Rootenberg Rare Books & Manuscripts Presents:
A Short List of Treasures Found in Durham
THE ORIGINAL HOW-TO BOOK


First published in 1555, this “book of secrets” went through 266 editions and was translated into six languages. It contains recipes and instructions for making medicine, cosmetics, ink, dyes, metals, perfume, pigments, paper, and much more. The author's empirical approach to science as a hunt for the secrets of nature was an important innovation in the writing of natural philosophy. According to Thorndike, “publication of the literature of secrets, medicinal and otherwise, received a great impulse from the appearance... of the Secrets of Alessio of Piedmont.” Although this text is by no means anonymous, this is the only known work by “Alexis of Piedmont”, and it is now generally accepted that Giolamo Ruscelli (1500-1566), an important humanist, wrote the *Secrets* under this pseudonym.

Thorndike VI, 215-216. $ 350.00
2. **BELL, Benjamin**

*A Treatise on Gonorrhoea Virulenta and Lues Venerea.*


**First Albany edition** of the “first [text] to differentiate between gonorrhoea and syphilis” (Garrison-Morton 5200, 2378). Although first published in Edinburgh in 1793, an advertisement to the present edition located in the frontmatter of Volume I indicates that this imprint leaves the original text untouched, but with numerous notes and case studies added in a smaller type “to render that work more valuable, by adding to it the improvements in practice as well as the investigations on the nature of the disease, which have been offered since the period at which the Author wrote.” Written by a surgeon with a special interest in pathology, this treatise covers symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and recurrence of venereal diseases in men and women. Bell pays particular attention to the spread of venereal disease between partners and from mothers to infants, stressing the importance of treatment to all those potentially exposed. The comprehensive index at the end of Volume II makes the work user-friendly.

Shaw & Shoemaker 30842; see Garrison-Morton 5200, 2378 and Heirs of Hippocrates 675. $400.00
Hirsch, Meyer

First English edition of the first published compilation of integrals. The text contains formulas for analysis of fractional functions, reduction, rational and irrational differentials, and transcendental differentials. Hirsch (d. 1851) was an otherwise unsuccessful German mathematician. He never made any new contributions to the field, but his expository books made excellent teaching materials. $150.00
A MONUMENTAL TEXTBOOK ON CALCULUS

5. LACROIX, Sylvestre Francois

*Traité du Calcul Différentiel et du Calcul Integral.* Paris: Chez Courcier, 1810-1814-1819. 3 volumes. 4to. lvi, 653; xxii, 820; xxiv, 776 pp. Eleven etched folding plates and numerous tables and calculations in the text. Modern brown cloth, ex-library. Internally clean and lovely.

**Second edition,** greatly enlarged. This textbook on differential and integral calculus was the most monumental synthetic work of its type. The author, a celebrated mathematician, incorporated the work of Euler, LaGrange, LaPlace, Monge, Legendre, Poisson, Gauss, and Cauchy. The book first appeared in a two-volume edition in 1797. It was translated into English in 1816 by George Peacock. Lacroix (1765-1843) wrote five important mathematics textbooks over the course of his career.

DSB VII, 550; Poggendorff I, 1340. $400.00

SERMONS FROM THE FIRST PATRIARCH OF VENICE

6. LAWRENCE JUSTINIAN, Saint


**Later edition** of the complete works of the first Patriarch of Venice. It includes his sermons on virtues and vices as well as commemorations of feast days and holy weeks. A table of contents precedes the main body of text, and a comprehensive index of words follows it. St. Lawrence Justinian (1381-1456) was ordained in 1406. He was prior of the Augustinian community at San Giogio in Venice that Constantinople, one of Venice’s primary trading partners, fell to the Muslims. He was instrumental in seeing the city through the ensuing crisis. He was beatified in 1524. $650.00
7. LAWRENCE, William

First edition, “the standard text for many years” (Garrison-Morton). This comprehensive manual details the different kinds of hernias, their causes, symptoms, and both surgical and non-surgical treatments, including medical devices. For example, the author recommends the use of an external truss to contain a herniated protrusion, illustrated on the first of the plates. The book concludes with a case study of a very specific nature: a man whose untreated scrotal hernia began to excrete feces. Lawrence (1783-1867) was a British surgeon and President of the Royal College of Surgeons of London. He was an early proponent of Darwinian philosophies on evolution.

Garrison-Morton 3587. $ 1250.00
NEWTONIAN THEORY FOR THE AVERAGE JOE

8. [NEWTON]. Pemberton, Henry
A view of Sir Isaac Newton’s philosophy. London: Samuel Palmer, 1728. 4to. [4], 407 pp. With engraved title-vignette of an observatory within a border of instruments, 12 folding plates, and historiated initials, all engraved by J. Pine after J. Grison, including the arms of Sir Robert Walpole, to whom the work is dedicated. Complete with subscriber's list (including Isaac Newton's 12 books). Recent cloth; a nice, wide-margined copy. Title browned but otherwise internally fresh. Final leaf reinforced.

First edition of this comprehensive summary of Newtonian theory. Pemberton’s writing is expository and humble, making the complicated mathematical and scientific topics accessible to the average reader. The author was friends with Newton for many years, and the preface contains Pemberton’s recollections of the scientist, especially in his old age. Pemberton (1694-1771) studied under Boerhaave at Leiden and was attached to St. Thomas' Hospital in London. Pemberton’s mathematical prowess was impressive enough to Newton that he employed him to edit the third and definitive edition of his Principia mathematica, 1726.

ESTC T53471.

$1750.00
9. PARKYN, George Isham

Monastic and baronial remains, with other interesting fragments of antiquity in England, Wales, and Scotland. London: T. Davidson for Longman, Hurst, Rees, Orme, and Brown, 1816. 2 vols. 8vo. xii, 120; [iv], 168 pp. Contemporary straight-grained black morocco, panels alike with gilt outer acanthus roll and inner blind chevron roll, spine and embossed labels gilt, board edges, turn-ins, and all edges gilt, minor rubbing to joints. Fore-edge paintings are concealed beneath the gilt on both volumes: Spencer House in Green Park on Vol. I and The Old Queen’s Head Pub in Islington on Vol II. Illustrated with 100 uncolored aquatint plates by the author. A fine, unique set.

First edition of this illustrated history of ninety-seven noble landmarks. Each concise entry treats the geography, history, design, materials, occupation, and, where relevant, tourism of the building. Although Parkyns intended the work to be comprehensively illustrated, but his publishers were unimpressed with thirteen of the plates, so the illustrations for those monuments were excluded from these volumes and offered later at an additional fee. George Isham Parkyns (1750-1820) was an English-born artist who specialized in landscape and architectural aquatints. He traveled to America in the 1790s and made connections in elevated political circles.

Abbey, Scenery 17. $650.00
10. PLUCHE, Noël Antoine


**Third edition**, enlarged, of this rare and interesting treatise on the perception, both ancient and modern, of the universe, the creation, and the superiority of Moses' cosmogony. Pluche here seeks to refute the entire range of speculation on the origin of the world which conflicts with Mosaic cosmogony. In displaying the excellence of the physics of Moses, which supposedly conforms to the teachings of both history and experimental physics, he carefully explains his opposition to the cosmologies proposed by those physicists which he termed "romans philosophiques." "In the _Histoire_, Pluche restated his opposition to the cosmologies proposed by the physicists. He also attempted to demonstrate that monotheism preceded polytheism" (DSB). The plates illustrate numerous Egyptian, Roman, and Greek mythological symbols. Many are signed by the popular Paris engraver, Jacques Phillippe Le Bas (1707-1783). Pluche (1688-1761), a teacher of humanities and rhetoric, was the leading French popularizer of natural theology. He is best known for his immensely successful _Spectacle de la nature_ (1732), which was used as a text on the Continent and in England. He encountered much criticism with the present work.

DSB XI, 44; Caillet, III, 8750. $ 750.00
TRIGONOMETRY AT ITS FINEST

11. SIMPSON, Thomas

First American edition of this important illustrated mathematical textbook. The title first appeared in 1748 and went through numerous printings in London before making its way to the New World. In addition to the seven folding plates of spherical projections at the end are dozens of charts, equations, and diagrams throughout the text. Thomas Simpson (1710-1761) was a self-taught English mathematician who became assistant to the chief master of mathematics at the Royal Military Academy and a Fellow of the Royal Society. He published eleven books on mathematics and is best known for Simpson’s Rule for numerical approximation of definite integrals. Shaw and Shoemaker 21548.

$ 125.00

PARISIAN VAUDEVILLE

12. [VAUDEVILLE] NOEL, Edouard
DARTOIS, Achille
SCRIBE, Eugene and DAUPIN, Henri
NOEL, Edouard
MOLIERE (POQUELIN, Jean-Baptiste)
SCRIBE, Eugene
SCRIBE, Eugene and MAZERES, Édouard Joseph Ennemond

8vo. 38; 40; 44; 84; 68; 40 pp. 19th-century half cloth over marbled boards, gilt spine. A bound collection made not long after publication of the individual plays. Some leaves browned, but overall a nice set.

A unique sammelband of short vaudeville plays performed in Paris. All are comedies of fewer than five acts, and include verse and dance numbers. Intended for individual and cheap distribution, these tracts represent an ephemeral genre and are rare in today’s market. $ 250.00
CELEBRATING THE LANDING AT PLYMOUTH ROCK

13. WEBSTER, Daniel


First edition of this oration celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Pilgrims' landing at Plymouth Rock. Webster details the efforts of the settlers in setting up a government, education system, trade, and military. He compares the settlements in New England to the ancient Greek and Roman civilizations in their brilliance and purpose, and he notes some of the important players in early national development, including Miles Standish, Cotton Mather, and Benjamin Franklin. Notably, he describes the land the Pilgrims met as a wild and uncultivated place without mentioning native tribal settlements, except for the sentiment of “Indian hostilities on the frontiers now being happily removed” (p. 67). He goes on to condemn the African slave trade as a morbid and un-Christian practice.

$ 250.00

14. ZECCHI, Giovanni


First edition of this bilingual guide to the funerary monuments in the Bologna cemetery. Written in Italian and French, each entry includes a plate illustration, a transcription of the epitaph, and an expository essay about the deceased and the monument. This work eventually spanned four volumes, with these first two issued in 1825 and the final two published two years later. The Bologna public cemetery was established in 1801 following a period of Napoleonic suppression of the attached Carthusian monastery. It was a stop on the Grand Tour and much praised by authors like Byron and Dickens.

$ 400.00