Imaginary Voyages & Utopian Visions


The further fictitious travels of William Walsh, an Irishman, and Capt. Blisset, of the Royal Navy. Another volume, also published in Dublin in 1823, recounted the pair’s journey aboard ship through Southeast Asia. The present title continues their travels in Asia, mostly to Russia and into China. They travelled across the Black and Caspian seas, then overland across the Russian steppe toward the Pacific coast. Though an imaginary journey, the text gives much interesting information on the peoples, customs, and natural history of the region. The illustrations show a “Kamtschadale Sledge,” “A Circassian Chief,” “A Calmuck Tartar,” “Usbeck Tartar,” “A Sledge Drawn by Rein Deer,” and “A Kamtschatka Sledge, Drawn by Dogs.” The titlepage vignette displays a creature resembling a porcupine. OCLC locates only three copies, at Yale, the University of Chicago, and the National Library of Ireland. Scarce.

OCLC 40708415. $300.


First edition. Beckford wrote this tale originally in French in three days and two nights. This translation into English was prepared by Samuel Henley, and published against Beckford’s expressed wishes. In 1787 the very rare first edition in French was published at Lausanne, with a revision appearing from Paris a year later. The present copy is one of those in which page 48 is incorrectly numbered ‘84.’ Of this classic of exotic fantasy, the DNB states: “European literature has no oriental fiction which impresses the imagination so powerfully and permanently as ‘Vathek’.”

ROTHSCHILD 354. CHAPMAN & HODGKIN 3Ai. BLEILER (SUPERNATURAL) 119. Summers, Gothic Bibliography, p.543. ESTC T62055. $2850.

The rare first edition of Considerant’s important account of the failed French utopian socialist experiment near Dallas in the early 1850s, with a notable Texas map. The text includes a detailed discussion of the character and ethnic makeup of the population in Texas, the value of lands, climate, agricultural productions, etc. “Optimistic report of his visit to Texas and colonization plans. As a result of these extravagant promises, Considerant was able to acquire 57,000 acres near Dallas and to establish there – at Reunion – his Fourier communal experiment” – Howes.

“This is an eminent philosopher’s account of Texas and his audacious plans for a socialist colony there, the direct result of which was the establishment of La Reunion Colony near Dallas....In 1853 Considerant journeyed by horseback through Texas, and he returned to Europe full of plans for creating a Utopian socialist colony there” – BASIC TEXAS BOOKS. “Considerant proved to be a good observer. More than three-fourths of the book is devoted to Texas. Not only does he give a careful and full description of that state, but...this is a useful travel account and is an unusually full one to have come from a Latin visitor. It does not have the sting that many of the hypercritical accounts of this period contained” – Clark.

The folding map of Texas shows the entire state, with Texas's numerous rivers, wagon roads in West Texas, and the Atlantic Pacific Railroad line running from Arkadelphia to El Paso. Cities and townships are noted across the state; in North Texas, the area of most concern to Considerant, the following communities are identified: Alton, McKinney, Dallas, Kaufmann, Ft. Worth, and Cedar Springs. Though credited to Colton, the map was actually printed in Paris. The second folding map shows the entire continental United States, with Oklahoma naturally still Indian Territory, and the entire Pacific Northwest labeled “Oregon.” The last four pages are a contemporary publisher’s catalogue for Librairie Phalansterienne, which published other works by Considerant, as well as Fourier, Rousseau, and other social philosophers.


First separate illustrated edition. In an amusing publisher’s affectation, in light of the subject of this fantasy the paper has been toned to simulate smoke darkening (either from the motor car or the Devil). The text is printed in a calligraphic font. NCBEL III:1043. BLEILER, p.49. $125.
5. [Defoe, Daniel]: THE LIFE AND STRANGE SURPRIZING ADVENTURES OF ROBINSON CRUSOE, OF YORK, MARINER: WHO LIVED EIGHT AND TWENTY YEARS ALL ALONE IN AN UN-INHABITED ISLAND ON THE COAST OF AMERICA, NEAR THE MOUTH OF THE GREAT RIVER OROONOQUE; HAVING BEEN CAST ON SHORE BY SHIPWRECK, WHEREIN ALL THE MEN PERISHED BUT HIMSELF. WITH AN ACCOUNT OF HOW HE WAS AT LAST AS STRANGELY DELIVER'D BY PYRATES.... [with:] THE FARTHER ADVENTURES OF ROBINSON CRUSOE; BEING THE SECOND AND LAST PART OF HIS LIFE, AND OF THE STRANGE SURPRIZING ACCOUNTS OF HIS TRAVELS ROUND THREE PARTS OF THE GLOBE. [with:] SERIOUS REFLECTIONS DURING THE LIFE AND SURPRIZING ADVENTURES OF ROBINSON CRUSOE: WITH HIS VISION OF THE ANGELICK WORLD. London: Printed for W. Taylor, at the Ship and Black-Swan..., 1719-1720. Three volumes. [4],364pp. plus engraved frontispiece; [8],373,[11]pp. plus engraved folding frontispiece map; [16],270,84,[2]pp. plus engraved folding frontispiece. Octavos. Contemporary tree calf, neatly rebacked and recornered to style, with the original gilt backstrips laid down, marbled edges and endsheets. Two tasteful bookplates in each volume on front pastedown, pencil notes erased from one terminal binder’s blank, expert reinforcement on verso of one fold to frontis map in second volume, some faint spots to B1-2 in the second volume and one small spot on title of same volume, affecting one letter, but a very good set.

Third edition of the first work, Hutchins’ issue 3c; first edition second state (with advert on A4v) of the second work; and first edition of the third (state with catchword ‘The’ on p. 270). A quite respectable set of one of the most celebrated of all 18th-century English novels and an essential text in the literature of the imaginary voyage, including the two supplementary narratives. The first work was immediately popular and went through four editions within the four months after publication; the second also struck a chord with the public, with a second edition appearing the same year. The third part, however, languished and was not reprinted by Taylor, and its appearance in the subsequent, often abridged, editions of the full narrative is generally fragmentary. Crusoe’s ADVENTURES was both pirated in its time and imitated, serving as the progenitor of the subset of imaginary voyages christened “Robinsonades.” It established the relative fortune of its publisher, though not of its author, who sold his interests outright to Taylor. Hutchins, pp.74-8; 97-112; 122-8. GROLIER ENGLISH HUNDRED 41. PRINTING AND THE MIND OF MAN 180. $16,500.
Defoe, Daniel (sourcework); Buñuel, Luis, and “Philip Ansell Roll” (i.e. Hugo Butler) [screenwriters]: [Original Studio Publicity Campaign Pressbook for:] ADVENTURES OF ROBINSON CRUSOE. [N.p.]: United Artists, 1954. 16pp. Small folio (435 x 280mm). Pictorial self-wrappers. Heavily illustrated. A bit creased at edges, with a few short, creased tears, folded very slightly askew along spine, with short breaks at fold, but an about very good copy of this uncommon item.

A substantial publicity pressbook for the U.S. distribution of the film adaptation of Defoe’s novel, cowritten by master director Buñuel and Hugo Butler, then working in self-imposed exile in Mexico in company with his wife and Dalton Trumbo, and writing under various pseudonyms as a consequence of the effects of the Blacklist. The faithful yet stylistically imaginative adaptation starred Daniel O’Herlihy as Crusoe and Jaime Fernández as Friday. It was Buñuel’s first color film, and is one of the central productions of his Mexican period. O’Herlihy was nominated for a Best Actor Oscar for his role after United Artists took on theatrical distribution for the film in the U.S.

$275.

Notable Imaginary Voyage to the Northwest Passage

Ferrer Maldonado, Laurent: VIAGGIO DAL MARE ATLANTICO AL PACIFICO PER LA VIA DEL NORD-OVEST...L’ANNO MDLXXXVIII.... Milano: Dalla Tipografia di Giovanni Silvestri..., 1811. [4],98,[1]pp., errata leaf, plus two folding sheets comprised of seven maps and a folding plan with three views. Half title. Tall quarto. Original limp paper-covered boards. Boards scuffed and slightly stained, small paper labels on each cover. Previous owner’s library bookplate on front pastedown, light occasional foxing. Internally a fine, crisp copy.

The second and best edition of this interesting work. Lada-Mocarski lists this edition rather than the first (Milan, 1810) as the preferable one. It is the supposed narrative of a voyage through the Polar Sea and the mythical Straits of Anian to the west coast of America in 1588, performed by Laurent Ferrer Maldonado. In 1609, Maldonado presented a document to Philip III entitled RELACION DEL DESCUBRIMIENTO DEL ESTRECHO DE ANIAN, in which he promoted a fabricated northern passageway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, which he called the Strait of Anian. He even included falsified reports with details on the terrain, flora, fauna, and encounters with humans during his voyage.

Manuscript copies of Maldonado’s report circulated over the next two centuries, with copies surfacing in 1781 in the library of the Duque de Infantado and again in the Biblioteca Ambrosiana in Milan. The Ambrosian librarian, Carlo Amoretti, believed in the authenticity of the narrative and saw it into print, later publishing a lengthy defense of Maldonado’s claims. Skeptics quickly attacked the work, and by the mid-19th century it had been established as spurious by further discovery, especially the earlier voyages of Malaspina and Vancouver, but at the time of publication it caused a lively debate and fueled further interest in northwest exploration. In fact, as late as 1818, John Barrow hedged his bets on the validity of Maldonado’s assertions, and included the account in his epic collection of Arctic voyages.
The first map included here, which takes up an entire folding sheet, traces Maldonado’s supposed route through the polar region. The other six maps are contained on a single sheet and depict various points in the polar regions. The folding plan contains three topographical views of the Straits of Anian. “The views were designed by Maldonado to illustrate what he claimed were the landmarks of the strait, the location of the port and the place where he proposed to build fortifications. Amoretti also inserted some maps to show what the Strait of Anian looked like according to other authors, and a modern polar map on which he marked the course of Maldonado to Bering Strait, which he thus seemed to identify as Maldonado’s Strait of Anian. The text is substantially the same as that of the document belonging to the Duque de Infantando. The work is interesting because of Amoretti’s cartographical history of the Strait of Anian and the later Russian voyages” – Wagner.

Though an apocryphal voyage, Maldonado’s work informed and energized generations of northwest and Arctic explorers, and helped fix the gaze of explorers on discoveries such as the Bering Strait and the Northwest Passage.

Influential Attempt at a Collected Edition
of Fantastic and Imaginary Voyages


The first edition, complete, of the first attempt to assemble a coherent collection of the texts of imaginary voyages from the literatures of several languages. As proper, the main set is concluded by the new three-volume edition of Deperthes's work, with a half-title to each volume denoting its supplementary relationship to Garnier's work. The notable illustrations are engravings after Clement Pierre Marillier. The text includes over seventy separate titles, ranging from the established and well-known works of Defoe, Swift, Paltock, Mercier, Berington and Longueville, to many obscure and anonymous works. Garnier's inclusion of some works, such as Sterne's VOYAGE SENTIMENTAL...., or works that later proved literal, has of course been faulted, but the foundation he laid, and the texts he brought forward from obscurity, facilitated the future of scholarship related to the genre, including such works as Gove's THE IMAGINARY VOYAGE IN PROSE FICTION, wherein over thirty pages are devoted to consideration of Garnier's accomplishment. A short-title listing of the constituent works is available on request.

Gove, pp.27-63. HORDERN HOUSE, IMAGINARY VOYAGES & INVENTED WORLDS 78. COHEN-DE RICCI 1050. $10,000.


First edition, deluxe issue, of this tale of a modern visit to the land of the Yahoos and Houyhnhnm by a shipwrecked Yale philologist. One of 120 numbered copies, specially bound, from a total edition of 420. "One of the most attractive of the many sequels to Gulliver..." – Locke.

A Utopian Vision of Madagascar

10. Hamond, Walter: A PARADOX. PROOVING, THAT THE INHABITANTS OF THE ISLE CALLED MADAGASCAR, OR ST. LAWRENCE, (IN TEMPORALL THINGS) ARE THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD. WHEREUNTO IS PREFIXED, A BRIEFE AND TRUE DESCRIPTION OF THAT ISLAND...WITH MOST PROBABLE ARGUMENTS OF A HOPEFULL AND FIT PLANTATION OF A COLONY THERE....

London: Printed for Nathaniel Butter, 1640. [38]pp. Small quarto. Antique-style three-quarter calf and marbled boards, gilt morocco label. 19th-century armorial library bookplate on front pastedown. Closely trimmed, just touching the first “A” at the top of the titlepage and cropping the upper portion of a few running titles and catchwords. Titlepage soiled, with small ink spots affecting a few characters of text. Very good.

The only edition of this rare utopian work describing the island of Madagascar and its inhabitants. The author, Walter Hamond (d. 1648) had by his own account traveled several times to Madagascar in the service of the East India Company, once “resident there Foure Moneths together.” During the 1630s, as King Charles I was advised that Madagascar would be an ideal location for English traders bound for India and the Far East to refresh and repair their ships, Hamond composed A PARADOX..., encouraging further use of the island for colonization and trade.

Describing the land of Madagascar in Edenic terms, Hamond begins his characterization of its inhabitants by referring to them as “a sluggish and slothfull people.” “If any where,” he writes, “the Proverbe, Terra bona, gens male, may here be applied” (A4v). He swiftly recasts them, however, as an innocent and virtuous race, whose “Nakednesse, Poverty, and Simplicity” demonstrate a happy, prelapsarian state instead of one of wretchedness or misery: “Now for Pride [of clothing and appearance], such is the Happinesse of these people, that they know not what it meanes, here is no man that respectech another the better for his Out-side, but for his inward vertue, and naturall Endowmens....They know that the inordinate desire of riches in the Root of all mischiefe, a Raging famisht Beast, that will not bee satisfied....As for Gold, the Soule of the World...[t]hese people know it not, or doe they know it, they regard it not, at least I am sure they value it not” (D4v-E1). Hamond continues with the observation that the Golden Age “so much celebrated by ancient Writers, was not so called, from the Estimation, or predomination that Gold had in the Hearts of men...[b]ut from the Contemps thereof”; this “happy Age these people doe at this present enjoy” (E1v).

A fascinating precursor to the 18th-century imaginings of the Noble Savage, and a rare title on the market.

STC 12735. DNB VIII, p.1137. $12,500.

Volume of poetry by American mystic Thomas Lake Harris (1823-1906), founder of the utopian community of Fountaingrove in Santa Rosa, California. Harris had a knack for poetry and utopian communes, speaking and publishing as early as 1850, and founding his first utopian society at Wassaic, New York in 1861. The group, who called themselves the Brotherhood of the New Life, later moved to Brocton, New York, and then to Fountaingrove. $275.


First edition in English of Holberg’s great utopian novel / imaginary voyage, first published anonymously, in Latin, in Leipzig in 1741. Holberg, an accomplished playwright, novelist, historian and essayist, is regarded as one of the primary literary figures of 18th-century Danish and Norwegian letters. Indebted to mythology and Halley’s late 17th-century speculations, this popular novel in many ways established the now classic hollow earth literary convention popularized in both fiction and pseudoscience: Niels Klim falls down a shaft while exploring a cave and finds himself in free space orbiting an inner sun. His travels in the inner world take him to a number of strange lands inhabited by intelligent animals, disparate cultures and, in one case, by animated musical instruments. Much in the manner of Swift, Holberg utilizes Klim’s encounters to comment upon, or satirize, social, political, religious and economic topics in the actual world. Several other languages followed, with the text’s eventual popularity rivaling Defoe and Swift and at least one imitation appeared in 1745. ESTC’s collation does not call for a half title.


A fine reference, and the most important bibliographical contribution to the genre in decades, published by our colleagues at Hordern House in Australia, presenting “a comprehensive guide to invented, imaginary, apocryphal and plagiarized narratives of travel by land, sea and air, from the earliest times to the twentieth century,” and tangentially to many utopian narratives as well. In 640 articles, Howgego treats over 1,000 narratives, with indices of 2,800 editions in all languages, extensive annotations, analyses and bibliographical citations. An additional 6,000 citations to secondary sources are included. Published as the free-standing fifth volume in Howgego’s extraordinary ENCYCLOPEDIA OF EXPLORATION. Published at $145, and offered now for a limited time at: $100.


First edition of this novel partaking of the tradition of lost race fiction. This copy is in the binding variant (traditionally presumed primary) without the blind-stamped publisher’s logo on the rear cover. A fine association copy, inscribed by the author: “Paul Fountain With best regards from W.H. Hudson. Feb. 3. 1904.” The recipient was the author of THE GREAT DESERTS AND FORESTS OF NORTH AMERICA (1901), to which Hudson contributed an introduction. It has been claimed that the earliest presentation copy of this work is dated February 2, and other presentation copies to intimates bear inscriptions on the 4th, 5th, or are undated. The 1959 film adaptation, which hardly begins to do justice to Hudson’s best-known work, was directed by Mel Ferrer, and starred Audrey Hepburn, Anthony Hopkins, Sessue Hayakawa, et al.

PAYNE A23a. SADLEIR 1233. $7500.

Second edition, significantly revised, with a new preface, and bearing Hudson’s name for the first time. The first edition appeared anonymously in 1887. An important presentation copy, inscribed by the author in the month of publication: “John Galsworthy from W.H. Oct. 3. 1906.” Hudson “never became a popular author and never had a best seller until John Galsworthy introduced him to the American public in Alfred A. Knopf’s edition of GREEN MANSIONS in 1916” – Payne. “One of the arts-and-crafts, anti-mechanistic utopias of the late Victorian age; the primary analogy is to a beehive, with egalitarianism that amounts to oppression, except for a tiny elite who are, in turn, constrained in other way...I find it beautifully written, but one of the most horrible ideal cultures ever imagined” – Bleiler.

PAYNE A2b. BLEILER, SCIENCE FICTION THE EARLY YEARS, pp.376-77.


A prospectus for the utopian community of Rugby, Tennessee, by one of its founders, Thomas Hughes, English author of TOM BROWN’S SCHOOL DAYS. Hughes purchased the land with some friends, and participated in the growth of the colony which became the largest town on that part of the Cumberland Plateau during the 1880s. By 1887, however, the Victorian English colony had mostly failed. This pamphlet promotes the goals of the community and the promised amenities of the town to the English public. With a slip advertising travel to the town’s location in Tennessee laid in. $375.
laws and constitution that governed them. Not in Graff. Scarce.

H.P. Kraus bought the Streeter copy for $160 in 1969.
SABIN 9779. HOWES C5, “aa.” STREETER SALE 4267. $6000.

18. Kinross, Albert: THE FEARSOME ISLAND, BEING A MODERN RENDERNING OF THE NARRATIVE OF ONE SILAS FORDRED, MASTER MARINER OF HYTHE, WHOSE SHIPWRECK AND SUBSEQUENT ADVENTURES ARE HEREIN SET FORTH.... Chicago: Printed for Herbert S. Stone & Co., 1896. Small octavo. Medium green cloth, decorated in darker green, t.e.g., others untrimmed. Ink name on endsheet, some foxing early and late, spine and edges a bit darkened, with mild flecking along edges of cloth; a good, sound copy.

First U.S. edition of this fantasy, published in the same year as the British edition. The narrative involves a found manuscript account of a shipwreck on an island where apparent supernatural phenomena are actually technical marvels conjured up by a cruel genius.

BLEILER (SCIENCE FICTION) 1230. KRAMER 111. $100.

Some Imaginary Cartography

19. Lahontan, Louis Armand, Baron de: VOYAGES...DANS L’AMÉRIQUE SEPTENTRIONALE. [with:] MEMOIRES DE L’AMÉRIQUE SEPTENTRIONALE, OU LA SUITE DES VOYAGES.... Amsterdam: Chez Francois l’Honore, 1705. Two volumes. [18],376pp. plus eleven folding plates and a frontispiece; 336,[2]pp. plus nine folding plates and a frontispiece map (most plates and maps folding). Lacks the map, “Carte de la Riviere Longue.” Titlepages
printed in red and black. 12mo. Contemporary calf, spines gilt. Front board of second volume detached; front board of first volume nearly so, held by cords. Boards rubbed and worn, chipped at spine ends. Institutional blindstamp on both titlepages, and in a few other instances. Quite clean internally overall. A decent copy, although lacking a map. In a green half morocco and cloth slipcase, gilt leather label.

Second edition, variant issue, with the imprint of François l’Hônore, “revue, corrigée, & augmentée.” Lahontan’s narrative is a curious blending of fact and fantasy, to be honored in regard to his account of his travels in the Great Lakes region, but to be accompanied by tongue placed amply in cheek in regard to his claims to have journeyed west of the Mississippi, which Howes states have the veracity of “the legends of the sea serpent.” Contains “A Short Dictionary of the most Universal Language of the Savages” in the second volume, as well as some specimens of the Huron dialect. The most notable map is the “Carte de la Riviere Longue,” (lacking in this copy) depicting an imaginary river extending westward from Lake Superior. The “Carte General de Canada” is also considerably confused geographically. It remains a classic voyage, partially imaginary, by a man “of more than ordinary learning and intelligence” (Sabin).


20. Locke, Richard Adams: THE MOON HOAX; OR, A DISCOVERY THAT THE MOON HAS A VAST POPULATION OF HUMAN BEINGS.... New York: William Gowans, 1859. vi,63,[1],12pp. Frontis. Original printed wrappers (a bit chipped and discolored at edges). Early ink name and inscription, some relevant pencil annotations (some erased), historical society stamp on upper wrapper, large chip from lower edge and along lower portion of the joint of the rear wrapper, upper wrapper nearly detached. A good, sound copy.

One of the more accessible editions of the famous 19th-century fabrication, first published serially in the NEW YORK SUN in August 1835, and then reprinted in two pamphlet formats in 1835 (both of them quite rare). This edition includes a frontispiece of “A View of the Moon, as Seen by Lord Rosse’s Telescope 1856.” Locke (1800-1871) cast his fiction as a reprinting of communications originally published as a supplement to the EDINBURGH JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, purportedly based on correspondence between Sir John Herschel and Dr. Andrew Grant. A portion of the text deals with the technical aspects of the construction of the enhanced telescope that made the observations possible, and the remainder treats the descriptions of the vegetation and animal life that thereby became observable, including winged humanoids exhibiting a level of moderately high civilized development. Locke’s fiction convinced a considerable portion of its readership of its veracity and the separate contemporary printings sold out very quickly. In 1852 a close acquaintance of Locke, William Griggs, published a larger work incorporating the original text, an account of the reception of the hoax, a biographical sketch revealing the identity of the author and additional context, including factual treatment of the known characteristics of the moon.


First American edition, styled “a new edition” on the titlepage, originally published in 1727. A popular fictitious voyage relating a British hermit’s life on a deserted Pacific island off the coast of Mexico. The story describes Mr. Quarll’s early adventures, his escape from a locksmith apprenticeship, and subsequent life at sea. He lived quite a free life, and was married to three women simultaneously, a crime for which he received a pardon from Charles II. “Generally considered among the best of the English imitations of ROBINSON CRUSOE, [this work] remained anonymous until Arundell Esdaile...discovered a rare edition of 1727 in which
the dedication is signed ‘Peter Longueville,’ who, according to Esdaile’s plausible hypothesis, resented his publisher’s alteration of his MS and their invention of Edward Dorrington [as author] and who therefore himself published privately his own edition differing from and denouncing the original...It was first published in chapters in a weekly newspaper, called the PUBLIC INTELLIGENCER, shortly after the appearance of ROBINSON CRUSOE...Later editors often changed the story considerably, but whether Longueville’s own version had any influence on these later editions and translations is a subject not yet investigated” – Gove.


“A juvenile book describing a fictitious balloon voyage by a group of youngsters and incorporating lengthy discussions on the history and operation of balloons” – Randers-Pehrson. The ascent took place at Washington, D.C., with the intrepid Roamer family aboard: Prof. High, Uncle Ike, Kate, Harry, Pinkie and Bob. There are several interesting references to and excerpts from actual 18th-century works on balloon ascensions. Not in Brockett or Gamble. Not in Wright.

RANDERS-PEHRSON 56. $500.


"A juvenile book describing a fictitious balloon voyage by a group of youngsters and incorporating lengthy discussions on the history and operation of balloons" – Randers-Pehrson. The ascent took place at Washington, D.C., with the intrepid Roamer family aboard: Prof. High, Uncle Ike, Kate, Harry, Pinkie and Bob. There are several interesting references to and excerpts from actual 18th-century works on balloon ascensions. Not in Brockett or Gamble. Not in Wright.

RANDERS-PEHRSON 56. $500.
Early Visitor to New York


Second edition. Sabin calls this a reproduction of the first edition of 1681, with a new preface. “Who this Melton was, is an unsettled problem. His travels in the West Indies relate partly to the buccaneers. The chapter on New Netherland is made up from Van der Donck and A. Montanus. All the natural productions of the country are described, and the names given in the Indian dialects of Guyana, with occasional observations on the pronunciation of the words....The text is in Friesic Dutch....Several of the plates are by the celebrated Jan Luiken, and are among his best productions; one of them is a view of the Cohoes Falls in the Mohawk river” – Sabin. Melton also claimed to have travelled around the world, and the bulk of the book relates to those possibly apocryphal adventures. SABIN 47473. JCB (3)1:25. EUROPEAN AMERICANA 702/129. $2000.
24. [Mercier, Louis Sebastien]: L’AN DEUX MILLE QUATRE CENT QUARANTE. RÊVE S’IL EN FÛT JAMAIS; SUIVI DE L’HOMME DE FER, SONGE. [Paris]. 1786. Three volumes. xvi,380,[2]; 381,[2]; 312,[2]pp. Contemporary calf and boards, spines gilt extra. Engraved frontis to each volume. Minimal occasional foxing, several joints cracking (but sound, except for third volume, where the cords are intact but joints loose). Internally a quite nice, large copy, with the half titles.

The important greatly revised and enlarged edition of the work several commentators consider the first genuine utopian work set in the future. The first edition appeared in Amsterdam, under a false imprint, in 1771 (though some bibliographers cite 1770, based on the erroneous date listed in the preface to this edition). Mercier's protagonist awakens from sleep in the 25th century, and finds himself in “that blissful period, when man shall have regained his courage, his liberty, his independence and his virtue.” The new society is the consequence of a revolution overseen by a benevolent prince, and while it is primarily an agrarian society, considerable emphasis is placed on scientific knowledge. The influence of Locke, Rousseau, Voltaire and other progressive thinkers of the time is evident, as well as certain dystopic elements, including the burning of texts which did not enjoy the approval of the powers that be. The novel was widely translated, and an American edition appeared in short order.

NEGLEY 772. HOWGEGO M35b. PENN STATE UTOPIAN CATALOGUE, pp.120-22. $650.


A response by Diderot’s friend and editor to Barthélemy’s celebrated imaginary travel account, VOYAGE DU JEUNE ANARCHARSIS EN GRÈCE... (Paris, 3 volumes, 1788), including the supplementary texts by Pierre C. de Chamblain de Marivaux, Louis Fontanes and Barthélemy himself. OCLC/Worldcat locates copies at NYPL, Loyola, Cambridge, and London Library.

OCLC 28807945. $125.
Brooklyn Newspaper on Utopian Perfectionist Theology


A complete run of the first volume, comprising fifty-two issues spanning from November 1851 to October 1852, of THE CIRCULAR, “a publication of the utopian Oneida and Wallingford communities, edited by J.H. Noyes” – Lomazow. “The author, educated at Dartmouth, Andover, and Yale, became an advocate of Perfectionism, and finally the founder of a community, in 1848, at Oneida, N.Y. A man of education and force, he developed this community to considerable success” – Larned. “Oneida’s system of governance took the form of mutual criticism rather than written laws; individuals underwent scrutiny of their attitudes and behaviors by a committee or the whole community. The living and economic arrangements at Oneida were designed to further a new vision of family. Members lived together in the mansion, held property communally, shared in the raising of children as well as domestic and outdoor labor, and participated together in recreation and education. All of these practices emerged from Noyes’s conviction that perfectionist theology must give rise to a radical restructuring of ‘family’ that would in turn reform the broader society” – ANB.

“The ONEIDA CIRCULAR was the chief organ of the perfectionist communities founded by J.H. Noyes. In Noyes expounded his doctrines of spiritualism, communism, and free love; though uneven in its editing, it was often well written and interesting” – Mott. THE CIRCULAR also discusses the organization and tenets of the community, the religious doctrines of Swedenborg, Brownson, and others, and much other material.


27. [O’Brien, Fitz-James (source work)]: Burt, Frank [screenwriter]: THE DIAMOND LENS”...FROM A STORY BY FITZ-JAMES O’BRIEN [wrapper title]. Hollywood: ZIV Television Programs, Inc., April 21[-23], 1953. 43 leaves plus a few lettered inserts. Quarto. Mimeographed typescript, printed on rectos only, with revises on blue paper. Bradbound in printed wrappers. Extensively worked over throughout in pencil and colored pencil in the course of the production, a couple light stains to the front wrapper, else very good. An early adaptation to television of O’Brien’s best-known short story, one of the classics of 19th century proto-science fiction. This script was utilized in the production, and is extensively annotated and revised throughout in pencil and colored pencil on the recto and verso of every sheet. Uncommon.

BLEILER, p.149. $175.

First edition of this extensive, detailed outline for social, economic, political and technological improvement as dictated to the narrator by a Martian who has lived among us for fifty earth years. The proposed social plan is based on the successful precedents established on Mars. The first of several works Olerich published relating to progressive social and economic planning.


One of the more noted items attendant to Owen's transplantation to America and his founding of his “New Moral World” at New Harmony. Campbell, founder of the Disciples of Christ Church and of Bethany College, debated Owen, who at the time had joined Frances Wright and the “Free Enquirers.” An important meeting between two leaders in American religion and utopian movements. This work is also an important accompaniment to Streeter TEXAS 1110.

ROBERT OWEN BIBLIOGRAPHY 35. $250.


In 1797, Pitou was exiled to Cayenne by Napoleon Bonaparte. Pardoned in 1801, he visited the United States during his return trip to France. Pitou visited New York and Newport, adding Quakers to his list of New World observations. While Sabin claims this work is “largely fictitious,” it would seem that Pitou's narrative was based on actual experience, and that he was mainly guilty of exaggeration, especially about the cannibalism of the natives of Cayenne. Most of the narrative discusses the plight of the exiles in Guiana and their problems there.

HOWES P395. SABIN 63057. MULLER 2476. $950.


Second edition. “Augmentée de notions historiques sur les Antropophages, d’un remerciement et d’une réponse aux observations de MM. les journalistes.”

HOWES P395. SABIN 63057. MULLER 2476. $400.

A later printing, after the first of 1843, of this amusing and fictitious tale of a would-be emigrant to North America. The narrator, having decided to cast off his native Britain, seeks out the perfect new home, travelling first to Canada, then the United States, and on to the West Indies, South Africa, and finally Australia. Pithy and humorous descriptions, particularly of Americans, abound. The second item is a Victorian romance cum adventure tale set in Italy. Surprisingly scarce. OCLC locates only five copies of this edition. $400.


First German edition of this work on the Icarian community, which translates as ICARIA, A CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF COMMUNISM. Founded by Etienne Cabet, the Icarian Community was among the most interesting of utopian experiments in the United States during the 19th century. Cabet relocated a group of French bourgeoisie and peasants to America to form the basis of his utopian community. After an unsuccessful attempt to settle in Texas, the Icarians established themselves in Nauvoo, Illinois, an abandoned Mormon town. After Cabet’s death in 1855, the group splintered, with some of the remaining Illinois group moving to Corning, Iowa. This work follows the movement from 1848, when the group migrated to America. $400.

With the Spurious Continuation

35. [Swift, Jonathan]: TRAVELS INTO SEVERAL REMOTE NATIONS OF THE WORLD. IN FOUR PARTS. BY LEMUEL GULLIVER, FIRST A SURGEON, AND THEN A CAPTAIN OF SEVERAL SHIPS. London: Printed for Benj. Motte, 1726. [with:] TRAVELS INTO SEVERAL REMOTE NATIONS OF THE WORLD. BY CAPT. LEMUEL GULLIVER. VOL. III. [&] ...VOL. III. PART II. A VOYAGE TO SEVARAMBIA &c. London: Printed in the Year 1727. Two volumes, with uniform third volume. viii,[4],310; [6],353pp. [with:] Two parts bound in one volume. [8],118; [8],159pp. Frontispiece portrait, four maps & two plans in the first two volumes; half title and engraved frontispiece in third volume. Octavo. Uniform contemporary paneled calf, gilt labels. Old small manuscript shelf-label on each spine, engraved bookplate of Ricasoli Firidolfi in each volume on prelim, some wear to spine extremities and minor cracking to joints, some foxing and occasionally pronounced tanning (often varying between signatures), small wax drop in one blank margin, but a good set in a moderately well-preserved contemporary binding.

Teerink’s “B” edition (i.e. the third octavo edition), with the frontispiece portrait in the first volume in the second state, with the inscription within the oval frame rather than on a tablet below it, accompanied by the first edition of the spurious continuation. The ‘A’ edition appeared on October 28, 1726, the ‘AA’ edition in mid-November, and this ‘B’ edition, which was set up from the AA edition, was published in December. This, Swift’s best known work, was published anonymously. Written in Dublin between about 1720 and 1725, the finished manuscript was brought to England by Swift when he left Ireland for London in March 1726. During his visit he stayed with friends, including Alexander Pope. Pope, along
with John Gay and John Arbuthnot, helped Swift arrange for the publication of the book. Even after its publication Swift kept up the public pretense of having had no hand in it, but the immediate popularity of the work can be gauged from the fact that there were four printings within a year, translations into French, German, and Dutch, and the spurious continuation and other pastiches. The second part of the continuation was adapted from Siden's THE HISTORY OF THE SEVARITES (1675-9), but the first part is an original imitation. During the 18th century, it was often included in translations of the genuine work.

The uncommon publicity pressbook produced to promote the animated film, loosely adapted from Swift's novel by Edmond Seward, Dan Gordon, and others, which was only the second animated feature-length film after Disney’s SNOW WHITE. Produced and directed by the Fleischer brothers, Max and Dave respectively, the production was plagued with strikes and walkouts during the tumultuous years that unions were trying to gain a foothold in the film industry. Filmed in Technicolor, and originally conceived with the Fleischman cartoon character “Popeye” as Gulliver, the animation was done by using a process called “roto tracing.” This process was perfected by filming an actor in various poses and actions and then making tracings of the cells to convert to animation. This pressbook denotes every conceivable way the film could be exploited including women’s clothing, tableware, radios, valentines, flower vases and plaster ornaments, games, pajamas, and neckties, etc. Several original songs were created for the film, for which they were nominated for an Oscar in the Best Music, Original Score category. One of those songs, “It's a Hap-Hap-Happy Day,” went on to be used in other Fleischman cartoons. Jessica Dragonette, Lanny Ross, Sam Parker, Pinto Colvig, Jack Mercer, and many others, were the uncredited voices Gulliver and the people of Lilliput and its neighboring country Blefuscu.

Important Imaginary Voyage

36. [Swift, Jonathan (sourcework)]: [Original Studio Publicity Pressbook for:] GULLIVER'S TRAVELS. [N.p.]: Paramount Pictures, 1939. 32pp. Folio. 15 x 19¾ inches (50 x 37.5 cm). Pictorial self-wrappers printed in two colors. Spine a bit frayed, horizontal fold (with long clean break in fold in upper wrapper), small chips at wrapper edges, some pencil underlining on one page, else good.


First edition in English of a significant imaginary voyage, of particular import for its relation to early conceptions of Australia. The first edition was published under a false Bordeaux, 1710 imprint, and three other editions appeared similarly dated. Recent authorities have sorted out the precedence, with the first edition being identified with some confidence as actually [Rouen, 1714]. The translator's dedication is signed Stephen Whatley. Tyssot de Patot's novel “is a carefully written, well authenticated story of travel and adventure in Europe, in Africa, in Asia, and in an unknown land far beyond the Cape of Good Hope. The realism of the setting is based upon a close following of accounts of real travelers, such as Dellon, Tavernier, Mocquet, and Lahontan. There is nothing fantastic, unbelievable or overdrawn in the descriptions of the Austral continent. Tyssot seems to restrain himself consciously in order to write an apparently true story. Indirect criticism by the example of an imaginary and virtuous community is used here as in all the previous novels of the type. The journey to the unknown land
is very carefully authenticated, as is the return journey....Discussions of science and religion are fitted into the adventures much more artistically than in the case of the novels of Foigny and Vairasse....From the point of the history of ideas...[it] is a very interesting document.” – Atkinson. It is also notable for a reference to the Wanderling Jew, as well as for a well-constructed bee fable.

Northwest Coast Narrative

38. [Van Delure, John]: A HISTORY OF THE VOYAGES AND ADVENTURES OF JOHN VAN DELURE. GIVING AN ACCOUNT OF HIS BEING LEFT ON THE N.W. COAST OF AMERICA.... Montpelier: Wright and Sibley, 1812. 96pp. 16mo. Contemporary half calf and boards. Moderate to heavy wear to extremities, slight edge wear. Faint worming in end matter. One leaf with lower outer corner torn away, affecting text. Contemporary ownership signature on front and rear free endpapers. Overall very good. In a half morocco box.

First Vermont printing of this entertaining, albeit apocryphal, story of Indian captivity and travel in the Northwest, after its first appearance in Boston in 1788. Though the structure of the narrative changed throughout its many editions, the tale remained the same. The author, a Dutchman, departed Amsterdam for China in 1783 and proceeded from there aboard a trading vessel to the northwest coast of America to participate in the fur trade. After a surprise attack by local Indians, Van Delure and his companion were hauled six hundred miles overland to a large city built on an island. Rescued from certain death by the local sachem, Van Delure married the Indian chief’s daughter and lived among them for two years. In 1787 he encountered three white men who had supposedly travelled up the Mississippi from New Orleans. One of the men was Alonso Decalves, to whom this narrative is sometimes attributed. His meeting with the three men rekindled a certain homesickness, prompting him to extol the virtues of the Christian way of life to his native bride. The narrative ends with the textbook conversion of his wife and her father, followed by an account of his voyage home.

“The fictitious account which includes the narrative of the Indian captivity of John Vanderlure, Vandelour, Vandeluer, or Van Delure, passed through many editions under varying titles. In most cases these bear the pseudonym of Alonso Decalves...In others, Vanderlure, himself, is given as the author. The narrative is also included in the ‘Narrative of a Voyage...from Amsterdam to China and from there to...North America,’ which purports to have been written by James Van Leason or Vanleason” – Sabin.

The present edition is among the rarest of this oft-reprinted narrative. OCLC locates only four copies.

Scribner’s bought the Streeter copy for $350 in 1969.


German printing of Vizetelly’s fictitious travels to the California gold regions, first published in London the same year as FOUR MONTHS AMONG THE GOLD-FINDERS IN ALTA CALIFORNIA. Vizetelly fabricated this account from other publications and reports, though he fooled experts and the public for a half century. The work was very popular, with six more editions appearing in 1849, including this Hamburg printing. “One of the most remarkable ‘imaginary voyages’ since Defoe” – Howes.

KURUTZ 653F. COWAN, p.75. HOWES V134. $175.

This periodical continues the work begun by the NEW HARMONY GAZETTE, recording the utopian projects and ideas of Robert Dale Owen and others associated with the New Harmony community in Indiana. After three years of publication in Indiana, the NEW HARMONY GAZETTE was moved to New York and renamed THE FREE ENQUIRER in October 1828, surviving until 1835.

In the first issue of this new series, Owen remarks on the move to New York: “If free enquiry be impracticable in New York, it must be so everywhere, while, should it successfully elicit truth here, the same would spread far and wide....” This first volume of the renamed publication was co-edited by Owen, feminist Frances (“Fanny”) Wright, and Robert L. Jennings. Although the New Harmony community lasted only two years under Owen’s leadership, the present volume reflects the continued feverish activity of those involved with the community, with more essays on a wide variety of controversial subjects, including the abolition of slavery, religious freedom, Fanny Wright and Robert Owen on women’s rights, agriculture, a new social system, gymnastics, equalization of property, cooperative associations, popular education, and the like.

SABIN 25708. $2250.