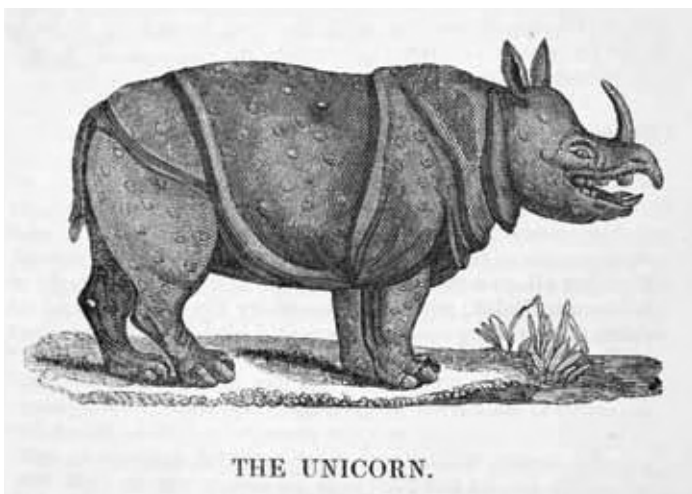


12. John Pye Smith (1774-1851)

On the Relation Between the Holy Scriptures and Some Parts of Geological Science ...

New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1840.

Works suggesting that a compatible relationship existed between religion and natural science were popular in nineteenth-century Sunday school libraries. William Carpenter's *Scripture Natural History* and John Pye Smith's *On the Relation Between the Holy Scriptures and Some Parts of Geological Science*—both works by English authors—each attempted to bridge the gap between theology and science.



Carpenter, a self-taught man with a particular interest in biblical study, wrote a number of books and articles on theology, political reform, and other subjects. He was for a time the editor of the *Scripture Magazine*. Shown here is the first edition of his *Scripture Natural History*; an American edition appeared at Boston in 1833.

On the Relation Between the Holy Scriptures and Some Parts of Geological Science was perhaps the most important work of non-conformist theologian John Smith. First published at London in 1839, warmly received by scientists of the time, this attempt to harmonize the interpretation of Genesis with geological fact was reprinted a number of times (both in England and America) during the nineteenth century and, in 1852, was included in Bohn's Scientific Library.

Both of these works are listed in the 1846 catalog of the Library of the Lancaster Sabbath School Association.

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT LIBRARIES

In 1835, New York became the first state to pass school district legislation. Two years later Massachusetts, under the influence of educational reformer Horace Mann, followed suit. This legislation allowed school districts to raise and expend funds for the purchase of libraries selected by the school committee. In 1844, Lancaster appropriated money from state funds for the purchase of school district libraries. The Lancaster School Committee intended that the various school districts exchange their collections with neighboring districts at two-year intervals, thereby assuring the widest possible circulation of the books. However, the districts proved to be somewhat less cooperative in exchanging their collections than the School Committee had anticipated.

Available not only to school children but also to adults, school district libraries consisted of standard works in a range of subject areas. Nineteenth century publishers seized the opportunity to provide towns with sets of instructive titles at affordable prices. Of the many publishers who profited from the school district library market, none is better-known than Harper and Brothers, which issued Harper's School District Library, as well as other inexpensive series.

Before long, school district libraries began to suffer from a lack of funding to replace titles and to expand their collections. Moreover, the public library movement was gathering momentum. Consequently, the school district libraries in Lancaster, as elsewhere, languished. The collection of at least one of Lancaster's school districts (that of District No. 3) was sold at auction in March of 1859. Several of the other districts presented their collections to the newly-formed Town Library in 1862. Such volumes from these gifts as remain in the Library are now included in the Rare Book Collection.

13. George Robert Gleig (1796-1888)

The History of the Bible ... in Two Volumes ...

New York, Harper & Brothers, 1844. (Harper's Stereotype Edition). From School District No. 10.

George Robert Gleig, born at Stirling in Scotland, held the positions of inspector-general of British military schools and chaplain-general of the forces during the course of a long and active life. He was the author of many books on historical and theological topics and a contributor to such periodicals

as *Frazer's Magazine* and *Blackwood's*. This printing of Gleig's *History of the Bible* (first published in England in two volumes in 1830-1831) is one of a number of Harper publications found among the remnants of Lancaster's school district libraries.

14. *The Winter Evening Book*

The Winter Evening Book; Embracing Personal Narrative; Incidents of Travel; Popular Information on Science; Poetical Selections; and Other Subjects Fitted to Interest and Improve the Mind. Embellished with Numerous Engravings. New York, C.S. Francis & Co. (and at Boston, Joseph H. Francis), 1842. From School District No. 5

The Winter Evening Book was designed to appeal to that same faith in conscious self-improvement that was at the heart of the school district library movement. This volume seems to touch upon as many topics as its compact format will permit. It includes such widely varying pieces as "Ancient British Costume," "Art of Writing," "Destructive Kissing," "Lapland Skate Runners," "Liverpool and Manchester Rail Road," "Mechanical Power," "Meteors of 1807," "Muscular Strength of Insects," "Trust to Yourself," and "Young Poet's own Epitaph." (An alphabetical index at the beginning of the volume to some degree facilitates access to the diverse contents.)



15. Thomas Dick (1774-1857)

On the Improvement of Society by the Diffusion of Knowledge: or, An Illustration of the Advantages Which Would Result from a More General Dissemination of Rational and Scientific Information Among All Ranks ... Illustrated with Engravings.

New York, Harper & Brothers, 1842. (Harper's Stereotype Edition) From School District No. 7.

Scottish-born scientific writer Thomas Dick was a zealous advocate of popular scientific study. *On the Improvement of Society by the Diffusion of Knowledge* (the introduction and first two sections of which were originally published in 1816 as periodical contributions) was only one in a long series of

efforts by Dick to promote the spread of scientific knowledge among the middle and lower classes. The success of his first book, *The Christian Philosopher, or the Connexion of Science and Philosophy with Religion* (1823), established his reputation as an author. Much-read both in Britain and in the United States, Dick's writings conveyed his missionary message simply, clearly, and effectively.

16. Anne Pratt (1806-1893)

Dawnings of Genius; or, The Early Lives of Some Eminent Persons of the Last Century ... New York, D. Appleton & Co., 1844. (Common School Library) From School District No. 5.

Englishwoman Anne Pratt (Mrs. John Pearless after 1866) was primarily a botanist and a writer of popular works on botany. Her major work, *The Flowering Plants and Ferns of Great Britain*, was first published at London in five volumes in 1855. *Dawnings of Genius* came out at London in 1841. The author's purpose in writing the book, according to her preface, was didactic: "... to show that moral excellence is, in many eminent instances, combined with mental greatness, giving to it its peculiar beauty and highest value ... to convince the young of the importance of cultivating both the mind and the heart;—of taking for their example a high standard of mental and moral worth ... [to] recommend them to adopt the motto of Dr. Johnson, and 'Aim at the eagle if they only hit the sparrow.'"

17. Robert Southey (1774-1843)

The Life of William Cowper ... In Two Volumes ...

Boston, Otis, Broaders, and Company, 1843. (Fowle & Capen's Library for Common School Districts and Social Institutions) From School District No. 7.

18. Allan Cunningham, (1784-1842)

The Lives of the Most Eminent British Painters and Sculptors ... In Three Volumes [v. 4 and 5: In Five Volumes ...]

New York, Harper & Brothers, 1843 [v. 4 and 5: 1842] (Harper's Stereotype Edition) From School District No. 5.

As with social libraries and Sunday school libraries, biography and history were staple components of school district library collections. If the volumes from Lancaster's school district libraries now in the Rare Book Collection offer an accurate indication, biographical and historical titles formed the largest group of books in the town's school district libraries.

Robert Southey—English poet of the Romantic period, poet laureate from 1813 until his death, historian, and writer of miscellaneous prose—was adept at producing popularly successful historical and biographical works. Two of his biographies in particular have proved to have lasting value. His *Life of Nelson*, expanded from an article, was published at London in two volumes in 1813; it is a classic of its genre. Southey's *Life of William Cowper* (first printed at the beginning of his edition of Cowper's works, the whole originally published at London in fifteen volumes between 1833 and

1837) has also been considered a standard.

Trained as a stonemason and employed as secretary to London sculptor Francis Chantrey from 1814 to 1841, Allan Cunningham of Keir in Scotland was, because of his connection to the art world, well-fitted to write *The Lives of the Most Eminent British Painters and Sculptors*. The six-volume first edition appeared between 1829 and 1833 as part of Murray's Family Library. The work sold well and was later included in another popular series, Bohn's Standard Library (three volumes, 1879).

19. James Fletcher

The History of Poland; from the Earliest Period to the Present Time ... With a Narrative of the Recent Events Obtained from a Polish Patriot Nobleman.

New York, Harper & Brothers, 1843.

From School District No. 5.

Of the historical titles from the school district libraries in the Rare Book Collection of the Lancaster Town Library, this Harper's edition of *The History of Poland* by James Fletcher is interesting because of the publisher's advertisement that appears at the end of the volume. The advertisement announces the issuing of a new catalog of Harper publications. The following portion of the advertisement illustrates this publisher's eagerness to solicit the business of those responsible for purchasing school district library collections :

"In this catalogue may be found over one thousand volumes embracing every branch of literature, standard and imaginative. The attention of persons forming libraries, either private or public, is particularly directed to the great number of valuable standard historical and miscellaneous works ..."

The brief list that follows includes the Family Library (153 volumes), the Classical Library (36 volumes), the School District Library (200 volumes), and the Boys' and Girls' Library (32 volumes).

20. George Bancroft (1800-1891)

History of the Colonization of the United States ... Abridged by the Author. In Two Volumes ...

Boston, Charles C. Little and James Brown, 1841.

From School District No. 8.

The *magnum opus* of American historian and diplomat George Bancroft was the ten-volume *History of the United States*, published over a period of forty years (1834-1874). The two-volume *History of the Colonization of the United States* (the two volumes of the copy shown here bound in a single volume) was an abridgement of the first three volumes of the larger work. (The three volumes had originally been published in 1834, 1837, and 1840, respectively.)

The inclusion of this book from the library of School District No. 8 in the Rare Book Collection takes on a special significance in light of George Bancroft's personal fondness for Lancaster and his contribution to its public library. In 1878, he wrote the following letter to the selectmen of the town:

"Gentlemen:

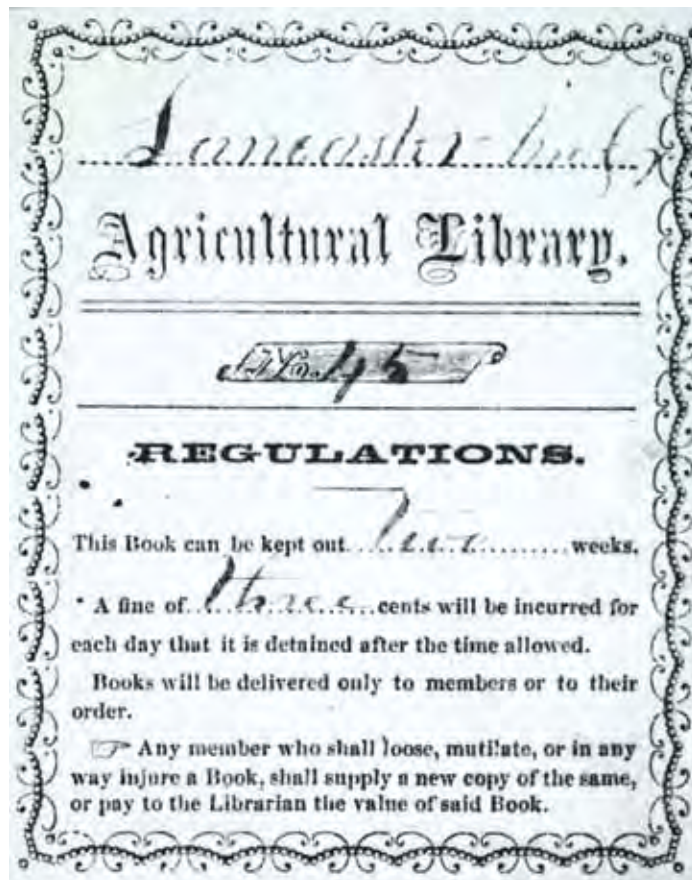
In the early years of my life, I was very often at the house of Capt. Samuel Ward of your town, my mother's brother-in-law, and the very intimate friend of my father. Indeed, his house was almost a second home to me. The town was in those days the best possible specimen of an old-fashioned New England town ... Though I have not been there for more than fifty-five years, I remember vividly and affectionately the loveliness of the country... as well as its minister, my father's bosom friend.

When I went to college, Capt. Ward took part in defraying my quarterly ... bills, and being unwilling that the generous act should come to an end with him or with me, I have deposited with my friend, Mr. N. Thayer, the sum of one thousand dollars for the benefit of the Lancaster town library, to be called the Capt. Samuel Ward library fund, the income only to be expended year by year, for the purchase of books in the department of history, leaving the word to be interpreted in the very largest sense ...

I remain, gentlemen, with the highest respect, your friend,

George Bancroft"

Today, more than a century and a quarter after Bancroft presented this gift, the Ward Fund is still used for the purchase of books in the subject area of history.



THE LANCASTER AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

The establishment of agricultural libraries in American towns was commonplace during the mid-nineteenth century. Lancaster, like so many other towns in New England, had its own small collection, consisting of some 150-175 volumes on such topics as agriculture, botany, gardening, landscaping, rural architecture, animal husbandry, and fishing. The agricultural publications of both the state and the federal government were included in the Lancaster Agricultural Library. The bookplate of this library—a standard form with blank spaces left for the name of the town, the shelf-number of the volume, the length of circulation, and the amount of the fine for overdue books—suggests the popularity of the agricultural library as an institution just prior to the wide-spread foundation of public libraries.

In 1862, the Agricultural Library communicated to the Library Club of Lancaster its approval of the suggestion that both libraries donate their collections to form the basis of the future town library. The gifts of both are recorded in the earliest accession book of the Lancaster Town Library. Today, the handful of volumes from the Agricultural Library that remain in the collection are found in the Rare Book Room.

21. Andrew Jackson Downing (1815-1852)

A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening Adapted to North America; with a View to the Improvement of Country Residences ... With Remarks on Rural Architecture. Fifth Edition, Enlarged, Revised, and Newly Illustrated ...

New York, C.M. Saxton and Company, 1857.

22. Jane Loudon (1807-1858)

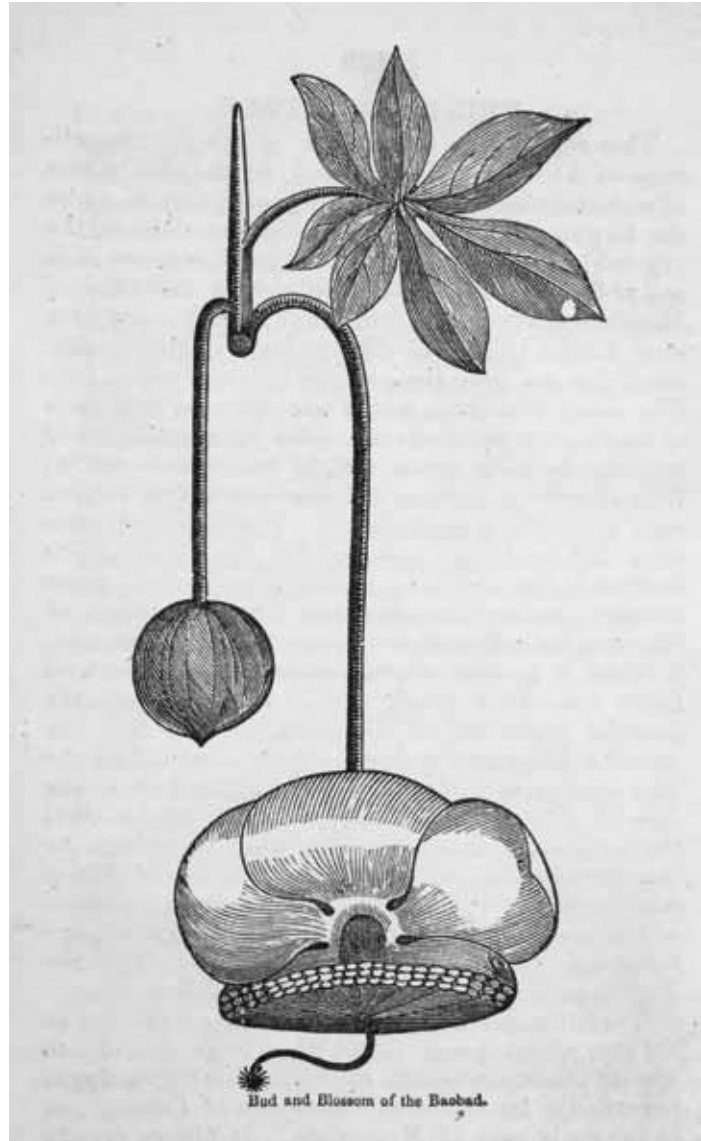
Gardening for Ladies; and Companion to the Flower-Garden ... Second American, from the Third London Edition. Edited by A. J. Downing ...

New York, Wiley & Halsted, 1857.

Landscape gardener, horticulturalist, and architect Andrew Jackson Downing is even today considered among the most important figures in the history of American horticulture. Downing was responsible for popularizing landscape gardening in this country and had a marked influence on those who followed him, Frederick Law Olmstead among them. His *A Treatise on the Theory and Practice of Landscape Gardening Adapted to North America*, first issued in 1841, was immediately successful, frequently reprinted, and is still a classic. Downing enjoyed the respect of the great English landscape gardeners of his day.

Jane Webb Loudon, the wife of English landscape gardener John Claudius Loudon, began to write popular horticultural books when the publication of her husband's *Arboretum et Fruticetum Britannicum* plunged the family into debt. Her best-selling work, *The Ladies' Companion to the Flower Garden*, was first published in 1841. *Gardening for Ladies; and Companion to the Flower-Garden*, the American publication of

which was edited by Andrew Jackson Downing, was dedicated to her husband, under whose tutelage she had acquired her knowledge of horticulture and gardening.



Above from Item 15



Above from Item 24

BOOK COLLECTORS AND DONORS

NATHANIEL THAYER

Born in Lancaster in 1808, the seventh child of the Reverend Nathaniel Thayer and his wife Sarah, Nathaniel Thayer was educated entirely in this town. At an early age, he chose a career in business. Successful from the start, he eventually joined the banking house of his brother John, taking it over upon John's death in 1857. This firm, which was involved in financing the building of railroads and the organization of manufacturing companies, made him one of the wealthiest men in New England.



Nathaniel Thayer, donor

Nathaniel Thayer's generosity to Harvard College is well-known. Having become an overseer of the college in 1866 and a member of its board of fellows in 1868—an unusual honor for a man who was not a graduate of the school—he gave substantial sums of money for the building of a dormitory, a dining hall, and a herbarium. He also financed Louis Agassiz's expedition to Brazil in 1865.

Although Mr. Thayer and his family lived for only part of the year in the house which he had built in Lancaster (they spent winters in Boston and summers in Newport), the town was his legal residence from 1870 until his death in 1883. He

expressed his affection for his birthplace through a number of gifts, among which were the several contributions he made to the Lancaster Town Library. In 1866, he endowed this library with \$5,000, the interest from which is still used to purchase books. He also gave the bulk of the money needed to build the original portion of the present library building. (From 1862 until 1868, when the new building—called Memorial Hall to honor the Civil War dead—was completed, the library collection was housed on the upper floor of the Town Hall.) In addition, during the 1860's and beyond, he contributed in a more personal way, by donating hundreds of volumes from his own collection and by purchasing volumes specifically for the library.

The volumes that Mr. Thayer gave to the new public library indicate that he was a man of broad interests and considerable learning and also a discriminating collector of books. He donated quantities of English literature and drama, as well as some classical and European literature. He gave many volumes of history (including American history), a substantial number of reference works, and some periodical literature, theology, and natural history, among other categories of books. Those of his gifts that are found in the Rare Book Collection suggest that he had a fondness for finely illustrated books, a taste for handsome leather bindings, and a preference for volumes in collector's condition.

It is appropriate that the room that houses so many volumes from Nathaniel Thayer's library is named the Constance V.R. Dexter Rare Book Room. By his marriage in 1846 to Cornelia Van Rensselaer of New York, Nathaniel Thayer had seven children. Mrs. Dexter (1900-1976), who endowed the Rare Book Room, was a granddaughter of Mr. Thayer, the daughter of his son Bayard.

23. Alexander Gardner (1821-1882)

Photographic Sketch Book of the War.

Washington, D.C., Philp & Solomons, [1865-1866].



Born in Scotland, Alexander Gardner achieved fame in America as a photographer of the Civil War and of the American West. In 1856, Mathew Brady hired him as a portrait photographer. After the outbreak of the war, Gardner became part of "Brady's Photographic Corps," which assisted Brady in creating a complete photographic record of the conflict. In 1863, desiring public recognition of his own considerable talent, Gardner broke away from Brady and opened a portrait gallery in Washington. Continuing to photograph the war, he produced some of the most famous images to come from that period of American history. Gardner became the photographer for the Union Pacific Railroad in 1867, which position took him West, where he had the opportunity to photograph the American Indian.



Gardner's two-volume *Photographic Sketch Book of the War* includes photographs taken just after such battles of the Civil War as Antietam, Fredericksburg, and Gettysburg. Each volume contains fifty photographs; each photograph is accompanied by a leaf of descriptive text. This set is apparently one of the many titles purchased by Nathaniel Thayer for the Town Library rather than for his own collection. Because the library building was constructed as a memorial to those who died in the Civil War, the addition of this work to the collection was especially appropriate.



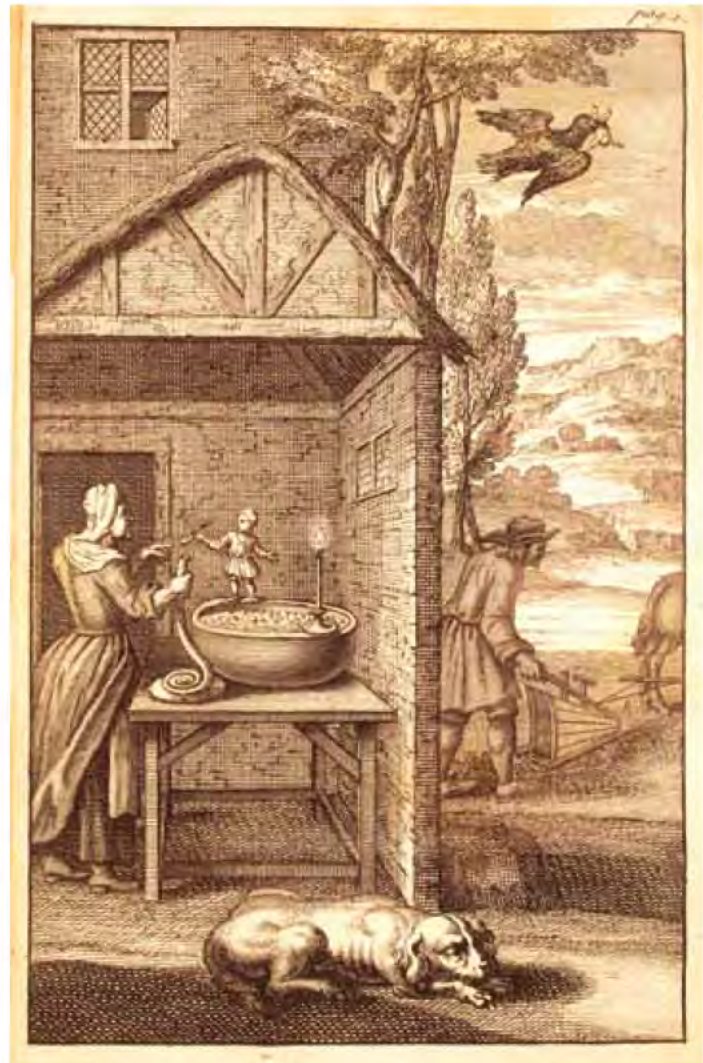
24. William Wagstaffe (1685-1725)

Miscellaneous Works of Dr. William Wagstaffe

... To which is prefix'd his Life, and an Account of his Writings. Adorn'd with several Curious cuts engrav'd on Copper...

London, Jonah Bowyer, J. Ilsted, and John Worral, 1726.

The *Miscellaneous Works* of English physician William Wagstaffe were first published in 1725, the individual items included in the volume having earlier been published separately. Because there has been some disagreement as to whether the real author of the pieces was Wagstaffe or Jonathan Swift, this book is something of a literary curiosity.



25. William Combe (1741-1823)

The First Tour of Doctor Syntax, in Search of the Picturesque; A Poem ... Illustrated with Eighty-One Plates by T. Rowlandson.

The Second Tour of Doctor Syntax, in Search of Consolation; A Poem ... Illustrated with Eighty-One Plates by T. Rowlandson.

The Third Tour of Doctor Syntax, in Search of a Wife: A Poem ... Illustrated with Eighty-One Plates by T. Rowlandson.

London, Nattali and Bond, 1855.



English satirical poet William Combe wrote the text of *The First Tour of Doctor Syntax* at the request of publisher Rudolph Ackermann. The great caricaturist Thomas Rowlandson (1756-1827) had arranged to supply Ackermann's *Poetical Magazine* with a series of plates illustrating the misfortunes of a vacationing English schoolmaster. Combe wrote the accompanying verses as he received sketches or etchings of Rowlandson's illustrations. The resulting "Schoolmaster's Tour" was tremendously popular. Ackermann published it separately (under the title *The Tour of Doctor Syntax, in Search of the Picturesque*) in 1812. Many later editions appeared, as well as many imitations—the ultimate acknowledgement of success. Combe again joined forces with Rowlandson to produce *The Second Tour of Doctor Syntax, in Search of Consolation* (completed in 1820) and *The Third Tour of Doctor Syntax, in Search a Wife* (1821).

Nathaniel Thayer also presented to the Lancaster Town Library two other works by Combe (published anonymously, as



were all of Combe's writings during his lifetime), the lavishly illustrated two-volume sets *History of the University of Oxford* (1814) and *History of the University of Cambridge* (1815). Both were published by Ackermann in folio format.

26. Comte De Constantin-François De Chasseboeuf Volney (1757-1820)

The Ruins: or A Survey of the Revolutions of Empires ... Translated from the French ...

London, J. Johnson, 1792.

First published in 1791, *Les Ruines, ou Méditations sur les Révolutions des Empires* was the most influential work of French historian and philosopher Volney. Depicting revolution as the product of society's relinquishment of liberty, equality, and natural law and religion, the book had an appeal for those committed to opposing tyranny and social injustice. This translation of the work was printed for bookseller and publisher Joseph Johnson, an important figure in the English book-trade during the late eighteenth century. Johnson was a Dissenter in religion and a liberal in politics. (For another title published by Johnson, see Item 57; see Item 81 for more information on and for another work by Volney, also presented by Nathaniel Thayer.)



ALEXANDER C. WASHBURN

Alexander Calvin Washburn was born at Raynham, Massachusetts, in 1819. Having attended the Boston Latin School, he graduated from Harvard in 1839. In 1844, he received the degree of Bachelor of Laws from Harvard. He was married to Ellen M. Bailey at Roxbury in 1849. A resident of Norwood for much of his life, he was a member of the Suffolk Bar and practiced law in Boston. He died in 1906.

John Marshall Washburn (1801-1861)—a prominent Lancaster resident who held a number of public positions during the middle of the nineteenth century—was an uncle of Alexander C. Washburn. Elizabeth Kimball Washburn Bartol (1834-1912), one of John Marshall's daughters and the wife of George M. Bartol, minister of the First Parish Church from 1847 until 1906, was a first cousin to Alexander. Aside from A.C. Washburn's relationship to important citizens of the town, nothing is known about the motivation or the circumstances of his gift of a small but choice group of books to the Lancaster Town Library during the final years of the nineteenth century.

If for no other reason, Alexander C. Washburn deserves to be remembered for the presentation of his copy of the famous *Liber Chronicarum* published in Nuremberg in 1493—the earliest and perhaps the most bibliographically and historically interesting volume in Lancaster's collection. (This book shown as Item 86.) The remainder of the gift of fewer than twenty volumes from his collection consists of sixteenth and seventeenth century books, most of them issued under such key names in the history of printing and publishing as Estienne, Plantin, and Elzevier. Mr. Washburn's books have been separate from the circulating collection from the time of their donation.

27. Terence (195/185 – 159 B.C.)

Pub. Terentii Comoediae Sex. Ex recensione Heinsiana.

Leiden, the Elzeviers, 1635.

28. Hugo Grotius (1583-1645)

Hugo Grotius de Mari Libero et P. Merula de Maribus.

Leiden, the Elzeviers, 1633.

Both of these volumes from the collection of Alexander C. Washburn were produced by the Elzeviers, a well-known Dutch family of booksellers and publishers renowned for their duodecimo series of the Greek and Latin classics. The Elzevier edition of Terence shown here was edited by Daniel Heinsius (1580-1655), one of a number of classical scholars and editors in the Netherlands during the seventeenth century. Heinsius, whose primary interest as a classicist lay in Plato and Aristotle, was a trusted advisor of the Elzeviers in their ventures.

Hugo Grotius, another Dutch scholar, was not only a classicist, but also a statesman, diplomat, and poet. A masterly translator and editor, his editions of both Greek and Latin authors were

issued by the Elzeviers, who also published his own writings. In his *Mare Liberum*, which first appeared in 1609, Grotius advocated the freedom of the ocean to all nations in response to Portugal's claim of exclusive rights to certain waters. (For additional information on the Elzeviers, see Item 60.)

29. Michael Eytzinger (16th century)

Michaelis Aitsingeri Austriaci Pentapulus Regnorum Mundi.

Antwerp, Christopher Plantin, 1579.

German historian and diplomat Michael Eytzinger (or, in Latin, Aitsingerus) was sent in 1563 by Emperor Ferdinand I as ambassador to the Council of Trent. Eytzinger was an ardent supporter of Spanish rule in the Netherlands. His *Pentapulus Regnorum Mundi*—a chronological work—was issued by printer and publisher Christopher Plantin, who had been appointed court printer and supervisor of all Dutch printing by King Philip II of Spain.

(For further information about Plantin, see Item 59.)

30. Vincenzo Cartari (1520-1570)

Imagini delli Dei de gl' antichi ... Cavate da'Marmi, Bronzi, Medaglie, Gioie, & altre memorie antiche; con esquisito studio, & particolare diligenza da Lorenzo Pignoria Padoano ...
Venice, Nicolò Pezzana, 1674.

This work by Italian renaissance scholar and poet Vincenzo Cartari was first published at Venice in 1556. An illustrated study of the ancient gods and rituals, it was a popular success. Cartari revised and expanded it for republication at Venice 1571. Later editions (some published at Venice, some at Padua) appeared in 1580, 1592, 1603, 1608, 1609, 1615, 1625, 1626, 1647, and 1674. A French translation (from an edition in Italian published in Lyons in 1581) was issued at Lyons in 1610.



GEORGE M. BARTOL

George Murillo Bartol was minister of the First Parish Church for almost sixty years, from 1847 until his death in 1906. Born at Freeport, Maine, in 1820, he attended Phillips Exeter and graduated from Brown University (1842) and the Harvard Divinity School (1845). He received an honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity from Brown in 1892. He married Elizabeth Kimball in 1856; they had six children.

In addition to his involvement in various church-related organizations (among them the Society for Ministerial Relief, the Massachusetts Evangelical Missionary Society, and the American Unitarian Association), Dr. Bartol was an active citizen of this community. A member of the School Committee for almost twenty-five years, he was also a key figure in the early history of the Lancaster Town Library. Having been a member of the Library Club of Lancaster (in fact, he was its last surviving charter member), he chaired the Board of Trustees of the Town Library for forty-four years, from its foundation in 1862 until his death.

Doctor Bartol presented a number of books from his own collection to the Town Library. His gifts, varying in size, spanned the years from the foundation of the Library until the end of the nineteenth century. They cover a range of subjects, theology, history, and literature primary among them. These gifts became part of the general collection and, later, of the Rare Book Collection.

31. William Price (1780-1830)

Journal of the British Embassy to Persia; Embellished with Numerous Views Taken in India and Persia: Also, A Dissertation upon the Antiquities of Persepolis ... Second Edition.

London, Thomas Thorpe, Parker, and J. Thorpe, 1832.



Journal of the British Embassy to Persia was one of several books written by British Orientalist William Price. Among Price's other works were three on the various oriental languages and a collection entitled *Hindu and Hindoostanee Selections*.

Price was assistant secretary and interpreter to Sir Gore Ouseley's embassy to Persia in 1811 and 1812. While in Persia, he kept a journal and made drawings of what he saw there. His *Journal of the British Embassy to Persia* was first published in 1825. After returning to England, Price taught oriental languages and became a member of the Royal Society of London and the Asiatic Society of Calcutta.

32. Joseph Priestley (1733-1840)

An History of the Corruptions of Christianity ... The Third Edition ...

Boston, William Spotswood, 1797.

Trained for the Dissenting ministry, English-born theologian and scientist Joseph Priestley spent his life working primarily as a preacher, schoolmaster, and tutor. Having endured considerable persecution in England for his radical views in religion and politics, in 1794 he moved with his family to Pennsylvania, where he remained for the rest of his life. Priestley published numerous books, pamphlets, and articles during his lifetime, achieving a wide reputation among his contemporaries. London publisher Joseph Johnson (see Items 26 and 57) issued many of Priestley's theological, philosophical, political, and scientific writings.

An History of the Corruptions of Christianity was first published at Birmingham, England, in two volumes in 1782. It is not surprising to find a two-volume Boston edition of this title among the books presented by Dr. Bartol to the Lancaster Town Library. However sympathetic Dr. Bartol may have been to Priestley's questioning of established doctrine, religious leaders of the nineteenth century were familiar with this, the most famous of Priestley's controversial theological writings.

33. Robert Patterson (1792-1881)

A Narrative of the Campaign in the Valley of the Shenandoah, in 1861 ... Fifth Thousand.

Philadelphia, John Campbell, 1865.

Born in County Tyrone, Ireland, Robert Patterson was both a soldier and a successful industrialist in America. Having served in the War of 1812 and the Mexican War, for three months during the Civil War he acted in the capacity of major-general of volunteers. The first printing of his *Narrative of the Campaign in the Valley of the Shenandoah* appeared in 1865. As a businessman, Patterson was involved in the sugar industry and was the owner of cotton mills in Pennsylvania.

The half-title of Dr. Bartol's copy of this book bears the following inscription: Rev. Mr. Bartol / Compliments of / Genl. Patterson. This is one of a number of volumes that were transferred in the 1990s to the Rare Book Room from the stacks of the Library.

SALLY FLAGG

Born at Lancaster in 1791, Sally Flagg lived in this town until her death in 1881 at the age of nearly ninety years. She was something of a local character, persisting in antiquated methods of cooking and housekeeping and in an old-fashioned style of dress until the end of her long life. She bequeathed to the Town Library fifty dollars and a group of some twenty miscellaneous volumes that had come to her from her father, Josiah Flagg. About half of the volumes in her bequest are now found in the Rare Book Collection.

Josiah Flagg (1760-1840) was employed for a time during his youth as clerk and accountant to his great-uncle, Benjamin Franklin, in Philadelphia. (Franklin's sister, Jane Franklin Mecom, was Flagg's mother's mother). He settled in Lancaster, married Dolly Thurston (1789), and kept a general store. The Flaggs had six children, of whom Sally was the oldest. Josiah Flagg held the position of town clerk in Lancaster from 1801 until 1836. He was a charter member of the Lancaster Social Library and its librarian from 1800 until 1819.

34. Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790)

The Interest of Great Britain Considered With Regard to Her Colonies and the Acquisitions of Canada and Guadeloupe. To which are added, Observations [sic] concerning the increase of Mankind, Peopling of Countries, &c ... Boston, B. Mecom, 1760.

This pamphlet was written while Benjamin Franklin—American statesman, diplomat, author, printer, scientist, and inventor—was in London representing the legislature of Pennsylvania. (In an effort to raise funds for the defense of the frontier, the legislature wanted to tax lands that the Penn family held by royal charter; this could not be done without negotiation). Franklin wrote *The Interest of Great Britain Considered* in order to urge the annexation of Canada to Britain. It was published first in England and then in America in 1760.

This Boston edition of Franklin's *The Interest of Great Britain Considered* was issued by printer, publisher, and bookseller Benjamin Mecom (1732-c. 1776), nephew of Benjamin Franklin and uncle of Josiah Flagg. The pamphlet is one of four bound together in a single volume. The signature of Josiah Flagg appears on the front free endpaper of the volume and on the title page of the first pamphlet (Benjamin Rush's *Sermons to Gentlemen upon Temperance and Exercise*); the inscription "Jane Mecoms" [sic] appears on the half-title of another of the pamphlets.

35. George Keate (1729-1797)

Sketches from Nature; Taken, and Coloured, in A Journey to Margate. Published from the Original Designs ... First American, from the Fourth London Edition. Boston, printed at the Apollo Press for David West, 1793.

The first edition of this imitation of Sterne by English poet, antiquary, naturalist, and artist George Keate was published in two volumes in 1779. The title is one of several works by au-

thors contemporary with Josiah Flagg included in Sally Flagg's bequest of her father's books to the Town Library.

HENRY S. NOURSE

Local historian Henry Stedman Nourse (1831-1903) spent the greater part of his life in Lancaster. Having been prepared for college primarily in this town, he attended Harvard. Upon graduation in 1853, he taught school for several years, then decided to change his profession. In 1858, he went to work for the Boston firm of Whitwell and Henck, an engineering company in charge of filling in the Back Bay. In 1861, at the start of the Civil War, he joined the Fifty-Fifth Illinois Infantry. Participating in much active fighting, he served until 1865. After the war, he was hired as resident engineer to the Pennsylvania Steel Company, and began construction of that company's Bessemer Steel Works near Harrisburg. He remained there as a superintendent from 1868 until 1874. Nourse married Mary Baldwin Whitney Thurston, a widow, in 1872.



Henry Stedman Nourse, donor

Having fulfilled their commitments in Pennsylvania and vacationed in Europe for a year, the Nourses settled permanently in Lancaster. Henry Nourse devoted the rest of his life to public service and historical research. He was a member of the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1883 and of the Senate in 1885 and 1886. He was at various times a member of the State Board of Charities, the State Library Commission,

of the Lancaster School Committee and Library Board, and a trustee of the Worcester Insane Hospital. As a historian, Nourse possessed a single-mindedness and a fastidiousness about details that has made him a reliable authority to the present day. Realizing the importance of primary sources, he produced several major compilations of records pertaining to Lancaster, among them *The Early Records of Lancaster* (1884) and *The Birth, Marriage and Death Register ... of Lancaster* (1890). He also wrote numerous historical articles for the *Clinton Courant*. Although Abijah Marvin rather than Nourse was asked to write the official history of Lancaster, Nourse made sure that his superior knowledge was not lost to the public. He painstakingly annotated a copy of Marvin's *History of the Town of Lancaster* (1879), his many corrections and voluminous—not to mention sometimes acerbic—notes expanding the original single volume into four volumes, which are now found in the Library's Lancaster Collection. (Nourse did prepare the official history of the Town of Harvard; it appeared in 1894.) He was a member of both the Massachusetts Historical Society and the American Antiquarian Society.

Henry Nourse was the guiding intelligence behind the development of the Lancaster Collection, for which he left an endowment in his will. The various scrapbooks of local source material that he compiled provide a wealth of information not available elsewhere. Aside from his contributions to the local history collection, over a period of more than twenty-five years he donated many of his own books in a variety of subjects to the general collection. Those that are now in the Rare Book Collection have, as a group, a decidedly American flavor, having for the most part been written by American authors, issued by American publishers, or both. His appears to have been a working rather than a collector's library.

36. Henry St. Clair

The United States Criminal Calendar; or An Awful Warning to the Youth of America; Being an Account of the Most Horrid Murders, Piracies, Highway Robberies, &c. &c. Compiled from the Best Authorities ... With Fifteen Engravings ...
Boston, Charles Gaylord, 1832.

The compiler of *The United States Criminal Calendar* made no pretense about the aspect of human nature to which the work was calculated to appeal. He wrote in his preface:

"There is a propensity in man to take pleasure in the sight or relation of human sin and suffering. Thousands flock to the execution of a criminal, and the history of his life, however dull and uninteresting, is sought and read with avidity. No part of a newspaper excites so much attention as the record of crime and calamity. Some have pronounced this curiosity a depraved appetite; we hold the contrary. It is almost universal and therefore natural. It is the object of this work to gratify this feeling in the manner the most advantageous to the public."

This volume, illustrated with lurid engravings of murderers and their victims, clearly demonstrates that American publishers realized the saleability of sensationalism long before the twentieth century.



Assassination of Col. Sharp.



Marion hanging the Mayor's servant.

37. Noah Webster (1758-1843)

The American Spelling Book; Containing the Rudiments of the English Language, for the Use of Schools in the United States ... Revised Copy—West's Edition.

Boston, printed by David Carlisle for John West, 1807.

The first edition of the famous speller by American lexicographer Noah Webster was published at Hartford, Connecticut, in 1783, as the first part of the author's three-volume *A Grammatical Institute of the English Language*. In preparing the speller, Webster had drawn upon his experience as a teacher and his consequent awareness of the shortcomings of current textbooks. The first edition sold out in about a year. Frequently revised, the work was continuously republished, under various titles, into the twentieth century. Because it was used for more than a century in schools throughout the country, *The American Spelling Book* helped to promote the standardization of spelling in America. It is probable that Henry Nourse used some edition of Webster's speller in the course of his early education. (For another title by Webster, see Item 48.)



Above from Item 58

J.L.S. THOMPSON

John Leland Sherman Thompson, born in Hinsdale, Massachusetts, in 1810, lived in Lancaster from 1846 until his death in 1885. For most of the almost forty years that he lived here, he was a practicing physician; he ran a drug store during the final years of his life. He was active in town affairs, serving as town clerk from 1856 until 1885 (1873 excepted), on the School Committee from 1873 until 1876, on the Library Committee from 1862 until 1883, and as the first librarian of the town's public library from 1862 until 1872. He was also a representative to the state legislature in 1861 and 1863. Dr. Thompson's interests included agriculture, natural history, and taxidermy. He was married to Mary G. Nash.

Dr. Thompson was occupied with books and libraries long before the establishment of the Town Library in 1862. When the collection of the Lancaster Social Library was sold at auction in 1850, he bought more than thirty volumes, some of which are now in the Rare Book Room, having been presented by Dr. Thompson to the Town Library. He was a founder and vice-president of the Library Club of Lancaster; in 1854 he became the club's librarian and the collection was moved into his home. His tenure as librarian of the new public library was merely a continuation of his service to the Library Club.

In addition to his involvement with the Library Club of Lancaster and the Town Library, Dr. Thompson spent considerable energy developing his personal library. His many gifts to the Town Library (made over a period of more than twenty years, with a final group of volumes presented by his heirs in 1886) suggest that he had wide-ranging collecting interests. He donated works in history, biography, literature, theology,

science, and medicine, among other subjects. A small proportion of his total contribution is preserved in the Rare Book Collection.

38. Bible (Old Testament)

... Vetus Testamentum ex versione Septuaginta Interpretum, Secundum Exemplar Vaticanum Romae editum, denuo recognitum. Praefationem una cum variis Lectionibus, e praestantissimis MSS. Codicibus Bibliothecae Leidensis descriptis, praemisit David Millius ...
Amsterdam, sumptibus Societatis, 1725.

39. Cicero (106-43 B.C.)

De Officiis Marci Tullii Ciceronis Libri III. Item De Amicitia: de Senectute: Paradoxa: & de Somnio Scipionis. Cum indice in fine libri adjuncto. Editio caeteris correctior atque emendatior.
London, A. Maxwell for the Stationers' Company, 1667.

Of the volumes of classical authors presented by Dr. Thompson to the Town Library, three are included in the Rare Book Collection. This London edition of Cicero was published for the Stationers' Company. Incorporated by royal charter in 1557, the Stationers' Company controlled the printing trade in England during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

40. Ichabod Nichols (1784-1859)

A Catechism of Natural Theology...
Portland, Shirley and Hyde, 1829.

These titles, a two-volume Old Testament in Greek and Nichols's *A Catechism of Natural Theology*, are two of a number of religious and theological works presented by J.L.S. Thompson and now in the Rare Book Collection. Dr. Thompson also gave a New Testament in French (published at Amsterdam in 1762), an edition of Brady and Tate's version of the Psalms of David (Boston, 1773; see Item 46), a New York edition of Hannah More's *Christian Morals* (1813), and several volumes of religious discourses.

Ichabod Nichols was born at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and died in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Having graduated from Harvard in 1802, he tutored there in mathematics from 1803 until 1809, when he became associate pastor of the First Congregational Church in Portland, Maine. A conservative Unitarian, he was pastor of that church from 1814 until 1855. Nichols's published works also include two titles issued posthumously.



MASSACHUSETTS IMPRINTS

The first printing press in British America began operating at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1639. In 1674, Marmaduke Johnson obtained official permission to set up a press in Boston. Boston quickly became the principal publishing city in America, yielding this status to Philadelphia in the mid-eighteenth century, but retaining its position as a center of publishing well beyond. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, printing spread to other Massachusetts cities and towns. The large number of Massachusetts imprints in the Rare Book Collection of the Lancaster Town Library reflects the importance of this state in the early history of American printing and publishing.

As might be expected, the Rare Book Collection includes many volumes published at Boston, as well as some published in Worcester and Springfield. Imprints bearing the names of smaller towns—Amherst, Brookfield, Dedham, Greenfield, Haverhill, Hingham, Lancaster, Leominster, Newburyport, Northampton, Salem, and Shirley among them—are also found in the collection. Limited space prevents a full representation of the Massachusetts imprints housed in the Rare Book Room. The following selection focuses upon volumes issued at Boston by various publishers, volumes published at Boston or Worcester by Isaiah Thomas (the most important publisher in America during the eighteenth century), volumes produced at Leominster by the Wilders and by Daniel Adams, and volumes issued in Lancaster by the firm of Carter and Andrews.



Boston from Breed's Hill, Item 47

BOSTON PRINTING

Lancaster's Rare Book Collection contains dozens of volumes issued at Boston—only one of them during the seventeenth century, a number during the eighteenth century, the largest proportion during the first half of the nineteenth century. An effort has been made to show here some of the earlier Boston publications in the collection.

The imprints of these volumes illustrate the coexistence until the end of the colonial period of two approaches to the relationship between printer and publisher. Sometimes

a single individual or combination of partners fulfilled both functions. In other instances, the arrangements for financing and distributing a book were the responsibility of one man or combination of men, while the technical aspects of book production were assigned to another. Individuals involved in the book-trade during this period typically operated in both fashions, sometimes assuming both roles, sometimes acting as only printer or publisher.

41. Increase Mather (1639-1723)

Heaven's Alarm to the World. Or A Sermon, wherein is shewed, That Fearful Sights and Signs in Heaven, are the Presages of great Calamities ... The Second Impression ...

Boston, printed for Samuel Sewall, to be sold by John Browning, 1682. Presented by Alexander C. Washburn.

Puritan clergyman, politician, Harvard president, and author Increase Mather wrote many books and pamphlets on a variety of subjects, theology and politics primary among them. Minister of the Second Church in Boston, Mather was a skillful and respected preacher. His sermon *Heaven's Alarm to the World* was delivered at Boston on January 20, 1680. The title page of this second edition (the second of three Increase Mather items bound in a single volume) bears the earliest date of publication of an American book in Lancaster's Rare Book Collection.

Successful merchant and magistrate Samuel Sewall (1652-1730), the publisher of this thirty-eight page pamphlet, is remembered as the author of a diary which vividly portrayed life in Puritan New England. For three years after the death of John Foster in 1681, Sewall managed the Boston press for which Marmaduke Johnson had obtained a license in 1674 and which Foster had taken over after Johnson's death. (Johnson had died before he could get his business underway.) Six of the sixteen known imprints bearing Sewall's name are found on the title-pages of works by Increase Mather. The name of John Browning appears in no other imprint but this.

42. Mather Byles (1707-1788)

On the Death of the Queen. A Poem Inscribed to His Excellency Governour Belcher ...

Boston, printed by J. Draper for D. Henchman, 1738. Presented by Emery H. White.

Congregational clergyman and poet Mather Byles, grandson of Increase Mather, was the minister of the Hollis Street Congregational Church from 1732 until the Revolution, when his Tory tendencies prompted his dismissal. His poem *On the Death of the Queen* was dedicated to Governor Jonathan Belcher, uncle of Byles's first wife and benefactor of the Hollis Street Church.

On the Death of the Queen was published by Daniel Henchman (1689-1761), a central figure in the Boston book-trade during

the first half of the eighteenth century. A prolific publisher, Henchman employed the services of a number of important local printers, John Draper (1702-1762) among them. Draper, who also acted as a publisher, was one of the most productive printers in eighteenth century Boston; his name appears on more than four hundred and fifty publications.

43. Charles Chauncy (1705-1787)

Seasonable Thoughts on the State of Religion in New-England, a Treatise in five Parts ...

Boston, printed by Rogers and Fowle for Samuel Eliot, 1743. Presented (donor unrecorded).

Charles Chauncy, minister of the First Church in Boston for sixty years (from 1727 until his death), was the most influential clergyman in that city during his lifetime and the author of a number of theological works. The anti-evangelical Chauncy published several volumes in reaction to the Great Awakening, the religious revival that took place in America during the first half of the eighteenth century. His views were in opposition to those of Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, leaders of the revival. Chauncy's *Seasonable Thoughts on the State of Religion in New-England* helped to shape religious opinion in Boston and elsewhere in New England during the controversy surrounding the ferment of the period. The list of subscribers at the beginning of the first edition (shown here) includes the names of individuals from all over New England, among them (in alphabetical order, as they appear) Mr. Dav. Osgood, Mr. Hooker Osgood, the Rev. Mr. John Prentice, Mr. D. Robins, Mr. Dav. Wilder, and Mr. Caleb Wilder, all of Lancaster, and the Rev. Mr. Timothy Harrington of Ashuelot, who later followed Prentice as the minister of Lancaster.

Samuel Eliot (1713-1745), the publisher of this volume, played an active role in disseminating the divergent responses to the evangelical movement of his day; he issued the works both of George Whitefield and of Charles Chauncy. Printers Gamaliel Rogers (1704-1775) and Daniel Fowle (1715-1787) together conducted a successful printing and publishing business at Boston from 1740 until 1750.

44. Ellis Huske (1700-1755)

The Present State of North-America. I. The Discoveries, Rights and Possessions of Great-Britain. II. The Discoveries, Rights and Possessions of France. III. The Encroachments and Depradations of the French upon his Majesty's Territories in North-America ...

Boston, D. and Z. Fowle, 1755.
From the bequest of Sally Flagg.

This anonymously published pamphlet, first printed at London in 1755, has been attributed to Ellis Huske, who served as postmaster of Boston in 1734 and also for a time as deputy postmaster-general of the colonies. From 1734 until 1754, Huske was the publisher of the *Boston Weekly Post-Boy*.

Daniel Fowle (see Item 43) and his younger brother Zechariah (1724-1776) both printed and published this, the second Boston edition of *The Present State of North-America*. Zechariah

Fowle, who learned his trade from his brother, is remembered mainly as the printer to whom the young Isaiah Thomas (see Items 47-49) was apprenticed; he was also in partnership with Thomas for a brief period. Another of Zechariah Fowle's business partners was Benjamin Mecom—Benjamin Franklin's nephew and Josiah Flagg's uncle (see Item 34.)

45. Jonathan Mayhew (1720-1766)

Practical Discourses Delivered on Occasion of the Earthquakes in November, 1755 ...

Boston, Richard Draper and Edes and Gill, 1760. Presented (donor unrecorded).

Jonathan Mayhew was pastor of the West Church in Boston from 1747 until his death. As both a preacher and a writer, Mayhew was frequently embroiled in religious and political controversy. His sermons on the Sugar and Stamp Acts, for instance, contributed to the growing anti-British sentiment in Boston.

Ironically, Richard Draper (1727-1774), one of Mayhew's principal publishers, was a staunch loyalist. Draper is remembered as a newspaper publisher, a printer for Harvard College, and, from 1763 until his death, "Printer to his excellency the Governor, and the honorable his Majesty's Council." In contrast, Benjamin Edes (1732-1803) and John Gill (1732-1785), Draper's partners in the publication of *Practical Discourses Delivered on Occasion of the Earthquakes* and of other works by Mayhew, were politically radical printers, publishers, and booksellers. Their anti-British pamphlet and newspaper publications made it necessary for Edes to flee with printing press and type to Watertown in 1775 and led to the imprisonment of Gill in the same year. Edes and Gill printed and published the works of the various clergymen caught up in theological debate during this period.

46. Nicholas Brady (1659-1726) and Nahum Tate (1652-1715)

A New Version of the Psalms of David, Fitted to the Tunes used in Churches ...

Boston, John Boyles, 1773.
Presented by J.L.S. Thompson.

The metrical version of the Psalms prepared by Englishmen Nicholas Brady and Nahum Tate and first issued in 1696 became the standard version used in the Church of England and was reprinted countless times (both in England and in America) throughout the eighteenth century. This Boston edition was published by John Boyle (or Boyles; 1746-1819), a large proportion of whose output consisted of religious books.



ISAIAH THOMAS

Isaiah Thomas was the foremost American publisher during the eighteenth century. Over the course of his career, he was involved in the publication of more than nine hundred books, including juvenile works, Bibles, volumes of music, almanacs, textbooks, contemporary literature (English and American), and medical works. He was also a newspaper and magazine publisher. Thomas was the first American publisher to exploit on a large scale the national market that replaced the small, local markets of the colonial period.

Born at Boston in 1749, Thomas was apprenticed to printer Zechariah Fowle (see Item 44) in 1756, at the age of six. Fowle, a less than energetic businessman, proved to be a somewhat irresponsible master to his young apprentice. Thomas, however, learned much about his trade from Samuel Draper (1737-1767) and Gamaliel Rogers (see Item 43), two of Fowle's partners. As his competence grew, so did his responsibility for the work of Fowle's establishment. In 1765, Thomas argued with Fowle, decided to break his indenture, and left for Halifax, Nova Scotia. Although he hoped to travel to London in order to perfect his skills as a printer, he went back to New England instead. He worked for a time at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, then briefly and once again unsuccessfully in his old job at Boston, after which he made his way to Wilmington, North Carolina, and Charleston, South Carolina.

In 1770, Thomas returned to Boston. Forgiven by Fowle and released from his apprenticeship, he formed a partnership with his former master. They began to publish the *Massachusetts Spy*, which became a mouthpiece for American patriotic sentiment. Before the end of 1770, Thomas had bought out Fowle and was free of the partnership. His active involvement in politics led to difficulties with the British authorities, and in 1775 he was forced to flee with press and type to Worcester. Soon after the battles of April 19, 1775 at Lexington and Concord, Thomas published in the *Spy* an account of British aggression on that day. After a brief business attempt at Salem, he returned to Worcester, where he achieved considerable financial success and made himself the key figure in the American book-trade.

Like all of his colleagues, Isaiah Thomas entered into partnerships with a number of other printers and publishers. His most important partnership was with Ebenezer Turell Andrews (1766-1851). Thomas had branches of his firm not only in such New England towns as Boston, Newburyport, Brookfield, and Portsmouth, but also in Albany and Baltimore. (His partners in these ventures included former apprentices.) At the height of his publishing activity, he employed one hundred and fifty people in his Worcester plant and ran seven presses continuously. He had his own paper mill and bindery. In addition to his shrewdness as a businessman, Thomas possessed a desire to produce typographically attractive books—a goal with which many of his American colleagues were unconcerned at the time.

During the early nineteenth century, Thomas handed over his business responsibilities to his son and turned to scholarship. Using his impressive personal library, he wrote *The History*

of Printing in America (published in two volumes in 1810), which—despite faults—served as the standard work on the subject into the twentieth century. He founded the American Antiquarian Society in 1812 and was its president until his death in 1831.

47. *The Massachusetts Magazine*

The Massachusetts Magazine, or Monthly Museum, Containing the Literature, History, Politics, Arts, Manners & Amusements of the Age ... Vol. III. For 1791.

Boston, I. Thomas and E.T. Andrews, 1791.

Presented by Charles Safford.

The Massachusetts Magazine was one of the publications issued by Isaiah Thomas from his Boston office. Ebenezer T. Andrews, Thomas's partner in that branch of his company, had been an apprentice to Thomas from 1781 until 1788, when he and John Sprague formed a partnership with Thomas. Sprague withdrew during the following year, and the firm became Thomas and Andrews—a partnership that lasted until 1822.



The range of items printed in *The Massachusetts Magazine* was calculated to appeal to a broad spectrum of interests. Volume III includes, for example, "Biographical Sketches of the Life and Character of the late Gov. Bowdoin," "On Ashes for Manure," "On the comparative Advantages and Disadvantages of a Canal from Barnstable Bay to Buzzard's Bay," "On Revenge and Cruelty," "Meteorological Imaginations and Conjectures, by Dr. Franklin," "Ode on the New Year, 1791," "Lines on taking a Pansy from beneath the Snow," and "Proceedings of the Legislature of Massachusetts."

48. Noah Webster (1758-1843)

An American Selection of Lessons in Reading and Speaking. Calculated to Improve the Minds and Refine the Taste of Youth ... Thomas and Andrews' Fourth Edition ...

Boston, Isaiah Thomas and Ebenezer T. Andrews, 1793.

Presented by George W. Willard.

Noah Webster's reader first appeared in 1785 as the third volume of the author's *A Grammatical Institute of the English Language*, the first two volumes of which consisted of Webster's speller (1783) and his grammar (1784). Although it never achieved the phenomenal popularity of Webster's speller (see

Item 37), the reader was nevertheless reprinted many times during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and was widely used as a textbook.

The publication of textbooks was a specialty of Isaiah Thomas. Thomas shrewdly assessed the saleability of Webster's works and attempted without success to obtain exclusive Massachusetts publication rights for the speller in 1783, the year that the first edition appeared. He eventually struck an agreement with Webster, acquiring the exclusive rights to print Webster's books in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island for fourteen years. This edition of *An American Selection of Lessons in Reading and Speaking* was printed during Thomas's possession of the copyright to Webster's works, which expired in 1804.

49. Charlotte Turner Smith (1749-1806)
Elegiac Sonnets, and Other Poems ... The First Worcester Edition, from the Sixth London Edition, with Additions.
Worcester, Isaiah Thomas, 1795.
Presented by Mrs. Harriet N. Eaton.

The first edition of *Elegiac Sonnets* by English poet and novelist Charlotte Turner Smith was published in 1784. The volume was well-received and subsequent editions were issued through the middle of the nineteenth century. Isaiah Thomas took considerable care in preparing his Worcester edition of the title. He used wove paper made in his own mill and illustrated the book with engravings made at his Worcester office.



EARLY LEOMINSTER PRINTING

Leominster's first newspaper began publication in 1795, when Charles Prentiss produced the first issue of the *Rural Repository*. Prentiss was soon joined in his business by his brother John. The two began publication of a second newspaper, the *Political Focus*. Both ventures were short-lived. In 1799, John Prentiss struck out on his own, setting up a printing business in Keene, New Hampshire. Charles published books at Leominster for several years after his career as a newspaper publisher ended.

The Prentisses' successors in the newspaper business at Leominster were Salmon Wilder and Daniel Adams, who published the first issue of the *Telescope* in 1800. (This ceased publication in 1802.) Later, Salmon Wilder briefly published the *Political Recorder* on his own (1809-1810). Wilder, who took his brother John as a partner in 1806, issued books, sermons, and other types of material at Leominster until 1813, when he moved his business to Jaffrey, New Hampshire. Dr. Adams was the writer of two textbooks, *Scholar's Arithmetic* and *Understanding Reader*, the early editions of which were published by the author himself. (The arithmetic gained considerable popularity and was frequently reissued during the nineteenth century.)

50. Josephus (37-ca.100 A.D.)
The Wonderful and Most Deplorable History of the Latter Times of the Jews: With the Destruction of the City of Jerusalem. Which History Begins Where the Holy Scriptures End ...

Leominster, Adams & Wilder, 1803.

Presented by Miss Fletcher.

51. Abijah Bigelow (1775-1860)
The Voters' Guide: or, The Power, Duty & Privileges of the Constitutional Voters in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts ...
Leominster, S. & J. Wilder, 1807.
Presented by Charles Safford.

These two volumes—one by Jewish historian Josephus, the other by Leominster lawyer Abijah Bigelow—suggest the range of material issued by the early printers of Leominster. Although satisfying local printing needs and publishing the work of local authors must have comprised the major part of their business, Salmon Wilder, Daniel Adams, and their colleagues also issued volumes by standard authors of proven interest to the book-buying public.

CARTER AND ANDREWS OF LANCASTER

Lancaster's first press was established by copperplate engravers and printers Horatio and George Carter, who from 1825 produced maps and book illustrations. The firm underwent a number of transformations during the second quarter of the nineteenth century, developing into a full-scale plant dealing in several aspects of book production—printing, illustration, and binding—and making use of such technological advances

as lithography and stereotype printing.* At its height, the press supplied jobs to more than one hundred people. In addition, many local residents did such work as coloring maps by hand in their homes.

The firm of Carter and Andrews—one combination of partners in the sequence through which Lancaster's early press passed—issued books from 1828 until 1834. As their advertisements proclaimed, Carter and Andrews specialized in the publication of children's books and textbooks. They also did printing, engraving, and binding as job work, and kept a bookstore for the sale of their publications.

The Lancaster Town Library possesses a small group of books printed, published, or illustrated by Carter and Andrews or by their predecessors and successors in the Lancaster press. These volumes, formerly included in the Lancaster Collection, are now in the Rare Book Collection. Because Massachusetts imprints form a major strength of the Rare Book Collection, as part of this collection the early imprints of Lancaster may be viewed within the full context of the history of printing in this area.

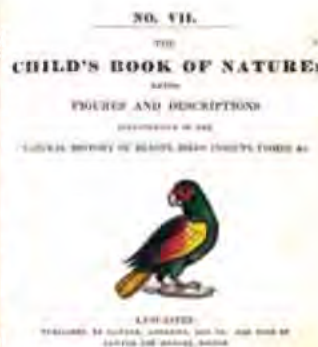
*Five Carter brothers, all born in Lancaster in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century, became deeply involved in the engraving, printing and publishing business. Sons of Oliver and Emily (Harrington) Carter, only George and Horatio appear to have lived out their lives in Lancaster. Charles Richard Carter and Timothy Harrington Carter were involved in printing and publishing in Boston. Timothy Harrington Carter (1798-1894) seems to have been one of the outstanding men in the field in Boston from about 1823 and probably for more than sixty years afterwards. His influence is intriguing and suggests a possibility for in-depth study.

This note kindly supplied by Herbert H. Hosmer of Lancaster.

52. James Gordon Carter (1795-1849) and William H. Brooks

A Geography of Worcester County; for Young Children ... With a New Map of the County ...

Lancaster, Carter, Andrews, and Company, 1830.
Presented by J.C.L. Clark.



THE SWAN.

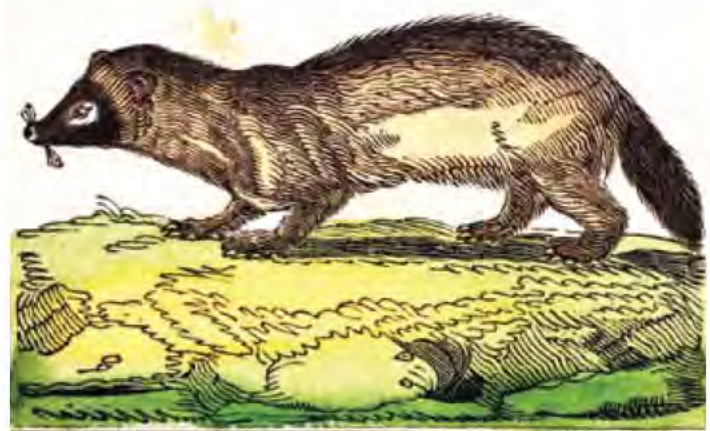
53. *The Child's Book of Nature*

The Child's Book of Nature. Number I [-XII].

Lancaster, Carter, Andrews, and Company, [1830].
Purchased from the Henry Stedman Nourse Fund.

A Geography of Worcester County by educational reformer James Gordon Carter and William H. Brooks and the magazine *The Child's Book of Nature* are two of several titles for children published by Carter and Andrews included in the collections of the Lancaster Town Library. Issued in a format calculated to fit comfortably in small hands, both volumes are illustrated with wood engravings; those in *The Child's Book of Nature* have been hand-colored.

John Calvin Lawrence Clark (1871-1936), donor of *A Geography of Worcester County*, served Lancaster as town clerk between 1904 and 1935, as a trustee of the Library from 1900 to 1920, and as the curator of the Library's Lancaster Collection and Museum from 1903 to 1932. In 1983, Hugh Savage Clark, J.C.L. Clark's son, presented the Lancaster Town Library with a gift of more than one hundred botanical volumes in memory of his father.



THE GLUTTON.

EUROPEAN PRINTERS AND PUBLISHERS

The Rare Book Collection of the Lancaster Town Library includes a modest number of volumes that serve to illustrate aspects of the history of printing, publishing, typography, book illustration, and the book-trade in Continental Europe and Great Britain from the fifteenth through the mid-nineteenth century. This group of books complements those volumes in the collection that demonstrate facets of the history of the book in America.

Nearly all of the books produced by individuals of importance in the history of European printing and publishing have come to the Town Library through gift. Various donors from the first decades following the Library's foundation to the present day have contributed to the development of this area of the collection. Books from the libraries of two men in particular—Alexander C. Washburn and, to a lesser extent, Nathaniel Thayer (see Items 23-26)—account for the majority of volumes that make the European printed book a strength of the Rare Book Collection. Indeed, Mr. Washburn's fine copy of the Nuremberg Chronicle of 1493 (see Item 86) is the most spectacular specimen of such material in the collection.

The presence of these volumes in the Lancaster Town Library fosters an understanding of the close relationship between the history of the book as a physical object and aspects of intellectual and social history.

ALDUS MANUTIUS AND HIS SUCCESSORS

Printing came to Venice in 1469. By 1480, the city had become the printing capital of the world, largely because of its position as a commercial metropolis during the renaissance. In addition, Venice was located on a road traveled by the itinerant printers of Germany, which had preceded Italy in the use of movable type. It had a good paper supply, a cultivated and affluent population, and readily available manuscripts for use as printer's copy. Moreover, because the Venetian empire had included some of Greece and the Greek islands, with the fall of Constantinople in 1453 many Greek scholars fled as refugees to Venice. As a result, the city was supplied with high-quality editors and proof-readers for editions of the classics, which formed a major part of the output of its presses.

Aldus Manutius (1449-1515) was one of the most scholarly and innovative of the Venetian printers of the renaissance. He contributed in several important ways to the dissemination of accurate texts of the classics, and particularly of ancient Greek authors. A capable Greek scholar and editor himself, he also employed other highly competent men—Erasmus among them—as editors, proofreaders, and compositors. The earliest printing of Greek had been not only full of errors but also produced from incomplete type fonts. Aldus revolutionized Greek printing, adapting the highly contracted Greek manuscript hand of the day in designing his complete font of Greek type. Although the contemporary hand was less legible than the

older, uncontracted hand, it was more condensable, and thus used less paper—the printer's most expensive raw material.

Aldus Manutius was also the first printer to produce books in the octavo format, as opposed to the larger and more expensive folio and quarto formats used earlier. The first of Aldus's octavo volumes appeared in 1501. It was set in a new type face said to have been modeled on the handwriting of Petrarch—italic type. Small, slanted, and compact, italic type was ideal for use in the smaller format that Aldus introduced. From 1501, Aldus printed an inexpensive series of Greek, Latin, and Italian authors in the octavo format.

Aldus died in February of 1515. His business was taken over first by Andrea de Torresani, his father-in-law, and eventually by Paulus Manutius, his son. The successors of Aldus continued to apply the advances in typography and format that the founder of the firm had introduced.

54. Giovanni Giovano Pontani (1426-1503) *Pontani Opera ...*

[From colophon] Venice, Andrea de Torresani, 1518.
Presented by Alexander C. Washburn.

The text of this octavo edition of the works of Italian humanist, diplomat, and poet Giovanni Pontani, issued by Andrea de Torresani, was printed in the italic type introduced by Aldus Manutius. The Aldine printer's device used in the volume—a dolphin entwined around an anchor—signifies swiftness combined with steadiness.



WILLIAM PICKERING

Between 1821 and 1831, London publisher William Pickering (1796-1854) issued a twenty-four volume series of Greek, Latin, Italian, French, and English classics in pocket format. Known as the “Diamond Classics,” the series included editions of the New Testament in Greek and of the works of Homer, printed in the first diamond Greek type. Typographically an impressive achievement, these volumes were also intended to be functional. Pickering later went on to issue various other series that reinforced his reputation as a publisher interested in both the physical appearance of his volumes and in their potential for making standard texts inexpensively available to many people.

Pickering understood and drew attention to the similarity between his work and that of Aldus Manutius. About 1830, he adapted for use in his own books the famous anchor-and-dolphin printer’s mark of Aldus and his successors. He also called himself *Aldi discipulus Anglus*—the English disciple of Aldus.

55. Homer (ca. 8th century B.C.)

[From half-title of each volume] *Homeri Ilias et Odysea.*

London, William Pickering, 1831.

Presented by the Woman’s Education Association.

Pickering’s “Diamond Classics” edition of Homer was issued in two volumes, the first containing the *Iliad*, the second the *Odyssey*. The viewer of these volumes may well marvel at the painstaking care involved in the setting of such minute type.

THE ESTIENNES

During the sixteenth century, the French family of Estienne (or, in Latin, Stephanus) was as important in combining scholarship and printing as Aldus Manutius had earlier been at Venice. Henri Estienne [I] (d. 1520) was the first of the family to print. He arrived at Paris in 1502 and shortly after established a press there. He was succeeded by his son, Robert (1503-1559), and later by his grandson, Henri [II] (1531-1598).

Robert Estienne took over the business at Paris in 1526. A classicist as well as a printer, his greatest piece of scholarship was his *Thesaurus Linguae Latinae*, published in 1532. He printed many Greek authors and a number of first editions of ancient texts. In 1539, King Francis I appointed him official printer of Hebrew and Latin. In 1540, Estienne was also made the king’s printer of Greek, in which capacity he was responsible for arranging the preparation of three sets of Greek type for the royal press. Robert Estienne is remembered especially for his edition of the New Testament (1550), the first ever published with a critical apparatus. In 1550, after the death of Francis I, he was forced to flee to Geneva because of his tendency toward Calvinism.

Robert Estienne’s son Henri [II] surpassed even his father as a

scholar and editor, but he did not possess as good a head for business. Succeeding to the firm at Geneva in 1559, he too published scholarly editions of the works of Greek and Roman authors, including first editions of classical texts. However, he had an inclination toward involving himself in massive projects too ambitious for his financial resources. He was all but ruined by his five-volume folio *Thesaurus Linguae Graecae* (1572) and his three-volume folio edition of Plato (1578). He left Geneva in 1597 and died the following year at Lyons, while making his way to Paris.

56. Henri Estienne (1531-1598)

Epistolia, Dialogi Breves, Oratiunculae, Poematia, Ex variis utriusque linguae scriptoribus. Inter poematia autem est Satyra elegantissiam, quae inscribitur Iis, non prius edita ... [Geneva], Henri Estienne [II], 1577.

Presented by Alexander C. Washburn.

In preparing this octavo edition of selections from various writers, Henri Estienne [II] acted not only as printer and publisher but also as editor. The selections are in Greek and Latin.

JOSEPH JOHNSON

Joseph Johnson (1738-1809) came to London in 1752. Having served an apprenticeship to bookseller George Keith, in 1760 he set up shop for himself. Johnson was not only a Dissenter (he had been raised as a Baptist) but also a champion of liberal ideals in politics. When he began to publish, he was not afraid to issue works by controversial authors. The quantity, quality, and range of material that he published and his integrity in dealing with his authors and colleagues earned him the label “father of the English book-trade.”

Among other contemporary writers, Johnson published Anna Letitia Aikin (Mrs. Barbauld), William Cowper, Erasmus Darwin, Mary Wollstonecraft, Maria Edgeworth, John Horne Tooke, and Joseph Priestley. He also issued important titles in medicine and surgery. In 1788, he produced the first number of the periodical the *Analytical Review*.

Johnson’s liberal views caused him difficulty at times. In 1797, he was sentenced to nine months in prison and fined for selling a pamphlet by controversial writer Gilbert Wakefield. The personal friend of many intellectual figures of his era, Johnson was known for the weekly dinners to which he invited a number of freethinking authors. Directed by a sense of responsibility to the ideals of the Enlightenment, Johnson personified the publisher as a potential force for social change rather than as strictly a businessman.

57. Joseph Ritson (1752-1803)

Scotish Song ...

London, J. Johnson and J. Egerton, 1794.

Presented by Nathaniel Thayer.

Joseph Johnson was one of two publishers involved in issuing this collection by English literary antiquary Joseph Ritson. This

two-volume set is part of a gift of twenty-seven volumes of Ritson's works presented by Nathaniel Thayer to the Lancaster Town Library in 1870. (For another title published by Johnson, see Item 26.)



Above from Item 26

SEBASTIAN GRYPHIUS

During the sixteenth century, the city of Lyons constituted the only rival to Paris as the center of printing and publishing in France. Lyons was home not only to printers of some importance but also to type designers, Robert Granjon foremost among them.



Sebastian Greyff—Gryphius in Latin—(1491-1556) printed at Lyons from 1520. A native of the duchy of Swabia, he was one of a number of German immigrants who dominated printing in Lyons during the first half of the sixteenth century. Gryphius issued scholarly editions of ancient authors comparable in quality to those of Aldus and the Estiennes. He employed the French humanist, physician, and satirist François Rabelais as editor for his editions of Hippocrates and Galen.

58. Quintilian (ca. 35-ca 100 A.D.)

M. Fabii Quintiliani Institutionum Oratoriarum Libri XIII ...

Lyons, Sebastian Gryphius, 1536.

Presented by Alexander C. Washburn.

This octavo Gryphius edition of Roman author Quintilian, printed in italic type, demonstrates how quickly and thoroughly the innovations of Aldus Mantius were absorbed by the printers of Europe. The printer's device, depicting a griffin and thus representing a play on the printer's name, is used on the title-page of the volume.

CHRISTOPHER PLANTIN

In the middle of the sixteenth century, Antwerp, the capital of the Spanish Netherlands, was a major shipping city and as such favored the success of those involved in the book-trade there. Christopher Plantin (1514-1589) established himself at Antwerp in 1549, working first as a binder and then as a printer and publisher. The range of books that he issued reflected the varied tastes of the book-buying public of his day.

Plantin published editions of the Bible (in Hebrew, Latin, and Dutch) and of the Greek and Latin classics, contemporary French writings, devotional books, legal works, and scientific and medical works. With the support of Philip II of Spain, he undertook a major project in the publication of a polyglot Bible in eight folio volumes between 1569 and 1573. Having been appointed royal printer by Philip II, Plantin was responsible for printing all liturgical works for Philip's holdings. A patron of authors as well as a publisher, Plantin was the friend and printer of three of the greatest botanists of the sixteenth century, Matthias de L'Obel—Lobelius in Latin—(1538-1616), Charles de L'Écluse, or Clusius (1526-1609), and Rembert Dodens, or Dodonaeus (1517-1585).

Christopher Plantin is considered to have been the last major printer directly to supervise all the operations involved in the production of books in his establishment. After 1600, the publisher rather than the craftsman dominated the book-trade.

59. Desiderius Erasmus (1466-1536)

De Utraque Copia, Verburum et Rerum, Praecepta, una cum Exemplis, Dilucido brevique carmine comprehensa ...

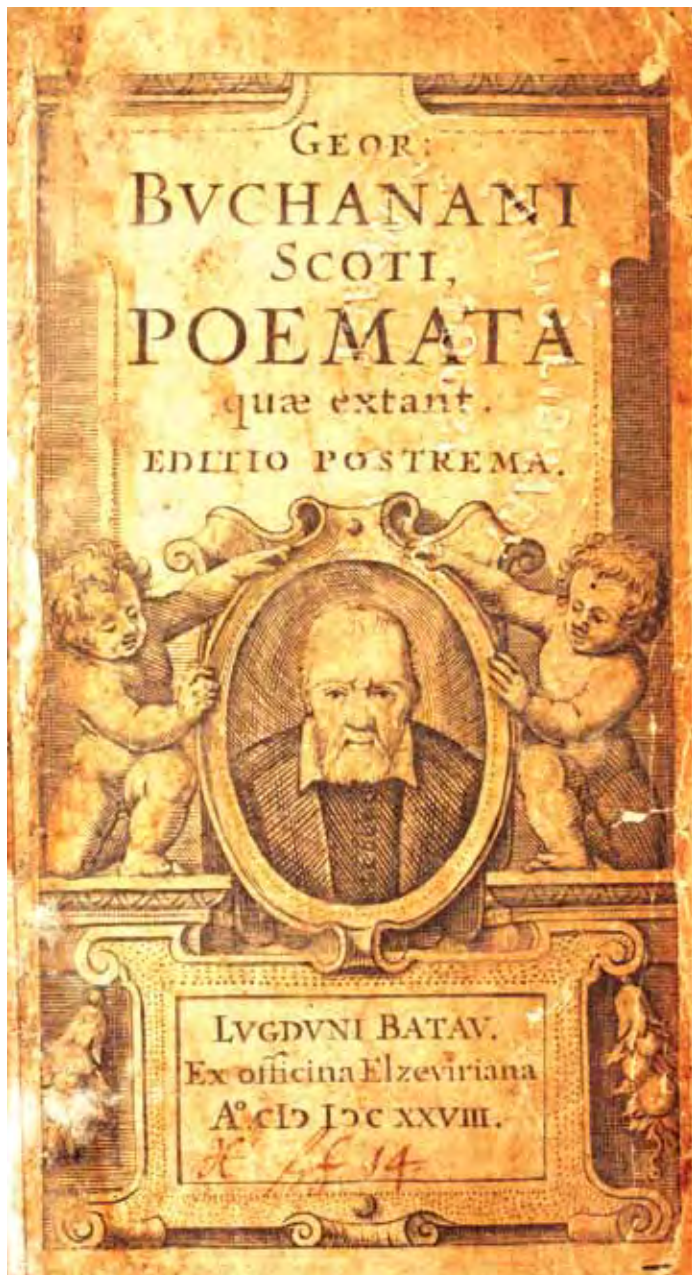
Antwerp, Christopher Plantin, 1574.

Presented by Alexander C. Washburn.

This Plantin edition of one of the study manuals of Dutch humanist and theologian Erasmus demonstrates the high caliber of the output of Plantin's press. The famous Plantin printer's mark—the hand of God descending from the heavens, circumscribing a circle with a pair of compasses—appears on the title-page. (For another volume issued by Plantin, see Item 29.)

THE ELZEVIERS

Bookseller and publisher Louis Elzevier (1540-1617) and his descendants issued books at Leiden from 1583 on; a branch of the firm was opened at Amsterdam in 1638. The renaissance of culture and learning and the prosperity that accompanied the liberation of the Netherlands from Spain during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries assured the Elzeviers of a receptive market, which their business acumen enabled them to exploit successfully. By employing capable specialists, they issued well-edited, clearly-printed, inexpensive books that were used all over Europe.



The Elzeviers published a series of Latin, French, and Italian authors in the duodecimo format, producing a greater number of titles and a greater number of copies of each title than had ever been attempted before. They also issued a famous series of small volumes of French authors on history and politics, known as the *Petites Républiques*. The Elzevier books were ideal for use as textbooks; indeed, the family had university connections at Leiden.

60. George Buchanan (1506-1582)

Geor. Buchanani Scoti, Poemata quae extant. Editio Postrema.

Leiden, the Elzeviers, 1628.

Presented by Alexander C. Washburn.

The text of this very portable Elzevier edition of the poems of Scottish historian and scholar George Buchanan was printed in a type face so small that a magnifying glass would have been necessary for extended reading. The engraved title-page of the volume is characteristic of the books published by the Elzeviers. (For two other Elzeviers, see Items 27 and 28.)

JOHN BASKERVILLE

Printer John Baskerville (1706-1775) of Birmingham, England, was motivated entirely by the desire to produce beautiful books. This predecessor of modern fine printers consciously experimented with type design, paper, ink, format, and layout. His work was characterized by the verticality of and the contrast of thick and thin in his type face, the avoidance of crowding the letters, the use of ample margins, and the lack of ornament or illustration that might have detracted from the typographic design. Baskerville tended to print standard classics—for example, works by ancient Roman authors such as Virgil, Horace, and Lucretius, the complete poetical works of Milton, the *Orlando Furioso* of Ariosto, the Bible, the Greek New Testament, the Book of Common Prayer, and psalm-books. Such material did not distract the reader from the visual enjoyment of his pages.

Baskerville established a type foundry in 1750, after which he spent several years and a substantial amount of money in the perfection of his type face. He published his first book, a quarto edition of Virgil, in 1757. This volume was the first in a series of about fifty quartos and folios (his primary formats). Baskerville was elected printer to the University of Cambridge for ten years, from December of 1758, and in that capacity prepared editions of the Book of Common Prayer and the Bible. Although it was not commercially successful, his famous folio Bible of 1763 is considered one of the most beautiful books ever published. Despite some contemporary criticism of his type face and the indifference of booksellers to his efforts, John Baskerville printed books almost to the end of his life. After his death in 1775, the esthetic merit of his work was fully realized and the products of his press became collector's items.

61. Bible

The Holy Bible, Containing the Old Testament and the New; with the Apocrypha ...

Birmingham, John Baskerville, 1772.

Presented by Herbert Hosmer in memory of Elizabeth A. Hosmer and the Chandler family.

John Baskerville produced three complete folio Bibles during his career as a printer. The first was issued in 1763, the second in 1769 (the New Testament dated 1771), and the third—that shown here—in 1772 (the New Testament dated 1771). Neither the second nor the third of these Bibles approached the standard of beauty set by the first. Impressive though it is, this illustrated Bible of 1772 is not, in terms of typography and the paper used, truly characteristic of Baskerville's work.

THOMAS BENSLEY

During the second half of the eighteenth century, there were efforts throughout Europe to raise the caliber of the materials and the workmanship involved in the production of books. Volumes printed earlier in the century had often been produced with a lesser quality of paper than that used previously, and their typography was frequently mediocre. Among those who worked to improve standards were typographers Giambattista Bodoni in Italy, Pierre Simon Fournier in France, and Joaquín Ibarra y Marín in Spain. In England, typographer and printer John Baskerville (see Item 61) and printers William Bulmer and Thomas Bensley each concerned himself with esthetic considerations.

London printer Thomas Bensley (d. 1833) is remembered both for the typographical elegance of the books he produced and also for his early use of technological developments. Printing for different publishers, Bensley produced a variety of impressive works, including a seven-volume folio Bible, an octavo edition of Shakespeare, and Hume's *History of England*. He printed the first edition of the *Essay on Population* (1798) by Thomas Malthus for publisher Joseph Johnson (see Item 57). Bensley employed to good advantage the cylinder press invented by Friedrich König, who first applied steam-power to the printing press. (König's machines revolutionized the printing of newspapers when they were installed at *The Times* of London.)

62. Robert Blair (1699-1746)

The Grave, A Poem ... Illustrated by Twelve Etchings Executed from Original Designs. To Which is Added a Life of the Author.

London, printed by T. Bensley for R. Ackermann, 1813.
Purchased.

The Grave by Scotsman Robert Blair was first issued in 1743 and, immensely popular, was much-reprinted during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. This edition, printed by Thomas Bensley for London fine art publisher Rudolph Ackermann (1764-1834; see also Item 25), was illustrated with etchings by line-engraver Luigi Schiavonetti (1765-1810) from the designs of William Blake (1757-1827). (Blair's *Grave* with Schiavonetti's etchings from Blake was first published in 1808.)



Above from Item 58

BOTANY, HORTICULTURE, GARDENING, AND NATURAL HISTORY

The subject areas of botany, horticulture, gardening, and natural history were major strengths of the Lancaster Town Library during the latter part of the nineteenth century. The core of the Library's original collection was created in part by the donation of the books of the Lancaster Agricultural Library, which contained a number of works on horticulture and gardening. The Natural History Museum, an important adjunct to the Library's printed resources, was kept with the town's book collection from 1862 well into the twentieth century. Several members of the early Board of Library Trustees (for example, Henry Wilder, who was a trustee from 1862 until 1875) were particularly interested in natural history and saw to it that the subject was well-represented. In addition, a number of donors contributed generously to the development of these areas of the collection. Among them was Mrs. A.R. Lane, who gave a lovely elephant folio edition of more than one hundred plates reprinted from Audubon's *Birds of America* (New York, Roe Lockwood, 1860; recorded in the Library's accession book in 1904). As reflected by the 1983 gift by Hugh Savage Clark of the John C.L. Clark Botanical Collection, botany and horticulture are still strengths of the Lancaster Town Library.

Botany, horticulture, gardening, and natural history form an important part of the Rare Book Collection, which includes notable gifts and purchases. The collection is especially rich in illustrated volumes in these areas.



JOHN REA

English gardener and nurseryman John Rea (d. 1681) designed the gardens at the estate of Charles, fourth baron Gerard of Bromley. Reputedly the owner of the most extensive tulip collection in England, Rea is said to have introduced new varieties of plants. His *Flora* seems to have been his only attempt at authorship.

63. John Rea (d. 1681)

Flora: seu, De Florum Cultura. Or, A Complete Florilege Furnished With All Requisites belonging to a Florist. The Second Impression Corrected, with many Additions, and several new Plates ...

London, printed by T.N. for George Marriott, 1676.
Presented by W.O. Orpet.

Rea's *Flora: seu, De Florum Cultura* (alternately entitled *Flora, Ceres, & Pomona* on the additional engraved title-page in the volume) was first published at London in 1665. The work was dedicated to Charles, fourth baron Gerard of Bromley.

THOMAS BEWICK

English wood engraver Thomas Bewick (1753-1828) was apprenticed in 1767 to Ralph Beilby, an engraver at Newcastle. Already skilled at drawing, Bewick quickly absorbed the skills of his craft and before long was responsible for most of the engraving required in the course of his master's work. During the early 1770s, Bewick prepared the illustrations for a number of children's books and began a series of cuts for John Gay's *Fables*. His apprenticeship ended in 1774. After an unsatisfactory attempt to set himself up in London, he returned to Newcastle and became Beilby's partner.

Bewick engraved the illustrations for many books during his career, but none are better known than the *General History of Quadrupeds* and the *History of British Birds*. As a child, Bewick had developed a love of nature. These two works provided him with the opportunity to combine his early love with his art. Both were successful from the esthetic and commercial points of view.

Bewick began the illustrations for the *General History of Quadrupeds* in 1785; Beilby prepared the text for the volume. The work was first published in 1790. The first volume of the *History of British Birds* (the text of which was also by Beilby, as revised by Bewick) was published in 1797, the second (with text by the Reverend Mr. Cotes of Bedlington) in 1804. The *British Birds* is regarded as Bewick's finest work, largely because of his direct observation of the subjects of the illustrations. In this he was the predecessor of Audubon.

64. Thomas Bewick (1752-1828) and Ralph Beilby (1744-1817)

A General History of Quadrupeds. The Figures Engraved on Wood ... The Fourth Edition.

Newcastle-on-Tyne, S. Hodgson, R. Beilby, and T. Bewick, 1800. Purchased.

The 1790 first edition of Bewick's *General History of Quadrupeds* sold quickly, and the second and third editions appeared in rapid succession, in 1791 and 1792. The fourth edition (shown here) was published in 1800; by 1824, four more editions had been issued.

There is a qualitative difference between those engravings in the *General History of Quadrupeds* of animals familiar to Bewick in their natural habitat and those of the more exotic creatures that the engraver could not observe in life. (The latter were prepared from stuffed specimens or from the illustrations of other artists.)

JOHN JAMES AUDUBON

Born illegitimately in Santo Domingo, raised in France, artist, ornithologist, and naturalist John James Audubon (1785-1851) came to America in 1803. Living on a Pennsylvania farm owned by his father, Audubon was able to satisfy his early fascination with birds and his penchant for drawing them in the countryside near Philadelphia. After his marriage in 1808 to Lucy Bakewell, Audubon moved to Louisville, Kentucky, then a new settlement, where he continued to draw birds. Possessing no formal education in natural history and quite possibly no formal training as an artist, the power of Audubon's work rested entirely on his innate talent, energy, power of observation, and skill at hunting birds.

Unsuccessful at earning a living as a merchant, between 1808 and 1819 Audubon traveled extensively in America, searching both for better commercial prospects and for birds that he had not seen before. In 1819, having gone into debt and been jailed because of his involvement in a failed mill, he took his family to Cincinnati, where he learned taxidermy. Around this time, the possibility of publishing his bird illustrations began to appeal to him. Finally, in 1820, he set out for Louisiana with the sole purpose of adding bird pictures to his portfolio. On this trip, he kept a journal for the first time.

In 1824, Audubon went to Philadelphia to find a publisher for his projected work. Disappointed by the response he met there, two years later he took his drawings to England. He found the first subscribers to his *Birds of America* at Liverpool and was received as a celebrity in Edinburgh. The first part of the first edition of the *Birds of America* was published in Britain in elephant folio size in 1827. The rest of the work appeared between that year and 1838. The finished *Birds of America* consisted of four hundred and thirty-five aquatint copperplate engravings. Audubon traveled back and forth between Britain and America during the long publication period of this work.

Audubon began the separate text to his *Birds of America* after settling temporarily at Edinburgh in 1830. He prepared the *Ornithological Biography*, as the five-volume accompaniment to his pictorial work was called, with the assistance of William MacGillivray, a systematic and brilliant Scottish naturalist. The title was published at Edinburgh between 1831 and 1839.

The publication of his *Birds of America* and *Ornithological Biography* brought Audubon fame in America as well as in Europe. In 1841, after the completion of his major published work and his return to America, he settled into an estate on the Hudson River. Among the projects that filled his remaining years was the preparation of the *Quadrupeds of North America*, in which John Bachman was his collaborator.

Today, a century and a half after his death, Audubon occupies a precarious position. Art historians are sometimes uncomfortable with the photographic quality of his work, scientists with his lack of both training and system. Wherever his contribution rests, most would agree that his depictions and descriptions of birds in the wild possess a vividness that translates into lasting popular appeal.

65. John James Audubon (1785-1851)

The Birds of America, from Drawings Made in the United States and Their Territories ...

New York, George R. Lockwood, copyright 1839. Purchased.

Following the first publication of Audubon's folio *Birds of America* (1827-1838) and his *Ornithological Biography* (1831-1839), more compact editions combining the plates of the one (much reduced) and the text of the other were issued in America. This eight-volume New York edition is one of the sets with both plates and text.

In addition to the 1860 Roe Lockwood elephant folio reprint of more than one hundred plates from *Birds of America* (housed in the Rare Book Room), the Rare Book Collection's Audubon holdings include an edition of *The Quadrupeds of North America* (three volumes, New York, George R. Lockwood, copyright 1849).

JARDINE'S "NATURALIST'S LIBRARY"

Beginning in the early nineteenth century, the physical processes of printing and bookmaking changed far more radically than they had over the course of the previous three hundred and fifty years. Papermaking, typesetting, and printing all ceased to be operations performed entirely by hand. The technological developments of the nineteenth century fostered the dissemination of knowledge in all areas, particularly by means of popular sets and series inexpensively produced for the middle-class market.

One such series was "The Naturalist's Library," edited by Scottish naturalist Sir William Jardine (1800-1874). Publication of the forty-volume series began in 1833, with volumes appearing

at intervals until 1845. Jardine himself wrote the text for some of the volumes and prepared the memoirs of famous naturalists that served as prefaces for titles in the series. Illustrated with color plates, "The Naturalist's Library," was popular in its day.

From the mid-nineteenth century on, London publisher Henry George Bohn (1796-1884) issued a number of highly successful series, among them "Bohn's Standard Library," "Historical Library," "Classical Library," and "Scientific Library." Bohn also arranged with Edinburgh publisher W.H. Lizars to reissue Jardine's "Naturalist's Library." The Rare Book Collection of the Lancaster Town Library includes a full set of the reissued "Naturalist's Library," the volumes bearing various dates of publication, some of the imprints with the names of both Lizars and Bohn, some with only that of Bohn. (An undated, added engraved title with Bohn's name alone precedes the letterpress title in each volume.)

66. James Duncan (1804-1861)

The Naturalist's Library. Edited by Sir William Jardine ... Entomology ...

Vol. 1: London, Henry G. Bohn, 1860.

Vols. 2-3: Edinburgh, W.H. Lizars and London, Henry G. Bohn, 1860.

Vols. 4-6: Edinburgh, W.H. Lizars and London, Henry G. Bohn, 1858.

Vol. 7: Edinburgh, W.H. Lizars and London, Henry G. Bohn, 1859. Presented by Nathaniel Thayer.



This seven-volume set consists of Volumes 28 to 34 of "The Naturalist's Library," all forty volumes of which were presented by Nathaniel Thayer. In addition to the volumes on entomology, the series also included six volumes under the category "Ichthyology," thirteen under "Mammalia," and fourteen under "Ornithology."



MICHAUX'S NORTH AMERICAN SYLVA

French botanist François André Michaux (1770-1855)—the son of the famous explorer and botanist André Michaux (1746-1802)—traveled extensively in North America. Between 1810 and 1813, the first edition of his *Histoire des Arbres forestiers de l'Amérique Septentrionale* was published at Paris in three volumes. A translation of the work appeared at Paris under the title *The North American Sylva* in 1818 and 1819. English naturalist Thomas Nuttall (1786-1859) later prepared a supplement first published at Philadelphia in three volumes between 1842 and 1849. Nuttall's expansion of Michaux's major work included a great deal of information on the sylvia of the western United States, where Michaux had not been.

67. François André Michaux (1770-1855)

The North American Sylva; or, A Description of the Forest Trees of the United States, Canada, and Nova Scotia ... Illustrated by 156 Colored Engravings ... Translated from the French ... with Notes by J. Jay Smith ... In Three Volumes ...

Thomas Nuttall (1786-1859)

The North American Sylva; or, A Description of the Forest Trees of the United States, Canada, and Nova Scotia, Not Described in the Work of F. Andrew Michaux ... Illustrated by 121 Colored Plates ... Three Volumes in Two ...

Philadelphia, Rice, Rutter & Co., 1865.

Presented by George A. Parker.

This five-volume set published at Philadelphia combines Michaux's *North American Sylva* and Nuttall's supplement, both amply illustrated with color plates. The three volumes written by Michaux were edited by John Jay Smith (1798-1881), who was librarian of the Library Company of Philadelphia for more than twenty years.

RELIGION AND THEOLOGY

In the twentieth annual report of the Library Committee of Lancaster (for the year 1882-1882), there is an acknowledgment of gifts to the Town Library from the American Swedenborg Printing and Publishing Society and from the Religious Society of Friends in Philadelphia. This acknowledgement is followed by a statement of the committee's policy regarding the addition of theological works to the collection:

"It is an unwritten law of the Committee to buy no theological books which are largely or exclusively controversial; but they are glad to receive gifts in this kind; and especially would they welcome to the reading table, the regular receipt of denominational newspapers and magazines."

An unwillingness to make the Library vulnerable to charges of partiality in theological matters—apparent in this statement—is echoed again in the twenty-second annual report of the Library Committee (for 1884-1885):

"It has been our rule from the beginning, not to buy theological books, so far at least as they are controversial; a rule from which we do not think it expedient to depart as yet. We are favored, however, in several instances, by the regular contribution of religious periodicals, and would be glad to see the numbers increased till every sect and denomination among us is represented."

Despite the cautious approach taken by the Library Committee in the development of this aspect of the collection, however, many religious and theological works found their way into the Town Library through gift by various donors. The importance that religion had for individuals in America and elsewhere in earlier periods was reflected in the publication of quantities of Bibles, devotional works, commentaries, sermons, and treatises, among other types of material, and this body of publication was amply represented in the personal libraries of Lancaster residents who gave books to the Town Library.

Ironically, religion and theology today form one of the subject strengths of the Rare Book Collection, which includes a substantial proportion of works that could be described as controversial. Many of the volumes donated during the nineteenth century were artifacts of the religious controversies of previous eras, and as such were not much in demand in the general collection of a small public library. Having survived in the stacks for a century, they became part of the Rare Book Collection during its formation in the 1960s. The majority of titles in religion and theology now in the collection are by British and American authors.

THE GENEVA BIBLE

The Geneva Bible (first edition 1560) is so called because it was first produced in that city, which had become the home of English exiles fleeing from the Protestant persecution during

the reign of Queen Mary. The Geneva Bible of 1560 is sometimes also called the "Breeches Bible" for the use of the word "breeches" to describe the fig leaves of Adam and Eve. This English vernacular Bible is considered by Biblical scholars to have been the single most important version in the ancestry of the King James Bible.

There were three main translators of this version, William Whittingham (1524?-1579), Anthony Gilby (d. 1585), and Thomas Sampson (1517?-1589). Born in Chester and educated at Oxford, Whittingham had been selected by Henry VIII as a senior student of Christ Church. A learned and well-traveled man, he fled England in 1553 at the accession of Mary. Always a reformer, even in his days as dean of Durham, he succeeded John Knox as minister of the English congregation at Geneva. Gilby and Sampson were Puritan theologians and clerics.



The translators attempted to meld the language of the many sources they used—English, Hebrew, Latin, Greek, and French versions of the Bible—into a version characterized by plainness. In this goal they largely succeeded. The Geneva Bible eventually became the home Bible of the English people, and it held that position for decades. Its wording is found in the literature and drama of the period—for example, in the works of Shakespeare.

It was the Bible preferred by the Puritans. The Geneva Bible was never officially approved by Queen Elizabeth I nor by Archbishop of Canterbury Matthew Parker, but neither was it outlawed for its Calvinistic and Puritanical orientation.

The quarto format of the 1560 Geneva Bible was striking. The folio format had previously been the standard format for first editions of versions of the complete Bible. (The quarto format would have been better suited for private rather than public reading, and also would have been more economical to produce.) Moreover, the Geneva Bible was printed in a clear and compact Roman type, in contrast to the black letter previously used for English Bible printing. It was also the first complete English Bible in which the text was divided into numbered verses as well as chapters. Another feature that made the Geneva Bible innovative in the history of the printing of English vernacular Bibles was the extensive marginal commentary that formed a considerable portion of the total printed text.



68. Bible

The Bible, That is, the Holy Scriptures contained in the Old and New Testament. Translated according to the Ebrew and Greeke, and conferred with the best Translations in divers Languages. With most profitable Annotations upon all hard places and other things of great importance.

London, the deputies of Christopher Barker, 1599.
Presented by John Eliot Thayer.

The first edition of the Geneva Bible printed in England appeared in 1575. It was printed by Christopher Barker (c. 1529-1599), described on the title page of the 1599 London edition in the Rare Book Collection of the Lancaster Town Library as "Printer to the Queenes most Excellent Maiestie."



John Eliot Thayer, donor

JOHN LOCKE

With the publication of the first edition of his *Essay Concerning Human Understanding* in 1690, English philosopher John Locke (1632-1704) became the leading thinker of his era. Through his writings, he was influential during his lifetime and long afterwards in politics, education, and religion as well as in philosophy. He was an advocate of religious freedom, although not a supporter of atheism. In his controversial *The Reasonableness of Christianity as Delivered in the Scriptures* (1695), Locke maintained that adherence to Christianity consisted entirely of believing in Jesus as the Messiah, repenting of one's sins, and following the Ten Commandments. (The reaction that ensued upon the publication of this work made it necessary for Locke to write two vindications.) His *Paraphrase and Notes on the Epistles of St. Paul* was published posthumously.

69. John Locke (1632-1704)

A Paraphrase and Notes on the Epistles of St. Paul to the Galatians, I & II Corinthians, Romans, and Ephesians. To which is Prefix'd An Essay for the Understanding of St. Paul's Epistles, by Consulting St. Paul Himself ... The Fourth Edition.

London, A. Ward, S. Birt, T. Osborn, [and others], 1742.
Presented (donor unrecorded).

Locke's *Paraphrase and Notes on the Epistles of St. Paul* first appeared in six parts between 1705 and 1707. The copy of

the fourth edition found in Lancaster's Rare Book Collection bears the inscription "Chas Chaunceys." Charles Chauncy was the minister of the First Church in Boston and the author of *Seasonable Thoughts on the State of Religion in New-England* (see Item 43, above).

JONATHAN EDWARDS

Connecticut-born Congregational clergyman Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) entered Yale in 1716, before he was thirteen years old. At the age of fourteen, he read Locke's *Essay Concerning Human Understanding*, which profoundly influenced his thinking. Having graduated from Yale in 1720, he studied theology for two years in New Haven. In 1726, he joined his grandfather Solomon Stoddard in the ministry of the Congregational church at Northampton, Massachusetts. After Stoddard's death in 1729, Edwards's theological views began to gain momentum in New England.

A Calvinist through and through, Edwards spoke out and wrote against the liberalizing Arminian theology that threatened to weaken adherence to Calvinism through an emphasis upon freedom of will. He also opposed the effect of the Half-Way Covenant of 1662, which extended membership in the Congregational church to individuals who had not undergone a personal experience of conversion (earlier required for membership). Edwards was the motivating and guiding force behind the major religious revival that took place in New England during his ministry. Moreover, he paved the way for a positive response to British evangelist George Whitefield.

Despite his influence, matters of disagreement between Edwards and his parishioners resulted in his dismissal from his position at Northampton in 1750. He then settled at Stockbridge, Massachusetts, where he was a missionary to the Housatonic River Indians and the pastor of the predominantly Indian church there. In 1757, Edwards was chosen to be president of the College of New Jersey at Princeton, where he died the following year.

At his death, Edwards left behind a large body of published work. His most important piece of writing was *A Careful and Strict Enquiry into the Modern Prevailing Notions of ... Freedom of Will ...*, first published in 1754.

70. Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)

History of Redemption, on a Plan Entirely Original: Exhibiting the Gradual Discovery and Accomplishment of the Divine Purposes in the Salvation of Man; Including a Comprehensive View of Church History, and the Fulfilment of Scripture Prophecies ...
New York, printed by T. and J. Swords for the editor, 1793.
Presented by Henry S. Nourse.

Jonathan Edwards's *A History of the Work of Redemption* appeared at Edinburgh in 1774. The preface to the New York edition shown here bears the name of Jonathan Edwards (1745-1801), son of the author of the volume. Also a clergyman, the younger Edwards both subscribed to his father's doctrines

and edited his works.

NATHANIEL GOOKIN

Clergyman Nathaniel Gookin (1688-1734), grandson of Puritan magistrate and soldier Daniel Gookin, graduated from Harvard in 1703 and was ordained in 1710. He was minister of the town of Hampton, New Hampshire, for twenty-four years.

71. Nathaniel Gookin (1688-1734)

The Day of Trouble Near, the Tokens of It, and a Due Preparation for It; in Three Sermons on Ezekiel vii. 7 ... To which is Added, A Sermon on Deuteronomy v. 29 ... And an Appendix ...
Exeter [New Hampshire], Samuel Winslow, 1796.
Presented by Mrs. Gertrude Fay.

This volume contains sermons prepared by Nathaniel Gookin in response to the earthquake of October, 1727; the appendix consists of an account of the earthquake. Although the interpretation of natural phenomena as events of religious significance was by no means the invention of colonial clergymen, it did provide subject matter for many American sermons during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries.

JOHN WISE

Congregational clergyman John Wise (1652-1725) was born at Roxbury, Massachusetts, and graduated from Harvard in 1673. He was called to the ministry of the Second Church of Ipswich, Massachusetts, in 1680. He remained there until his death, except for a period in 1687, when he was deprived of his ministry, fined, and jailed by Governor Edmund Andros, against whose attempt to raise money by taxation Wise had rallied the residents of Ipswich.

Wise was a powerful and persuasive writer on behalf of democratic ideals. He penned two pamphlets in response to the efforts of the Mathers to regulate churches by setting up a council of clergymen with the power to approve or disapprove of ministerial candidates. (The Mathers had been alarmed by the choice in 1699 of Benjamin Colman as pastor by the congregation of the Brattle Street Church—an appointment made despite clerical opposition.) Wise effectively attacked Cotton Mather's *Proposals for the Preservation of Religion in the Churches* (1705) in his *The Churches Quarrel Espoused* (1710) and in *A Vindication of the Government of New-England Churches* (1717). The latter pamphlet dealt with the principles of civil and religious government. Both of these titles were reprinted in 1772, on the eve of the Revolution, and again in 1860, at the outset of the Civil War.



72. John Wise (1652-1725)

A Vindication of the Government of New-England Churches ...

Boston, John Boyles, 1772.
Presented (donor unrecorded).

This 1772 reprint of Wise's *A Vindication of the Government of New-England Churches* (bound in a single volume with several other items) was issued by Boston printer, publisher, and bookseller John Boyle (or Boyles), one of whose specialties was the publication of religious works. (For another volume published by Boyle, see Item 46.)

THOMAS PAINE

Revolutionary agitator and author Thomas Paine (1737-1809) was born in England, at Thetford, Norfolk. With the assistance of Benjamin Franklin, he came to America in 1774 and established himself at Philadelphia, where he began his writing career as a contributor to Robert Aitken's *Pennsylvania Magazine*. In January of 1776, Paine's *Common Sense* was first published, anonymously. This immensely popular pamphlet, in which Paine urged an immediate declaration of independence, had an influence upon the course of American history. Having served in the Continental Army, Paine was made secretary to the congressional committee on foreign affairs in 1777 and clerk of the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1779.

During the early 1780s, Paine retired to a farm in New Rochelle, New York, to write and to work on an invention of great importance to him, the iron bridge. In 1787, he traveled to Europe to arrange for the construction of his bridge. Going back and forth between Paris and London from 1789 to 1792, Paine agitated for a world revolution. His *The Rights of Man*, written to defend the French Revolution from its condemnation by Edmund Burke, was first published in two parts in 1791 and 1792. (The title is included in the Rare Book Collection in an edition published at Boston by Thomas and Andrews in 1791.) Having already fled to Paris, he was tried for treason for this tract and banished from England.

Paine became a citizen of France in 1792, was elected to the Convention there, lost his citizenship in 1793 for his moderate stance during the Reign of Terror, and was imprisoned. He wrote a portion of his controversial deistic work, *The Age of Reason*, while in jail. (The first of the three parts of this title appeared in 1794, the third in 1807.) In 1795, after the Terror had passed, Paine was released from prison and permitted to return to the Convention. In 1802, he came back to America, where he spent the rest of his life.

73. Thomas Paine (1737-1809)

The Age of Reason. Being an Investigation of True and of Fabulous Theology ... Together with Twentyfive Precepts of Reason. By J. Graset St. Sauveur. The Sixth American Edition. Worcester, printed by Isaiah Thomas, junior, for Isaiah Thomas, 1794. Presented by Lucius Farwell.

In *The Age of Reason*, which was at the time of its publication regarded by many as profane, Thomas Paine affirmed his belief in the existence of God but presented arguments against established Christianity and the Bible. A number of authors inclined to religious orthodoxy felt compelled to respond to this work.

This American printing of the first part of *The Age of Reason* was issued by printer and publisher Isaiah Thomas.

TWO REACTIONS TO PAINE'S AGE OF REASON

74. Robert Thomson

Divine Authority of the Bible; or, Revelation and Reason, Opposed to Sophistry and Ridicule: Being a Refutation of Paine's Age of Reason ... First American Edition ... Boston, Ephraim C. Beals, 1807. Presented by Nathaniel Thayer.

75. Richard Watson (1737-1816)

An Apology for the Bible in a Series of Letters Addressed to Thomas Paine ... New Brunswick [New Jersey], Abraham Blauvelt, 1796. Presented (donor unrecorded).

These two American editions of refutations of Paine's *Age of Reason* demonstrate the stir that the work made in this country as well as in Britain and on the Continent.

Robert Thomson published his *Divine Authority of the Bible* in the same year the third part of *The Age of Reason* appeared. He wrote in the "Author's Advertisement" that preceded the text:

"The reason why this work appears so late is owing, in a great measure, to my own patience; and indeed had it been otherwise, I had not before any opportunity of getting it to press. Besides which, I wished first to examine all Paine might have to offer on the subject; for he has at this moment a *Third Age of Reason* ready for publication. My efforts are at least sincere, and, as such, I offer them to the serious Believer of every denomination. Being written in France, where I was limited in the privilege of consulting Critics and Commentators, or of knowing much of the answers that had appeared, I have some claim perhaps to candour, upon those who possess it. At the sneers of the Sceptic, I shall be as indifferent as he may be gay."

Thomson attacked Paine with some acerbity in the preface to this volume.

Richard Watson, bishop of Llandaff in Wales from 1782, wrote his *Apology for the Bible*—his most popular work—in response to the second part of Paine's *Age of Reason* (1795). First published in 1796, reprinted many times, widely read in America as well as in Britain, it was also translated into French.



Caroline Whiting Hentz, donor

THOMAS LETCHWORTH

Englishman Thomas Letchworth (1739-1784) was born into a family that had long belonged to the Quaker sect. After serving an apprenticeship to a shopkeeper at Epping, he moved to London and began to preach at the age of nineteen. Letchworth published several volumes of poetry in 1765, the periodical *The Monthly Ledger, or Literary Repository* for three years beginning in 1773, and the *Life and Writings of John Woolman* (the famous American Quaker) in 1775.

76. Thomas Letchworth (1739-1784)

Twelve Discourses, Delivered Chiefly at the Meeting-House of the People Called Quakers, in the Park, Southwark ...

Salem, reprinted by Thomas C. Cushing and sold by W. Carlton, 1794. Presented by Miss Whiting.

The first edition of Letchworth's sermons was published posthumously in 1787, at London, seven years before the appearance of this American edition. The first sermon in the volume had earlier been published in Ireland, incorrectly ascribed to Samuel Fothergill, another English Quaker.

WILLIAM ELLERY CHANNING

During the Unitarian Controversy in the early nineteenth century, William Ellery Channing (1780-1842)—referred to as the “apostle of Unitarianism”—was the foremost advocate of a more liberal American theology. In contrast to his Calvinistic colleagues among the Congregational clergy, he preached about God's goodness, man's perfectibility, and freedom of will.

Born in Newport, Rhode Island, Channing graduated from Harvard in 1798. Upon graduation, he taught for a time at the Latin grammar school here in Lancaster. In 1803, he became pastor of the Federal Street Church in Boston, a position he held until the end of his life. From 1819, when he set forth the tenets of Unitarianism in his sermon at the ordination of Jared Sparks, he was the recognized leader of the Unitarian movement. In 1820, he organized the liberal Berry Street Conference of ministers, at a meeting of which in 1825 the American Unitarian Association was formed. Both in the pulpit and as a contributor to newspapers and periodicals, he brought to many an understanding and appreciation of Unitarian theology.

Channing, who made a plea in his *Remarks on American Literature* (1830) for American writers to break from English models, helped to foster the American literary renaissance of the mid-nineteenth century. Moreover, such authors as Emerson, Longfellow, and Lowell, for example, were influenced by his brand of Unitarianism. Greatly admired by the New England Transcendentalists not only for his theology but also for his support of social reform, Channing wrote against slavery and on behalf of pacifism, temperance, adult education, and improved working conditions.

77. William Ellery Channing (1780-1842) *Discourses ...*

Boston, Charles Bowen, 1832.

Presented by Mrs. Mary Greene Chandler Ware.

This collection includes the following discourses: “Evidences of Christianity;” “Character of Christ;” “Christianity a Rational Religion;” “Honor Due to All Men;” “Self-Denial [in two parts];” “The Imitableness of Christ's Character;” “The Evil of Sin;” “Immortality;” and “Love to Christ [also in two parts].”



Mary Greene Chandler Ware, Donor

LYMAN BEECHER

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, and educated at Yale, Presbyterian clergyman Lyman Beecher (1775-1863) became the minister of the Presbyterian church in East Hampton, Long Island, in 1799. In 1810, he moved to Litchfield, Connecticut, to serve as pastor in that town. A zealous and evangelical preacher, he achieved fame not only in America but also in England and elsewhere through the publication of six sermons he had delivered in 1825 on intemperance. In 1826, Beecher was called to Boston to become minister of the Hanover Street Church, recently established to counteract the growing influence of Unitarianism. In Boston, where his sermons inflamed anti-Catholic sentiment, Beecher's evangelism was effective in creating a revival.

In 1832, attracted by the chance to mold religious life in the West, Beecher moved to Cincinnati to become the first president of Lane Theological Seminary and the pastor of the Second Presbyterian Church. Shortly after his establishment in Cincinnati, the more conservative Presbyterians there charged him with heresy, slander, and hypocrisy. Acquitted of these charges, he remained in his position in that city until 1850. Lyman Beecher's children included Catharine Beecher, Henry Ward Beecher, and Harriet Beecher Stowe.

78. Lyman Beecher (1775-1863)

A Plea for the West ...

Cincinnati, Truman and Smith, 1835.
Presented by Mrs. Elizabeth F. Dix.

As described in the note with which the author preceded the work, Lyman Beecher's *Plea for the West* was a "discourse delivered by the writer in several Atlantic cities last season, while on an agency for the Cincinnati Lane Seminary."



Elizabeth F. Dix, donor

HISTORY

History and biography were high on the list of preferred reading matter during the nineteenth century. Books in these areas offered entertainment without the taint of frivolity and thus appealed to an educated audience devoted to self-improvement. Following in the pattern set by the Lancaster Social Library, the collection of the Lancaster Town Library from the beginning has consisted of a high proportion of historical and biographical works. Those historical volumes added between 1862 and the end of the nineteenth century laid the foundation of what is an extensively represented subject area in the Library. Today, historical works are purchased for the general collection from the Capt. Samuel Ward Fund, presented to the Lancaster Town Library by historian George Bancroft in 1878 (see above, under Item 20).

American history is especially well-covered in the Library's Special Collections, which include a great deal of material on the colonial and Revolutionary periods, the Civil War, and the American Indian. Massachusetts town histories and volumes of a related nature are also housed in Special Collections. The Lancaster Collection provides a rich storehouse of material about local history. Finally, the various historical interests of previous generations may be inferred from the many volumes in history and biography found in the Rare Book Collection.

The Rare Book Collection includes primary and secondary sources in ancient, European, and American history (with American history leading in the total volume count), as well as a large selection of biographies. The earliest book that may be classified as history (indeed, the earliest book in the Library) is Hartmann Schedel's *Nuremberg Chronicle* of 1493. The collection contains historical works printed up to the mid-nineteenth century. While the majority of historical titles in the Rare Book Collection came to the Library through gift, there are more purchases among the volumes in history than there are in other areas of the collection. Many volumes now in the Rare Book Collection were originally added to the general collection in the nineteenth century, when older works in this subject were actively sought for the Library and the expenditure of town funds on them was warranted by the interest of the public.

TWO POPULAR NINETEENTH CENTURY HISTORICAL WORKS

Lancaster's Rare Book Collection includes many titles in history and biography written specifically for a general or a juvenile audience. Lossing's *Pictorial History of the Civil War* and Goodrich's *Peter Parley's Common School History* are two examples of popular historical works by nineteenth-century American authors in the collection.

Benson John Lossing (1813-1891) received the extent of his formal education in district schools in Dutchess County, New York, where he was born and raised. At the age of thirteen,

he was apprenticed to a watchmaker in Poughkeepsie, New York. An avid reader, he taught himself much about history in his spare time. At twenty-two, he became a joint editor and proprietor of the *Poughkeepsie Telegraph* and later joint editor of the *Poughkeepsie Casket* (a literary fortnightly). Having learned wood engraving, he moved to New York City in 1838. Between 1839 and 1841, he illustrated and edited Redfield's weekly *Family Magazine*. His *Outline History of Fine Arts* was published in 1840 as part of Harper's Family Library. Lossing launched his career as a popular historical writer with the publication in parts between 1850 and 1852 of his *Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution*, which he both wrote and illustrated. Many titles on various aspects of American history followed this highly successful venture.

Samuel Griswold Goodrich (1793-1860) is better known by the pseudonym Peter Parley, under which he published more than one hundred instructional titles for children. Like Lossing, Goodrich received only a perfunctory formal education but determinedly pursued a self-education. Having earned his own living from the age of fifteen, he entered the publishing business in 1818. In 1826, he moved to Boston, where he began publication of *The Token*, an annual literary gift-book. (Issued from 1827 until 1842, *The Token* is remembered especially for Goodrich's inclusion of a number of stories by Nathaniel Hawthorne—their first appearance in print.) At the same time, he was working on the Peter Parley books, the first of which, *The Tales of Peter Parley About America*, was published in 1827. It would be an understatement to say that the Peter Parley series was successful; millions of copies of the various titles were sold during Goodrich's lifetime. Goodrich did not write all of the volumes himself; he hired others—Hawthorne among them—to prepare some of the titles. In 1833, Goodrich founded *Parley's Magazine* and, in 1841, *Robert Merry's Museum*, both periodicals for children. He also wrote poetry and miscellaneous educational and juvenile works. His *Recollections of a Lifetime* was published in two volumes in 1856.



Above from Item 79

79. Benson John Lossing (1813-1891)

Pictorial History of the Civil War in the United States of America ... Illustrated by Many Hundred Engravings on Wood, by Lossing and Barritt, from Sketches by the Author and Others ...

Philadelphia, George W. Childs [vols. 2 and 3: Hartford, T. Belknap], 1866-1868.
Purchased.

80. Samuel Griswold Goodrich (1793-1860)

Peter Parley's Common School History. Illustrated by Engravings. Second Edition.

Boston, American Stationers' Company, 1838.
Presented by Solon Whiting.

The three-volume *Pictorial History of the Civil War* was modeled on Lossing's earlier *Pictorial Field-Book of the Revolution*. In later editions, this illustrated account of the Civil War was entitled *Pictorial Field-Book of the Civil War*.



As the prefatory "Advertisement" to Goodrich's *Peter Parley's Common School History* states, this work consists of "A CLEAR OUTLINE OF UNIVERSAL HISTORY, suited to Common Schools. It is intended for beginners, and is therefore written in a simple style, and, to render it convenient both for the pupil and teacher, it is divided into brief paragraphs and short chapters." More than twenty pages of examination questions follow the text.



CONSTANTIN-FRANÇOIS VOLNEY

After displaying an early penchant for the study of history and of ancient languages, French savant Constantin-François de Chasseboeuf Volney (1757-1820) spent several years traveling in Egypt and Syria, which experience led to the publication of his *Voyage en Syrie et en Égypte* in two volumes in 1787. His *Considérations sur la Guerre Actuelle des Turcs* appeared in 1788, and his *Les Ruines, ou Méditations sur les Révolutions des Empires*—his most important work (see Item 26)—in 1791. Having spent three years (1795-1798) in the United States, Volney published his *Tableau du Climat et du Sol des États-Unis* in 1803. Professor of history at the École Normale for a time, Volney was also politically involved as a member of the States-General and the Constituent Assembly. Made a count and placed in the French senate by Napoleon, he was made a peer by Louis XVIII in 1814.

81. Comte De Constantin-François De Chasseboeuf Volney (1757-1820)

New Researches on Ancient History ... Translated in Paris, Under the Superintendence of the Author, by Colonel Corbet ... Second Edition [vol. 2: Third Edition] ...

London, Simpkin and Marshall, 1821-1822.
Presented by Nathaniel Thayer.

This two-volume historical work by Volney is made up of three parts, as follows: Part 1. Examination of the History of the Jews Until the Captivity of Babylon; Part 2. Including the Lydians, the Assyrians, the Medes, the Epochs of Ninus, of Zoroaster, of Zohak, of Feridoun, &c. &c.; and Part 3. Chronology of the Babylonians and Egyptians.

WILLIAM DOUGLASS

Born at Gifford in Scotland, Boston physician William Douglass (1691?-1752) was broadly educated, receiving a firm grounding in both ancient and modern languages. Having studied medicine in Edinburgh, Leiden, and Paris, he settled at Boston in 1718. Douglass acquired a large medical practice there and achieved a position of considerable respect. At first an opponent of inoculation, he eventually realized and acknowledged its importance. He is remembered for having provided the first good clinical description of scarlet fever, an epidemic of which had swept through Boston in 1735 and 1736, in his *The Practical History of a New Epidemical Eruptive Miliary Fever ...* (1736).

Douglass not only devoted himself to his professional activities but also pursued a variety of personal interests. He authored several books unrelated to medicine, including an almanac. The first volume of his *A Summary, Historical and Political of the First Planting, Progressive Improvements, and Present State of the British Settlements in North-America* appeared in 1749, the second in 1751, his *A Discourse Concerning the Currencies of the British Plantations in America* in 1739.

82. William Douglass (1691?-1725)

A Summary, Historical and Political, of the First Planting, Progressive Improvements, and Present State of the British Settlements in North-America ...

London, R. and J. Dodsley, 1760.
Purchased.

Despite inaccuracies, the *Summary, Historical and Political* of William Douglass is still a source for the study of American history. After the appearance of Volume I in 1749 and of Volume II in 1751, the work was republished at Boston and London in 1755 and again (in the edition shown here) at London in 1760.

GEORGE WASHINGTON MATERIAL

The Rare Book Collection of the Lancaster Town Library includes a number of volumes of early material pertaining to George Washington. Both the speeches and writings of Washington and biographical explorations about him are represented in the collection. In addition to the two titles shown here, among the Rare Book Collection's Washington holdings are found Washington's *Farewell Address to the People of the United States* (Boston, 1812) and *A Collection of the Speeches of the President of the United States* (Boston, 1796), Aaron Bancroft's *Essay on the Life of George Washington* (Worcester, 1807), John Marshall's *The Life of George Washington* (Philadelphia, 1804-1807, in six volumes), Jared Sparks's edition of *The Writings of George Washington ... with a Life of the Author* (Boston, 1858, in twelve volumes), and Sparks's *Correspondence of the American Revolution: Being Letters of Eminent Men to George Washington* (Boston, 1853, in four volumes).

83. George Washington (1732-1799)

Official Letters to the Honourable American Congress, Written During the War Between the United Colonies and Great Britain ... Second Boston Edition.

Boston, printed by Manning & Loring for S. Hall, W. Spotswood, J. White, [and others], 1796.
Presented by Henry Wilder.

84. Mason Locke Weems (1759-1825)

The Life of George Washington; with Curious Anecdotes, Equally Honourable to Himself, and Exemplary to his Young Countrymen ... Twenty-second Edition Greatly improved. Embellished with Eight Engravings ...

Philadelphia, M. Carey & Son, 1819.
Presented by Everett L. Johnson.

The two-volume edition of *Washington's Official Letters to the Honourable American Congress* shown here was prepared, according to the "Advertisement" preceding the text, for the "reasoning philosophic reader, who wishes to explore the secret springs of action" rather than for "that class of readers who ... delight only in recitals of battles, sieges, and other striking occurrences which constitute the more prominent features of history."

By contrast, Weems's *Life of George Washington* was clearly intended to appeal to popular taste. The edition shown here, described on the title-page as the twenty-second, demonstrates how successful the author was in matching his material to his audience. An Episcopal clergyman, book peddler, and (after 1794) agent for Philadelphia publisher Matthew Carey, Weems also wrote biographies of Francis Marion, Benjamin Franklin, and William Penn. His biography of Washington was first published anonymously, about 1800. In the "Fifth Edition" of 1806, Weems introduced the story of Washington and the cherry tree. This book, largely responsible for the aura of sainthood that developed around the first president of the United States after his death, was reprinted over and over throughout the nineteenth and into the twentieth century.

WILLIAM COBBETT

Controversial British journalist William Cobbett (1762-1835) lived in the United States for two periods, from 1792 until 1800 and again from 1817 to 1819. Residing in Philadelphia during his first sojourn in America, Cobbett repeatedly placed himself in the limelight by penning inflammatory pamphlets written from a distinctly, defiantly Federalist (as opposed to Republican) viewpoint. Among his abusive writings were *Observations on the Emigration of Dr. Joseph Priestley* (1794), *A Bone to Gnaw on for the Democrats* (1795), *A Kick for a Bite* (1795), *A New Year's Gift for the Democrats* (1796), and a vituperative *Life of Tom Paine* (1796). From 1797 until 1799, he also published the *Porcupine's Gazette and Daily Advertiser*. In 1796, Cobbett opened a bookstore in Philadelphia and further aggravated the population of that city by displaying such objects as portraits of King George III in his window.

During his second stay in America, Cobbett lived on Long Island, where he devoted himself to agriculture and to writing. Having undergone a political turnabout on his return to England, he was no longer given to embroilment in the type of anti-Republican pamphlet wars that had so occupied him previously. His *Grammar of the English Language* and *A Journal of a Year's Residence in the United States* were products of this second residence in America.

While not useful in a factual way, Cobbett's pamphlets and other writings, suggestive of the political atmosphere of his time, bring the issues of the day vividly alive for modern students of American history.

85. William Cobbett (1762-1835)

The Pride of Britannia Humbled; or, The Queen of the Ocean Unqueen'd ... Illustrated and Demonstrated by Four Letters Addressed to Lord Liverpool, on the Late American War ... Including a number of ... other most Important Letters, and arguments, in Defence of the American Republic. To which is added, a Glimpse of the American Victories, On Land, on the Lakes, and on the Ocean. With a Persuasive to Political Moderation ... A New Edition.

Philadelphia, William Reynolds, 1815.
Presented by Mrs. Mary W. Fuller.

As the lengthy title of this volume indicates, this work belongs to the period of Cobbett's life following his conversion to republicanism and political reform.

THE NUREMBERG CHRONICLE

The *Liber Chronicarum* issued at Nuremberg in 1493 is a history of the world from the creation to 1493. Compiled from a variety of sources (primarily the writings of medieval chroniclers), the work is famous for its numerous illustrations and for the many woodcuts and descriptions of cities included in it. The Chronicle was published first in Latin in 1493, then in translation into German later in the same year. (The Lancaster Town Library has the Latin edition.)

Arrangements for the preparation of the Nuremberg Chronicle began in 1491, when Sebald Schreyer and Sebastian Kammermaister of Nuremberg contracted to finance the production of this impressive volume. Doctor Hartmann Schedel was already compiling the text. Artists Michael Wolgemut—to whom Albrecht Dürer was apprenticed—and Wilhelm Pleydenwurff were engaged to do the woodcut illustrations, and printer/publisher Anton Koberger to print the book. The compiler, artists, and printer were, like the patrons, Nuremberg residents.



Hartmann Schedel (1440-1514) was sent to the University of Leipzig at the age of sixteen. He graduated, attained the degree of Master of Arts, studied law for a time, and then settled upon medicine for his choice of career. He received his medical degree at Padua in 1466 and returned to Germany to set up a practice. He established himself at Nuremberg in the early 1480s, remaining there until his death. A serious bibliophile and book collector as well as a learned man, he left an extensive personal library that is today found in the Bayerische Staatsbibliothek in Munich.

Anton Koberger (1445-1513) was the most important publisher in Europe during the late fifteenth and early sixteenth century. Because Nuremberg was the commercial center of Europe in the fifteenth century, it provided the contacts from all over Europe and the financial prosperity that enabled



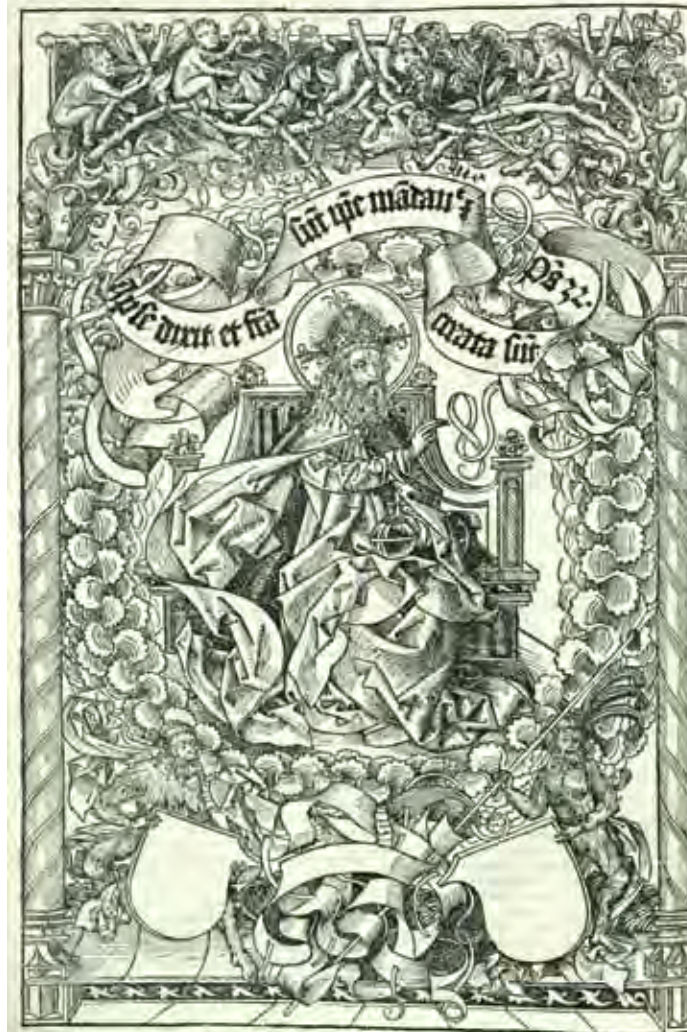
Koberger to achieve his tremendous success. He set up his press at Nuremberg in 1470—it was only the second press in that city—and worked as a printer, publisher, and bookseller. Conducting business on an international scale, he formed partnerships with other printers and publishers in Basel, Strasbourg, and Lyons, maintained an office in Paris, and hired agents in Milan, Venice, Antwerp, and Cracow, among other places. He also took advantage of the great book fairs at Leipzig and Frankfurt as marketplaces for distributing his publications. He issued a wide variety of books, was selective in his choice of editors and proofreaders, and was known as an honorable as well as an enterprising businessman. The Nuremberg Chronicle was one of the most lavish of Koberger's productions.

86. Hartmann Schedel (1440-1514)

[Liber Chronicarum.]

[From colophon] Nuremberg, Anton Koberger, 1493. Presented by Alexander C. Washburn.

Schedel's Liber Chronicarum is the only incunabulum (that is, book printed during the infancy of printing, prior to 1500) in the collections of the Lancaster Town Library. The Chronicle is unique among books of its period in that both records pertaining to its publication and the actual layout pages prepared in designing it survive (see Adrian Wilson, *The Making of the Nuremberg Chronicle*, Amsterdam, 1976).



RALEIGH'S HISTORY OF THE WORLD

The History of the World was the last work by English military and naval commander, explorer, courtier and favorite of Queen Elizabeth I, and writer Sir Walter Raleigh (or Raleigh) published during the lifetime of its author. Raleigh prepared it between 1607 and 1614, while imprisoned in the Tower of London, having been found guilty of scheming to dethrone King James I. He envisioned his *History* as a three-volume work but only completed the five books of the first volume, which dealt with history from the creation to 130 B.C. First published without the author's name in 1614 (two editions appearing in that year), it was immediately successful. Although an attempt was made to suppress it, the *History* was allowed to remain in circulation after the title-page had been cancelled. Later editions appeared throughout the seventeenth century and beyond.

87. Sir Walter Raleigh (1552?-1618)

The History of the World, in Five Books ... Whereunto is added in this Edition, the Life and Tryal of the Author.

London, George Dawes, 1677. Purchased.

Following the first printings of 1614, new editions of Raleigh's *History of the World* appeared at frequent intervals during the seventeenth century: in 1617 (with Raleigh's name on the title-page), 1621, 1624, 1628, 1634, 1652, 1666, 1671, 1677, 1678, and 1687. The life of Raleigh included in the edition of 1677 was written by John Shirley.

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