James E. Arsenault & Company

PRINTED & MANUSCRIPT AMERICANA, MAPS, PRINTS, PHOTOGRAPHS, EPHEMERA,
FINE & RARE BOOKS IN A VARIETY OF FIELDS.

Short List #4

April 2024

click any image to view item on our site
VAUDEVILLE IN BOSTON, 1888

1. The Boston Howard Athenaeum Star Specialty Co The Leading Vaudeville Co of the World. Boston, 1888. Illustrated circular, 11.5” x 8.5”, front wrapper printed in black and orange, 13 unpaginated leaves, numerous illus. CONDITION: Wrappers detached, wear and chips at edges, a few document tape repairs to blank inside of front wrapper, otherwise good.

Scarcely circular advertising four matinees by “a first class legitimate vaudeville performance of the most refined order,” featuring two minstrel performers, an internationally renowned juggler, and other vaudeville acts at the Boston Howard Athenaeum during Thanksgiving week, 1888.

Star Specialty Company’s proprietors Rich and Harris assert here that no attendees to the Company’s Thanksgiving week matinees would observe any of the “stereotyped acts” common to most vaudeville companies, as each of their performers were “artists...without a ‘peer’ in their particular calling.” An illustration on the front wrapper depicts a parade of performers, including a banjo player in blackface, a woman in Egyptian garb, a seemingly East Asian person, a clown, and a jovial simian-like sailor carrying a banner advertising a report appearing in the Philadelphia Times proclaiming the Company as “always the best,” among vaudeville troupes. The Athenaeum Company included many performers from Europe and the Pacific, including “Les Carle Carmenelli Troupe,” performing as “The Musical Knife Grinders of Paris” from Paris’s Follies Bergeries; the “Prince amongst jugglers,” “Paul Cinquevalli,” and his family of gymnasts, from Italy; the “Premier Danseuse and Change Artiste,” Miss Ida Irwin, known as “the Australian Wonder;” and “the Neat Irish Gents,” Mr. “Tennyson and O’Gorman.” Among the domestic actors was a notable comedian appearing in blackface, “James F. Hoey” (probably the banjo player on the front wrapper), a staple of the Star Specialty Company performing a “budget of absurdities that never fail.” A review appearing in the Boston Evening Transcript on November 27th reports that “The Howard Athenaeum Star Specialty Company...has a number of persons who give remarkably brilliant performances. Worthy of first mention are the ‘Whirlwinds of the Desert’—four Arabs, and Will Poluski from England” and also “a very amusing blackface act is done by Wood and Sheppard, their quiet drollery being far more effective than the boisterous extravagance common to work of this class...The other features of this program are songs and dances...In a word, the entertainment is...brilliant.”

The Howard Athenaeum Star Specialty Company was known for its vaudeville troupes comprising notable American and transatlantic entertainers. Through the late 1880s and early 1890s, their name was synonymous with Boston’s Howard Athenaeum. Known as a prestigious theater for the city’s elite during the mid-nineteenth century, by “1868, with audiences decreasing due to the increase...of smaller theatres in Boston, Howard Athenaeum’s owners made a dramatic shift in the venue’s offerings, turning to the most popular variety of entertainment at the time: vaudeville...In 1869, the theatre presented its first performance in a genre that would become its mainstay...burlesque” (Shwalb). By the mid-1880s, the theater had fully reinvented itself as a site offering entertainment for the masses, featuring “instead of operas and ballets...minstrel shows and pantomime supplemented with special events such as the Human Fly, Tony Pastor’s comedic company, and...Sullivan’s boxing matches” (West End Museum).


Item #8821

$295.00

Scarce sheet music by the first Hawaiian composer to popularize Hawaiian songs with English lyrics, known as hapa haole music.

This song is arranged for voice and piano and evidences a typical ragtime rhythm. Intended to be played at moderate pace, the song is dedicated to Elizabeth Myers, “California’s Favorite Comedian.” Singer Keaumoko A. Louis recorded a version of it in 1926. The lyrics of the chorus read in part: “Goodbye Honolulu, you’ve been kind to me, yes, mighty fine to me you have been kind to me, / And when I’m back in my home town, / I’ll think of you / And I’m telling you true / So dear old Honolulu, oh, I hate to leave because I love you so that’s why / You bet I’m coming again I’ll write and tell you just when.” The back wrapper features excerpts of four songs also sold by Bergstrom Music Co.: “My Honolulu Tom Boy,” “My Hawaiian Maid,” “My Waikiki Mermaid,” and “My Honolulu Hula Girl.”

Born in Honolulu, Albert “Sonny” Richard Cunha (1879–1933) was a composer, band-leader, and entrepreneur. He composed his first song “Waikiki Mermaid” in 1903, which was followed by his 1905 hit “Honolulu Tom Boy.” While studying law at Yale, Cunha wrote Yale’s now-famous school song “Boola Boola,” and after graduating he decided to pursue music instead of law. He toured the mainland U.S. with his own group, combining Hawaiian music with popular ragtime rhythm. He brought this music to Hawaii and made musical history at the Hawaii Theatre where Hawaiians danced to his music. The vivacious rhythm of the hapa haole song brought recognition to Hawaii from around the world, and it proved to be influential in later compositions by Hawaiian musicians. Another of Cunha’s major contributions was his publication and marketing of his music. For a period, he served as director of both the Royal Hawaiian Band Glee Club and the Fatty Arbuckle Musical Troupe at the Hawaiian Opera House.

Established sometime around the turn of the century by James W. and John R. Bergstrom, Bergstrom Music Co. also published Famous Hawaiian Songs (1914), which included a substantial number of Cunha’s hapa haole songs, and manufactured instruments, including Hawaiian guitars. Originally from San Francisco, the Bergstrom brothers worked with their father, a well-known maker of church organs, before they came to Hawaii to install the pipe organ in the Bishop Memorial Chapel, Kamehameha School. By 1902, the Bergstrom Music Co. was operating in Honolulu and publishing sheet music by Cunha. According to the 1930 census, James and John were still living in Wailuku, Maui.

OCLC records only two copies, at Oakland Public Library and Baylor University.

REFERENCES: “Albert R. “Sonny” Cunha” at Hawaii Music Museum online; “The Unofficial Martin Guitar Forum” at Unofficial Martin Guitar Forum online.

Item #8764 $250.00

*A rare and charming French “blow book” or trick book consisting of nine alternating scenes, eight of which are hand-colored.*

Each scene in this volume comprises two plates facing each other: two young women and a girl opposite two men (one blowing smoke into the other’s face); a large-headed dandy facing a similarly bobble-headed woman, holding a bouquet with two small children behind her; a man with performing monkeys, and another (with a rather terrified expression) with a muzzled, dancing bear; Punchinello vis-à-vis a harlequin, both with frolicking children in tow; a French versus a Middle Eastern soldier, both with long rifles; silhouettes of performing acrobats, facing those of demons and dragons; a castle and a church; two flower arrangements; two sets of birds in a tree, and two intentionally blank pages, which would “create the illusion that the images have vanished from the book entirely” (Aikenhead). Each iteration of a set, except for the black and white demons and acrobats, is differently colored, providing variety—and an early cinematic effect—when shown in quick succession.

The Met offers a succinct description of how such trick volumes work:

> Staggered and subtle tabs are cut along the fore edge of the volume, corresponding to the pattern of repeating images, so that the performer can selectively flip through the book’s leaves to create the illusion that the same image appears on all of its pages. By moving the thumb’s location to a different tab or turning the volume upside down, while simultaneously blowing on the book to distract the audience, the performer can then flip through the book again, revealing entirely different images on the visible pages. This action gives the appearance that the book’s contents have been transformed. This can be repeated again and again, until all the different images have been revealed.


*A delightful magic book by popular French printers Gangel and Didion.*

4. Grigg, Elliot, & Co. Dissolution of Copartnership. John Grigg and Hugh Elliot this day retire...The undersigned...Lippincott, Grambo & Co. and will continue...Philadelphia: [Grigg, Elliot & Co.], 1 January 1850. Circular, 10.65” x 8.25”, on blue paper. Address panel: “Addressed to Messrs Brubaker & Smith, New Holland, Penna.” and bearing a postal mark. CONDITION: Good, a few minor separations along old folds, discoloration to verso.


Founded by John Grigg in 1823 and purchased by J. B. Lippincott in 1849, Grigg, Elliot, & Co. was for a time the largest and most prosperous publishing firm in Philadelphia. Their stock included poetry, medical texts, school books, almanacs, bibles, and maps. John Grigg and Hugh Elliot, the senior partners of Grigg, Elliot, & Co., here announce their retirement from the firm and state that all the business of the copartnership will be settled by Grigg and Elliot at the store, located at No. 14, North Fourth Street. The men were authorized to use the name of the firm for the liquidation of its affairs, and they here request that all who are indebted to the late firm make payment at their earliest convenience. Continuing the business of Grigg, Elliot, & Co. at the same North Fourth Street location are J. B. Lippincott, Henry Grambo, Edmund Claxton, George Remsen, and Benjamin B. Willis, “with increased facilities at the old stand.” It is noted that Lippincott is the well known publisher of fine editions of Bibles, Prayer Books, etc., and that Claxton, Grambo, and Remsen have been “raised in the establishment, and know the wants of the old friends and customers of the house.” The circular concludes by assuring the public that “the business will be conducted upon the same principle as heretofore.

As noted by his obituary in The New York Times, Grigg (1792–1864) arrived in Philadelphia in 1816, where he found employment as a clerk for bookseller and publisher Benjamin Warner “and so gained the confidence of Warner, that the latter, who died soon afterward, expressed in his will that John Grigg should continue the extensive business.” Subsequently, “Mr. Grigg...opened a store in Fourth-Street, above Market, and began the book business on his own account.” About Grigg’s store, a notice on its 1824 opening in the National Gazette and Literary Register announced that “the Subscriber, who has had the management and disposal of the late Benjamin Warner’s stock, has commenced the book and stationary business...and now offers for sale, at very reduced prices, an extensive stock of Books and Stationary, consisting of...an extensive variety of the latest and most approved editions of English, Latin, and French School Books.” His obituary further notes that through his “economy, diligence, and sound business tact” Grigg “created a trade that reached to all parts of the Union, and realized him a large fortune. He continued at the head of the firm of Grigg, Elliot & Co., until 1850, when he withdrew and was succeeded by Joshua B. Lippincott, who purchased...Grigg and Elliott, and with the junior members...established the present house of J. B. Lippincott & Co.”

No examples recorded in OCLC.


Item #8748 $275.00
Featuring an appealing illustration of a bear at the top, this circular lists fur garments manufactured by Hart, Taylor & Co., including robes, blankets, and coats of bearkin, wolf, genet, wildcat, fox, buffalo, raccoon, and seal. Also promoted are ladies’ furs “of all qualities” (some made from fitch, Hudson Bay sable, and squirrel) and children’s furs “in every variety.” The following note appears below the listed goods:

We would respectfully call your attention to our large stock of the above-named goods, of our own manufacture, and would cordially invite you to favor us with a call before purchasing any of the above articles, as we feel assured that we can offer inducements to the closest buyers. Our goods are all manufactured under our own supervision, in the best possible manner, and can, and will be sold on as favorable terms as by any other House in New England.

Hart, Taylor & Company was established in 1861 by Frederick Bourne Taylor and Thomas Norton Hart. The business grew to large size and was highly successful, becoming the largest in this line of business in New England. The company was located at 60 Elm & 12 Friend St. from at least 1861 to 1871 and was later located at Chauncy Street. In 1878 Hart retired from the mercantile business with a large fortune. In 1880 he was elected president of Mount Vernon National Bank of Boston, and in 1888 he became mayor of Boston. The firm was succeeded by Dyer, Taylor & Co., now Dyer, Rice & Co.

No copies of this broadside are recorded in OCLC.


A scarce, illustrated circular promoting a performance by the Hanoverian Family band in Charlestown, Mass.

The illustrations show the band—comprising ten people from three different families (Hatch, Shaffer, and Werner)—in various formations: as a “ladies’ helicon band” (i.e., brass band), a banjo ensemble, and a hand-bell ensemble. The group was led by Dr. William H. Hatch and many of its members played as many as three or four instruments. The “Extra Announcement” notes that appearing in place of the two Werners (whose contract expired July 1st) are Ike and Hallie Hanson. The group’s act opened with a “banjo pot-pourri” featuring eight banjos players and singing.

The group’s act also included ventriloquism and one of the illustrations shows ventriloquist Oscar Shaffer seated with two dummies on his lap. Most notably, the Hanoverian Family featured the “only silver-slide trombone band and the only saxophone sextette in the United States.” Invented in France in 1846, the saxophone was at this time still a novel instrument in the U.S. It is noted that the group’s six saxophones were imported to America at the cost of $1000, and that “there is not a musical organization in the United States that own[s] and play[s] as many instrument as this family.” The handbill lists the group’s recent engagements (New Jersey, New York, and Pennsylvania), and concludes by noting that the clergy has spoken in favor of the band: “We have upwards to two hundred letters from the clergy speaking of our entertainment in the highest terms, and recommending it to the public. The clergy are always welcome, and are cordially invited to visit us.”

OCLC records only one copy, at Middle Tennessee State University Center for Pop.

Item #8814 $375.00
7. Hrusa, Adolf, photog., compiler. Photographic shots from a journey from Chicago to California and back, undertaken in July and August 1905, prepared and dedicated as a memento to his son Jiri by Adolf Hrusa [translation from the Czech]. [Chicago, Colorado, Utah, California, and other locales, 1905.] Oblong 24mo (5.5” x 7”), blue cloth. 66 silver prints, mostly 3.5” x 4.5”, mounted on 53 leaves. 3 images cut to ovals. Manuscript captions in Czech. CONDITION: Wear to covers, eight leaves detached, three nearly detached; photos generally good, dampstaining to one image, and partial losses to a few captions.

A photo album documenting a 1905 western tour undertaken by a Czech American from Chicago who was active in the Freethinkers Movement.

Adolf Hrusa was one of many Czechs who belonged to the Freethinkers Movement (or Society of Free-Thinkers), an organization that split from the Catholic Church as a result of resentment stemming from the imposition of Catholicism by the Hapsburgs. Hrusa served as a Secretary of the free-thinking Bohemian Slavonian Union (est. 1892) in Chicago for a number of years in the 1910s and ’20s.

The present album documents a trip he took to Colorado, then west to California, Oregon, and Washington and back. The album begins with a manuscript title-page indicating that it was created as a memento for his son. Mounted beside the title is a photo of Hrusa, below which is a mounted flower (now partial) that he picked on Pike’s Peak. The one-page intro leaf details the route there and back—the whole trip taking twenty-seven days—which included a multi-day stay with his brother, Jan Hrusa, in California, who seems to have lived and worked at the Korbel Vineyard in Guerneville. The subjects of the photos include Denver scenes; a Hotel and Restaurant in Colorado Springs; Pike’s Peak and its railway; Salt Lake City; views in San Francisco, Sacramento, Santa Rosa and other California towns, including a couple on the steps of their house in Petaluma—the married daughter of Jan Hrusa (presumably Adolf’s niece) and her husband, J. C. Crowley who is shown in another image driving a horse-drawn cart; Portland, Oregon; Seattle, Washington; St. Paul, Minnesota; and an image in Chicago showing the Czech Worker’s Singing Society building. A number of images capture Hrusa’s own family and Hrusa himself, some of which were taken in Cary, Illinois.

Minutes kept at a 1921 meeting held by the Federation of Bohemian Free Thought Schools of Chicago lists Hrusa’s name—linking him to the Freethinkers movement. These minutes record that the Bohemian California Branch of the Czechoslovak National Alliance of America “sends a gift of $25 for the benefit of the Bohemian Free Thought schools. The gift was acknowledged and the secretary was ordered to send a letter of thanks. The Grand Lodge of the
Czecho-Slavonic Union, through its secretary, Mr. Adolph Hrusa, informs the Federation that twenty-five percent of the net proceeds of a picnic, which is to be given by the Czecho-Slavonic Union, July 31, 1921, will be donated to the Association of Czech Liberal Schools. It was acknowledged and the secretary was ordered to send a letter of thanks.”

The Freethinkers Movement began in Austria-Hungary around 1848 when serfdom was abolished, Hapsburg power was waning, and emigration from Czech lands was beginning. Believing in love, justice, science and art, members of the movement practiced a form of religion without the structure of a church denomination, buildings, or services. Some Freethinkers were atheists, but most were deists who did not believe in organized religion. Scholar Maratha Griffith details how “the religious situation among the Czechs has been unique, for among no other immigrants who have come to the United States have so many people professed religious liberalism … They gladly welcomed the American idea of the separation of church and state.” By the late-19th century in Chicago, Freethinker immigrants in Bohemian Pilsen (on Chicago’s Southwest Side) had built an extensive social network. A Bohemian Federation of Freethinkers in Chicago was established around 1910, and by 1937 there were twenty-three “free thought” schools in Chicago. The Freethinkers also created benevolent societies; organized children’s programs and adult lectures; sponsored musical and dramatic programs, and so forth.

An unusual album documenting the travels of a Czech American Freethinker in the west.


Item #6517

$1,750.00
The Illinois Central Railroad Company was established in 1851 as the first land-grant railroad in America. Here the Directors present an end-of-year Report and Statement of the Financial Condition of the Company, dated January 1st, 1855, and spanning the entire four years of the company’s existence. Among the matters addressed include Expenditures to January 1st, 1855; General Fund; Interest Fund; Lands; Receipts; Funded Debt; State of the Work; Structures; Equipment; Connections; Sources and Applications of Income; Revenue; Further Expenditures Necessary; Means to Meet Further Expenditures; and so on.

The map depicts the Illinois Central as well as the many other railroad lines criss-crossing the state, with a multitude of stops identified. Chicago appears in the top right corner of the map, the terminus of lines coming from all corners of the state and beyond. The map’s Explanation differentiates between railroads in operation versus those that are slated for construction. The main line of the Illinois Central is completed, while the branch from Centralia to Chicago is roughly two thirds complete. Notes regarding various construction projects appear on the left and right sides of the map, such as “Military Tract Road is nearly graded and tails will be laid early in 1856.” Also noted, near Chicago, is the dramatic increase in the city’s population, which is stated to have grown from 4472 in 1840 to 70,000 in 1854.

OCLC records a few copies of the map (or variants thereof), while the pamphlet itself appears to be unrecorded.

A rare pamphlet with a fine map depicting the progress of railroad construction in Illinois in 1855.
Jay, T. S. The International Fur Store 198 & 163 Regent Street. London: The International Fur Store, [ca. 1885]. 8vo (10” x 6”), chromolithographically illustrated cardstock covers, blue cloth spine, a.e.g. Frontis., [2] pp. text, 25 color plates with text opposite, 1 p. ad. CONDITION: Light rubbing to wrappers; spine rebacked with blue cloth strip; contents clean and bright.

This scarce trade catalogue features twenty-five plates showing models wearing various fur garments, with such names as Marcelle, the Danae, Heloise, Medea, Tristran, Latona, York, Cynthea, Maguier, and so on. A short description appears opposite each plate, e.g., “Fife. Long semi-fitting Seal Mantle, fastened on left side with silk ornament and cords.” The text spells out the philosophy of the business; addresses its American clientele; notes that its furs are sourced from all over the world; and relates that “a critic surveying an American lady as she tried on the sealskin ulster that had been made for her at the Store declared that it fitted her as mathematically as the fur had its original owner.” The store itself included showrooms, fitting-rooms, skin-rooms, keeping-rooms for storing furs, quilting rooms, and more, and was also something of a cabinet of curiosities, with a “large collection of mounted animals, suitable for museums, halls &c., including lions, tigers, bears, seals, monkeys, squirrels [and] mounted horns.” The illustration on the title page depicts a female customer in a fur coat greeting a stuffed bear; the front wrapper shows a bear pushing a fur-clad woman, decked in a bear rug, on a sled.

Established in 1882, the International Fur Store was managed by T. S. Jay. Unlike other 19th century furriers that promoted the exclusivity of their stores, Jay created a shop for all classes. Leaflets and trade cards advertised “the finest furs in the world” at low prices, and in the most up-to-date fashions. Sealskin coats and jackets, and other articles made from sable, sea otter, and silver fox skins were also sold. The Store remained open until at least 1938. T. S. Jay’s father operated an establishment that was also located on Regent St., called William Chickall Jay’s London General Mourning Warehouse (est. 1841), which supplied fashionable mourning attire for the well-to-do, as well as offering goods in a wide price-range to attract the lower classes.

No copies recorded in OCLC.


Item #5953 $575.00
A broadsheet advertising ornate designs for scroll saw work as well as scroll saws and related tools, offered by a Brooklyn-based tool dealer.

One side of this broadsheet shows sixty-five numbered fretwork designs, which correspond to a price list on the verso. These include “Wheelbarrow, clover pattern,” “Fruit,” a “Photograph Frame,” a “Wall Pocket,” “Birdcage,” “Perfumery Stand,” and many more. Their latest designs were products numbered 576–581, which included “Matchbox, Pauline and the Matches,” “Stereotype View and Instrument Holder,” and “Alphabet and Numbers.” Since these product numbers begin in the low 500s and end near 600, it is more than likely that these designs were only a fraction of those available from Farrington.

Surrounding the price list on the verso are vignette advertisements for the company’s latest tool offerings, including the “Demas Scroll Saw” which “has frame and table like sewing machines...tilting table, buzz saw emery wheel and lathe,” of a quality “worth double any cheap saw ever in the market”; a “Companion Drill” whose “cut gives exact size of Drill Stock, Drill Points, and Wrench,” all “nicely polished, other parts malleable iron, japanned”; a “Holly Saw,” offered “with 7 Valuable Improvements...it has a Solid Emery Wheel...Improved Clamps...Polished Nickel Plated Tilting Table”; and a “Chilion Scroll Saw” which “is, as its name indicates, a Finished, Complete, and Perfect Machine” and presumably all of the other scroll saws and tools offered by Farrington.

I.B. Farrington & Company, owned by Leveridge and Shopland, was a Brooklyn-based seller of “foot-powered scroll saws and other tools. It is unclear whether...[Farrington] manufactured anything or just dealt in tools,” but the company is listed in Nelson’s Directory of American Toolmakers (Early American Industries Association, 1999). The business operated from the 1870s into the 1880s.

REFERENCES: “I.B. Farrington and Company” at Davistown Museum online.

Item #8791

$375.00
11. Lindau, Leopold, author. Mayer, Merkel & Ottmann, lithographers. Catalogue of the Eden Musée, 55 West 23rd St. Price Ten Cents. New York: Rich G. Hollaman, 73 Fulton St., 1884. 4to (9.625” x 6.5”), chromolithographic wrappers. 72 pp., alternating text and blank pp. reserved for advertisements, 5 ads, numerous b&w illus. CONDITION: Good, one signature detached, a few very minor chips and tears along extremities, .24” loss at lower-left corner of front wrapper, spine edge curled.

A handsome guide to the Eden Musée wax museum, concert hall, and amusement center in New York City.

A vivid, theatrical illustration printed by lithographers Mayer, Merkel and Ottmann on the front wrapper depicts a military figure drawing back a curtain to reveal the stately, Second Empire-style museum building. The text includes diagrams and description of the exhibits in each chamber of the “Temple of Art”: the Vestibule, Entrance Hall, Central Hall, Sacred Chamber, The Crypt, and the Concert Hall. The Crypt includes tableaux of a savage Indian scalping; beheadings in Morocco; the French guillotine; cannibals; and curiously, figures of explorers of Africa, such as Stanley, Livingstone and De Brazza. In the center of Concert Hall are figures of U.S. presidents surrounding the Statue of Liberty, with various tableaux and figures set up along the wall; biographies of each figure and tableau. One reads: “Gen. George B. McClellan. This distinguished commander of the War of Secession, was born in Philadelphia on December 3rd, 1826…[As Commander], he won the great battle of Antietam but did not follow up on his victory. He was again recalled from the command-in-chief, and his career in the war was closed.” Also included are ads for E.R. Durkee’s “desiccated celery” and “Uric Acid,” called “Warner’s Safe Cure” and lauded as “A New King on the Throne.”

Item #5529 $375.00
A broadside published just over a decade after the death of General George Washington, featuring a fine emblematic engraving and text extolling Washington’s virtuous character.

Consisting of a lively scene within a border adorned with swags, the engraving allegorizes Washington as a great rock in the sea, standing firm amid crashing waves and a stormy sky with a streak of lightning in the background. The text praises Washington’s “rare endowments”: his even-keeled temperament; consummate prudence; disinterested conduct; the powers of his mind; the dispositions of his heart, and so forth. Also addressed is the intertwining of his life and the development of America, and the American Revolution:

Washington, placed in circumstances of the most trying difficulty at the commencement of the American contest, accepted that situation which was preeminent in danger and responsibility… He acted as if his country’s welfare, and that alone, was the moving spring… His prudent administration consolidated and enlarged the dominions of an infant Republic… A Conqueror, for Freedom of his Country! A Legislator, for its security! A Magistrate, for its happiness!

The text concludes thus: “His fame, bounded by no country, will be confined to no age. The character of General Washington will be transmitted to posterity, and the memory of his virtues, while patriotism and virtue are held sacred among men, will remain undiminished.” While the identity of the author of the text is uncertain, it enjoyed a certain degree of circulation, later appearing in The Columbian Reader (Boston, 1815), attributed to “Foreign Magazine” (we have been unable to identify a publication with this title).

As noted at the bottom, this broadside was first published in London by W. S. Blake (in 1800), with the same illustration (unsigned) at the top, an eagle with a Federal shield at the bottom, and the text in calligraphic form, the whole printed from a single plate. A scan of a copy at Mount Vernon can be viewed online. George Murray
copied the engraving on the London edition for this Philadelphia edition, and minor differences can be discerned, most obviously the treatment of the border.

Born in Scotland, George Murray (d. 1822) was a student of the noted English engraver Anker Smith, and by 1796 was engraving portraits and other images in London. First appearing in Philadelphia in 1800, Murray became a prominent figure in the Philadelphia Society of Artists. Between 1810 and 1811, he organized the bank-note and general engraving firm of Murray, Draper, Fairman & Co., which proved to be a large and successful business. In the U.S., Murray engraved landscapes, animals and several portraits. Since Murray apparently remained in London until some time in 1800, it is possible that he engraved the London edition of this broadside, which, as noted above, was published in that year.

OCLC records just six copies.


Item #5435 $1,500.00

BRITISH STEEL PRODUCTION THAT FUELED AMERICA’S INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION, 1831

13. [Pearson, Thomas.] A synoptical view of the qualities and adaptations of the sundry kinds of steel manufactured by Naylor & Co. of Sheffield. The process of using their metallic bath for hardening and tempering edge tools, &c. &c. is also described in detail. New York: Printed by G.F. Hopkins & Son, No. 44 Nassau-Street, 1831. 8vo (8.25” x 5.25”), marbled wrappers with pasted label “Steel tempering edge tools 1831.” 18 pp., 2 folding plates printed on yellow paper (6” x 14.25” plus margins; 8.25” x 6.75” plus margins). The second plate credited to “Browne, del.” Text signed in type on p. 18: “New York, November, 1830 T[heomas] P[earson].” Ownership inscription on ffep, “Jn Hutchinson 25 Maiden Lane.” Early inscription on ffep, “Important axe-makers, factories, and foundries.” CONDITION: Good, minor losses and chipping to wrappers, paper largely perished at spine; some toning and light foxing to contents, but generally well preserved and attractive.

A scarce promotional work by the important British steel manufacturer Naylor & Co., published in New York and including two lithographic plates by Pendleton, one depicting the company’s steel works and the other its metallic bath.

The Sheffield, England steel manufacturer Naylor & Co. (later Naylor, Vickers & Co., and then Vickers, Sons, & Co.) operated an extensive business in the U.S. and was crucial to its rapid industrialization. The company’s steel was used widely in America for the manufacture of a range of hardware such as axes, tools, knives, and cutlery, and was used by engravers, machinists, tool-makers, and others. The text covers over a dozen different types of steel the company produced and their uses. A portion of the text describes the plate depicting the company’s metallic bath and provides detailed instructions on how to use it to harden and temper edge tools.

This publication was intended not only to provide technical insight but also as an advertising and promotional tool to underscore the firm’s high quality products. While this was before the revolutionary Bessemer process was developed in the 1850s, the U.S. offices of Naylor & Co. were important players in the key advancements behind the Second Industrial Revolution. One of the company’s techniques was to send sales representatives to American customers to provide technical advice on their metallurgical problems.
An early and leading lithographic firm operating from 1825 to 1836, Pendleton’s was founded by brothers William Pendleton (1795–1879) and John Pendleton (1798–1866) and was located at Harvard Place in Boston—the city’s first shop of its kind. A splinter group from Pendleton’s Lithography comprising Thomas Edwards and Moses Swett founded Senefelder Lithographic Co. in 1828 in Boston, but by 1831 the firm was absorbed by Pendleton Lithography. A range of artists—some of whom would become quite prominent—learned the art of lithography while working at Pendleton’s, including Fitz Henry Lane, John H. Bufford, Nathaniel Currier, Benjamin Champney, David Claypoole Johnston, Robert Cooke, and John W. A. Scott. These artists created a variety of materials: maps, plans, portraits, fashion plates, topographical views, sheet-music covers, advertisements, and historical prints. In 1826, the brothers won a silver medal for the “Best Specimen of Lithography” at the annual exhibition of the Franklin Institute, Philadelphia. In 1829 John Pendleton went to Philadelphia to start the firm of Pendleton, Kearney & Childs, and moved later in the same year to New York to start his own company.

OCLC records three copies in the US and one in the UK.

A COUPLE VISITS THE NEW YORK WORLD’S FAIR IN 1939 AND 1940

14. [Photo album including 1939–40 World’s Fair content.] Photographs. [New York, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and other locales, 3 Sept. 1936–23 Nov. 1940.] Oblong 12mo (7.4” x 11.5”), blind-stamped brown marbled paper on boards. 200 b&w photos in three sizes (2.75” x 1.75”, 3” x 2.5”, and 3” x 4.5”), plus one 8.5” x 5.75” sepia-toned portrait; with manuscript white paper labels on black album paper. CONDITION: Very good, images clean with varied tonality, a few images overexposed or blurry as is common for snapshots, album leaves partially perished at edges.

A photo album compiled by an unidentified young couple documenting their vacations between 1936 and 1940, including a substantial number of photos of the 1939–40 New York World’s Fair.

The 1939–40 New York World’s Fair opened on April 30th, 1939 in Flushing Meadow, Queens. The first exposition to have a futuristic theme (“World of Tomorrow”), it hosted exhibits by sixty countries, the League of Nations, thirty-three U.S. states, several federal agencies, and the City of New York. By the time the fair closed on October 26th, 1940, over forty-four million people had visited the fair.

Seventy-four photos in this album depict the World’s Fair and its buildings and landscapes in both 1939 and 1940, indicating that the couple visited at least twice. Images picture the buildings/pavilions of the League of Nations, Westinghouse, Corning Glass Works, and the modernist sculptures Trylon and Perisphere, as well as pavilions for individual nations including Poland, France, Japan, Russia, Italy, and America. Other highlights of the fair pictured here include Trains on Parade, the City of Light (presented by Consolidated Edison), man-made lightning, a view of the inside of the Perisphere, fountains, sculptures, elevated views of the fair, and the French ocean liner SS Normandie (the most powerful steam turbo-electric-propelled passenger ship ever built, crossing the Atlantic in a record 4.14 days). One image shows a group of Polish children wearing traditional Polish clothing, and several show the unidentified couple posing at the fair. A few evocative shots capture the fair at night, and a number of images reveal the house where the couple stayed during the fair.

A series of photos document a visit to West Point, New York on August 14th, 1938, including images of statues, an armed cadet, the West Point campus, and cadets engaged in drills on the school’s training grounds. Between 1936 and 1940 the couple visited the Mohawk Trail in Massachusetts (included here are a shot of a confined bear on the Trail, and a couple of shots show the couple posing next to a statue of a Native American man); Forest Park, Massachusetts; Hubbard Park, Connecticut; Bronx Park, New York (several images of caged animals in the zoo); Benson’s Wild Animal Farm, New Hampshire, and Highland Lake, Winstead, Rhode Island. The album concludes with several shots taken on Thanksgiving Day in 1940—a little less than a month after the World’s Fair ended.

An appealing album with considerable documentation of the 1939–40 New York World’s Fair.

Item #5494 $450.00
15. Reformed Mission School, Sendai, Japan. [Sendai, Japan, ca. 1900]. Tinted lithograph with ornamental border, 8.75” x 10”; sheet size, 10” x 13”. CONDITION: Very good, light wear, edge wear along margins.

A scarce lithograph picturing the students and teachers of the Reformed Mission School in Sendai, Japan, for a time one of the largest Christian schools for girls in Japan.

This image, clearly based on a photograph, shows two American women among dozens of Japanese women and girls standing in front of the mission school and a variety of trees and shrubs. Text below the image reads: “Founded in September 1886 by Miss Lizzie R. Poorbaugh and Miss Mary B. Ault, Missionaries of the Reformed Church in the United States. Miss Ault is on the left side of the picture among the smaller girls. Miss Poorbaugh is seated near the centre, with her niece Kitty on her lap. Kitty is known for her white apron.”

Miyagi Jogakko (School for Girls) was originally opened by Poorbaugh and Ault in a Japanese house, with the intention of liberating women from the shackles placed on them by the society of that time. Compared to Tokyo, Sendai was an undeveloped region. In 1888, a frame building was erected and this served as the home of the school until 1902, when it was destroyed by fire. The school was rebuilt the next year. The standard course of the school was five years, preceded by a preparatory course. A post-graduate course was available as well. The enrollment was as large as 200.

Born in Berlin, Pennsylvania, Elizabeth R. Poorbaugh (1854–1927) first traveled to Japan at the age of thirty, accompanied by her six-year-old niece “Kittie,” whom she was raising following the death of her sister-in-law in childbirth. Poorbaugh served as principal of the school for seven years before returning to the U.S., where she married Rev. Cyrus Cort in 1893, and served as a pastor’s wife for the rest of her life. She also worked as a missionary in the company of her sister Emma F. Poorbaugh.

Born in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, Mary Ault (1863–1937) went to Japan after marrying Rev. William Edwin Hoy and worked in overseas missions with her husband for the rest of her life. She died in 1937 in Hankou, China.

REFERENCES: “Kent County, Delaware Marriage and Engagement Announcements” at Genealogy Trails online; Handbook of Foreign Missions of the Reformed Church in the U.S. (Board of Foreign Mission of the Reformed Church in the U.S.), pp. 27–28; “RCUS Women Missionaries and the Beginnings of Miyagi Gakuin” at United Church of Christ in Japan online.

Item #8944 $375.00
16. Sabine, George W. Geo. W. Sabine Desires to Call Your Attention to the Following List of New Books, Just Received... [Eastport, Maine, ca. 1859]. Circular, 6" x 8", pink paper. CONDITION: Very good, one light stain, one tiny tear at upper middle along old fold.

An 1850s bookseller's circular promoting newly published books in stock, issued by a Maine bookseller who subsequently fought in the Civil War and died of wounds received in battle.

New books “just received” include sermons, poetry, *Popular Geology* by Hugh Miller, Timothy Titcomb’s *Letters*, Atkinson’s *Oriental Siberia*, Dana’s *Vacation Voyage to Cuba*, Cozzen’s *Acadia*, Webster’s *Dictionary*, Adam Bede by George Eliot, Alcott’s *Laws of Health* and *Culprit Fay* (on tinted paper), and Jameson’s *Loves of the Poets* (in blue and gold). These books could be found at the Frontier Bookstore, head of Union Wharf, in Eastport, Maine. Sabine notes that all magazines, papers and periodicals of the day were received at the bookstore as soon as they were published and were offered at less than publishers’ prices. All U.S. or foreign publications, blank books, and music that was not on hand would be supplied at short notice at publishers’ or trade prices. Particular attention was paid to binding books and music. Nautical books and charts of latest surveys and newest editions were kept constantly on hand—essential stock for a bookseller in a seafaring town.

George W. Sabine (1832–1865) was born in Eastport, Maine and is listed in an 1861 Maine business directory as selling Books, Stationary, and Medicines. Sabine enlisted in December 1861 as a Captain and served in both the Maine Coast Guards and the 18th Maine Infantry before being commissioned into the 1st Maine Heavy Artillery, Co. K. Promoted to Major on June 23rd, 1863, he was wounded in the thigh on June 17th, 1864 during the Army of the Potomac’s advance on Petersburg, Virginia. The wound was incapacitating and ultimately fatal. Discharged for disability on December 10th, 1864, Sabine died at age the of thirty-three in the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston on May 28th, 1865, eleven months after being wounded.

REFERENCES: “A business directory of the subscribers to the new map of Maine: with a brief history and description of the state” at Internet Archive online; “George W. Sabine” at Find A Grave online.

Item #8763 $225.00
A MUSICAL FUNDRAISER FOR FREEDMEN
HELD IN MASSACHUSETTS, 1865

17. Salem Freedmen’s Aid Society. Combined Entertainment for the benefit of the Freedmen of our Country, through the Salem Freedmen’s Aid Society, at Mechanic Hall, -- Salem, on Wednesday evening, February 22, 1865. [Salem, MA]: Salem Gazette Press, 1865. Broadside, 7.75” x 4.75”, with decorative border. Early pencil notes at margins. CONDITION: Good, creased, some foxing, light soiling, .5” tear at upper-left margin.

A scarce broadside advertising an evening of music and readings, held in Salem, Massachusetts to raise funds for freedmen in the South.

Featuring “Readings by Miss Josephine A. Ellery” and “Music by Mr. M. Fenollosa,” the event advertised here took place shortly before the close of the Civil War, on February 22nd, 1865. The entertainment consisted of two parts, with musical performances by “Mrs. M. C. Upton, of South Danvers, and Miss M. A. Bush, Miss E. W. Silsbee, and Mr. F. H. Lee, of Salem.” According to the pencil notes on the left and right margins, “Miss Bush had [?] so didn’t sing – made music rather poor. Readings very fine.” The latter included “Baby looking out for me” by popular Civil War poet Ethel Lynn (Ethel Lynn Beers, 1827–1879) and “Sheridan’s Ride” (1864) by Thomas Buchanan Read, as well as a “Dialogue between Hubert and Arthur” from Shakespeare’s King John and three extracts from Dombey & Son, by Charles Dickens.

The Salem Freedmen’s Aid Society was founded in September of 1864 in order “to assist the New England Freedmen’s Aid Society in fitting the emancipated slaves for the duties and responsibilities of citizenship.” The cost of membership was a dollar per year, and in 1866 the society sponsored a teacher—Peter L. Walker—to work in Belton, South Carolina. The society dissolved in 1873.

No copies recorded in OCLC. A variant, evidently advertising the same event, is held at the Peabody Essex Museum.


Item #7350 $250.00

New Pictorial Works, and New Editions.
PUBLISHED BY ROBERT SEARS, NO. 181 WILLIAM STREET, NEW-YORK.

American Gift-Books for 1856!

PICTORIAL HISTORY OF CHINA AND INDIA:

With a descriptive account of their inhabitants, and their productions, from the earliest periods of authentic history, to the present time, in which the editor has treated not only of the historic events, but also of the manners, customs, religion, literature, and commercial tastes of the people of those ancient empires.

The publications are about two hundred, and of the first order. Illustrating whatever is particular to the inhabitants, regarding their dress, manufactures, &c. They are accurate, and each one was made especially for the purpose.

The volume forms a large series, containing about six hundred pages, printed in the best style, and in good embellished white paper. It is for sale in six months, handsomely bound in muslin gilt, or leathers, at the purchase price preferred, at a very liberal discount when quantities of less than ten copies are ordered at once.

Price only Six Dollars.

The Christian’s Bible for 1856.

The Most Expensive Pictorial Work on the BIBLE.

This volume is the American parallel—entitled with seven new and fine ENGRAVINGS.

The whole work consists of 1,000 leaves (one page, elegantly printed, and bound in the most finished style of modern book-making), printed in 100,000 copies, at a cost of $1.50 per copy.

Price $2.50.

Sears’ New Complete History of the HOLY BIBLE.

As Contained in the OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS.

From the Creation of the World to the Fall of Lucifer;containing a clear and comprehensive account of every translatable transaction recorded during a period of six thousand years—copious studies, literal and critical—forming an Illustrated Commentary of the Sacred Text.

By ROBERT SEARS.

The following new and valuable illustrated Volumes consists of 100 large sheets, elegantly bound in 600 pictorial volumes, printed from new Linotype type. Price $2.50.

Sears’ Pictorial Sunday Book.

Designed for the Use of Families, Bible-Classes, and Sunday-School Teachers.

Divided principally on the Motions and Contents of the Jewish, the New Testament, and the Doctrine of the Church; together with their entire descriptions of the principal places mentioned in the Scriptures.

Numerous Landscapes, &c.

From Sketches Taken on the Spot.

Price $1.50.

THE PICTORIAL FAMILY BIBLE.

From the Whole and Complete History of the Holy Bible, as contained in the Old and New Testaments.

Price $2.50.

The American Gift-Books for 1856.


A circular produced by a Manhattan pictorial book publisher covering new books in stock and seeking agents.

Listed here are sixteen “New Pictorial Works and New Editions,” published by Robert Sears—the “American Gift-Books for 1856”—for sale at their William St. location in Manhattan. Prices and short descriptions are included for each work. Among the volumes advertised are The Pictorial Family Bible, Pictorial History of China and India, Thrilling Incidents of the Wars of the U.S., Illustrated Bible Biography, Sears’ Treasury of Knowledge, Scenes and Sketches in Continental Europe, The History of Palestine, Sears’ Information for the People, and Sears’ Pictorial History of the American Revolution.

Five lists of books, organized by price, are included for potential agents and “friends” who wish to buy in bulk. Sears’ Pictorial Family Publications, Pictorial United States, and History of the American Revolution are described as “the best books that Agents can employ their time in supplying to the people of the United States.” Also included are the company’s “plan” for obtaining agents, testimonials, wholesale and retail prices for a range of Sears’ books, and a note on how to obtain credit from the company.

No copies recorded in OCLC.

Item #9007

$375.00
A selection of twelve vivid plates of Hawaiian fishes based on those in David Starr Jordan’s authoritative study, *The Aquatic Resources of the Hawaiian Islands*. Published by the Honolulu-based Island Curio Company, one of “very, very few curio businesses in the islands” during the early 20th-century (Steiner), this is one of the few Island Curio Co. publications printed in Germany that are not in postcard form.

This appealing souvenir book, published immediately after the Honolulu Aquarium (now the Waikiki Aquarium) was founded in 1904, reproduces illustrations made by A. H. Baldwin, Charles Bradford Hudson (who was actually in Honolulu in 1901, sketching local fish), and the Japanese painter Kako Morita. According to the promotional information on the rear paste-down, the Aquarium typically displayed “600 to 1000 fishes of approximately 200 varieties. Those shown in the pictures published herewith are only a few of the most striking specimens.” These illustrations include the “Humuhumu,” the state fish of Hawaii, alongside several other fish native to Hawaii’s waters. Unlike the scientific captions accompanying *The Aquatic Resources*’ illustrations, this collection presents the fish with their Hawaiian names, with occasional comments on the peculiarity of fish in Hawaii. The promotional material contends that “[l]anguage cannot do this subject [Hawaii’s fish] justice. No words can accurately portray what one has seen here. The fish are odd in shape and have all the hues of the rainbow. The tints are laid on as if with a brush and yet no painter could imitate them. No visitor to Honolulu should fail to see the Aquarium.” The promotion further notes that the Aquarium “is visited by about 50,000 persons annually” who are each charged “[a]n admission fee of 25 cents” to assist with “operating, enlarging and improving the exhibit.” The fish of the Aquarium, once pictured by the Island Curio Co., “became mass commodities in a visual economy of images that linked Hawai‘i with America and Europe” (“Extended Personhood”).

OCLC records just three copies, at the Smithsonian, Brigham Young University of Hawaii, and Harvard.

RENOWNED BANDIT TRIES TO CLEAR HIS NAME WITH THIS “TRUE HISTORY OF MY LIFE”


The scarce and remarkable autobiography of a depression-era bandit who was made into a folk hero by the song “Otto Wood The Bandit,” first recorded by the Carolina Buddies in 1930 and later by Doc Watson and others.

A lifelong criminal, Otto Wood wrote this thirty-two page narrative to set the story of his career straight; an unknown author added a nine-page afterword giving an account of Wood’s life following his last escape from prison and his death in a “sensational gun battle” in Salisbury, North Carolina. Wood admits that his deprived upbringing and restless nature compelled him to steal and escape capture time and time again, but he maintains that his reputation in the newspapers as a murdering desperado is unjust and that he has always tried to act honorably. As a child, Wood was unable to bear the confinement of school: he began playing hooky almost immediately, hopped his first train at the age of seven, and soon learned to gamble, fight, steal cars, and bootleg. When he lost his hand working as a fireman, his “real trouble began”:

At the time of the accident I was engaged to a girl in Point Pleasant, West Virginia, and occasionally called on a girl living at Graham, Virginia. Soon after I was able to go about again, The Point Pleasant girl and I were married. Three months later the girl at Graham, Virginia had me arrested on the plea that I had promised to marry her, and that I was the father of her child. I was tried, convicted and sentenced to serve two year and two months in the State Prison, from which I made my escape a little later, one of the biggest mistakes I ever made, and one that all fugitives will, as I did, regret sooner or later.

Wood is credited with ten jailbreaks throughout his career, although he made a success of certain periods of incarceration—after two years of solitary confinement in the “chilly corridor” of death row in the North Carolina State Prison, Wood was made a keeper of the canteen, where his engaging personality generated so much business that it came to be called “Otto’s Place.” He eventually grew restless, however, made his final escape, and was caught and killed by police.

OCLC lists just five holdings, at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, the State Library of North Carolina, Concord University Library, Charlotte Mecklenburg Library, and Appalachian Regional Library.

Item #4303 $475.00
All items are guaranteed to be as described and are returnable within ten days of purchase with prior notice. All items are subject to prior sale. Remittance with order. Libraries invoiced upon request. Residents of Maine must pay sales tax.

Shipping and insurance (if desired) are extra. For items shipped within the United States we use either USPS, FedEx or UPS. If you have a preference, please let us know. Foreign orders are generally shipped via DHL, unless the buyer requests otherwise.