Adams Combats the Gag Rule


After his bitter defeat in the 1828 presidential election, John Quincy Adams retired to Quincy, Massachusetts, but soon responded to his constituents’ call by serving as their Representative in Congress, commencing his greatest years in a long career of public service. These Letters chronicle his fight against the Gag Rule, authored by the South Carolinian, Henry Pinckney. The House would table any petitions “relating in any way to the subject of slavery, or the abolition of slavery...without being either printed or referred.” In his introductory remarks here, John Greenleaf Whittier credits Adams with “the powerful and triumphant vindication of the Right to Petition.” Moreover, his efforts to repeal the Gag Rule exposed “the graphic delineation of the Slavery spirit in Congress, and the humbling disclosure of northern cowardice and treachery.” Whittier’s poems, “Lines written on the Passage of Mr. Pinckney’s Resolutions” and “Stanzas for the Times,” are printed on pages 66-72.

DUMOND 4. $2250.
Nice Issue of a Revolutionary War Newspaper


The Boston Gazette, published weekly, was established in 1719 as a competitor to the Boston News-Letter and ran for nearly a century (1719-1798). From April 1756 to December 1793 it was published with the additional “AND COUNTRY JOURNAL.” During the American Revolution, the Gazette was a leading publisher of material protesting British taxes and anti-British sentiment. Contributors included such notable personages as Samuel Adams, Phyllis Wheatley, and Paul Revere, who also did the engraving on the masthead.

This issue, from the end of the American Revolution, contains a lengthy article written by “Grotius” on the evil of a federal impost and the rights of states to be independent. He writes: “For the general court to pass an act which they consider in its nature irrepealable, thereby giving Congress the power of levying imposts of the property of this state...is ‘delivering up the people to the subjection of a foreign power.’” Power assigned to Congress by the Articles of Confederation—or the lack thereof—would be hotly debated, eventually leading to the creation of the U.S. Constitution in 1787. It also contains news from the front including an extract from a letter by General Greene to Congress, announcing the flight of the British from Charleston. A nice piece from the Revolution. $1500.

Clicking on any item—text or image—will take you to our website for easy ordering and to view any additional images.
A Former Georgia Slave-Turned-Preacher's Life Story


The uncommon second and expanded edition of this slave narrative and African-American autobiography by Rev. Robert Anderson. Reverend Anderson was born into slavery in Liberty County, Georgia in 1819, and later moved with his master, Dr. William J. Anderson, to Glynn County. Anderson hired himself out for various work until 1853, when he was able to purchase his own freedom for $1,000 and his wife's freedom for $500. Shortly thereafter, he became a Methodist minister, serving a number of congregations in Georgia throughout the remainder of his life.

The present work is both an autobiography of Anderson as well as a proselytizing work. Anderson includes two versions of his life story – his current version and that which was in the first edition, published a year earlier in Macon – and interweaves his autobiography with religious stories and dialogues. His intentions are stated clearly on the titlepage: “Besides containing a history of the leading events in the life of Rev. Robert Anderson, this book has a remedy for the cure of Small Pox, Millenium Story of Christ, the reason why God does not kill the Devil, and a series of questions alphabetically arranged.” Following the titlepage, and prior to the beginning of his autobiography, Anderson prints several pages of the names of “Friends” in various cities who have bought his book in order to “encourage him in his efforts to exalt his own race to that position of morality and civilization attained by himself....”

The work contains both a small engraved portrait frontispiece of Anderson and a photographic frontispiece showing Anderson and his family, both preceding the titlepage. The titlepage has a handwritten price, reading “Price $1.50,” likely written by the author. According to a brief passage at the beginning of the text, Anderson sold copies of the book himself; this is further evidenced by the original owner's inscription on the front free endpaper, dated 1895 in St. Augustine, Florida, which reads, “Rev. Anderson posed for me to sketch him – the condition being that I purchase a book.”

The first edition of the work was also titled, The Life of Rev. Robert Anderson, published in Macon in 1891 at a length of 119 pages. The present second edition, published a year later, is a much expanded work, and elegantly produced. The second edition is more readily represented in institutions, but very rare in the market, especially in such nice condition. Not in Work.

LIBRARY COMPANY, AFRO-AMERICANA SUPPLEMENT 74. KAPLAN 133. $2250.
Written complaint lodged with the New Haven Customs House in which two sailors, Rutherford Cooke and Caleb Comstock, protest the treatment of their ship at port – a ship of which Benedict Arnold was captain and owner. The two men attest that the sloop Charming Sally, Benedict Arnold captain (not present), sailed for the West Indies and thence to Amsterdam, where they met Arnold on business, and then back again to the West Indies. The complaint reads:

“Be it known and made manifest to all persons whom these presents shall come... before me Daniel Lyman, Esqr., one of His Majesty’s Justices of the Peace for the county of New Haven...personally came and appeared Rutherford Cooke, Mate of the good sloop Charming Sally and Caleb Comstock, mariner, and on oath depose and say that on the fifteenth of July last they sailed in sd. sloop from the island of St. Croix in the West Indies to Holland whereof was Master Benedict Arnold of New Haven where we arrived on the thirtieth of August following and having there discharged our cargo took on board a freight for sd. St. Croix on account of Mr. Daniel Cromeline, merchant at Amsterdam, at which place we left our Capt. sd. Benedict Arnold on shore on the fifth of October and from there arrived at sd. St. Croix on the fifteenth of Novemr. and after disposing of our cargo sailed on the twenty-third of the same month in a set of ballast for New Haven, where we arrived the tenth of January not having our Capt. on board.

“And the Dept. the Mate further says that thereupon he applied to his Majesty’s Custom House in sd. New Haven with the register of sd. vessel & her papers in proper office hours for entering the same, but being required he left his papers with the officers thereof for a time in which the said sloop might be searched by a waiter for that purpose, which was accordingly done; but nothing found on board or in any other place tho search has repeatedly been made; and that afterwards the sd. Mate applied to sd. office for the entry of sd. vessel & her papers but was refused tho tending to give oath as the Acts of Parliament require. And especially as the Dept. further say on the fifth of inst. February, and was denied the entry of the vessel & her papers after an attendance of near three weeks.”

It is signed by Rutherford Cooke, Caleb Comstock, and Justice of the Peace Daniel Lyman.

Not a great deal seems to have been known about Arnold’s early business ventures hitherto – the material available, for example, to Arnold’s principal modern biographer, Willard Sterne Randall, being comparatively scant. Arnold first entered business in 1761, and initially seems to have been successful. He visited London the next year, where he acquired stock on credit, then set up shop on Chapel
Street in New Haven under the famous sign (still preserved at the New Haven Historical Society): “B. Arnold Druggist / Bookseller &c. / From London / Sibi Totique.” Later he also acquired a sloop and undertook trading voyages to the Caribbean and Canada. Most of these voyages, however, were devoted to smuggling rather than upstanding trade. “Benedict Arnold’s business was secret by definition. To keep accurate records would have been self-destructive, yet not to engage to some degree of smuggling was all but impossible if such a business was to survive increasingly stringent British trade policies” – Randall (p.42). Despite these various enterprises, Arnold went bankrupt, owing some £16,000 when his business failed in the summer of 1766.

Given the smuggling activities in which Arnold was engaged, and his business failure, the Customs House may have had good reason to be suspicious of his vessel, despite the lack of supporting evidence aboard ship. It is also possible that he had made enemies of the authorities, as in January 1767 he was involved in a notorious case of beating up a colonial tax collector.

Bolívar Resigns as President of Gran Columbia – But Not Really


In this apparently unique broadsheet, Simón Bolívar tenders his resignation as president of Gran Colombia to the Congress in Caracas, Venezuela. By 1827 internal conflicts and political pressures were threatening the stability of the Republic Bolívar had created, Gran Colombia (present-day Panama, Colombia, Ecuador, Venezuela, and parts of Peru). In an attempt to pacify dissenters and preserve the fragile federation, Bolívar addressed the Congress, offering to step aside and assuring the people that he had no plans to declare himself as absolute ruler.

In this address Bolívar points to the fact that Gran Colombia is in an advantageous position, recognized by the United States and with Great Britain threatening war with Spain. Despite a rosy outlook, he notes that suspicions that El Libertador will exert himself as a tyrannical dictator continue to plague the political environment. Thus – in the tradition of George Washington – he is resigning from office. He writes (in translation): “In vain do I invoke the example of Washington to defend myself....” Though he is not innocent of ambition, Bolívar wishes to “remove my fellow citizens from the claws of this fury, and free them from uneasiness.” Declaring his renunciation to be irrevocable, he writes: “My sword and my heart will nevertheless be for Colombia; and with my last breath I will ask heaven to grant her happiness.”

Despite this declaration, the Congress refused to accept Bolívar’s resignation. Unable to settle on a new constitution and form of government, the Constitutional Convention of 1828 fell apart, and Bolívar proclaimed himself dictator for life on August 27. Intended to be a temporary measure to stabilize the government, this move resulted in an assassination attempt just a month later. Bolívar died two years later of tuberculosis.

Not located in any of the usual sources, including Palau and OCLC. An important piece of South American history. $17,500.
This extraordinary series of supplements to the Quebec Gazette demonstrates the extent to which feeling for the French Revolution had permeated the French population of Canada, and the degree to which the British government was prepared to tolerate the expression of such Revolutionary sentiments. Most of the text of each issue (all of the first two and part of the third and fourth) is devoted to a long “Scheme of a Constitution,” extracted from a late French publication entitled “Les Actes des Apotres.” While recognizing monarchy as the necessary executive branch, the text calls for a balance of power between the courts, legislatures, and executive. A surprising and interesting series to find published in Canada at this time, in the same year that the Constitutional Act granted the first representative government to Canada. Not listed separately by Tremaine, nor are supplements recorded in the appendix devoted to the Gazette; however, she notes two runs which include “almost all” of the supplements. $4500.
The Early American Presence at Guantanamo Bay


An impressive view of sailors and marines from the United States’ Atlantic Fleet, assembled on the parade grounds of Deer Point Camp, Guantanamo Bay. Well over five hundred officers, seamen, and marines are in formation, with encampments on both sides of the grounds. In the background, looking out into the harbor, nineteen ships are visible in the water, including the four listed on the photo: Minnesota, New Hampshire, Mississippi, and Idaho. One camp building with a wide veranda is behind and to the left of the sailors.

U.S. forces, with their Cuban allies, first occupied Guantanamo Bay in 1898 during the Spanish American War, creating a forward-operating base in their effort to wrest Spanish control of the island. In 1903 the U.S. leased forty-five square miles of land and water at Guantanamo Bay from the newly-independent Cuban government, and built the Deer Point Camp to support naval operations in the Caribbean. The American facilities at Guantanamo Bay are in use to this day.

The American Photo Company advertised itself as “the best equipped commercial photographers in Cuba.” It established a commercial network in Havana that distributed images of Cuba on a worldwide scale.

This photo is rare. We found no records of it at auction and no copies in OCLC, however the Naval History and Heritage Command lists a copy in their collections. “US Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba,” UA 571.45 (copy of this image) (Washington Navy Yard, D.C.: Naval History and Heritage Command, Naval Heritage Foundation) (accessed online). $850.
Early Florida Laws


Prints a list of the officers of the Territory of Florida, acts and resolutions of the legislative council, laws of the United States relative to the Territory, and the text of the Treaty of Washington. Includes important early laws relating to Indian affairs, transportation, commercial development, etc. Servies locates only one copy in Florida.

SERVIES 1541. AII (FLORIDA) 132. GILCREASE, p.335. $1500.
“Where is the intollerable shame that should bow down our heads to the dust at the thought of the sacred soil of this Free State of Pennsylvania turned into a very Guinea coast, a hunting ground, where human beings are the game and mothers are torn from their children.”


A scarce sermon preached in 1851 by William Henry Furness, an ardent abolitionist who served as pastor of the First Unitarian Church of Philadelphia for fifty years. Here, Furness argues that Christianity has a vital role to play in “the abolition of great wrongs” through “Truth and Justice and Mercy with our whole hearts.” He spends two pages of the text recounting the insufficient response among his parishioners to a recent case of a fugitive slave captured in their midst and sent “back into bondage.” Especially egregious in this case was the fact that the woman had “enjoyed almost a quarter century of freedom” in Philadelphia. Furness thunders away at his audience of believers for not bringing a “storm of indignation that should have broken forth with terrific power” against those who took the woman away and for the lack of “the intollerable shame” that “should bow down our heads to the dust at the thought of the sacred soil of this Free State of Pennsylvania turned into a very Guinea coast, a hunting ground, where human beings are the game and mothers are torn from their children.” Furness argues that his parishioners have become “so fettered by our selfish and worldly habits that it is hardly possible for us to feel.” They must do better, Furness argues, to live God’s example in a world where they have allowed free-living former slaves to be returned to a life of forced servitude.

Furness’ sermon was an early reaction to the recently-passed Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, a compromise law which caused untold trouble and resulted in immediate legal – and extra-legal – challenges in Pennsylvania (including the case of Caster Hanway) and in other northern states. The controversial law required escaped slaves to be returned to their masters even if they resided in free states, and many reacted as Furness does here – loudly and directly questioning the right of “inhuman” slave hunters to come into free states to recapture escaped slaves. $750.
Gerry Writes on Massachusetts Politics in the Midst of War


Elbridge Gerry writes to an unidentified recipient – likely a son-in-law or another close male relative – regarding the recipient’s political post and advancement in Massachusetts society. Gerry dispenses advice, based on many years in the field of political play:

“The appointment of the Judge Advocate can easily be accounted for, by the presence of his advocates. Every wheel is put in motion on such occasions, & gives a great impetus. No application has been made for yourself, to my knowledge, as a secretary of legation. There was an enquiry, on this point, made to J.Q. Adams; but it is not a place in my estimation adequate to your talents & grade in society, & the emoluments, about 3000£, would not, when the expenses are deducted, be worth your acceptance....I do not conceive that circumstanced as you are at present, holding ‘by courtesy’ under the government of the state, a beneficial office, you can with propriety attack the government. To vote is one thing, but it is quite another thing, to be open in opposition. There seems to be an obligation of decency & consistency, if not of honor, to be neutral at least whilst you cannot be an advocate for the government; & previously to hostilities, to relinquish the office. The latter is a measure which cannot be justified to your family, under existing circumstances, & as it is not requisite or indispensable, I think you are justly entitled to a truce, until you are called on by your country to act, & a post is assigned worthy of your rank in society.”

Elbridge Gerry was a politician and signer of the Declaration of Independence from Massachusetts with a well-established mercantile business. He would go on to become governor of Massachusetts and vice president under James Madison, and become notorious for being the namesake of the term “gerrymandering.” He was a close friend and associate of John Adams, among others. This letter was written in the last year of his life.

$2750.
11. Hunter, Robert: [DOCUMENT SIGNED BY COLONIAL GOVERNO
ROBERT HUNTER REGARDING THE ESTATE OF THOMAS HOOK].
lines. Light soiling and wear. Very good.

Document signed by New York colonial governor Robert Hunter, in which Thomas
Hook – the son of Thomas Hook, saddler, late of the city of New York – is
petitioning for administration of his late father's estate. Robert Hunter (1664-
1734) was colonial governor of New York and New Jersey from 1710 to 1719 and
subsequently governor of Jamaica from 1727 until his death in 1734. An early
and ephemeral document from the colony of New York. $375.
Prospectors Buy Land from the Tutuni


Concluded September 10, 1853, proclaimed February 5, 1855. Concluded by Joel Palmer (Oregon Trail pioneer and Superintendent of Indian Affairs) at Table Rock in Oregon Territory. The Rogue River (Tutuni) tribe agrees to sell their lands between Rogue River and Siskiyou Mountains in return for $60,000. The discovery of gold in the Rogue River valley, right around the time this treaty was concluded in 1853, increased tensions between settlers and the indigenous Tutuni and eventually resulted in the Rogue River Wars of 1855-6. Shortly afterwards, Palmer ordered the Tutuni forcibly relocated to the Coast Indian Reservation further north.

EBERSTADT 109. $500.

Clicking on any item – text or image – will take you to our website for easy ordering and to view any additional images.
Allowing Trade Between Jamaica and the Spanish Colonies in America, During the Napoleonic Wars

13. [Jamaica]: [PRINTED DOCUMENT, COMPLETED IN MANUSCRIPT, BEING A TRADING LICENSE ISSUED TO THE SPANISH BRIG GENERAL CASTAÑOS BY WILLIAM, DUKE OF MANCHESTER, GOVERNOR OF JAMAICA], St. Jago de la Vega, February 3, 1810. Large folded folio sheet. Several tears along folds, edge nicks. Light dust soiling in upper margin of first page. Overall condition is good.

This document is a trading license issued by the governor of Jamaica to the Spanish brig, General Castaños, commanded by Antonio Herrera. The license is specifically for trade “from the port of Kingston to the Spanish Colonies of America and back to Kingston.” It is specifically designed to show British warships who might try to take the vessel as a prize. Further restrictions are printed on the integral second leaf. The document is twice signed in manuscript: “Manchester.” An interesting trade document printed in Jamaica.

$600.
Confederate Spy or Martyr?

An account of the life of John Yates Beall, together with several of his own writings, that focuses on the raid carried out by him and his group of Confederate Navy irregulars on Lake Erie in late 1864, and his resulting trial and execution. Beall and his men had hoped to free Confederate prisoners held by the Union at Johnson’s Island off the coast of Ohio, but succeeded only in sinking several nearby boats. After Beall was captured, he was tried for sabotage in January 1865, sentenced to hang, and executed on February 24, 1865 after President Lincoln refused to commute his death sentence.

HOWES L546. DORNBUSCH II:2579. NEVINS I, p.228. $1750.
Important Measures for the French and Indian War


Important acts, with the handsome woodcut arms of the Province of Maryland on the titlepage. Of great interest are the laws relating to the French and Indian War: “An Act to Prevent the People of this Province from Supplying the French, or Their Indian Allies, with Ammunition, Warlike Stores, or Provisions, of Any Kind” and “An Act for Regulating the Rates of Carriage, and Quartering Soldiers in Public Houses, Within this Province, for His Majesty’s Service.” Also includes acts on currency, courts, and tobacco. Wroth locates nine copies, including this one, noted as a duplicate holding of the Maryland Historical Society.

WROTH, MARYLAND 180. EVANS 7458. REESE & OSBORN, STRUGGLE FOR NORTH AMERICA 33 (ref).

$1250.
Early Colonial Military Commission


A colonial military commission, signed in manuscript by William Tailer, lieutenant governor and commander in chief of the colony of Massachusetts-Bay. By this commission Tailer makes Samuel Leonard an ensign in the company of Massachusetts militia commanded by Nathaniel Byfield, the noted jurist and historian of colonial New England. One James Leonard, possibly Samuel’s father or brother, is noted as being a captain in the same company. The commission is completed in manuscript and co-signed by Tailer’s secretary, Samuel Woodward. An attractive colonial military commission, and a rare early printed broadside. $2750.
Ratifying the Constitution in Massachusetts


“These Debates were recorded by printers representing the Massachusetts Centinel and Independent Chronicle in Boston and were reprinted from them. A later edition (1856) included the official journal and notes on the debates kept by Theophilus Parsons, a delegate to the state convention and later chief justice of the Massachusetts Supreme Court.

“The ratification process in Massachusetts was viewed with anxiety by supporters of the Constitution throughout the nation. Massachusetts was a key state, and it was thought that actions there might determine the ultimate fate of the Constitution. The struggle was hard, bitter, and characterized by wild rumor and allegations of corrupt behavior....The Federalist strategy was to ratify the Constitution first and then consider amendments to it....On February 6 the Constitution was endorsed by the narrow vote of 187 to 168. Massachusetts became the sixth state to ratify....Massachusetts was the first state to propose amendments along with ratification, setting a pattern for the states that followed. All except Maryland and Rhode Island were to ratify and simultaneously propose amendments” – Liberty’s Legacy. The debates of other states were also extensively published. That of Virginia, where many of the leaders of the Revolution were delegates, appeared in two volumes in 1788.

Early Printing in the South Indian Ocean

18. [Mauritius Imprint]: ASSEMBLÉE GÉNÉRALE DE LA COLONIE.

Early and unrecorded imprint from the colonial press at the French colony of Mauritius, also known as the Ile de France. Issued at a critical moment at the beginning of the French Revolution, the lengthy text concerns the government and judiciary of the island, together with a proclamation by the King dated Aug. 24, 1790. The text nominally recognizes the authority of the King, while taking measures to establish major autonomy of local government.

The Dutch were the first Europeans to become interested in the island, taking possession in 1598. After exploiting the island’s dense forests for a century and introducing the cultivation of sugar cane and cotton, in 1710 the Dutch abandoned the colony. The French soon claimed it as “Ile de France,” and the island remained under the control of the French East India Company until 1767. During the long war between France and England at the beginning of the 19th century, Mauritius proved to be an important strategic naval base. The British took charge of the island in 1810, and the Treaty of Paris confirmed official British possession in 1814. It remained an important sugar producing colony, and in the 20th century agricultural production was expanded to include tea, rice, and other produce.

Printing began on Mauritius in 1768. During the French period, until 1810, only about 400 imprints were produced, mostly in the form of official documents and newspapers, although there are also almanacs and a few other items. All are quite rare. No copies located in OCLC, and not recorded by Toussaint in his bibliography of Mauritius imprints.

$9500.
From an Edition of Thirty Copies

19. McAleenan, Joseph: LEAVES FROM A WYOMING DIARY KEPT BY....
New York: Privately Produced for the author and his friends [by H.S. Nichols],
1924. 51 leaves. Duplicated typescript, printed on rectos only. Quarto. Sage green
cloth, titled in gilt on front board. Cloth spotted. Hinges a touch weak, a few
leaves at the rear with closed tears in the foredge. Very good.

Inscribed to “Doctor William L. Ettinger, Superintendent of Schools” and signed
by the author: “Joseph McAleenan, February 7th, 1924.” From an edition of
thirty copies, “produced by a special photographic process. Each of these auto-
graphed by the author.” This appears to be one of the scarcest of McAleenan’s
works, all of which were produced in small editions and are highly prized. It bears
a pictorial frontispiece “The Bronco” with a verse. The text describes hunting
trips in Wyoming, mainly in the Wind River country, between 1895 and 1910,
during the period when the author apparently had a Wyoming ranch. Included
is a remarkable and bloody account of a battle between grizzlies and hunting
dogs, as well as poetry by McAleenan’s friend, Joe Magill, and other contribu-
tors. McAleenan, a well-known New York diamond dealer, was an avid sportsman
and took many trips to the west to hunt and fish, privately printing his accounts
of these expeditions in small numbers for the participants and his close friends.
Not in Phillips or Heller.
HOWES M10 (misdated 1914).

$6500.
Mormons Issue Stock to Build a Hotel in Nauvoo


A rare example of Mormon financial ephemera, documenting the Mormons’ stay in Nauvoo and the attempt to build “Nauvoo House,” a splendid hotel in the Illinois town. The present example of Nauvoo House stock certificates is one of only two mentioned by Rush, the other being printed in St. Louis, but probably never officially issued. The Mormon Church was headquartered in Nauvoo from 1839 until they moved westward in 1846. In January 1841, Joseph Smith had a revelation instructing him to build a hotel that would provide accommodations for “strangers and tourists” (see the Mormon Doctrines and Covenants, 124:60). Construction began in the spring of 1841, and stock in the building was sold in order to fund the efforts. It was estimated that construction would cost $100,000, and stock was issued in shares ranging from $50 to $1500. The total stock subscription was $150,000. “All who believed in the Book of Mormon or the revelations of God were permitted to hold stock” – Jenson. The stock certificates were transferable by endorsement, so they were used as a medium of exchange as well.

The present two certificates are each for one share of stock at $50, and are dated in manuscript Feb. 11, 1841. They are both signed by George Miller (who would later form a schismatic Mormon sect of his own) as president, and John Snyder as secretary. The certificate is decorated with an illustration showing the facade of Nauvoo House, and with an eagle within a decorative border on the left side. Nauvoo House was only partially completed when the Mormons left Nauvoo in 1846, and the house was eventually completed (though not to the original grand design) by Joseph Smith’s widow and her second husband. It survives today as a hostel, owned and operated by the Reorganized Church.

Printing began in Nauvoo in 1839 under the direction of Ebenezer Robinson and Don Carlos Smith. Byrd lists several items printed by Robinson in Nauvoo, but not the present stock certificates. The only institution listing Nauvoo House Association stock certificates on OCLC is Yale, which apparently owns an example slightly larger in size than this certificate. The Eberstadt’s offered an example of this certificate in 1954, priced $75. Any such pieces of Mormon ephemera from the Saints’ stay in Nauvoo are rare.


Document signed by Robert Morris – signer of the Declaration of Independence, the Articles of Confederation, and the United States Constitution, and the “Financier of the Revolution” – granting four shares in the North American Land Company to Dr. Enoch Edwards. Enoch Edwards, a surgeon by trade, was a leading patriot who served as a member of the June 18, 1776 Provincial Congress, and a signer of the 1790 Pennsylvania Constitution. Robert Morris played a leading role in the financial decisions of the Revolutionary government: he founded the first national bank, sought to fund public debts by means of a national revenue, and used his own funds, when necessary, to finance the Revolution and the fledgling American government. In the late 1780s and the 1790s, Morris speculated extensively in various land deals, becoming fabulously wealthy, then losing everything in 1798, spending two and a half years in debtors prison. The North American Land Company, the most ambitious of his schemes, is the venture that finally brought about Morris’ downfall. Counter-signed by Secretary James Marshall, brother of future chief justice John Marshall. $3750.

A variant issue of the 1837 edition, dated 1838 on the printed titlepage but with map descriptions and collation identical to those of the 1837 edition as described by Streeter. Contains an “excellent contemporary account of the Texas Revolution and its beginnings....The Account includes reprintings of the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, Burleson’s report on the taking of Bexar in December 1835, and the Travis letter of February 24, 1836, and several other reports and documents. One of these is a reprinting, which I do not recollect having seen elsewhere, of the report of Benjamin H. Holland, Captain of the 2d Company of Artillery, on the Fannin Massacre....I am inclined to think the value of this contemporary account of the Texas Revolution, compiled by the father of one of the participants...has been overlooked” – Streeter. The colored map of Mexico and Texas shows the Republic as separate, and the internal provinces of Mexico.

HOWES N156. STREETER TEXAS 1285A. SABIN 55319. PALAU 191596. $2750.
Commodore Matthew Calbraith Perry (1794-1858) writes to his nephew, James DeWolf Perry, concerning a political appointment James had asked his uncle to help him obtain. Both letters are accompanied by James Perry's retained drafts of the letters to which the Commodore is responding. In the first letter, dated February 15, Perry writes that he will do all he can to secure the position in question, but will have to wait until the new administration has settled in:

"I will write to my friend and neighbour Col. Webb who is now in Washington; he remains there until after the inauguration; he is one of the leading and most influential Taylor men, and will doubtless be disposed to advocate your interest. There is one thing however that will be necessary to prove and that is your political position, in the state. I am no party man myself, having always abstained from voting excepting and only one instance many years ago to support a personal friend, but I feel assured that the offices will all be given to Whigs or those that profess to be of that party. You had therefore better inform me that I may so mention it in my letter to Col. Webb, whether you are a good and available Whig; otherwise I doubt whether you would have any chance of succeeding."

It seems, however, that actions were not fast enough. In the second letter, dated April 7, Perry writes that he has found the requested appointments are already filled:

"I duly rec'd your letter explaining your reasons for the course adopted by you with respect to your late application for an appointment when I was informed that you and [your cousin] Grant were desirous of obtaining certain offices. I readily undertook to render any poor service I could in furtherance of the object but on reaching Washington I at once found that the matter of appointments to office was so arranged as to throw nearly the whole power into the hands of the Congressional delegations, and that the offices which you and Grant desired were already disposed of...."

Matthew Perry had served in the Navy since before the War of 1812 and ably commanded the U.S. Naval force off the Mexican coast during the Mexican-American War. An expert on ordnance, his bombardment of the walls of Vera Cruz and his control of the coast made possible Winfield Scott's expedition to capture Mexico City. Perry would later gain lasting fame as commander of the fleet which opened Japan to the western world.

$3000.
Scientific Instruments for New France


An entertaining letter written in 1745 by French minister Jean-Frédéric Phélypeaux, Comte de Maurepas, to scientist Henri-Louis Duhamel du Monceau at Versailles requesting on behalf of Gilles Hocquart, the Intendant of New France in Canada, that new thermometers and other scientific instruments be sent to Quebec. The author notes that although the old thermometers were graded to measure temperatures down to -15° on the Réaumur scale, it had in fact only recently been -27° or -28°. Even if the thermometers had been able to measure temperatures that low, according to Maurepas, the cold had caused the measuring liquid inside the instruments to separate permanently, rendering them useless in any event. He therefore asks that four new Réaumur thermometers capable of measuring down to -35° be sent, along with several astronomical instruments for making navigational observations.

$750.
Espousing the Virtues of Western Canada


A rare and important polemic “written in bitter hostility to the Hudson’s Bay Company, and exposing their operations on the Pacific Coast and among the Indian tribes and fur traders from the earliest times” (Eberstadt). “Scripps, author of an official life of Lincoln, visited the Lake Superior Country in 1855 and upon his return, made an extensive study of the region from the Great Lakes westward with special reference to the fur companies, the inhabitants, Hudson’s Bay Company, water courses and minerals. He also points out the economic advantages of the Northern region for the United States” – Decker. “Scripps, who was editor and publisher of the Democratic Press, had visited the Lake Superior country in 1855. He discusses here primarily the area of western Canada from Lake Superior to the Pacific, with comments on the Minnesota region south of the international boundary. He has a good deal to say about the fur trade and the Hudson’s Bay Company. ‘There can be little doubt but that the sole reason why the company maintains its posts in Oregon and Washington is to induce brother Jonathan to ‘shell out’ liberally for them’” – Streeter. The Streeter copy sold to an order bidder for $200 in 1969.


A scarce Revolutionary imprint recording the acts passed in the January/February session of the South Carolina General Assembly in 1782. It is apparently John Dunlap’s only devoted printing of a South Carolina legal work. A likely reason for Dunlap’s involvement with the printing involves the British occupation of Charleston, which lasted from the Spring of 1780 until December 1782. Printing by the revolutionaries in British-occupied Charleston, especially of official American legislative publications, would surely have been tough to accomplish. ESTC records only one institutional copy, at the John Carter Brown Library, and OCLC only records the copy at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. EVANS 17725. HILDEBURN 4695. SABIN 87633. ESTC W31388. OCLC 460978671. $3500.
Rare South Dakota Printing of Its Constitution
with Official Certification from the Secretary of State:
“A remarkable copy” – Eberstadt


One of the earliest – if not the earliest – printings of the first adopted constitution of the state of South Dakota, with interesting manuscript notes and certification by the Secretary of State for South Dakota.

This printing of the first adopted South Dakota constitution was a part of Frank Hagerty’s South Dakota: The Statistical, Historical And Political Abstract, printed in Aberdeen, S.D. in 1889. This copy lacks the titlepage and preliminaries, as well as the final two-page index from Hagerty’s book. It was used by South Dakota Secretary of State A.O. Ringsrud to certify the text of the constitution. The ink notes in the present copy are in the hand of Secretary of State Ringsrud and they note that a constitutional article on prohibition was approved by popular vote, while a provision on minority representation was defeated and did not become a part of the state constitution. Bound in between page 42 (the conclusion of the text of the constitution) and page 43 (the beginning of the tally of official votes by county in 1889) is a partially-printed certificate completed in manuscript and signed and dated by Ringsrud on February 19, 1890, in which he attests that he has compared this printed version of the state constitution with the original on file in his office and that it is a “correct transcript therefrom.”

In their catalogue 110, produced in 1937, the Eberstadts called this copy of the South Dakota constitution “A remarkable copy, containing the official certification of A.O. Ringsrud (Sect’y of State), signed by him and bearing the great gold seal of the State of South Dakota. Beside the constitution this work contains the official vote by counties; geographical description; details of population, climate, agriculture, irrigation, live stock, timber, mineral wealth, manufactures, education, railroads, finances, public lands, etc.” Hagerty’s work was published simultaneously with an otherwise identically titled report on North Dakota, and the two collected as the Territory of Dakota.... All three imprints are relatively scarce, as is any Aberdeen, South Dakota printing from this era.

A unique copy of an already scarce item, with highly important provenance and significance.
With Remarkable Architectural Plates of the Proposed College for Barbados, 1714

George Stanhope, Dean of Canterbury, lays forth the main purpose of the Society: “The very Being and Design of this Society tends to the more perfect Accomplishment of...converting our Traffick and Navigation, into Means of establishing the Christian Faith, among those yet barbarous People, with whom we deal abroad.” The Society’s missionaries focused their work on North America and the West Indies.

One instrument by which the Society produced “a large Increase of Knowledge in the Natives of those very Countries” was “by settling a College in one of these Plantations, which may nurse up, and send forth, Numbers of able and faithful Ministers to assist in this Blessed Work.” The college of which Stanhope speaks is Codrington College in St. James Parish, Barbados. Still in operation today, Codrington College was founded after Christopher Codrington, Barbadian-born British soldier, plantation and slave owner, bibliophile, and colonial governor, bequeathed his estates to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Construction began on the college the same year as the present publication, but it was not finished until 1745 due to economic depression, droughts, and other difficulties in the area. The most interesting aspect of the present work is the two folding copper-engraved plans showing the proposed floor plan and side views of the Codrington College building. The present-day central building resembles these plans, but the main building’s appearance changed when it was gutted by fire in 1926. Still, this work and its illustrations offer valuable insight into church organization and missionary activities in the West Indies in the early 18th century. These illustrations are actually the earliest images of any institution of higher learning in the New World.

The Abstract of the proceedings of the organization follows Stanhope’s sermon. It includes much on American missionary activities, including an account of missionary work among the Mohawk and other New York Native Americans. The Abstract also includes “a report on contributions, donations of books to the Library, missionaries in America, the building of churches, and the instruction of Indian and Negro slaves” – Nebenzahl. Scarce.

The “Painter of the Revolution” Buys Supplies

29. [Trumbull, John]: [MANUSCRIPT RECEIPT]. [N.p., but possibly Lon-
don]. 1794. Single sheet, 3 x 7¼ inches, mounted on cardboard backing. Some very minor foxing, else near fine.

Manuscript receipt in John Trumbull’s neat script reading: “Paid by A. Poggi, for acc. of J. Trumbull. Febry 13th 1794. to J. Poole for Colours &c. £5.0.0. Sept 28th 1793. to T. Phillips for small copy of Portrait of Genl Washington. – £26.5.0 [underline for total] 31.5.0.” Trumbull became friends with artist and dealer Antonio di Poggi in the 1780s, while studying painting in England under Benjamin West. Di Poggi acted as agent for Trumbull, locating suitable engravers to render his paintings into prints. This receipt provides a brief glimpse into the business relationship between the two artists.

Hailed as the official painter of the Revolution, Trumbull studied painting and art in England and France. The youngest son of the governor of Connecticut, the elder John Trumbull very much wanted his son to go into law. Trumbull did study the law, but gladly joined the fight against the British when the Revolution broke out. He eventually served as Washington’s second aide-de-campe, having been brought to the General’s attention through some very accurate drawings he had made of British gun emplacements. He rose to the rank of colonel as a deputy adjutant-general, but resigned the commission he finally received because it was dated three months late, a slight his honor could not tolerate. He refused to return to the law, finding it quite distasteful, and chose instead to pursue his true passion, art, against his family’s wishes. Though he was never particularly wealthy in this pursuit, he did achieve a certain amount of success in his own lifetime. Among his most famous works are those commissioned in 1817 by Congress to adorn the Capitol: “The Surrender of General Burgoyne at Saratoga,” “The Surrender of General Cornwallis at Yorktown,” “The Declaration of Independence,” and “The Resignation of General Washington.”

John Trumbull Asserts Diplomatic Immunity


Letter sent in reply by John Trumbull to a Mr. Groome, regarding a notice he had received, presumably in relation to payment of taxes of some kind. The letter reads:

“Sir, I take the liberty of returning to you the enclosed Notice, unaccompanied with any of the statements which it requires. – For the following reasons – I am an American; and during two years and a half, I have resided in this Country, in the public Character of one of the Commissioners for carrying into execution the 7th Article of the Treaty of Amity Commerce and Navigation, subsisting between his Britannic Majesty and the United States of America. I have always considered that Character as giving to me, that immunity from taxes & from military services, which is enjoyed by Foreign Ministers; in this persuasion I have not, during that time, paid taxes or performed any military service, and I do now conceive myself to be equally free from this, and from any future, Demand, of this nature, as I have been from the Past. I am sir, your most obedient humble servant, Jno. Trumbull.”

As Trumbull states in the letter, during this time he is in England working for the Jay Treaty Commission, which was organized to settle commercial and frontier questions between the Americans and the British. Trumbull's autobiography skips over the years from 1799 to 1804, and none of the other sources give hints as to what the issue regarding this notice may have been. It is obvious, however, that Trumbull felt the contents of the notice most certainly did not apply to him, given his diplomatic immunity status. A very nice autograph letter in Trumbull's neat and legible hand.

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$4000.
The Official Printing of the First American Treaty with Any Power


The official French printing of the first French-American treaty, the first treaty between the United States and any other country, and a decisive moment in the American Revolution. Having struggled to find allies in their fight against England, the fledgling United States achieved recognition from France when news of Burgoyne's defeat reached Paris. In February 1778 the American commissioners, Benjamin Franklin, Arthur Lee, and Silas Deane, negotiated both the treaty of amity and commerce, published herein, and a treaty of military alliance. Because France wished to consult with its ally, Spain, the alliance treaty was not immediately published in France, and probably first appeared in print in Philadelphia; the amity and commerce treaty was published immediately, however, first appearing in this Paris edition. France and the United States grant each other most-favored-nation trade status and agree to protect each other's commercial vessels. Both parties also agree to abstain from fishing in each other's waters, with the United States especially agreeing to refrain from fishing on the banks of Newfoundland.

Howes records two Paris editions of 1778: this official twenty-three-page printing and another of eight pages, both of which appear in the NUC, and OCLC records regional printings in Aix and possibly Grenoble. The NUC locates seven copies of this official royal printing. A rare edition of a treaty of the greatest importance to the United States, marking its first recognition by another power and the beginning of a relationship crucial to the winning of American independence. BRUNET I:12. MALLOY, p.468. SABIN 96565. HOWES T328. ECHEVERRIA & WILKIE 778/36. STREETER SALE 791. REESE, REVOLUTIONARY HUNDRED 51. $25,000.
Washington Frees His Slaves


The scarce Boston edition of George Washington’s will, one of several printed after the first edition was published at Alexandria, Virginia, in the same year. The first codicil bequeaths the Washington estate to his wife, Martha, but the second provision is by far the most famous – it is here that Washington provides for the emancipation of his slaves upon the death of his wife. The same codicil makes arrangements for the care of older and infirm freed slaves and for the education of the younger freed slaves. The rest of the will contains detailed arrangements for the dispersal of Washington’s property to his relatives and friends, including the Marquis de Lafayette (who received a pair of steel pistols taken from the British during the Revolution), and his nephew, Bushrod Washington, who took possession of Washington’s personal papers and library, among other items. The schedule of property gives a detailed accounting of Washington’s real property holdings at the time of his death. The will reveals how wealthy Washington was, with a value at the time of over a million dollars, making him one of the richest men in the country.

Editions of the will printed in the year after Washington’s death are scarce on the market. A first edition recently sold for $25,000.

ESTC W13361. EVANS 38991. HOWES W145. SABIN 101754. $10,000.
**Please note:** In compliance with the sales tax requirements of the following jurisdictions, as of October 1, 2021, William Reese Company will collect and remit appropriate sales taxes on purchases originating in Connecticut, California, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, and the District of Columbia. Exceptions will include tax-exempt institutions, parties who have provided copies of their current and appropriate State Sales & Use Tax Permits for resale, and sales through third parties for which the relevant taxes have already been collected on the basis of Market Facilitator Tax requirements. The latter includes online sales via such platforms as Biblio, ABE, and the ABAA websites.