Presentation Copies
April 2022

A Long Run of the Great Atuagagdiutt,
Including a Presentation Volume from the Editor to the Founder

1. Berthelsen, Rasmus, and Lars Møller: ATUAGAGDLIUTT. NALINGI-NARNIK TUSARUMINASASSUNIK UNIKÅT. [Nuuk, Greenland: Hinrich Rink, 1862-1946, lacking the years 1884-91, 1894-95, 1901-03]. Eighty-five volumes. Replete with illustrations, many in color. Some issues loose. First volume in original limp patterned cloth. Second volume in cloth-backed printed boards, spine repaired. Third volume in cloth-backed boards, spine worn. Fourth volume with lower half of spine and titlepage lacking. Of the remaining volumes, sixteen are in cloth-backed boards and sixty-five are in original wrappers, spines generally worn. Second volume with contemporary manuscript index, possibly by Møller. Overall very good.

A tremendous run of this landmark Greenland newspaper, equally celebrated for its remarkable quality, range of content, and longevity. The fourth volume of this set is enhanced by a presentation inscription from Lars Møller, the longtime editor and noted native lithographer, to Hinrich Rink, proprietor of Greenland’s first regular press and founder of the paper. Further, the plates in the fourth volume have been hand-colored, presumably by Møller in Rink’s honor. Atuagagdiutt, translated literally as “distributed reading matter,” stands alone when evaluating the impact of a single printed periodical on a native culture. The catholic editorial taste of Berthelsen and Møller not only brought the world’s great literature to the doors of native Greenlanders, but did so in a manner that accomplished dual milestones in Greenlandic cultural history. First, by printing entirely in the native language, they transmitted the worldly canon, much of it for the first time, in a manner readily understandable by their readership. This resulted in a near instant removal of substantive cultural gaps between Greenland and Europe. Second, foreign epics and tales were often set alongside traditional native legends, equating their value with those of the outside world. In result,
the success of *Atuagagdlutt* was a point of national pride. Avidly consumed by its readership, its pages were shared, clipped, and culled to the point of near extinction. To date, five (at most) complete runs exist, entirely in public institutions in Denmark and Greenland. One additional set resides in private hands. Only nine institutions in the United States possess comparable runs, to varying degrees of completeness.

The founders of *Atuagagdlutt* include some of the most prominent men in the history of Greenlandic printing. The prime mover behind its creation, Hinrich Rink, first came to Greenland from Denmark in 1848, quickly rising to the position of royal inspector for South Greenland. In 1855 he began printing small pamphlets from a late 18th-century press left behind by Greenland’s “first” printer, Jesper Brodersen, whose total known output is one small pamphlet done in 1793. In 1857 he installed a new press imported from Copenhagen, in effect becoming Greenland’s first regular printer. Rink was soon joined by Rasmus Berthelsen, a native Greenlander who proved a quick study talented enough to become the paper’s first editor when it was launched in 1861. Apprenticed to Berthelsen was Lars Møller, the son of a carpenter who, under the tutelage of Berthelsen and Rink, learned nearly every facet of the printing trade, including lithography. It was Møller who printed the *Atuagagdlutt* from its earliest days, and he was responsible for a majority of the numerous lithographs. Accomplished as he was, the success of Møller’s lithographs was due entirely to the instinctual talent of the original artist, the legendary Aron of Kangeq. While bedridden with tuberculosis, Aron received a visit from Rink, who had heard of Aron’s considerable talent from other natives. According to Oldendow, “Rink...sent him paper, coloured pencils, and the necessary tools for woodcutting and with no instruction what so ever Aron produced over two hundred woodcuts and watercolors.” His ability to illustrate both foreign and native legend alike secured his reputation, and his contributions were an invaluable addition to the paper. Berthelsen continued as editor for twelve years until 1874, when Møller succeeded him.

The combined talents of the paper’s staff notwithstanding, success, let alone survival, was far from assured. Working in the forbidding Greenland climate, Rink and his assistants were faced with numerous shortages and hurdles that make their considerable accomplishment all the more remarkable. Ink was often wanting, substituted frequently with a homemade variety made from boiling varnish and soot. Paper needed to be moistened to accept the ink, but often it would freeze from a late 18th-century press left behind by Greenland’s “first” printer, Jesper Brodersen, whose total known output is one small pamphlet done in 1793. In 1857 he installed a new press imported from Copenhagen, in effect becoming Greenland’s first regular printer. Rink was soon joined by Rasmus Berthelsen, a native Greenlander who proved a quick study talented enough to become the paper’s first editor when it was launched in 1861. Apprenticed to Berthelsen was Lars Møller, the son of a carpenter who, under the tutelage of Berthelsen and Rink, learned nearly every facet of the printing trade, including lithography. It was Møller who printed the *Atuagagdlutt* from its earliest days, and he was responsible for a majority of the numerous lithographs. Accomplished as he was, the success of Møller’s lithographs was due entirely to the instinctual talent of the original artist, the legendary Aron of Kangeq. While bedridden with tuberculosis, Aron received a visit from Rink, who had heard of Aron’s considerable talent from other natives. According to Oldendow, “Rink...sent him paper, coloured pencils, and the necessary tools for woodcutting and with no instruction what so ever Aron produced over two hundred woodcuts and watercolors.” His ability to illustrate both foreign and native legend alike secured his reputation, and his contributions were an invaluable addition to the paper. Berthelsen continued as editor for twelve years until 1874, when Møller succeeded him.

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before it could be put to use. Most serious of all was the large language barrier between Møller and Rink which, fortunately, was overcome thanks to Møller's diligent study and a well-timed training trip to Denmark. Despite disadvantageous circumstances, the small crew was determined, and when they found themselves without, they improvised.

This steadfast dedication was due, above all, to Rink's abounding love of his adopted home and its people. From the moment of his arrival, Rink sought to learn as much as possible about native culture. He undertook countless overland and boat journeys throughout the land, staying with local families whenever possible. He began to develop an idea of what a Greenland periodical could be, and tried to convey this notion in the advertising leaflets he issued prior to publication. When publication began in January 1861, it was clear Rink had imbued the young Berthelsen with the same enthusiasm, and after Møller assumed editorship, this cultural fervor erupted. Year after year the newspaper contained “innumerable articles written both by and for Greenlanders – on hunting conditions and famous lives, on public events and memorable occasions at home and abroad, novels and stories translated into Greenlandic, legends, articles, official decrees...” (Oldendow). Equally important was how Møller stretched the language to fit his needs. When a foreign object or idea lacked a Greenlandic equivalent, Møller invented one.

The cultural consequences of the publication of Atuagagdlitutt are extreme, as its longevity attests. That this venture, unique among indigenous cultures, took root in a North American language is significant and offers ample opportunity for comparison to other frontier native language presses, such as those at Park Hill and Harbor Springs. What is immediately clear is that Atuagagdlitutt brought world and native culture to life in vivid detail, free of religious constraints and with no overt didactic purpose. This circumstance alone makes Atuagagdlitutt a North American language production of the greatest interest.

“The results were slow in coming, but come they did, and Atuagagdlitutt’s finest achievement would seem to be that quietly and gradually it caused the Greenlanders to grow as a people; it welded them together into a whole, until little by little they learned to notice things outside their immediate daily life and the narrow boundaries of their isolated land. Throughout its many years of publication it helped the Greenlanders to develop from an Esquimo community into a people” – Oldendow.

In a Presentation Binding for the Governor of Barbados

2. [Book of Common Prayer]: THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, AND ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS, AND OTHER RITES AND CEREMONIES OF THE CHURCH, ACCORDING TO THE USE OF THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND. TOGETHER WITH THE PSALMS OF DAVID, POINTED AS THEY ARE TO BE SUNG OR SAID IN CHURCHES; AND THE FORM OR MANNER OF MAKING, ORDAINING, AND CONSECRATING OF BISHOPS, PRIESTS, AND DEACONS. Oxford: Printed by T. Wright and W. Gill, Printers to the University, 1769. [206] leaves (printed in double columns) plus fifty-nine full-page engraved plates. Extra-illustrated with fifty-nine full-page engraved plates. Tall quarto. Contemporary black morocco, almost imperceptibly rebacked with original backstrip laid down, elaborately gilt, spine gilt with raised bands, gilt inner dentelles, a.e.g., contemporary marbled pastedowns and free endpapers. On the front cover the center of the diamond-shape design is lettered “The Honorable Samuel Rous Esq. Barbados,” surrounded by a stylized fern border. On the rear cover, the center of the diamond-shape design is lettered “One Thousand Seven Hundred & Seventy Two,” also surrounded by a stylized fern border. Two corners rubbed and two corners almost imperceptibly repaired, otherwise in fine condition. A few minor dampstains on a few leaves at front and rear and occasional minor foxing, absolutely not affecting text or images. [bound with:] Brady, N., and N. Tate: A NEW VERSION OF THE PSALMS OF DAVID, FITTED TO THE TUNES USED IN CHURCHES. London: H. Woodfall, 1768. [26] leaves (printed in triple columns). A fine copy.

A magnificently bound and extravagantly extra-illustrated copy of The Book of Common Prayer, prepared for presentation to, or perhaps commissioned by, Samuel Rous, President of His Majesty’s Council and Commander-in-Chief (i.e. governor) of Barbados, from 1766 to 1768. He also served again in 1772, the year indicated on the rear cover. The Rous family, Quakers residing in Barbados, were leading planters on the island since the late 1630s.

The fifty-nine plates bound in this volume to complement the text were originally executed for The Liturgy of the Church of England; Illustrated with Fifty Nine Historical and Explanatory Sculptures, Engraved by Mess. Ravenett, Grignion, Scotin, Canott, Walker, and W. Ryland, printed in London in 1755 by Edward Ryland. According to the titlepage, included here as one of the extra-illustrated plates, this work was published according to an act of Parliament on May 1, 1755. However, no copies of this 1755 title are recorded in OCLC or ESTC. In addition to The Book of Common Prayer and the engravings from The Liturgy of the Church of England, this copy also contains a 1768 edition of A New Version of the Psalms of David, first printed in 1698.

Considering the recipient and the combined contents of the volume, these two texts and the extensive suite of engravings are bound in an appropriately sumptuous binding. Prepared for Samuel Rous, who served as governor of Barbados, the binding is a marvelous example of later 18th-century British bookbinding, with extensive gilt decoration on the covers and spine as described above. A fine copy of an elaborately decorated and illustrated volume, with a remarkable colonial-era provenance.

GRIFFITHS, BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER 1769.5. $4500.
A presentation copy, inscribed on the titlepage: “Presented to J.E. Brooman by his shipmate and friend Willy Browne, with best wishes.” There is an additional inscription on the titlepage by Brooman, presenting this copy to Emily L. Royle.

This work presents William Henry Browne’s exceptional depictions of the Arctic, drawn from his personal experiences. Lieut. Browne was an officer on the fourth expedition in search of Sir John Franklin, who had disappeared in 1845 while seeking a northwest passage. This is one of three color plate books to result from Franklin search parties, being the earliest and more modest of them (the portfolios of Creswell and May, issued in 1854 and 1855, are grander affairs). Nonetheless, the Browne plates are handsome and striking arctic scenes depicting the stark scenery of the Far North and the toils of the expedition. J.E. Brooman served again with Browne as Purser on board the H.M.S. “Resolute” under Capt. H.T. Austin on the 1850-51 expedition in search of Franklin, which found traces of Franklin’s first winter camp on Beechey Island from 1845-46, as well as the graves of John Torrington, John Hartnell, and William Braine.

This title is uncommon, and this is the only presentation copy we have come across in auction records or in the marketplace.

Presentation Set


A presentation set, inscribed on the front free endpaper of the first volume, “Mr. A.B. Wright, from his friend, the author, Geo. Catlin 1848.”

This is the second edition, published the same year as the first. This work appeared just as Catlin’s Indian Gallery reopened in London, only to be bashd by British critics who complained of “a recklessness and a roughness in some of his anecdotes” and “indelicate innuendoes and double entendres” (Dippie). Later printed under the title, Adventures of the Ojibway and Ioway Indians in England, France, And Belgium.... “Anecdotal though it is, Notes is a readable and revealing book in the classic satirical vein of the visitor from a foreign culture commenting on the peculiarities of civilized society” – Dippie.

In a Presentation Binding

5. Cherry, Cummings: CINCINNATI & SONORA MINING ASSOCIATION. GEOLOGICAL REPORT AND MAP OF THE SAN JUAN DEL RIO RANCHE, IN SONORA, MEXICO. ALSO REPORT OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE, STATISTICS OF SILVER MINING, TRANSCRIPT OF TITLE, &c. Cincinnati: Wrightson & Co., 1866. 86pp. plus two folding maps. Presentation binding of dark blue morocco with red inlays, boards paneled and tooled in gilt, spine gilt, gilt inner dentelles, a.e.g. Boards scuffed and bowed, front joint weak. Internally very clean and very good.

A presentation copy, inscribed on the front free endpaper: “Senor M. Romero. Minister of the Mexican Republic. Washington DC. With the compliments of the Cincinnati & Sonora Land and Mining Association, Sept. 14, 1866.” Cherry was a mining engineer who produced several reports on mineral deposits in various areas of the United States, and who authored other works for the Cincinnati and Sonora Mining Association (see Sabin, Howes, and the Streeter sale, all of whom list other works, but not the present title). Cherry’s report is illustrative of a post-Civil War boomlet of interest in the mineral wealth of the Sonora region of northern Mexico (doubtless aided by a rumor that the United States might annex it). Cherry writes glowingly of the potential mineral wealth of the area while downplaying the threat from hostile Apaches, objections from the Mexican government, and a shortage of labor. The geological report is quite thorough, and the maps show a portion of “Cherry’s Traveling Military Map of Sonora” and the Ranche San Juan del Rio. OCLC locates ten copies. Scarce.

OCLC 3502151. $2750.
A Presentation Copy from Mrs. Colt to General Sherman


This elaborate memorial volume is a tribute to the famous gun designer and manufacturer, Samuel Colt, prepared after his death by his widow. Besides describing the grounds of the Colt estate in Hartford, it contains a great deal of information relating to Colt’s career, the development of his business and of his famous revolver, which played such a central role in shaping the West.

This work is usually found in a half calf binding, but the present copy is housed in a full morocco presentation binding, gilt-stamped with the armorial crest of Samuel Colt. It was given by Colt’s widow to Maj. Gen. Thomas Sherman and is inscribed by her on the front free endpaper recto: “Major General T. Sherman, with the regards of Mrs. Samuel Colt. Armsmear. September 16th 1867.” General Sherman (no relation to the more famous general of that name) was an old regular army officer who had known Samuel Colt well and was one of the Army group to whom the armemaker sent weapons to test. Relatively old at the time of the Civil War, he served in the Gulf and was in command at New Orleans at the end of the war, with the rank of brevet major general. He was stationed at Newport, Rhode Island at the time Mrs. Colt gave him this volume. HOWES C618, “b.” SABIN 14763. Generals in Blue, pp.440-41. $2500.
Presentation Copy


Presentation copy of the first edition, inscribed by the author to Capt. Samuel C. Williams on the front pastedown: “with the regards of the author.” An important history of Indian conflicts in western Virginia, mainly from the early 1750s to the American Revolution. “Valuable compilation based on reliable sources” – Howes. The graphic gilt vignette on the front cover shows an Indian triumphantly hoisting the scalp of a white man over the victim’s lifeless body.


$950.
The Copy Presented to Thomas Jefferson


One of the most notable and important early Ohio books, by one of Cincinnati’s most famous residents, in a remarkable copy inscribed on the front fly leaf: “For the honorable Thomas Jefferson with the respects of his very obedt. servt. Dan. Drake.” The book, modeled on Jefferson’s own Notes on the State of Virginia, covers the geography, antiquities, topography, medical conditions, and government of southern Ohio. “The work is almost entirely original, and has been drawn upon largely by all subsequent writers on the subject” – Thomson. The maps are a plan of Cincinnati and a map of Miami county.

The author, Dr. Daniel Drake, was one of the first great physicians in the West. He was involved in the founding of numerous Ohio and Kentucky institutions and wrote a number of important works, especially medical, on the area. This book, issued when he was thirty, was the first to achieve national notice. Despite the imprint date of 1815, a delay in obtaining the maps, which were engraved in Philadelphia while the book was printed in Cincinnati, delayed issue until Feb. 16, 1816.

One of Drake’s good friends was Josiah Meigs, the commissioner of the General Land Office and an acquaintance of Jefferson. Drake asked Meigs to send Jefferson this presentation copy, and on March 1, 1816, Meigs wrote to Jefferson: “My friend Dr. Daniel Drake of Cincinnati, Ohio, has requested me to transmit to you a Copy of his work, entitled ‘Picture of Cincinnati.’ I presume it will gratify you as an elegant and valuable work.” Meigs also described Drake as “a sincere and faithful friend of our free Institutions,” signaling that Drake was a good Republican.

On April 7, 1816, Jefferson wrote to Meigs:

“I have referred [sic] asking the favor of you to return my thanks to Dr. Drake for the copy of his account of the state of Ohio which he has been so kind as to send me until I could have time to peruse it. I have done this with great pleasure and may now express my gratification on this able addition to the knowledge we possess of our different states; and I may say with truth that were all of them as well delineated as that which is the subject of this volume, we should be more accurately and scientifically known to the rest of the world. With my thanks for this mark of attention be pleased to accept the assurance of my great esteem & respect. Th: Jefferson.”
This volume would have come into Jefferson's hands after the sale of his main collection to the Library of Congress in 1815, and so became part of his third and final library. Hence it does not figure in Sowerby's catalogue of Jefferson's library, and was one of the group of books widely dispersed after Jefferson's death a decade later. It does not have Jefferson's usual marks of ownership of his initials next to the signature letters; he may have assumed the presentation was identification enough.

A wonderful association copy of a significant book.

A Pulitzer-Winning Artist's Indictment of Lynching:
One of Thirty Copies, and with a Significant Presentation Inscription


One of thirty copies of this dark and dramatic lithographic print depicting the lynching of Matthew Williams in Salisbury, Maryland in 1931.

Williams worked as a laborer for a wealthy factory owner, Daniel J. Elliott, in town and was charged with murdering his boss over a wage dispute, although some uncorroborated accounts claim it was Elliott's son who committed the crime and pinned it on Williams. Williams himself had been shot in the altercation and was taken to the hospital, where a mob of over two thousand broke through the doors and forcefully dragged him to the courthouse where he was hanged. His body was then carried into town, doused in gasoline, and burned. The print depicts Williams hanging from a tree with his hospital bandages still around his head. His body is twisted in pain, and in the background a group of small figures stands next to a bonfire raising guns or other objects above their heads.

The artist of this piece, Edmund Duffy, was a multiple Pulitzer-prize winning cartoonist who often targeted racist groups and hate crimes with his work. A colleague of Duffy's once noted that he had “an immense capacity for hatred, but his hatred [did] not rise to incandescence except when turned on injustice” (Harrison, p. 28). The artist worked for the Baltimore Sun and H.L. Mencken between 1925 and 1948 (where his first printed cartoon admonished President Coolidge for his limp response to Klan activities) and is perhaps best known for his editorial cartoons surrounding the Scopes Monkey Trial. The Baltimore Sun covered the story of Williams' lynching extensively. Duffy's decision to use the title of Maryland's state song for the title of his depiction of this vicious hate crime as a further indictment of his fellow Marylanders, along with angry comments from Mencken, led to riots and public protests – not against the crime, but against the paper. This copy of Maryland, My Maryland is inscribed by Duffy to the novelist Joseph Hergesheimer and dated 1932. Hergesheimer was also a friend of Mencken's whose ornate and elaborate prose garnered both great praise and scorn in the 1920s and 30s.

No copies of this print are listed in OCLC, though we are able to find copies at the National Museum of African American History and Culture and the H.L. Mencken Collection at the Enoch Pratt Free Library in Baltimore. A bold and striking indictment of the mob violence that was taking place in America well into the 20th century, printed in only a handful of copies. Rare and important. S.L. Harrison, The Editorial Art of Edmund Duffy, p.117. $6750.
The Doheny Copy, with Author’s Presentation


The scarce first edition of Dwinelle’s essential California work, here with a presentation inscription on the recto of the frontispiece map: “C.V. Gillespie, Esq with complts of John W. Dwinelle.” C.V. Gillespie was a land title insurance agent whose business in San Francisco began at the start of the California Gold Rush.

The original wrappers betray the origins of Dwinelle’s work as a legal brief for the case of “The City of San Francisco vs. The United States,” with John W. Dwinelle being the counsel for the claimant. This extensive brief is also a historical account of the city of San Francisco, and confirmed the city’s claim to four leagues of “Pueblo Lands,” as defined by the Land Commission Act. Dwinelle’s history is a great storehouse of information on the beginnings of San Francisco, with printings of a large number of documents which are now either inaccessible or destroyed. The frontispiece map depicts “The Peninsula of San Francisco.” The Streeter copy of the first edition, also in original printed wrappers and with a presentation inscription from Dwinelle to John Hittell, brought $300. This is the Estelle Doheny copy, with her bookplate.


Number twelve of a special edition, limited to 250 copies, with an original signed drawing by the author. Bound in before the half title, the drawing is a bust portrait of an elderly Indian. This copy is inscribed by Eggenhofer to famed bookseller Malcolm “Peter” Decker: “To Peter Decker ‘South Pass Pete.’ To know him is a privilege. From a sincere friend Nick Eggenhofer, Cody, Wyoming Jan. 9, 1962.” Laid in is a photographic print portrait of Eggenhofer.

A fairly thorough history of the accoutrements of overland wagon travel. This limited edition is scarce in the market. $1500.
Big Game Hunting in Canada with the Harrimans, Inscribed


Inscribed on the front flyleaf: “For Jane from GFH.” A detailed account of a hunting trip to the Sikanni and Opskia rivers in northern British Columbia, after sheep, with fishing and other shooting along the way. Gladys Harriman’s husband, “Bunny,” was Averell Harriman’s brother and a member of the investment banking firm. An exceedingly-rare hunting narrative composed by a New York woman on the trail in British Columbia. $5000.
First Edition of Pilgrim’s Progress in Hawaiian, in a Hawaiian Binding


The Hawaiian title translates as The Traveler from This World to That Which Is to Come. In 1840 the American Tract Society in Honolulu hoped to publish an abridged edition of Bunyan if a translator could be found, and in 1841 Artemas Bishop took on the task, promising the Society that “it will prove one of the most popular works in the Hawaiian Language.” Unfortunately for Artemas and the Society, the book flopped and the 10,000 copies that were printed were remaindered in unbound sheets, most of which were disposed of to Chinese vegetable peddlers for wrapping produce. For copies that survived this, the rate of attrition, as with all early Hawaiian works of this type, remained very high, and the book is quite scarce today. The work failed to impact the Hawaiians, as the English allusions lost all meaning when translated. The names of the extensive cast of characters became incomprehensible: Mr. Lechery became Kekowale (literally, lust + only), and Mrs. Filth became Pelapela (decayed flesh).

Some of the surviving unbound sheets of this book were bound into limp suede in 1910. This copy, on the other hand, is in a contemporary Hawaiian sheep binding of the mid-19th century (complete with its distinctive triangular and diamond-shaped tooling), which is most unusual and notably rare. See David Forbes’ Buniana (San Francisco, 1984) for an extensive discussion of the book. An important association copy in a handsome contemporary binding. FORBES 1351. JUDD 237. DAB IX, p.381. $3000.
Presentation Copy
of One of the Earliest Books for Emigrants to Texas


A presentation copy from Mrs. Holley, inscribed in her hand at the head of the titlepage: “B. Drake from the Author.” This is very likely Benjamin Drake, author of Cincinnati in 1826 and biographies of Indian chiefs Tecumseh and Black Hawk. He was the younger brother of Daniel Drake, the most distinguished physician of the West at the time, who had headed the medical department of Transylvania University when Mrs. Holley’s husband Horace was president there. In the small literary world of Lexington and Cincinnati, Benjamin Drake and Mrs. Holley would have naturally known each other well. Inscribed copies of Mrs. Holley’s book are quite rare.

This is Mrs. Holley’s second book on Texas, intended as a practical and informative guide for emigrants to the area. Despite the title, which is similar to the author’s Baltimore 1833 book, this is a completely different work. Jenkins calls it “a much more important book.” Included herein is a general history of Texas to May 5, 1836, a printing of the Texas and Mexican constitutions, Stephen Austin’s farewell address of March 7, and specific information regarding settlements, towns, business and banking matters, transportation and communication facilities, etc. While her earlier book served to promote the enthusiastic interest of prospective emigrants to Texas, in this work Mrs. Holley provides the hard facts regarding what they would find there. As Stephen F. Austin’s cousin, she was in a position to know.


$25,000.

Clicking on any item – text or image – will take you to our website for easy ordering and to view any additional images.
Presented by Thomas Jefferson to John Trumbull:
A Key Source of Classical Images for American Neo-Classicists


An absolutely phenomenal association copy of this influential study of the antiquities of the Italian city of Herculaneum, destroyed during an explosion of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D. This set of Les Antiquités d’Herculaneum... was given by Thomas Jefferson to his young protégé, painter John Trumbull. Jefferson has inscribed it on the front fly leaf of the first volume “Th. J. begs Mr. Trumbull will do him the favor to accept this copy of the Herculaneum.” Jefferson was instrumental in furthering Trumbull’s career at an early stage and in encouraging him to create his painting of the presentation of the Declaration of Independence. That painting is one of Trumbull’s most important and iconic works, and in placing Jefferson at the center of that scene Trumbull helped to cement the Jefferson image in the American mind.

Jefferson and Trumbull first met in London in early 1786, when Trumbull was thirty and Jefferson thirteen years his elder. At the time Trumbull was studying painting under Benjamin West, but was planning to visit Paris to study the artworks available there. Jefferson invited Trumbull to stay with him at his Paris residence, the Hotel de Langeac, and the two quickly became close. In fact, Trumbull joined William S. Smith and Jefferson’s secretary, William Short, in the small group of people that Jefferson asked to perform tasks or “commisions” for him. Trumbull lived with Jefferson for five or six weeks at the Hotel de Langeac, and Jefferson encouraged Trumbull in his early historical paintings. Trumbull had brought with him to Paris two of his recent historical paintings, “Death of General Warren at Bunker’s Hill” and “Death of General Montgomery at Quebec,” which he wanted to have engraved. It was almost certainly at Jefferson’s suggestion and encouragement that Trumbull added the Declaration of Independence to his series of American historical paintings. With Jefferson’s assistance and recollection of the event, Trumbull began his painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. It was Trumbull’s placing of Jefferson at the center of his painting, flanked by John Adams and Benjamin Franklin, that helped cement the centrality of Jefferson’s role as author of the Declaration in the public consciousness. Merrill Peterson asserts: “In the panegyrics of the Fourth of July...the popularity of Trumbull’s masterpiece of historical portraiture, ‘The Signing of the Declaration’ – Jefferson’s authorship of the American birthright was his certain title to immortality.”

Jefferson espoused Trumbull’s talents and introduced him to important people in Paris, and Trumbull repaid the favor in consequential ways. Jefferson’s biographer,
Dumas Malone, writes: “Jefferson was on the most intimate terms with Trumbull until the very end of his stay in France, and he always associated him in memory with what he called ‘our charming coterie in Paris.’” That coterie included Maria Cosway, the beautiful and vivacious young wife of English portraitist Richard Cosway. Trumbull had already met the Cosways and introduced them to Jefferson in Paris in August 1786 at the Halle aux Bleds marketplace. The widowed Jefferson became enamored with Maria Cosway and spent a great deal of time with her between August and October, 1786. Trumbull was often with the pair, touring art galleries, attending concerts, walking around Paris and journeying into the countryside. On Oct. 12, 1786, on the occasion of the Cosways return to England, Jefferson wrote Maria Cosway an anguished letter in which he related a debate between “my head and my heart.” It was to Trumbull that Jefferson entrusted the delivery of this confidential and revealing letter. Trumbull was also an intermediary for Jefferson’s friendship with Angelica Schuyler Church, Alexander Hamilton’s sister-in-law. Mrs. Church and Maria Cosway were good friends, referring to each other as “sisters.” Jefferson, in fact, helped Mrs. Church secure a volume of the Herculaneum in September 1788 (see Jefferson letter of Sept. 21, 1788 in Papers of Thomas Jefferson, Vol. 13, pp.623-24). It is possible the gift of this set to Trumbull took place at the same time.

The friendship between Jefferson and Trumbull continued after Trumbull left Paris for London and the United States. In 1788, Jefferson commissioned from Trumbull a canvas containing life-size busts of Francis Bacon, John Locke, and Isaac Newton, whom Jefferson considered as “the three greatest men that have ever lived.” Also in 1788, Trumbull painted a portrait of Jefferson, and would later make copies of that portrait for Maria Cosway, Angelica Church, and Jefferson’s eldest daughter, Martha. In 1789, anticipating that William Short was about to move on to other endeavors, Jefferson offered John Trumbull the position of his personal secretary, an offer that Trumbull declined. Sometime after that Jefferson recommended Trumbull for the position of American Minister to the Barbary States, a post that Trumbull also declined. In 1793, Jefferson and Trumbull (a Federalist and a New England Congregationalist) had a falling out over questions of politics and religious faith, issues that came to a head at a dinner Jefferson hosted that also included the Virginia politician, William Branch Giles. Trumbull and Giles already had bad blood between them, and when Jefferson seemingly took Giles’ side, Trumbull recalled that “from this time my acquaintance with Mr. Jefferson became cold and distant.”

Jefferson’s gift to Trumbull of this set of Maréchal’s Les Antiquités d’Herculanum is significant on several levels. Excavations at Herculaneum, destroyed by an eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 A.D., had begun in 1738. The publication of illustrated books such as those of Maréchal, showing the antiquities preserved and discovered at Herculaneum, had an important effect on the growing popularity of Neoclassical styles and themes in contemporary European and American art. Jefferson himself owned a set of Maréchal’s work (although it was not among the works sold to the Library of Congress; it appears in the 1828 sale catalogue of his retained library), and he not only gave this set to Trumbull, but ordered a set for the library at the University of Virginia as well. And as mentioned, Jefferson also assisted in securing a volume of the set for Angelica Church in 1788. Jefferson himself was very influenced by classical styles, as evidenced in his architectural designs for Monticello and the University of Virginia. John Trumbull was also greatly influenced by classical art and was a central figure in the Neoclassical revival in America. This work would have been very important in the development of his artistic style. The first five volumes in Maréchal’s work (i.e. volumes I, II, III, and V in the present set) are devoted to painting, and volumes VI and VII are concerned with bronzes.

An outstanding association copy, uniting Thomas Jefferson with one of his most talented protégés, John Trumbull, whose painting of Jefferson presenting the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 did so much to establish Jefferson in the pantheon of America’s Founding Fathers.

With Johnson’s Great Map of the Northern Pacific Route


This copy is inscribed on the front wrapper: “With Regards of James Tilton C.E.” Tilton (1819-78) was then chief engineer of the Washington Division of the Northern Pacific Railroad. Thanks in part to his support for Franklin Pierce’s presidential campaign, Tilton was appointed the first Surveyor General of Washington Territory and served from 1853-61. Both the Tilton River and Fort Tilton (near Fall City, Washington) are named for him.

An important report to Congress by the Northern Pacific Railroad, headed by Minnesota railroad magnate James J. Hill, for federal aid to support the Railroad’s expansion to the West Coast. The petition reviews the railroad’s original charter, printing with it a memorial from the NPRR’s Board of Directors, and supporting communications from military figures including Montgomery Meigs and Ulysses S. Grant. Since the early 1850s Edwin Johnson, described by Wheat as a “visionary” engineer, had been associated with the plan to build a railroad across the northern part of the United States, from the Great Lakes to the Pacific Coast. In 1867 he was named chief engineer of the Northern Pacific, and this memorial is a work of major importance for the history of the railroad. It includes Johnson’s topographical survey of the area in justification of construction.

The exceptional large folding “Map of the Country from Lake Superior to the Pacific Ocean from the Latest Explorations and Surveys” was produced by the Colton firm in New York. One of the finest maps of the region to date, it shows the area from Detroit to the Pacific, well into Canada and south to about the 39th parallel. Johnson has drawn the route of the Northern Pacific from Lake Superior to Washington Territory, where the line splits, with one branch heading toward Fort Vancouver and the other to Puget Sound. Among the details shown on the map are the Pony Express route, wagon routes and overland mail routes, exploration routes and other proposed railroad routes, the locations of Indian tribes, mineral deposits, military forts, and much more. Wheat gives a long description of the map, and remarks that “the detail of such a map defies cataloging.” Construction on the Northern Pacific Railroad began in 1870 and was completed in 1883. Edwin Johnson did not see its completion, dying in 1872. An edition of this report, with the supporting documents and map, was also privately published in Hartford.

A significant, early account of railroad expansion in the Northwest. We could find only ten copies listed in OCLC, and this is the first copy we have seen in wrappers, and with a presentation from an important engineer on the project. RAILWAY ECONOMICS, pp.242-43. SABIN 55819 (Hartford edition). WHEAT TRANSMISSISSIPPI V, item 1169, pp.205-09. PHILLIPS, MAPS, p.916. DECKER 37:266 (Hartford ed). MIDLAND NOTES 68:164. OCLC 60578657. $2500.

Later printing of this famous work, which won Kennedy the Pulitzer Prize. The front fly leaf is inscribed in Kennedy’s hand: “To my former boss Louis Ruppel – with warmest regards, John Kennedy.” Louis Ruppel was the associate editor of the *American Weekly* newspaper in New York. Kennedy previously worked for Ruppel as a reporter, and maintained a warm relationship with him as his political career took off.

$7500.
An Important Pacific Atlas,
with a Presentation Inscription from Krusenstern

18. Krusenstern, Ivan Fedorovich: ATLAS DE L’OCEAN PACIFIQUE. St. Petersburg: Par Ordre de Sa Majesté Impériale, 1824. Engraved titlepage, dedication leaf, and fifteen engraved maps by S. Froloff (six double-page, nine single-page); some plates with more than one map, some with inserts, one with a folding extension, all dated 1824. Modern three-quarter red morocco and cloth boards, ruled and lettered in gilt. Contemporary presentation inscription on front endpaper and scattered contemporary ink annotations. Expertly remargined at plate fore-edges, not affecting map images. Light tanning at edges. Otherwise internally clean. Near fine.

The very rare first French edition of this great atlas of the South Pacific, the first of its type and one of the most important of all Pacific atlases, with a superb presentation from Krusenstern to Admiral Count Login Hayden. A companion atlas to the North Pacific was published some three years later.

Dedicated to Tsar Alexander, this magnificent atlas by the Russian explorer and cartographer, Krusenstern, is a great rarity in either its original edition in Russian or in this first French edition of the same year. The charts are drawn on a large, detailed scale, and represent the first systematic attempt to chart the islands of the Pacific, including a map of the whole of New Zealand and most of the eastern coast of Australia, with a detailed plan of Sydney Harbor. The first chart is a general map of the Southern Pacific, showing discovery dates and including, in this particular copy, some supplementary contemporary handwritten information dated up to 1825. It covers the ocean from Borneo to Cape Horn, showing all of Australia, the Solomon Islands, Polynesia, New Zealand, the Galapagos Islands and the western coast of South America.

Krusenstern compiled these maps from information gathered on his world voyage of 1803-1806 and from earlier and subsequent voyages. “Krusenstern is the Hydrographer of the Pacific....It is difficult to speak in sufficiently high terms of this noble work...Krusenstern...embodied everything that had previously been observed in the Pacific, and in the most masterly manner he has reconciled the discordant materials at his command, and placed its hydrography upon an entirely new basis” – A.G. Findlay, quoted by Forbes. The fifteen maps included are as follows:

3) “Carte de la Mer du Corail.” Double-page.
4) “Carte de la Côte Sud Est de la Nouvelles-Galles Méridionale. – Plan de Port Jackson.”
6) “Carte des Îles de l’Amirauté. – Carte de la Nouvelle Irlande. – Plan du Port Gower.”
7) “Carte des Isles de la Nouvelle Bretagne. – Cart de l’Archipel de Santa Cruz. – Plan de l’Anse Byron.”
8) “Carte de l’Archipel de la Louisiade. – Carte de l’Archipel de Mendana. – Plan du Port Chichagoff.”
10) “Carte de l’Archipel des Nouvelles Hebrides. – Plan du Port de la Resolution.”
11) “Carte de la Nouvelle Caledonie. – Plan du Port St. Vincent.”
13) “Carte de l’Archipel des Isles des Amis. – Carte de l’Archipel des Isles de la Société. – Plan de la Baie Matavai.”


The “Carte de la Mer Corail” is dedicated to Matthew Flinders, and indeed the “Carte Générale” bears the name “Australia,” which was the name championed by Flinders and which appeared on his map of Australia published ten years earlier. Despite its importance to the cartographic history of Australia, the bibliographer Ferguson did not know of the Russian nor French editions of the atlas until he had started work on the second volume of his Bibliography, where in the addenda to Volume I, he describes only a French reissue of 1835, which he could cite only from an entry in a London bookseller’s catalogue of 1940: “This atlas, the first attempt at a Systematic Cartographical representation of the islands of the Pacific, is of the greatest rarity. The charts are drawn on a large scale and give far more detail than those of Arrowsmith and Admiral Espinosa…” (Ferguson 1130a). Only in the 1986 volume of Addenda is reference finally made to this first French edition (972a; still with no copy seen). Phillips and Lada-Morcarski likewise do not note this edition.

This copy contains a presentation inscription from Krusenstern to the Admiral Login Hayden, the victor at the Battle of Navarino and the future military governor of Kronstadt and Reval-Tallinn. Hayden was Dutch but offered his services to Catherine the Great in 1795, the last year of her reign, and by 1826 commanded the Russian fleet in the Mediterranean. In 1827, he defeated the Turk-Egyptian fleet at Navarino during the Greek War of Independence, and was later made Admiral and military governor by Nicholas I along the Baltic Sea.

An excellent copy of an extremely rare atlas, with an outstanding association.

ARCTIC BIBLIOGRAPHY 9375. FERGUSON 972a. FORBES 581. HOWES K270 (ref). LADA-MOCARSKI 91 (ref). SABIN 38329. $65,000.
GRAMMAIRE
DE LA
LANGUE MONTAGNAISE
PAR
LE REV. PERE LAURENT LEGOFF, PTE
OBLAT DE MARIE IMMACULÉE
MONTREAL
50, RUE COTTE, 50
1889

Important “Montagnais” Grammar, Inscribed

A presentation copy, inscribed by the author on a front flyleaf. Legoff lived among the Montagnais for some twenty years, accumulating this still authoritative grammar. “Montagnais” is a collective name for four Indian tribes of the Canadian Northwest of Athapascan stock. Legoff estimated their number at some five to six million. The folding table gives verb conjugations.

PILLING, ATHAPASCAN, p.53. AYER (CHIPPEWA) 124. $600.
Thrilling Tales of the Black Hills, Inscribed by the “Sky Pilot”


A presentation copy, inscribed: “To you old Scout from The ‘Sky Pilot,’ [i.e. Carl Loocke] 1935.”

Dedicated to “the American Boy of red blood and adventure who sees always the beautiful and worthwhile things in life” (p.[5]), this is a warm and folksy introduction to the Black Hills of South Dakota for Boy Scouts and others coming to the region. Carl Loocke promises it all: “ADVENTURE did you say – Indians, cowboys and Gold? Yes we have all of that – just come with me.” And he delivers, recounting the history of the Black Hills and Dakota Territory, stories of Indian warriors (noting that American Indians are the “true Americans”), cattle drives, Custer’s campaigns, Deadwood and the gold rush, and then more recent developments, such as Mount Rushmore (which was under construction as Loocke was writing) and recent developments in aviation. Loocke had a colorful life himself. Originally from New Jersey, he moved west at seventeen to follow his dream of becoming a cowboy. After time on the ranch, he found a new calling, was ordained to the ministry, and served multiple parishes throughout South Dakota by biplane, earning the moniker “Sky Pilot.” He was also a Scoutmaster, historian, and inventor – receiving a patent for an aircraft that merged the maneuverability of a plane with the stable lift of a dirigible; he called it the “Aero-Zep,” and casually includes information on it towards the end of the book. This book is scarce, this is the only copy we have seen at auction, and the first time we have handled this title.

JENNEWEIN 181. $600.

This copy bears an exceptional colonial provenance, being inscribed on the front free endpaper from Jonathan Belcher, governor of Massachusetts and New Hampshire from 1730 to 1741. Belcher has inscribed it: “To the Honorable Sir Philip York His Majesty’s Attorney General, from His most obedient, most faithfull, and most humble servant....” The inscription is dated Boston, Oct. 18, 1732. Philip Yorke (1690-1764), the 1st Earl of Hardwicke, was attorney general to George II from 1724. He was chief justice after 1733 and lord chancellor after 1737. Belcher also served as governor of New Jersey, appointed in 1747. A remarkable association copy, linking the laws of the Crown to their administrator in the colonies and their chief enforcer in England.

The second collected laws of Massachusetts, preceded only by the 1699 edition. This copy includes the separately printed Charter (bound first), the full 1726 laws, and all of the session laws printed through July 1, 1732. A total of sixteen Evans items.


A presentation copy, inscribed by the author on the front flyleaf: “Charles R. Bennett, San Francisco, California December 1894, from the Author G.W. Perrie.” “The author reached California in the middle 50's and spent some time in Lassen County. Later he became a noted Indian fighter. His account of the Crim Emigration Company, which numbered seventy-five men his journey across the plains, and his experiences in the diggings are related with great verve and drama” – Streeter.

STREETER SALE 3084. COWAN, p.82. GRAFF 3252. HOWES P242. MINTZ 365. $500.
Presentation Copy


This copy bears the enigmatic presentation: “Mr. ‘Booster’ Brown – Compliments of E.M. Rhodes.” Any Rhodes inscriptions are rare. This copy belonged at one time to collector Paul Seyboldt, who tried to discover Brown’s identity, without success. Laid in are two letters to him from Rhodes crony and editor, W.H. Hutchinson, and one from widow May D. Rhodes, disclaiming knowledge. Hutchinson does speculate that it is a “friend from Gene’s high and careless youth.” Hutchinson also solicits copies of Rhodes’ correspondence for his biographical work. A nice association copy.

$1000.
A SERIES OF CHARTS, WITH SAILING DIRECTIONS, EMBRACING SURVEYS OF THE FARALLONES, ENTRANCE TO THE BAY OF SAN FRANCISCO...STATE OF CALIFORNIA....


A presentation copy, inscribed on the titlepage: “For Hon. J.W. Denver of California, with the respects of the author.” James William Denver (1817-92) was born in Virginia and served in the army during the Mexican-American War. He had a long and varied political career, serving as a member of the California State Senate in 1852-53, as California’s Secretary of State from 1853 to 1855, and then as a U.S. Congressman from California in 1855-57. In 1852 he engaged in a duel with newspaper editor Edward Gilbert, during which Denver killed Gilbert. Denver went on to serve as secretary and governor of Kansas Territory in 1857-58. It was while governor of Kansas Territory that land speculator William Larimer named the western Kansas town of “Denver” after him (the city would become capital of the state of Colorado). During the Civil War, Denver was a general in the Union Army.

This copy also bears the small, early bookplate of Theodore D. Judah of Sacramento on the front pastedown. Though it was published only a little more than a decade before his death, this would seem to be the engineer, Theodore D. Judah (1826-63), who launched the Central Pacific Railroad and was the driving force behind the construction of the Transcontinental Railroad. As chief engineer of the Central Pacific, he surveyed the route over the Sierra Nevada which that railroad would eventually take. He lobbied tirelessly in Washington, D.C. for funding for the Transcontinental Railroad, eventually bringing together the “Big Four” railroad barons who would make the project a reality.

The “third edition, with additions,” after the first of 1851. Ringgold, a U.S. Navy officer, undertook the survey of the area from the Farallones to Sacramento at the request of a group of prominent San Franciscans, and this guide was utilized extensively during the peak years of the emigration and gold rush. The frontispiece is a view of San Francisco from Yerba Buena Island. The other plates show smaller, similar views of other areas, generally two to a plate. This edition was issued the year after the first.

A copy with a remarkable provenance.

HOWES R303. SABIN 71425. COWAN, p.534. KURUTZ 536d. HILL 1454. $4000.

Roosevelt’s speech supporting Alfred E. Smith for the Democratic presidential nomination. Smith was the out-going governor of New York, an office in which Roosevelt succeeded him. This copy is signed boldly on the fly leaf by Roosevelt, with a presentation inscription to a collector: “For Mr. H.D. Trevillian / from Franklin D. Roosevelt / Albany March 4th 1932.”

$8500.
Life of a Famous Texas Ranger


A scarce biography of the “most famous Texas Ranger,” according to Howes. McCulloch went to Texas from Tennessee with Davy Crockett, fought in the Texas Revolution at San Jacinto, joined the Texas Rangers during the Republic, served as Zachary Taylor’s Chief of Scouts during the Mexican-American War, and was killed at the battle of Pea Ridge during the Civil War. The work contains numerous letters and military reports. This copy was given by McCulloch’s brother, Henry, to Hamilton P. Bee, a Texas politician during the Republic era and early statehood, and later a Civil War general. The inscription on the front free endpaper reads: “From Henry E. McCulloch to General H.P. Bee.”

HOWES R443, “aa.”

$5000.

A presentation copy of the specially-bound suede issue of Russell’s second portfolio of his work, inscribed by Russell’s wife, Nancy Cooper Russell, to her half-sister, Ella Allen, in 1903. Nancy Russell was instrumental in Charles Russell’s success and is often credited with being the backbone of his business. This copy is what Yost and Renner identify as the second issue of the second edition, and one of a presumably low number of copies bound in suede, with the letterpress pages on watermarked Strathmore paper. Perhaps these specially-bound copies were intended for distribution by Russell and his family.

One of the Cowboy Artist’s best-known works, the first to follow *Studies of Western Life*, and an important Russell rarity.

HOWES R529. YOST & RENNEN 6.

$4500.
Presented by Daniel Webster to Joseph Hopkinson


A fine association copy given by Daniel Webster to Joseph Hopkinson, inscribed by Hopkinson on the titlepage: “Jos. Hopkinson presented by Danl. Webster.”

Joseph Hopkinson (1770-1842), son of signer of the Declaration of Independence Francis Hopkinson, is perhaps best known as the author of “Hail Columbia.” He was a prominent lawyer, defending the rebels involved in the Whiskey Rebellion, representing Benjamin Rush in a libel suit against William Cobbett, and acting as counsel to Samuel Chase in his impeachment trial. Hopkinson would also serve in the U.S. House from Pennsylvania, and as a District Court judge. Hopkinson and Daniel Webster (1782-1852) had a close professional relationship, with Webster requesting Hopkinson as an associate in representing Dartmouth during the landmark legal case of Dartmouth College v. Woodward in 1819, which cemented the concept into U.S. law (already present in English common law) that private charitable organizations served the public good. This decision also strengthened the Contracts Clause and limited the power of the states to interfere with private charters, including those of commercial enterprises. The final argument for the plaintiffs was made by Hopkinson. This case is one of several still cited today as the basis for the protection of corporate persons under the Constitution. Aside from his long and important service in the U.S. House and Senate, Webster also served as Secretary of State to Presidents William Henry Harrison, John Tyler, and Millard Fillmore. This study of 18th century European politics and diplomacy would have been a significant token of Webster’s esteem for Joseph Hopkinson.

This is the first volume (of two) of Russell’s (1792-1878) sweeping foreign policy analysis of the modernizing of European politics following the Peace of Utrecht (1713-15). The Peace was a series of treaties that allowed Philip to take the Spanish throne in exchange for permanently renouncing his claim to the French throne, along with guarantees that France and Spain would never merge, thus preserving the balance of power in Europe. This is the first volume of a projected four-volume work, only two of which were published. The first volume was published anonymously in 1824, followed by a second volume in 1829.

A fine artifact of the friendship between two giants in American law and public affairs.

$1500.
His Rare First Book, Inscribed Twice


An extraordinary presentation copy of Seton’s exceedingly rare first published work, which predates his second book by a full decade. Only a few copies are known to exist of this highly desirable Seton rarity.

Ernest Thompson Seton, born Ernest Thompson, emigrated to Canada as a child. After graduating from the Ontario College of Art he began his travels as a naturalist, settling in Manitoba in 1881. In 1892 he was appointed Naturalist to the Manitoba Government before moving to the United States to write and illustrate more than forty books of animal stories.

This pamphlet consists mainly of Seton’s field notes, with six in-text illustrations by him, including the titlepage vignette of a mule, or jumping deer, repeated on the wrappers. The presentation inscriptions read: “Montagu Chamberlain Esq with the writer’s compliments” and “To J B McGee, this my first publication under the pseudonym [Ernest E. Thompson] cordially, E.T. Seton.” Included with the book is a 1945 letter from David Randall of Scribner’s offering this same copy to a customer in Washington, D.C. Randall writes that the pamphlet “must be of excessive rarity,” as Jake Blanck (author of the Bibliography of American Literature) had never seen a copy, nor had two other rare book scouts come across one in all their years. This copy sold at auction at Parke-Bernet Galleries for $1400 in 1977. PEEL 1640. $3750.

A presentation copy, inscribed by the author. Shaw was a member of the Granite State and California Mining and Trading Company, and here narrates the story of his overland trek from Massachusetts to California in 1849 along the Platte River route. “After an extraordinarily difficult journey, marked by Indian troubles and cholera, the men arrived at Sutter’s Fort on September 6” – Kurutz. The final chapter relates some of Shaw’s mining experiences around Weber Creek.

Linking the Cook and Krusenstern Voyages


A handsome original gouache and ink on paper copy of plate seventy-two in the atlas of Cook’s third voyage, called “A View of Bolcheretzkoi, in Kamtschatka.”

This copy of the view of Kamchatka natives, their huts, and their animals was made during the Krusenstern circumnavigation of the globe (1803 to 1806). It was drawn by Herman von Friderici, who was major of the General Staff for Ambassador Rezanov, and was presented to Wilhelm Gottlieb Tilesius von Tilenau, a naturalist and artist on the Krusenstern expedition. A manuscript note on the verso in Tilesius’ hand explains that it was made by Friderici and given as a gift. Comparison with the actual plate in the Cook atlas shows this to be a very accomplished copy, with all the details from the original reproduced very faithfully. Ambassador Rezanov’s mission was to attempt to open Japan to Russian trade, but he was ultimately unsuccessful.

An interesting artifact, linking the Krusenstern and Cook voyages. $6000.
Celebrating Truman’s Inauguration


A large and handsomely-illustrated presentation photograph album documenting the inauguration of Harry S Truman and Alben W. Barkley as President and Vice President of the United States in January 1949. The album contains an invitation to the Inauguration, an invitation to the Inaugural Ball, a special jugate photo of the President and Vice President, followed by 127 large and finely-printed photographs of the day’s proceedings and notable figures, each measuring 7 x 9 inches. The photographs feature the swearing in at the Capitol, the motorcade, the parade with various state floats represented, fireworks, banquets, balls, various portraits (including Truman at his desk with the famous “Dewey Defeats Truman” newspaper at hand), and working portraits of all cabinet members and staffs, including Matthew J. Connelly.

Images of various Inaugural events depict celebrities such as George Jessel, Master of Ceremonies; Lena Horne; Xavier Cugat; Edgar Bergen; and military figures including Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, and many others. A printed Index follows the photographs.

The photographs were taken by, and the album assembled by, noted Baltimore photographer Leon Perskie. Perskie served as the official photographer for four Democratic presidents – Roosevelt, Truman, Kennedy, and Johnson – and was responsible for official campaign portrait photographs of each. Also a skilled painter, Perskie painted the official campaign image for FDR in 1932 and 1936.

This Inaugural photograph album was presented to Truman’s Appointment Secretary, Matthew J. Connelly, stamped “Honorable and Mrs. Matthew J. Connelly” on the front cover. On December 1, 1955, Connelly, in a politically motivated prosecution, was indicted on a charge of conspiracy to defraud the United States government. It was alleged that in 1949 he and others had attempted to interfere in a tax evasion charge against Irving Sachs, a St. Louis businessman. Through a series of legal mishaps and unfortunate turns, Connelly was convicted and sentenced to two years in prison. Throughout Connelly’s prosecution and for years following, the now-former President Truman stood by Connelly and called his conduct “above reproach.” In 1959, Truman was the headline speaker at a fundraising dinner that was held to honor Connelly, and which raised $150,000 to cover his legal expenses. In 1962, Connelly applied for a pardon. Exactly one year prior to the day of his assassination, President John F. Kennedy signed a full and unconditional pardon for Connelly, on November 22, 1962.

A beautiful and substantial production (five inches thick and weighing about eight pounds), presented to one of Truman’s trusted inner circle, who met an ignominious end to his political career just half a decade later, but was ultimately exonerated. Presidential Inaugural photograph albums are extraordinarily rare on the open market. $4500.
**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.