

Salem Athenæum

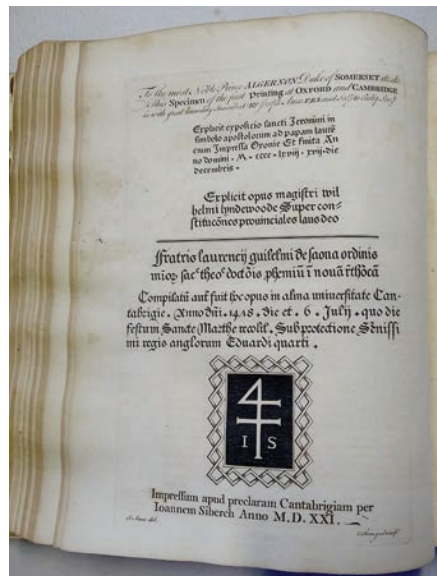
Adopt-a-Book January 26, 2020

Join us for a special opportunity to see Athenæum collections that are important and in need of conservation. Selections broadly reflect the age of reason, with scientific works on geology and optics as well as attempts to rationalize language and de-bunk spiritualists, magicians, witches, and ghosts. Voyages and tales of travel record landscapes, technologies, cultures, and wildlife previously unknown. Closer to home, an early American novel, the laws of Massachusetts Bay Colony, and books on fruit cultivation (by Hawthorne's uncle) and the print culture of the American colonies show the broad nature of books to be found in the Athenæum collections.

This year we are also asking for your help to restore the plaster busts on display every day in the reading room.

Each is listed below with a detailed description and the cost of conserving each volume.

Please contact Jean Marie Prociou for additional inquiries about these items and conservation in general at info.salemathenaeum.net or 978.744.2540.



Ames, Joseph. *Typographical Antiquities: Or an historical account of the origin and Progress of printing in Great Britain: Containing memoirs of our ancient Printers and a register of books printed by them.* London : W. Faden, 1749

An essential reference work on printing that includes a list of the first printers in Great Britain, their publications through 1600 and biographies of the printers, where available, that include plates with printing devices and specimen of type. Ames compiled existing research and went through libraries himself checking title pages.

\$420 or two shares of \$240

Plaster Bust of Sir Walter Scott

After Sir Francis Leggatt Chantrey, possibly by John Evan Thomas.

The sculpture was acclaimed for its likeness of the author and was much copied, including his tartan drape.

The Athenaeum bust was in storage for nearly 100 years, and at some point received a damaging blow to the back that left a significant hole.

\$900 or three shares of \$300



Plaster bust of George, Lord Byron

John Evan Thomas, sculptor.

This flattering depiction of a youthful Lord Byron was stored in an unprotected environment and as a result has water staining and grime.

\$600 or three shares of \$200

Plaster bust of John Milton

Approximately half the size of Byron and Scott, this bust of Milton has less staining but several chips.

\$510 or three shares of \$170





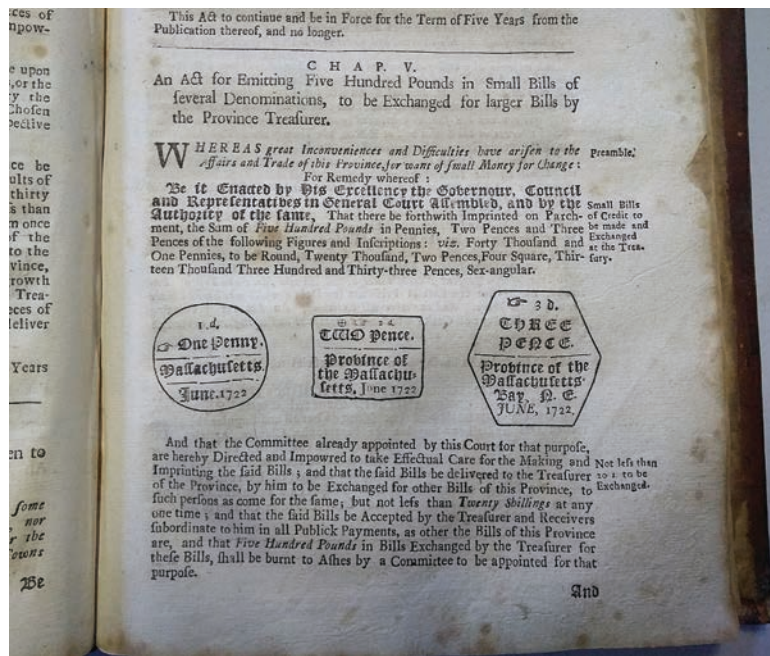
Chardin, John. *Travels of Sir John Chardin into Persia and the East-Indies*. London : Moses Pitt, 1686. First edition in English.

Born Jean-Baptiste Chardin in Paris to a Huguenot family, Chardin (1643-1713) undertook his travels to Persia at the age of 21 due to his father's position as a jeweler and shareholder in the French East India Company. He traveled through Turkey, the Black Sea, Georgia, and Armenia, on his way to Persia, then on to India, and returned to Paris in 1670. He set off again in 1671, arriving in Isfahan in 1673 and remaining there for several years, before once more visiting India and returning home in 1677. With the persecution of the Huguenots in France, he moved to England in 1680 and became court jeweler.

The first edition of his *Travels* appeared in 1686 concurrently in French and English. It was followed over the next decades by several expanded editions. The completed work amassed to ten volumes and has never been released in its entirety in English.

Chardin's work is regarded as one of the finest works of early Western scholarship on Persia and the Near East due to its range, depth, and accuracy.

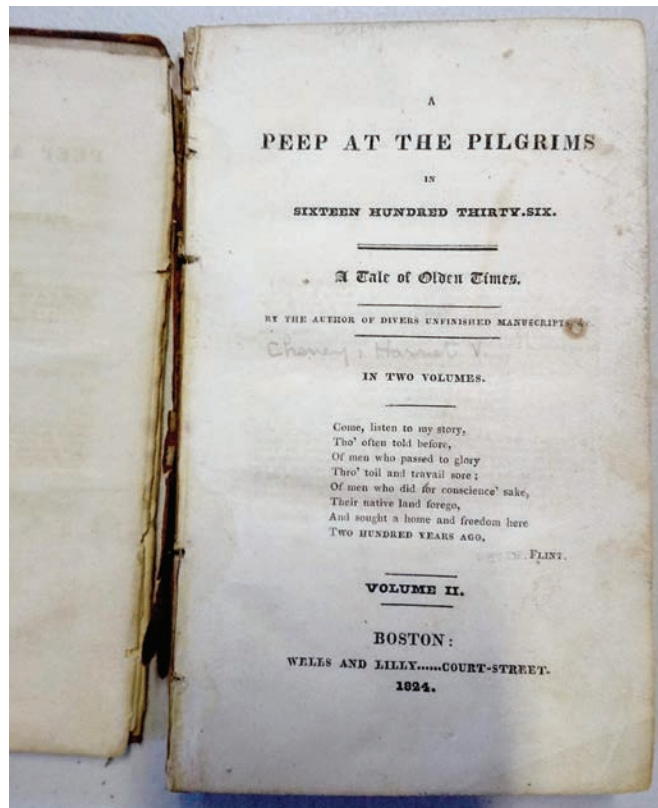
\$520 or four shares of \$130



Charter granted by their Majesties King William and Queen Mary, to the inhabitants of the province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New England . . . [bound with] Acts and Laws, of his Majesty's province of the Massachusetts-Bay in New England . . . [and bound with] a session law continuation to November 23, 1727. Boston : B. Green for Benjamin Eliot, 1726-1727.

An early and important compilation of the Acts and Laws of the Province of Massachusetts Bay that includes a separately issued printing of the session laws, extending the work to November 1727. The present 1726 edition is noted for the inclusion here for the first time of the newly adopted modification to the Charter, King George's "Explanatory Charter" (pp. 13-14), whereby the position of the Governor was further strengthened: he was given sole power to adjourn the House of Representatives, and the right to veto the House's choice of their Speaker. Includes tax rates, acts to establish new towns and public works projects, regulations for paper-making, distilling, and other articles and activities of daily life.

\$560 of three shares of \$140



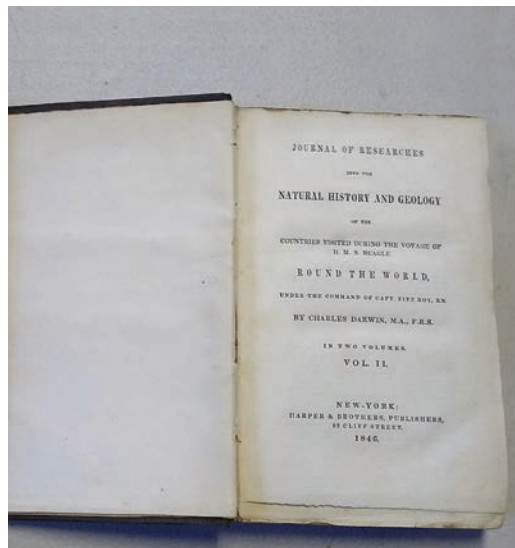
Cheney, Harriet Vaughn. *A PEEP AT THE PILGRIMS in sixteen hundred thirty-six. A tale of olden times. By the author of divers unfinished manuscripts.* Boston : Wells and Lilly, 1824.

This work helped to popularize the term “pilgrims” to describe the immigrants who arrived on the Mayflower and founded the Plymouth Colony.

An historical romance, the heroine faces danger after being captured by Native Americans. Her captivity is also her liberation, allowing her to escape the restrictions of her time, place, and sex and to experience a wider world than had previously been available to her.

Cheney was the author of several historical romance novels and founded a girl’s magazine with her sister, who was also a writer. Their mother, Hannah Webster Foster, was the author of one of the earliest American novels, *The Coquette*. Published anonymously in 1797, it was a fictionalized portrayal in letters of a real woman’s fall from grace.

\$840 or four shares of \$210



Darwin, Charles. *Journal of research into the natural history and geology of the countries visited during the voyage of H.M.S. Beagle round the world under the command of Capt. FitzRoy, R.N.* New York : Harper Brothers, 1846, 2 volumes. First American edition.

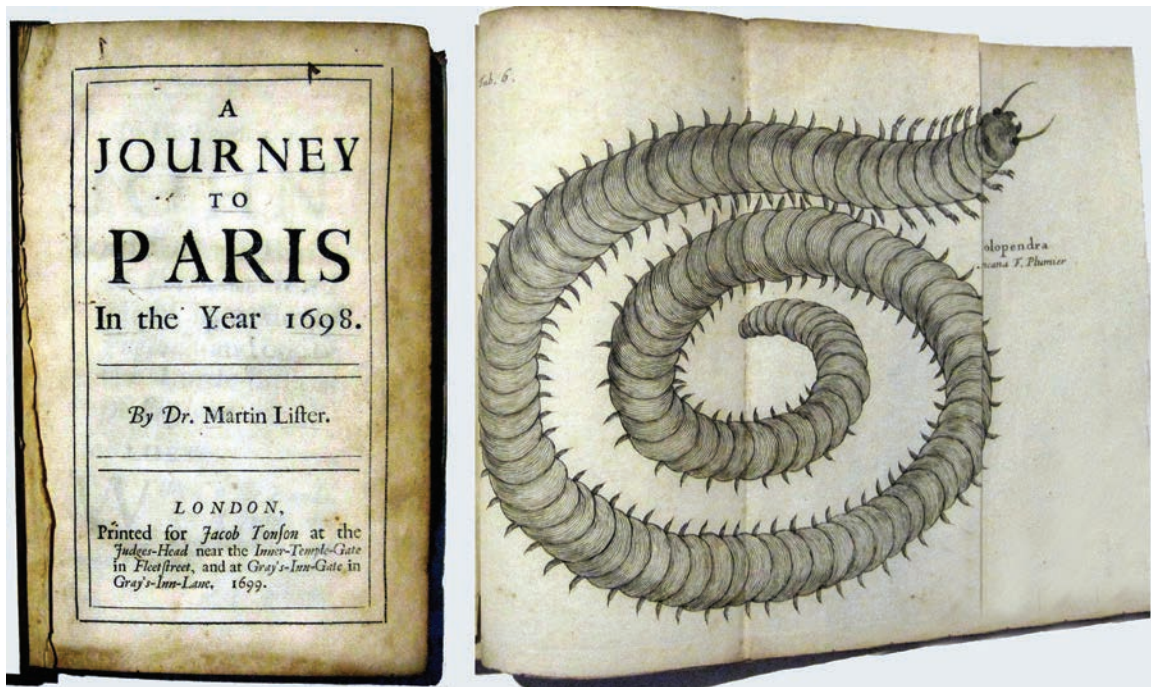
A 22-year-old Charles Darwin sailed with the British Naval mapping expedition aboard the HMS BEAGLE a few months after his graduation from Cambridge. He spent most of the next five years collecting specimens and taking field notes that would inform his later theories, including a critical 5-week stay in the Galápagos Islands of the Eastern Pacific.

\$600 or three shares of \$200

Hutchinson, Francis. *An historical essay concerning witchcraft. With observations upon matters of fact; tending to clear the texts of the sacred scriptures, and confute the vulgar errors about that point. And also two sermons.* London : R. Knaplock and D. Midwinter, 1718. First edition.

Hutchinson's survey of cases of alleged witchcraft includes an analysis of the Salem trials with a chronological table of victims who were executed. Not only was this work an important record filled with historical details, especially first-hand accounts by survivors in Great Britain, it also helped to debunk witchcraft claims and prevent the social upheaval inflamed by the trials themselves.

\$465 or three shares of \$155



Lister, Martin. *A Journey to Paris in the year 1698*. London : Jacob Tonson, 1699.

According to his preface, Lister was interested in daily life in Paris, not just going to tourist sites and visiting noblemen. He provides a detailed description of dress, food, gardens, types of carriages, road conditions, afternoon and morning entertainments, attitudes toward the king, the lack of street vendors, differences in salt, excellence of their mill stones, religious life, the manufacture of artificial eyeballs, etc., etc. All of which now document a long-gone way of life.

Lister was primarily a natural scientist, a pioneer in arachnology and conchology. His *History of Mollusks* was the top reference on the topic throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. He wrote fourteen books and sixty papers on scientific topics.

A member of the Royal Society and a medical doctor, Lister was the personal physician to the Earl of Portland who was ambassador to France in 1698. Lister had previously studied medicine in Montpellier, France for three years and traveled extensively throughout the country which gave him much more familiarity than a 6-month experience would indicate. Already known for his acute scientific observation skills, he brings his attention to detail to everything he encounters during this trip.

Lister's book was very well received and remained in print for over 200 years with ten editions in French and English and it even inspired a satire entitled, *A Journey to London*.

\$560 or four shares of \$140



Manning, Robert. *Book of fruits : being a descriptive catalogue of the most valuable varieties of the pear, apple, peach, plum, and cherry for New England culture*. Salem, Mass. : Ives and Jewett, 1838.

This slim volume contains a first-hand account of the orchards that Manning established in 1823 behind his home at 33 Dearborn Street in Salem. Manning was the successful manager of the family firm operating the Salem and Boston Stagecoach Line, and also a noted pomologist, specializing in pears.

Most notably for the Athenaeum, Manning was Nathaniel Hawthorne's maternal uncle. Manning built homes for the Hawthornes in Maine and on Dearborn Street and was responsible for Hawthorne's education.

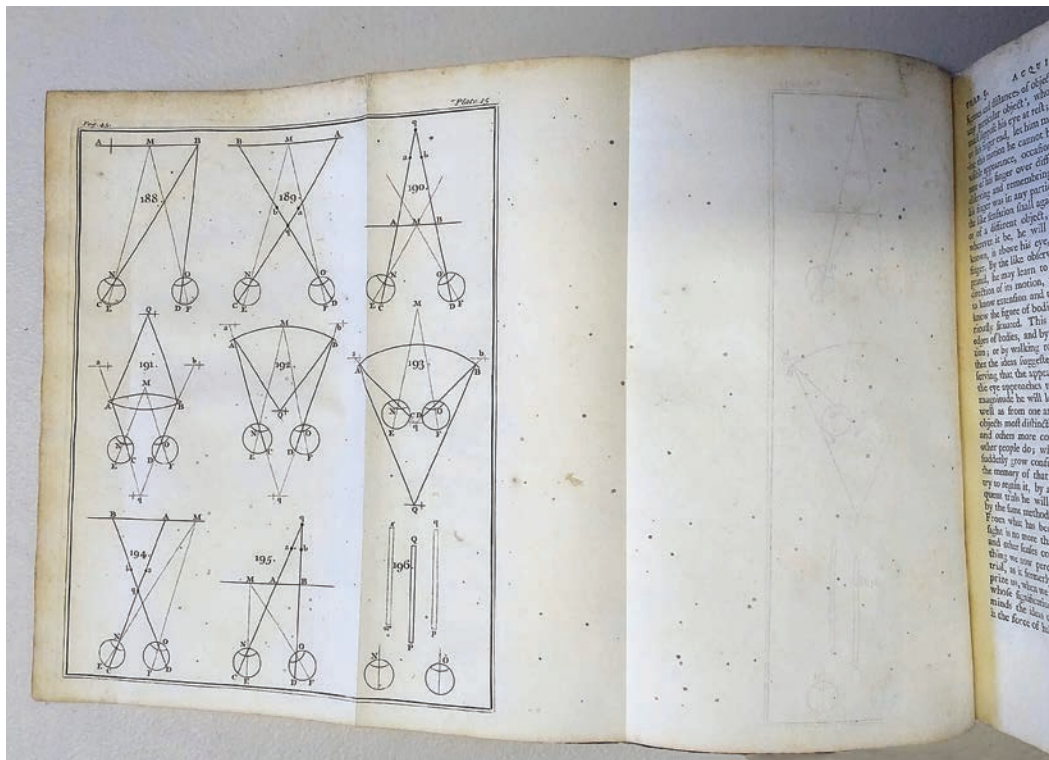
\$285

Phillip, Governor Arthur. *The Voyage Of Governor Phillip To Botany Bay with an Account of the Establishment of the Colonies of Port Jackson & Norfolk Island compiled from Authentic Papers to which are added, The Journals of Lieuts. Shortland, Watts, Ball, & Capt. Marshall, with an Account of their New Discoveries. Embellished with copper plates*. London: John Stockdale, 1790. 3rd edition.

In straightforward and unsentimental language, Phillip offers a full record of events both on land and on sea of establishing the first European settlement in Australia. This edition includes twenty engraved plates and several folding engraved charts.

\$495 or three shares of \$165

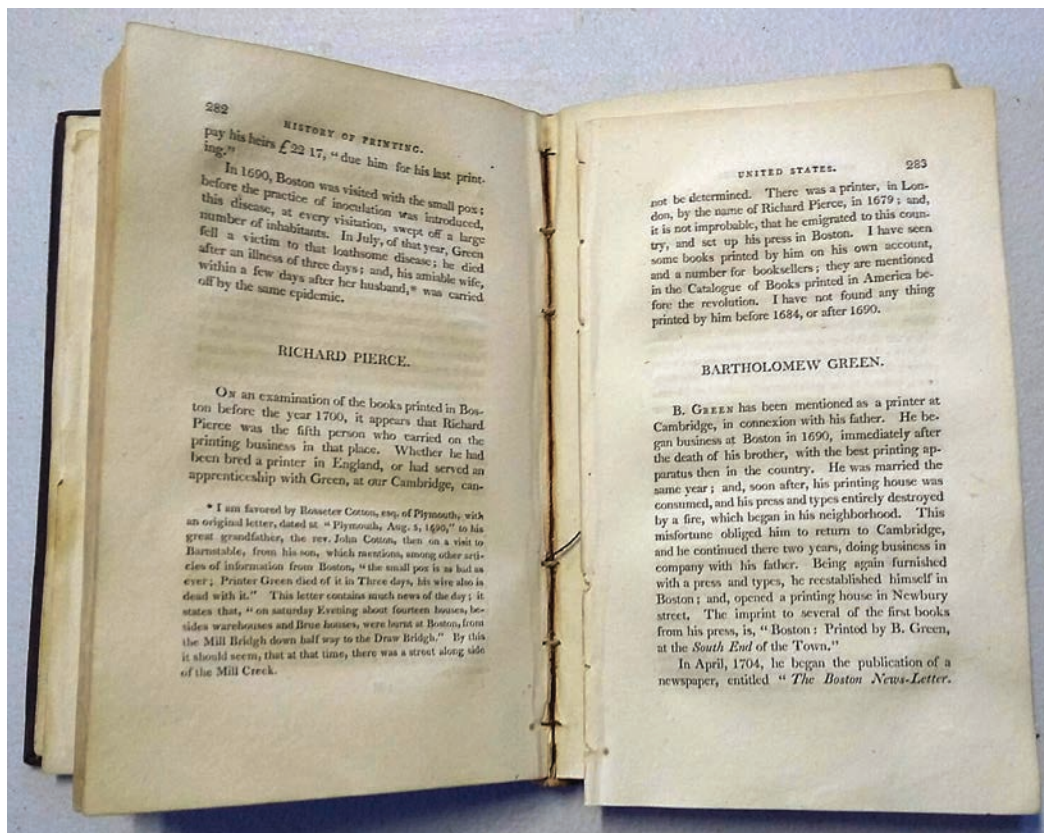




Smith, Robert. *A Compleat System of Opticks : In four books, viz. A popular, a mathematical, a mechanical, and a philosophical treatise. To which are added remarks upon the whole.* Cambridge : 1738.

Robert Smith's (1689-1768) work was the first textbook on optics, as a well as a manual for making optical devices. Because the book was clear, comprehensive, and reliable, it became the standard work on optics for its era and was very influential well into the nineteenth century. It is considered the authoritative work on Newtonian optics, in some cases supplanting Newton's own *Opticks*. There are 83 folded engraved plates in this first edition which helped Smith demonstrate his thinking and explain optical phenomena in terms of particles of light. It also earned him the nickname "Old Focus" at Cambridge where he had a chair at Trinity College.

\$495 of three shares of \$165



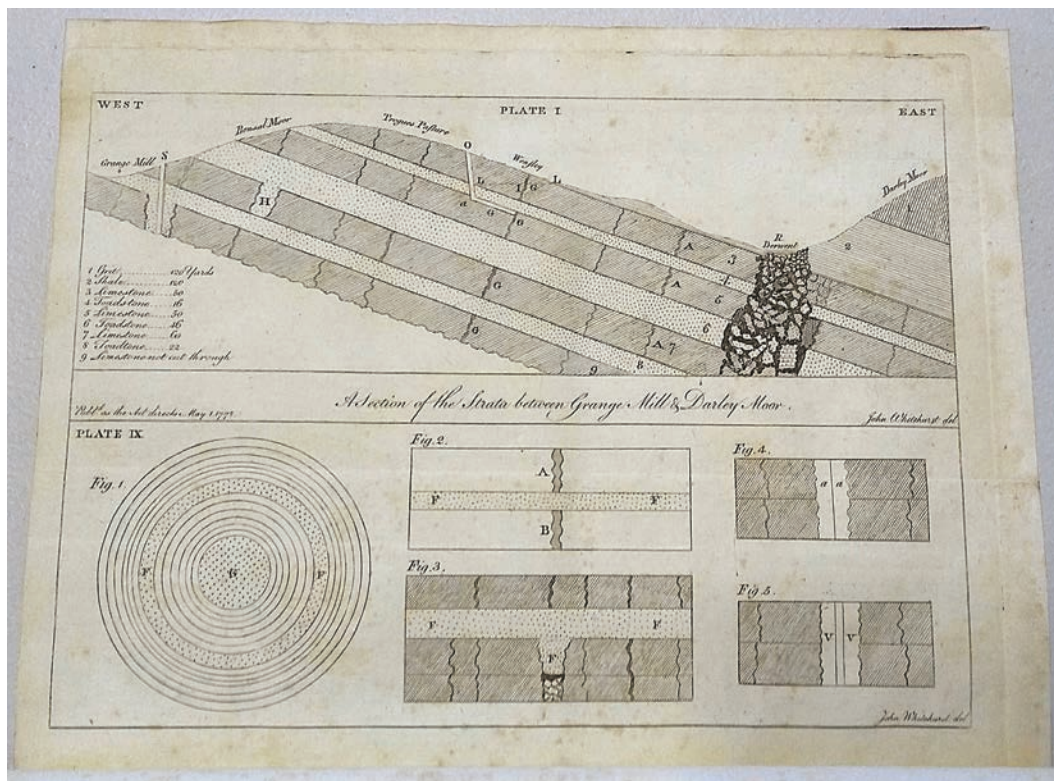
Thomas, Isaiah. *The History of Printing in America*. 2 volumes. Worcester : Isaiah Thomas, 1810.

The most comprehensive history of printing in America to date with chapter divisions by state and colonial region, including Spanish America.

Isaiah Thomas was an influential patriot printer who smuggled his press out of Boston. Upon setting up in Worcester, the first edition of his newspaper, *The Massachusetts Spy*, ran a first-hand account of the Battle of Lexington and Concord and continued to fan the flames of Revolution. Upon retirement, Thomas began collecting newspapers, ballads, and other works printed in America that documented his new country. He wrote this history based on his own collection which became the foundation of the American Anti-quarian Society library which he founded in 1812.

Bartholomew Green, described in the picture above, was the printer for the charter that is also being offered for conservation this year.

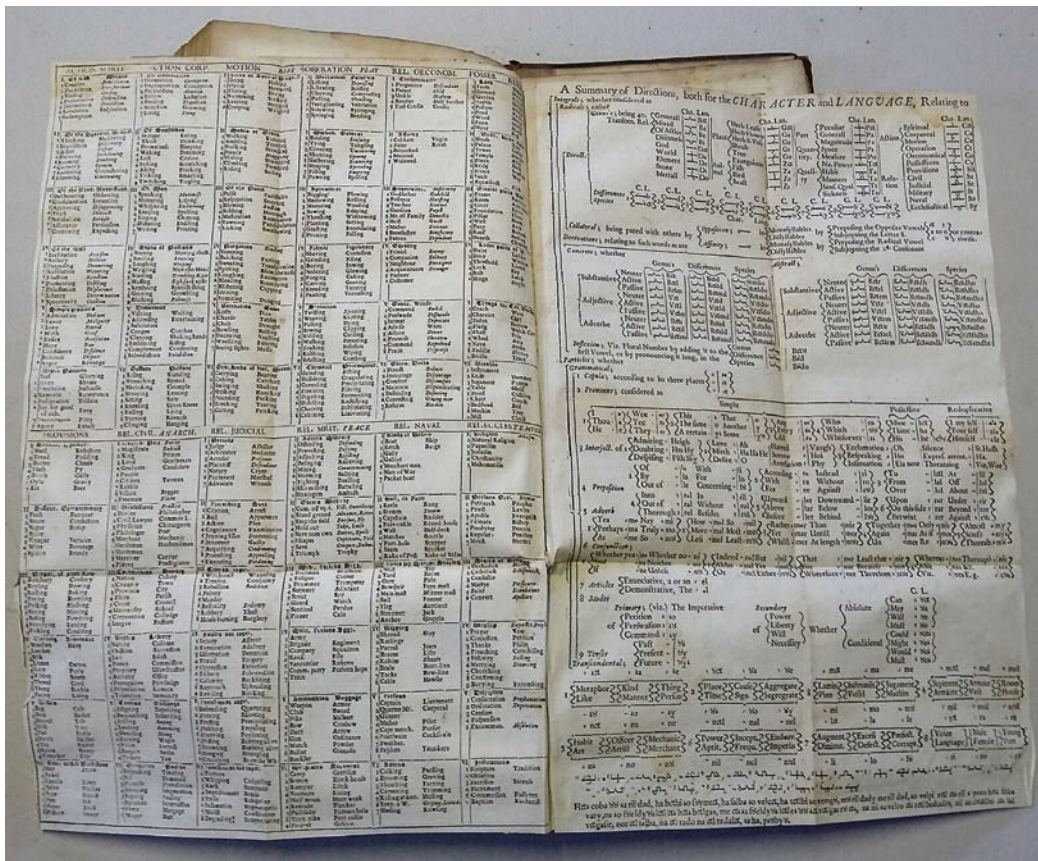
\$800 or four shares of \$200



Whitehurst, John. *An inquiry into the original status and formation of the Earth.* London : J. Cooper, 1778.

John Whitehurst was a clock maker, engineer, scientist, and Fellow of the Royal Society, who collaborated with Benjamin Franklin, Erasmus Darwin, and Josiah Wedgewood in geological investigation. His work furthered the study of geology with a theory to predict which rocks might exist beneath those close to the surface. This volume includes detailed section diagrams through the strata in Derbyshire as part of his evidence.

\$520 or four shares of \$130



Wilkins, John, Bishop of Chester (1614-1672). *An essay towards a real character and a philosophical language [with] an alphabetical dictionary. Wherein all English words according to their various significations, are either referred to their places in the philosophical tables, or explained by such words as are in those tables.* London : S.A. Gelliband and John Martin, 1668.

This ambitious work attempts to completely classify the English language through a scientific approach to create a rational, universal language. The dictionary includes about 3,000 words in 40 categories thought to be what a person could learn in a month.

As a founding member of the Royal Society, Wilkins's scientific approach to classify and rationalize in order to more effectively share knowledge was a hallmark of 17th Century scholarship. Although, his universal language didn't take hold, Wilkins remains highly regarded. He created an important work of linguistic history and his influence can readily be seen in works such as *Roget's Thesaurus*.

\$630 or three shares of \$210

The Family Library was a series of 51 non-fiction titles published by John Murray. Each volume sold for five shillings and was intended to be widely accessible for most readers. The first volume was a version of Sir Walter Scott's biography of Napoleon condensed by series editor and Scott's son-in-law, John Gibson Lockhart. Both Scott's *Letters on Demonology* and Brewster's *Natural Magic* were part of the series, which was published by Harper Brothers in the USA.

Scott, Sir Walter. *Letters on demonology and witchcraft, addressed to J. G. Lockhart, Esq.* New York : J. & J. Harper, 1830.

As a child of the Enlightenment, Scott writes skeptically about the persistent belief in witchcraft and the occult using sources from his own library including sixteenth- and seventeenth-century treatises on demonology along with contemporary accounts from England, Europe, and North America. With his extensive knowledge of Scottish literature, he also provides some insight into the treatment of the topic in his own novels. His work was very successful and reprinted often despite mixed contemporary reviews about his scholarship. It is now recognized as one of the earliest attempts to address magic and demonology in a scientific manner.

In ill health following a stroke, Sir Walter Scott arranged the work as ten letters addressed to Lockhart. Although he was long interested in the topic, he agreed to the work to pay off debts incurred because of his partnership in the bankrupt Ballantyne publishing firm.

\$420 of three shares of \$140

Brewster, Sir David. *Letters on natural magic addressed to Sir Walter Scott.* New York : J. & J. Harper, 1832.

Crafted as a follow-up to *Letters on Demonology and Witchcraft*, this volume also employs the epistolary style using thirteen letters addressed to Sir Walter Scott. Brewster was a natural philosopher specializing in optics, and an historian of science, as well as a friend and neighbor of Scott. He describes natural curiosities and man-made marvels and provides scientific explanations behind them.

Topics include magic lanterns, fire-breathing, spontaneous combustion, automatons, spectral illusions and various other phenomena. The book features images with flaps that creatively illustrate his text.

Brewster invented the kaleidoscope, furthered lighthouse technology before Fresnel, and Brewster's Law describes how to calculate Brewster's Angle or the angle of polarization used in laser physics, polarizing sunglasses, and in photography to reduce reflections on smooth surfaces.

\$495 or three shares of \$165

