Capitol Hill Books

E-List 21B
- May Miscellany II -

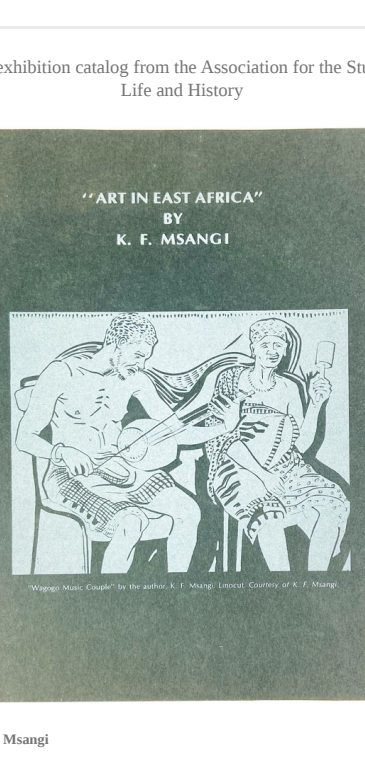
Dear friends and colleagues,

As promised last Tuesday, please find below the second part to our May Miscellany e-list, a mix of Americana, pamphlets, modern firsts, soothing alcohol steam baths, and fine press. As we like to say here at the rare book hangar, you can't spell "Daphne Du Maurier" without "Harold and Maude," so long as you lose the "o" and the "l" in "Harold."

Best,

The gang at Capitol Hill Books, ABAA/ILAB

Uncommon exhibition catalog from the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History



1. [Africana] K.F. Msangi

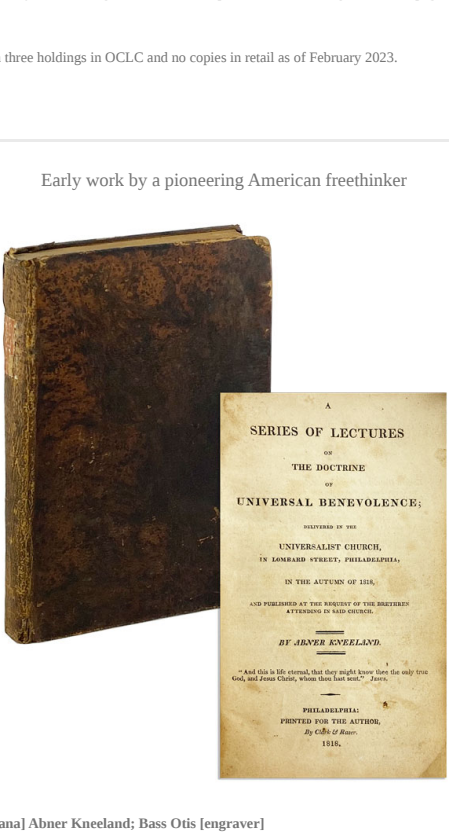
Art in East Africa

Washington, DC: The Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, Inc., 1972. First Edition. Octavo; publisher's staple bound pictorial wrappers; [16]pp.; black and white photographs throughout. Very mild curling to corners of wraps, otherwise binding sound and pages unmarked. Near Fine.

Scarce with three holdings in OCLC and no copies in retail as of February 2023.

Price: $75

Early work by a pioneering American freethinker



2. [Americana] Abner Kneeland; Bass Otis [engraver]

A Series of Lectures on the Doctrine of Universal Benevolence; delivered in the Universalist Church in Lombard Street, Philadelphia, in the autumn of 1818, and published at the request of the brethren attending in said church

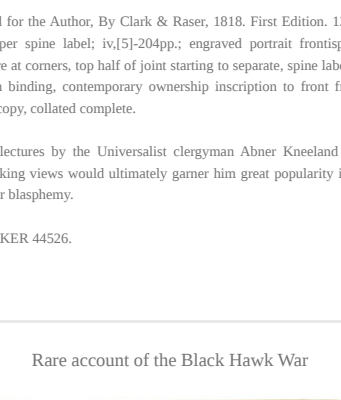
Philadelphia: Printed for the Author, By Clark & Raser, 1818. First Edition. 12mo; publisher's full flame calf, pink paper spine label; iv,[5]-204pp.; engraved portrait frontispiece. Boards rather scuffed with exposure at corners, top half of joint starting to separate, spine label chipped, textblock toned and shaken in binding, contemporary ownership inscription to front free endpaper, else a Good to Very Good copy, collated complete.

Early collection of lectures by the Universalist clergyman Abner Kneeland (1774-1844) whose increasingly freethinking views would ultimately garner him great popularity in the 1830s, as well as a stint in prison for blasphemy.

SHAW & SHOEMAKER 44526.

Price: $250

Rare account of the Black Hawk War



3. [Americana] Edwin Delos Coe

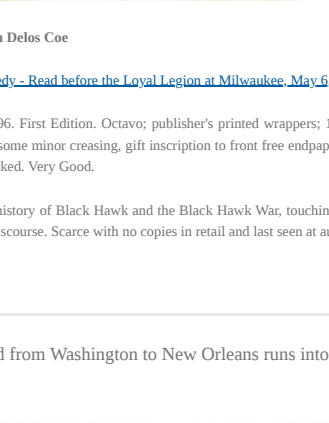
The Black Hawk Tragedy - Read before the Loyal Legion at Milwaukee, May 6, 1896

Milwaukee?: [s.i.], 1896. First Edition. Octavo; publisher's printed wrappers; 16pp. A few chips to corners of wraps with some minor creasing, gift inscription to front free endpaper, stain to p. 13, but pages otherwise unmarked. Very Good.

Brief though detailed history of Black Hawk and the Black Hawk War, touching upon its effects on the national political discourse. Scarce with no copies in retail and last seen at auction in 1929.

Price: $250

Surveying a road from Washington to New Orleans runs into complications



4.[Americana] Isaac Briggs and Thomas Jefferson

Documents Accompanying the Bill for the Relief of Isaac Briggs. Presented the 18th March, 1808

City of Washington: A. & G. Way, 1808. First Edition. Octavo (21cm.); removed; 5,[1]pp. Light foxing, spine nearly split, else Good to Very Good, despite slightly musty odor.

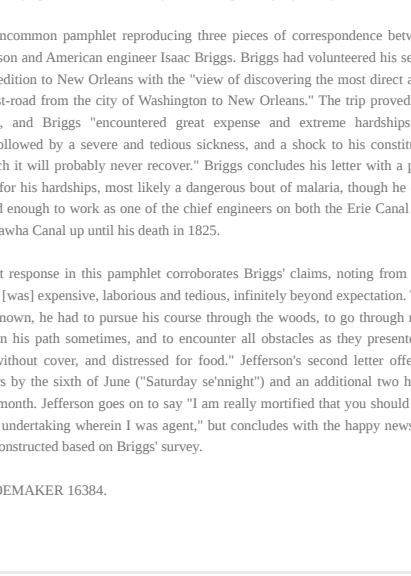
Exceedingly uncommon pamphlet reproducing three pieces of correspondence between President Thomas Jefferson and American engineer Isaac Briggs. Briggs had volunteered his services in 1804 to lead an expedition to New Orleans with the "view of discovering the most direct and convenient route for a post-road from the city of Washington to New Orleans." The trip proved more difficult than expected, and Briggs "encountered great expense and extreme hardships, which were immediately followed by a severe and tedious sickness, and a shock to his constitution from the effects of which it will probably never recover." Briggs concludes his letter with a plea for proper compensation for his hardships, most likely a dangerous bout of malaria, though he does appear to have recovered enough to work as one of the chief engineers on both the Erie Canal and the James River and Kanawha Canal up until his death in 1825.

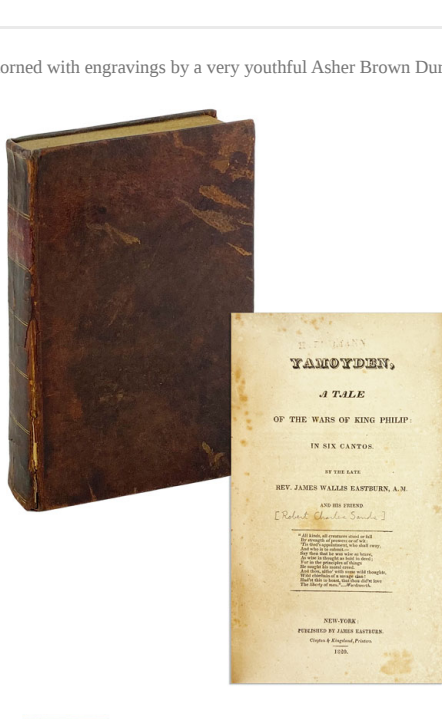
Jefferson's first response in this pamphlet corroborates Briggs' claims, noting from his report that "the enterprise [was] expensive, laborious and tedious, infinitely beyond expectation. The way being then quite unknown, he had to pursue his course through the woods, to go through marshes, swim rivers, cut open his path sometimes, and to encounter all obstacles as they presented themselves, sleeping out without cover, and distressed for food." Jefferson's second letter offers Briggs two hundred dollars by the sixth of June ("Saturday se'nnight") and an additional two hundred dollars the following month. Jefferson goes on to say "I am really mortified that you should have been left to suffer in an undertaking wherein I was agent," but concludes with the happy news that a road is indeed being constructed based on Briggs' survey.

SHAW & SHOEMAKER 16384.

Price: $750

Adorned with engravings by a very youthful Asher Brown Durand





5. [Americana] James Wallis Eastburn [and Robert Charles Sands]; John Neilson [illus.]; Asher Brown Durand [engraver]

Yamoyden, a Tale of the Wars of King Philip: In six cantos

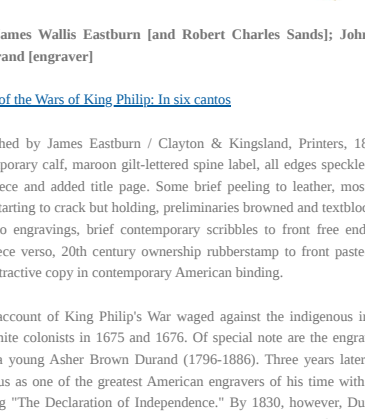
New-York: Published by James Eastburn / Clayton & Kingsland, Printers, 1820. First Edition. 12mo; full contemporary calf, maroon gilt-lettered spine label, all edges speckled blue; xii,339pp.; engraved frontispiece and added title page. Some brief peeling to leather, most notably at upper cover, front joint starting to crack but holding, preliminaries browned and textblock unevenly foxed, more heavily so to engravings, brief contemporary scribbles to front free endpaper, minor tape repair to frontispiece verso, 20th century ownership rubberstamp to front pastedown, else a Very Good, still quite attractive copy in contemporary American binding.

Lengthy poetical account of King Philip's War waged against the indigenous inhabitants of New England by the white colonists in 1675 and 1676. Of special note are the engravings, which were accomplished by a young Asher Brown Durand (1796-1886). Three years later, in 1823, Durand confirmed his status as one of the greatest American engravers of his time with his work on John Trumbull's painting "The Declaration of Independence." By 1830, however, Durand's interest had switched to landscape painting and he is today perhaps best remembered for his status as a leading member of the Hudson River School of painting.

SABIN 21659; STODDARD 1284; WEGELIN 941.

Price: $200

Sixty-five pages of calculations...



6. [Americana] John Barnard

The Certainty, Time, and End, of the Birth of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: With the accomplishment of several of the prophecys, relating hereto. A sermon, at the lecture, in Marblehead, December 25, 1729. To which is added, an appendix, attempting more clearly to state, the true year of our Lord's nativity

Boston: Printed for S. Gerrish, at the lower end of Cornhill, 1731. First Edition. Octavo (19cm.); removed, remnants of old calf along spine; [2],66pp. ([A]-I4, lacking half title and final leaf (blank)); woodcut initials, head- and tail-pieces. Small loss to bottom margin of title page not approaching text, textblock a bit toned, else Very Good and sound.

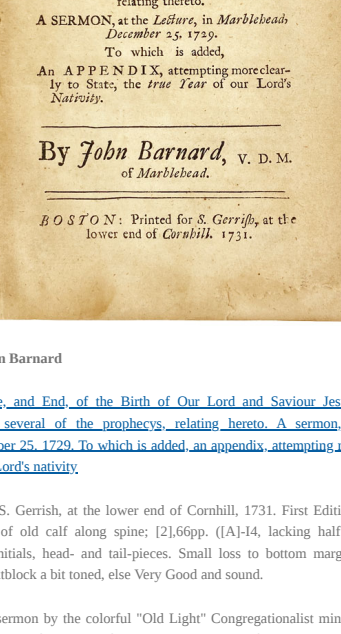
Lengthy Christmas sermon by the colorful "Old Light" Congregationalist minister of Marblehead, Massachusetts. After sixty-five pages of calculations, the orator finally concludes that "I cannot but look upon it, as more than a vain Conjecture, even, an established proposition, That Jesus Christ, our Blessed Saviour, was born some Time in October, An. J.P. 4711: Two Years, and two Months and some Days, before the common Aera" (p. 66).

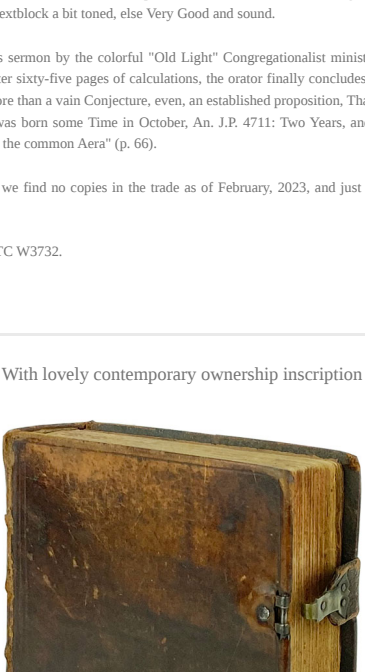
Quite uncommon, we find no copies in the trade as of February, 2023, and just one in the auction record, from 1903.

EVANS 3389; ESTC W3732.

Price: $850

With lovely contemporary ownership inscription





7. [Americana] [Mennonite Church]

Die Kleine Geistliche Harfe der Kinder Zion, oder auserlesene Geistreiche Gesänge, allen wahren heilbegierigen Säuglingen der Weisheit, insonderheit aber allen Christlichen Gemeinden des Herrn zum Dienst und Gebrauch mit Fleiss zusammen getragen, und in gegenwärtiger Form und Ordnung gestellt; mit einem dreifachen Register nebst einer Zugabe

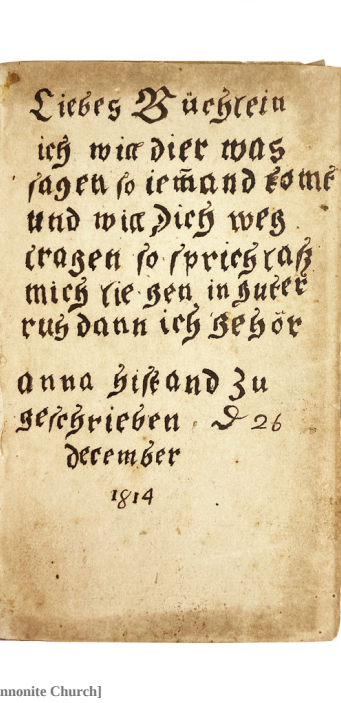
Germantaun: Michael Billmeyer, 1811. 12mo (17cm.); publisher's full blind-ruled calf, unadorned spine in six compartments, retaining original metal clasps; [4],39,412,[20],20,[2]pp.; woodcut frontispiece, head- and tail-pieces, music throughout. Minor shelf wear, spine a bit dried, else a Very Good, quite attractive copy, collated and presumed complete.

Provenance: Delightful contemporary (1814) manuscript ownership inscription of an Anna Hieland (or Gieland?) to front free endpaper, accompanied by a meticulous ode in blackletter to her "Liebes Buchlein" ("Dear Little Book").

SHAW & SHOEMAKER 23165.

Price: $250

Rare early history of baseball



8. [Baseball] C.H. Claudy; Christy Mathewson

The Battle of Base-Ball. Including "How I Became a Big-League Pitcher" by Christy Mathewson

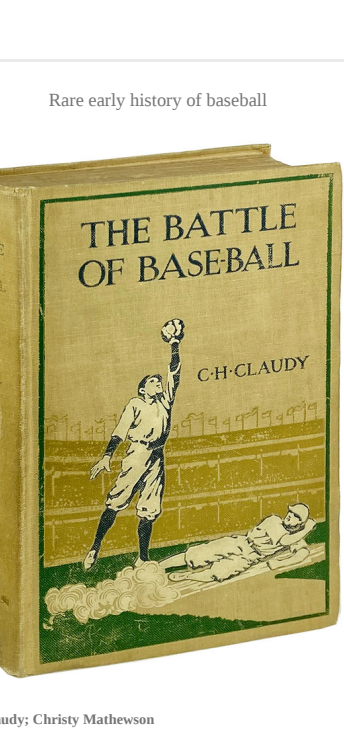
New York: The Century Co., 1912. First Edition. Octavo; publisher's beige pictorial cloth stamped in blue, green, and white; 377pp.; black and white photographs including frontispiece with tissue guard, collated and complete.

Very slightly ex-library with ghost of shelf label to spine and old number stamp to preliminaries, boards show light general wear with very brief exposure to bottom corners and mild scuffing to front; spine a shade faded and lettering starting to flake, contemporary ownership signature of "L.R. Burnett" to front free endpaper; bookseller ticket, pencil scribbling to preliminaries, but pages otherwise unmarked.

An exceedingly scarce history of baseball from the early 20th century. Includes a chapter from Christy "Big Six" Mathewson and a section on Spalding's rules. No copies in retail and scarce in auction records as of May, 2023.

Price: $600

None in OCLC



9. [Caribbean] Harris W. Cawley

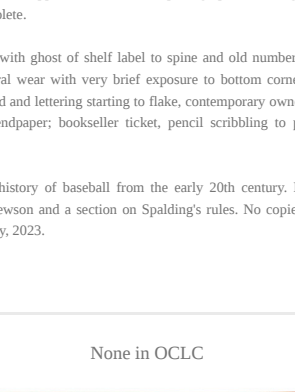
The Sound of the Abeng - A Synopsis of the Accompong Maroons [wrapper title]

Accompong, Jamaica: H. Cawley, [1980s]. First Edition. Octavo.; publisher's staple bound pictorial wrappers; 11pp.; black and white photographs throughout. Light rubbing to edges of wraps, otherwise binding is sound and pages unmarked. Very Good or better.

Scarce history of the Accompong Maroons and their struggles against the Spanish and British forces. Not in OCLC as of April 2023.

Price: $75

Well? Is she?



10. Charles Dickens

Is She His Wife? or, Something Singular: A Comic Burletta in One Act

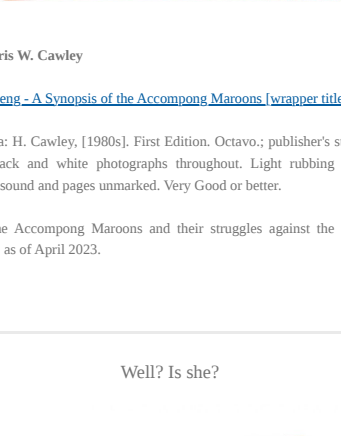
Boston: James R. Osgood and Company, 1877. First American Edition. 16mo (12.5cm.); publisher's reddish-brown decorative cloth embossed in black and gilt; 80pp.; illus. in text, publisher's ads printed in red on endpapers. Extremities a bit rubbed and spine lettering starting to dull, textblock a bit toned and shaken in binding; overall Very Good.

The third known edition of Dickens' early attempt at light comedy, though the first published appearance of 1837 is, as Eckels mournfully notes, almost certainly extinct, the last known copy having been lost in a fire. The first "available" English edition of ca. 1873 is an impossible rarity, making this American issue essentially the earliest edition on the market.

ECKELS, p. 178; GIMBEL B62.

Price: $400

A copy worthy of Ruth Gordon



11. Colin Higgins

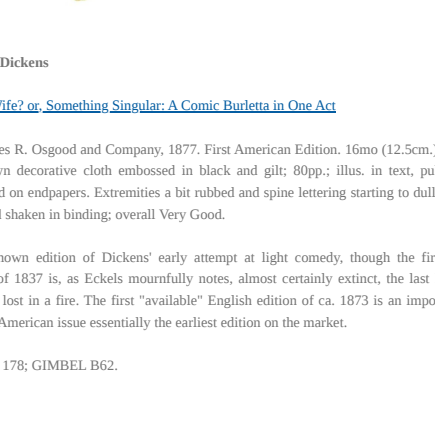
Harold and Maude

Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott Company, [1971]. First Edition. Octavo; publisher's cloth in white decorative dust jacket retaining original price ($4.95); 145pp. Light shelf wear, jacket slightly soiled, hinges starting to loosen, faint dampstain to fore-edge of early leaves, else a Very Good, bright and sound copy.

Basis for the cult classic film released the same year, directed by Hal Ashby.

Price: $125

"Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again"



12. Daphne Du Maurier

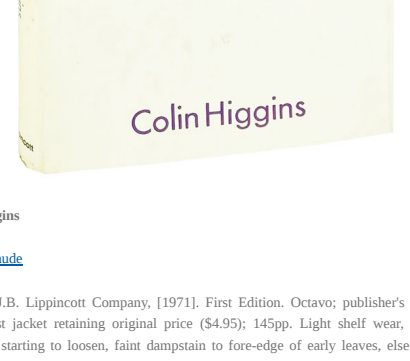
Rebecca [Signed]

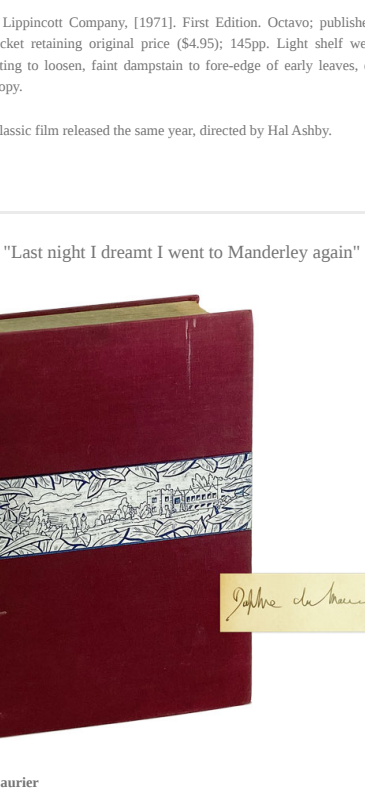
New York: Doubleday, Doran and Company, Inc., 1938. First U.S. Edition. Octavo; publisher's maroon cloth with silver illustrated wrap-around band; 457pp. Signed by Daphne Du Maurier on publisher's tipped in leaf preceding half title as is universally the case with signed copies of *Rebecca*.

Corners of boards slightly bumped; a few patches of white discoloration to front and rear; faint staining to rear board. Wormholing to text block margins, though text unaffected. Off-setting to endpapers, previous owner's signature to front free endpaper, pages otherwise unmarked. Overall still a Very Good copy of Du Maurier's gothic masterpiece, scarce signed.

Price: $2,000

Signed by the author & illustrator





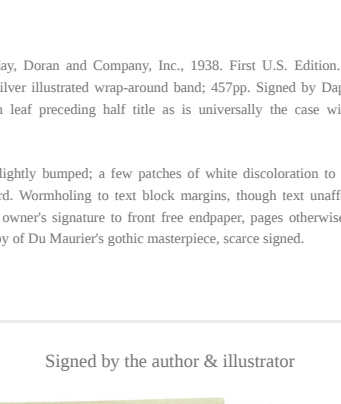
13. Eden Phillpotts; Frank Brangwyn [illus.]

The Girl and the Faun [Limited Edition, Signed by Phillpotts and Brangwyn]

London: Cecil Palmer & Hayward, 1916. First Edition De Luxe, Limited to 350 copies of which this is no. 185. Folio; publisher's decorative gilt-tooled vellum over grey paper-covered boards, top edge gilt, housed in custom cloth slipcase; [10],115pp.; tipped in color frontispiece and three color plates tipped in, full-page illus. and decorative borders printed in pale orange throughout. Corners and spine ends a bit bumped, light soil to boards, frontispiece tissue guard creased, else Very Good, contents clean and sound. Signed by the author and illustrator on colophon (p. [vi]).

Price: $300

Gorgeous copy



14. Ernest Hemingway

A Farewell to Arms

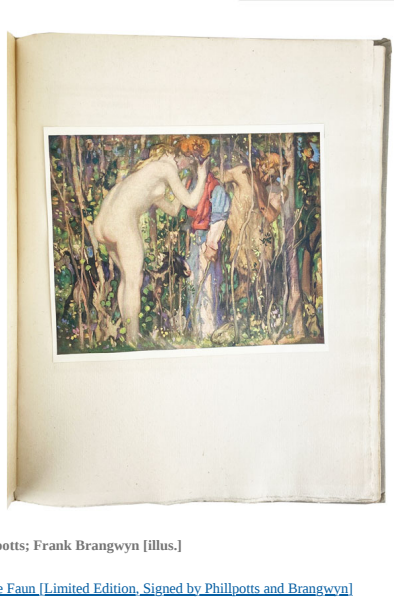
New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1929. First Edition, first issue with "Katharine" misspelled on dust jacket and lacking disclaimer. Octavo; publisher's black cloth with gilt paper title labels, illustrated dust jacket with $2.50 price present.

Dust jacket lightly rubbed along edges with minor chipping to top of spine with an additional nick to the "F" in "Farewell." Corners of boards slightly bumped, title label showing very minor rubbing. Previous owner's inscription to front free endpaper, brief pen scribbling to rear, pages otherwise unmarked. A Near Fine copy in a Very Good or better dust jacket.

HANNEMAN 8A.

Price: $4,000

Again, a gorgeous copy



15. George Orwell; Lionel Trilling [intro.]

Homage to Catalonia

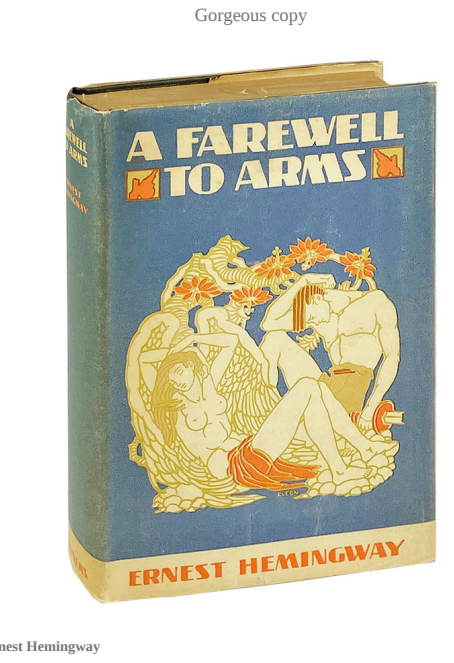
New York: Harcourt, Brace and Company, 1952. First U.S. Edition. Octavo; publisher's cloth in pictorial dust jacket retaining original price ($3.50); 232pp.

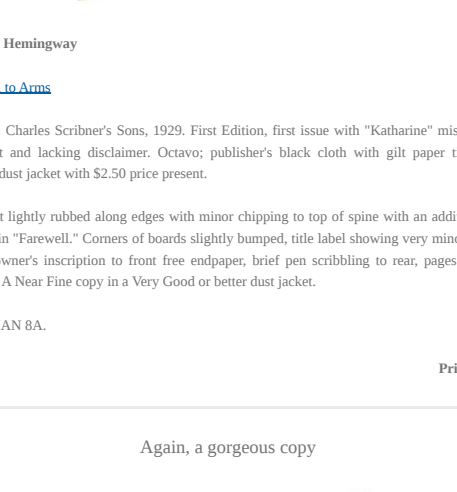
Dust jacket lightly rubbed with a few minor nicks; toning along edges, short strip of tape mending to bottom of spine verso. Boards show light shelfwear and corners slightly bumped; very small patch of staining to upper front corner. Slight lean to boards, otherwise binding is sound and pages unmarked.

A Very Good or better copy of Orwell's account of his personal experience in the Spanish Civil War.

Price: $450

Robert Herrick's risqué poetry gets the Golden Cockerel treatment





16. [Golden Cockerel Press] Robert Herrick; William Russell Flint [illus.]

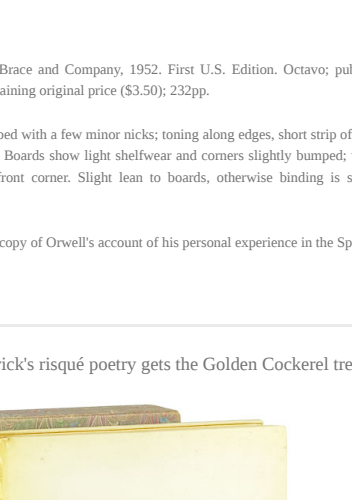
One Hundred and Eleven Poems [Limited Edition, Signed by Flint]

London: Golden Cockerel Press, 1955. First Edition, Limited to 105 copies specially bound in alum-tanned sheepskin of which this is no. 47. Quarto; publisher's full cream pictorial sheep (see above), front cover embossed in gilt, gilt-lettered spine in six compartments, binder's stamp "Bound by S&S, London" (Sangorski and Sutcliffe) on bottom turn-in of front board, top edge gilt, in original marbled slipcase; 127pp.; color frontispiece, illus. throughout, many full-paged. Leather rather toned at extremities and spine as is often the case, brief soil to rear cover, light fraying to slipcase, else a Very Good example, internally clean and sound. Accompanied by an additional suite of eight plates of Flint's illustrations, loose as issued. Signed by the illustrator on colophon in rear.

Splendid edition of the 17th-century author's risqué poetry with illustrations to match. The illustrations were reproduced by color-collotype at the Chiswick Press while the type was set at the Baynard Press for subscribers of the Golden Cockerel Press.

Price: $850

Graham Greene's copy



17. [Graham Greene] Oscar Wilde

Poems by Oscar Wilde with The Ballad of Reading Gaol [Graham Greene's copy]

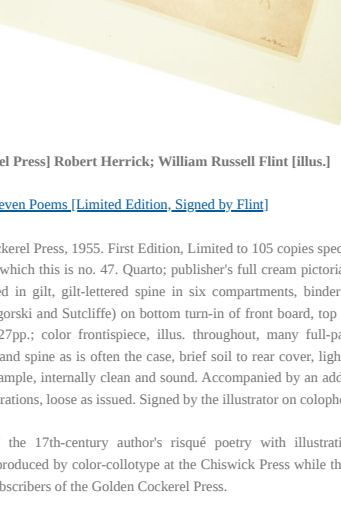
London: Methuen & Co. Ltd., 1921. Fifteenth Edition. Octavo; publisher's green cloth, gilt-lettered spine; 320pp. Provenance: Graham Greene's copy with his ownership signature to front free endpaper, as well as that of his older brother Raymond.

Light shelfwear to boards, a touch of foxing to endpapers, otherwise pages unmarked and binding sound. A Very Good, attractive copy.

Greene's ownership signature "d.d.H. Graham Greene" presumably from his time at Balliol College, coinciding with his poorly received book of poetry, *Babbling April*. Raymond Greene was a doctor and accomplished mountaineer who participated in the fourth British expedition to Mount Everest.

Price: $900

First Edition in attractive binding



18. Lewis Carroll; Henry Holiday [illus.]

The Hunting of the Snark: An Agony in Eight Fits

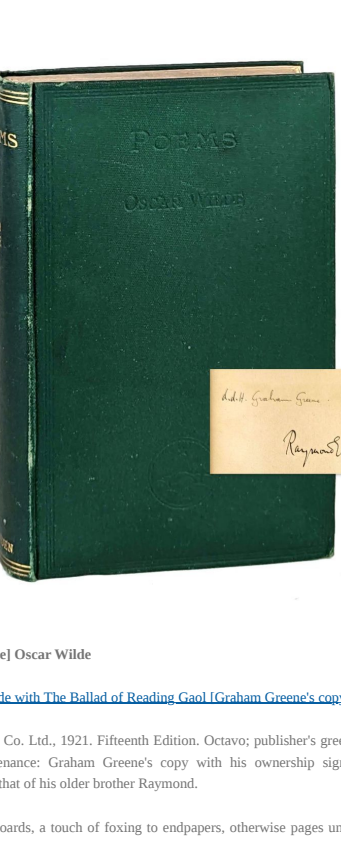
London: Macmillan and Co., 1876. First Edition with "Baker" on page 83. Octavo; slightly later full scarlet morocco by Bayntun, ruled and lettered in gilt, all edges gilt, marbled endpapers, original front and back covers and spine bound in rear. Housed in custom-made tan slipcase; 83pp.; nine leaves of plates.

Boards a bit rubbed with brief exposure along joints with one stray black mark to front, otherwise binding is sound and pages unmarked. Slipcase a bit rubbed at extremities with some general smudging. Very Good overall.

An attractively bound copy of Carroll's nonsense poem, drawing from his earlier work, "Jabberwocky."

Price: $450

The author's first book



19. M.F.K. Fisher

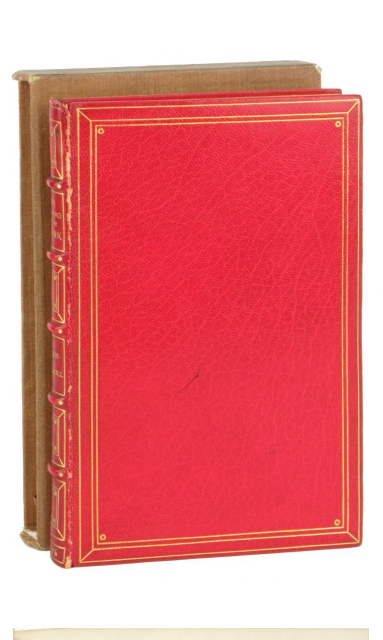
Serve It Forth

New York: Harper & Brothers Publishers, 1937. First Edition. Octavo; publisher's cloth in pictorial dust jacket retaining original price ($2.50); 253pp.; black and white illustrations throughout.

Jacket rather heavily chipped and creased along edges with general rubbing, but intact. Neat one inch tape repair to verso of rear flap. Boards show some light staining and sunning along spine and edges, though otherwise binding sound. Ownership inscription to front pastedown. One plate starting to loosen but present. Overall a Good to Very Good copy of the author's first book.

Price: $600

Signed by Sendak



20. Rudolf Tesnohlidek; Maurice Sendak [illus.]

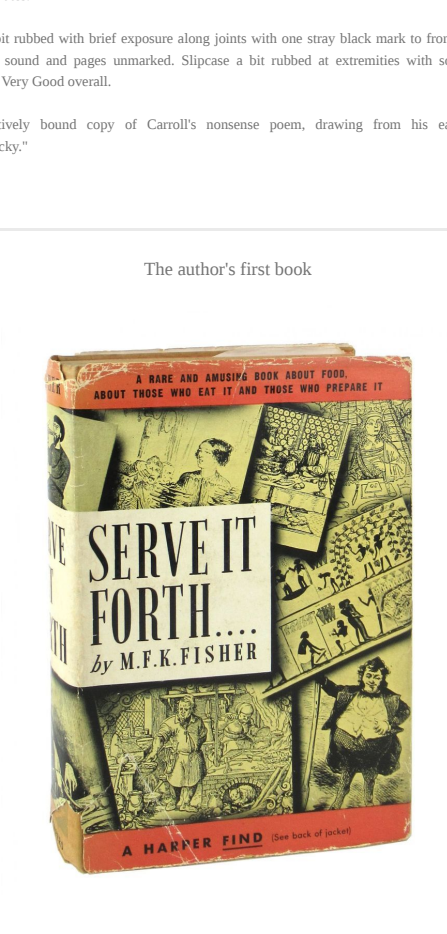
The Cunning Little Vixen [Signed by Sendak]

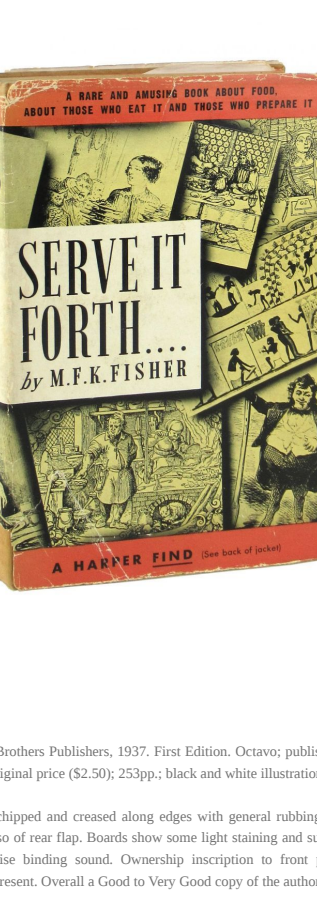
New York: Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 1985. First Edition Limited to 250 copies of which this is no. 169. Small square quarto; publisher's green cloth, color pictorial element mounted to upper cover, gilt-lettered spine, housed in original pictorial paper-covered slipcase; 186pp.; color illus. throughout, including pictorial endpapers. Signed by Maurice Sendak on colophon.

Light edgewear to boards and spine a touch faded. Binding is sound and pages unmarked. A couple minor nicks to slipcase and some rubbing along bottom edge; structurally sound. A Very Good or better copy overall.

Price: $325

Alcohol bath: Good for what ails ya





21. [Science & Medicine] Timóteo Cavalsassi Romano

Descrizione della Macchina pei Bagni Alcoolico-Vaporosi e sua applicazione alla cura di alcune umane infermitá

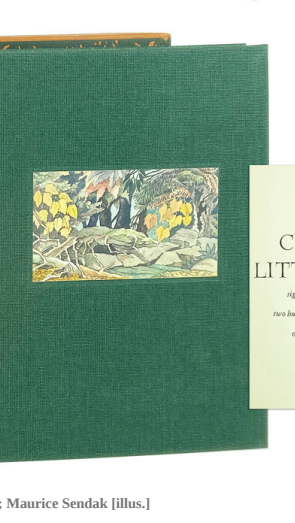
Roma: Tipografia delle Scienze, 1839. First Edition. Slim octavo (22cm.); contemporary green and decorative gilt textured paper-covered boards, contemporary manuscript private library label mounted to upper cover, red gilt spine label; 31pp.; engraved frontispiece. Light wear to extremities and spine, else Very Good, internally fine.

Brief historical and technical introduction to the practice of vaporous alcoholic "baths," presented by Timotéo Cavalsassi Romano of the Medical Society of Livorno (though dedicated to the members of the Medical Surgery Academy of Ferrara). The baths, a technique in which the patient is laid out on a bed with a tent fixed over the body from the neck down while alcoholic vapors are fed into the tent through a tube attached to a lit stove, were first introduced in the 17th century by the German-Dutch alchemist Johann Rudolf Glauber, best known for his discovery of sodium sulfate as a relatively safe laxative. By the time of Romano's writing, the baths were popularly used to treat rheumatism and syphilis, and the bulk of the text describes the treatment of soldiers of varying temperament and physiques (some "robust and sanguine," others "nervous and irritable" (our translation)), who experienced some form of alleviation after a series of ten baths. According to Romano, only one case did not respond well to the case, a woman suffering from rheumatism. Despite his whole-hearted endorsement of the procedure, Romano does offer some words of caution, urging his readers to take into account the patient's sex, age, social circumstances, temperament, habits, previous illnesses, and the season. Above all else avoid taking an alcoholic vapor bath during the hotter months: find another form of treatment instead.

OCLC locates two copies as of March, 2023, NLM only in North America.

Price: $850

Includes an uncommon contemporary attack on *The Age of Reason*



22. [Thomas Paine] John Clarke and Jeremy Belknap

[Sammelband] An Answer to the Question, Why are you a Christian? [WITH] Dissertations on the Character, Death & Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the evidence of his gospel; with remarks on some sentiments advanced in a book entitled "The Age of Reason."

Two volumes bound in one; full contemporary flame calf, red gilt-lettered spine label. Small blemish to spine foot, textblock a bit toned and lightly foxed, shallow loss to pp. 45/6 fore-edge of second title not quite touching text, contemporary ownership signatures to front free endpaper and first title page, 20th century ownership rubberstamp to front pastedown, else a Very Good volume overall. Contents as follows:

1. John Clarke. *An Answer to the Question, Why are you a Christian?* Boston: Samuel Hall, 1797. Sixth Edition. vii,[8]-80pp. (A-G6). EVANS 31940.

2. Jeremy Belknap. *Dissertations on the Character, Death & Resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the evidence of his gospel; with remarks on some sentiments advanced in a book intit'd 'The Age of Reason.'* Boston: From the Apollo Press, in Boston, by Joseph Belknap, 1795. First Edition. 140, [2]pp. (A-M6). EVANS 28256.

Two rather uncommon post-colonial religious tracts, that of Belknap's of special note for his violent response to Thomas Paine's recently serialized work *The Age of Reason*, accomplished while imprisoned in Paris. To Belknap's mind, this work belongs "Among other ebullitions of [vulgar] infidelity," "founded partly in pedantry, partly in debauchery and partly in ill manners" (p. 8).

Price: $500

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