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.

41. Increase Mather (1639-1723)

_Neaven’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)


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)

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)

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)

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 Imagination 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)


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)

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.

50. Josephus (37-ca.100 A.D.)

Presented by Miss Fletcher.

51. Abijah Bigelow (1775-1860)

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.

53. The Child's Book of Nature

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 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 ...


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 Anglicus—the English disciple of Aldus.

55. Homer (ca. 8th century B.C.)
[From half-title of each volume] Homeri Ilias et Odyssea.
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, Poemata, Ex variis utriusque linguae scriptoribus. Inter poematia autem est Satyra elegantissiam, quae inscribitur lis, non prius edita ...
[Geneva], Henri Estienne [III], 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.)

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.

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, Verbum 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)
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.)
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 aesthetic 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.**

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...*  
Presented by Nathaniel Thayer.

**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 sylva 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...*  
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 acknowledgement 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 conteined 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.”

69. John Locke (1632-1704)

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.


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 Prevaling Notions of ... Freedom of Will* ..., first published in 1754.

**70. Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758)**


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**

Congregational 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.
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.

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.)

73. Thomas Paine (1737-1809)
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 candeour, 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.
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.

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].”
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.”
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—which first appeared 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.
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 ...
Purchased.

80. Samuel Griswold Goodrich (1793-1860)
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)
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 ...
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.

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.

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.

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.
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 Ralegh) 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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LPW


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