

Princeton University. Library

Department of Rare Books and Special Collections

Exhibition Catalogues

Number ~~30~~

23

ONE HUNDRED NOTABLE AMERICAN BOOKS

CATALOGUE

**of the Exhibition in the
Princeton University Library**

February 1 - April 15, 1959

Princeton, New Jersey

1959

**ONE
HUNDRED
NOTABLE
AMERICAN
BOOKS**

AN EXHIBITION IN THE
PRINCETON UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

February 1 through April 15, 1959
Hours: Monday-Saturday, 9 A.M. to 6 P.M.
Sunday, 2 to 5 P.M.

One Hundred Notable American Books

THE members of the Department of English who compiled this list in 1957, Charles T. Davis, Laurence B. Holland, Richard M. Ludwig, John W. Ward, and myself, foresee that some will wish to challenge the use of the word "notable" as our criterion of selection. In what sense do we intend it to be taken? The answer is: in several senses. Some of these works are notable because they are literary masterpieces: *Walden*, for instance, and *Moby-Dick*. We included some first publications (even though they may be little known) because we believe that in a new culture like ours the appearance of the first book by a writer who later became a master is a notable occasion. In most cases we have also listed a mature work of the author in question. Several works we consider notable because they report vividly aspects or episodes of our history even though they are not stylistically of the first order. (Examples are Lewis and Clark's *History of the Expedition* and Porter's *The Big Bear of Arkansas*.) Others we deem notable because of the consequences of their publication—Bowditch's *Practical Navigator*, for example, and Webster's *An American Dictionary*. But we resisted the impulse to permit the list to veer too far in the direction of the Grolier Club's admirable *One Hundred Influential American Books* (1947). If some who ponder this list are inclined to say that we have neglected (or over-emphasized) a particular period, we can say that we rationed our selections by periods. There are thirty-one works issued before 1801; forty-nine from the nineteenth century; twenty from this century. This balance was intentional.

The compilers stand ready to meet all challengers, because in our deliberations we challenged one another every step of the way.

An asterisk before a number indicates that the book is not in the Princeton Library in the edition listed or that the Princeton copy is incomplete. Twenty-nine numbers are so marked.

—WILLARD THORP

1. John Smith. *A True Relation of . . . Virginia*. London, 1608.
- *2. George Sandys. *Ovid's Metamorphosis*. Englished by G. S. London, 1626. (Princeton has the editions of 1632 and 1640.)
- *3. Roger Williams. *The Bloudy Tenent of Persecution, for cause of Conscience, discussed*. [London], 1644.
4. Anne Bradstreet. *The Tenth Muse Lately sprung up in America*. London, 1650.

- *5. John Eliot. *The New Testament . . . Translated into the Indian Language*. Cambridge [Mass.], 1661.
- *6. Michael Wigglesworth. *The Day of Doom*. London, 1666.
- *7. Nathaniel Morton. *New-Englands Memoriall*. Cambridge [Mass.], 1669.
- *8. Mary Rowlandson. *The Sovereignty & Goodness of God . . . Being a Narrative Of the Captivity and Restauration of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson*. Cambridge [Mass.], 1682.
- *9. *The New-England Primer*. Boston 1690. (The earliest extant edition, Boston, 1727, is known from a unique copy in the New York Public Library.)
10. Cotton Mather. *Magnalia Christi Americana*. London, 1702.
- *11. John Wise. *A Vindication of the Government of New-England Churches*. Boston, 1717.
12. Samuel Willard. *A Compleat Body of Divinity*. Boston, 1726.
13. Edward Taylor. *The Poetical Works of Edward Taylor*. New York [1939].
14. Jonathan Edwards. *A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections*. Boston, 1746.
15. William Byrd. *Histories of the Dividing Line betwixt Virginia and North Carolina*. Raleigh, 1929. (The first edition to include *The Secret History*, hitherto unpublished.)
- *16. Benjamin Franklin. (1) *Experiments and Observations on Electricity*. (2) *Supplemental Experiments and Observations*. (3) *New Experiments and Observations*. London, 1751, 1753, 1754. (Princeton has the first volume only.)
- *17. John Dickinson. *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia, 1768.
18. John Woolman. *The Works of John Woolman*. Philadelphia, 1774.
- *19. Thomas Paine. *Common Sense*. Philadelphia, 1776. (Princeton has the London edition of 1776.)
20. M. G. St. Jean de Crèvecoeur. *Letters from an American Farmer*. London, 1782.
- *21. Noah Webster. *A Grammatical Institute, of the English Language*. Hartford [1783]-85.
- *22. Charles Chauncy. *The Benevolence of the Deity*. Boston, 1784.
23. Thomas Jefferson. *Notes on the state of Virginia*. [Paris, 1785.]
24. Philip Freneau. *The Poems of Philip Freneau*. Philadelphia, 1786.
25. John Adams. *A Defence of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America*. London, 1787-88.

26. Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison. *The Federalist*. New York, 1788.
27. William H. Brown. *The Power of Sympathy*. Boston, 1789.
28. Royall Tyler. *The Contrast*. Philadelphia, 1790.
29. Benjamin Franklin. *Mémoires de la Vie Privée de Benjamin Franklin*. Paris, 1791.
- *30. Hugh H. Brackenridge. *Modern Chivalry*. (1) Part I. Vols. I-II. Philadelphia, 1792. Vol. III. Pittsburgh, 1793. Vol. IV. Philadelphia, 1797. (2) First complete edition. Philadelphia, 1815. (Princeton has the 1815 edition only.)
- *31. Charles B. Brown. *Alcuin; A Dialogue*. New York, 1798.
- *32. Nathaniel Bowditch. *The New American Practical Navigator*. Newburyport, Mass., 1802.
33. Washington Irving. *A History of New York*. New York, 1809.
34. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. *History of the Expedition under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark*. Philadelphia, 1814.
35. Washington Irving. *The Sketch Book*. New York, 1819-20.
36. William C. Bryant. *Poems*. Cambridge, 1821.
- *37. James F. Cooper. *The Spy*. New York, 1821.
- *38. Edgar Allan Poe. *Tamerlane and Other Poems*. Boston, 1827.
39. John J. Audubon. *The Birds of America*. London, 1827-38.
- *40. Nathaniel Hawthorne. *Fanshawe*. Boston, 1828.
41. Noah Webster. *An American Dictionary of the English Language*. New York, 1828.
42. William G. Simms. *The Yemassee*. New York, 1835.
43. Ralph W. Emerson. *Nature*. Boston, 1836.
44. Edgar Allan Poe. *Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque*. Philadelphia, 1840.
45. Richard H. Dana. *Two Years before the Mast*. New York, 1840.
46. Ralph W. Emerson. *Essays*. First Series. Boston, 1841.
47. Henry W. Longfellow. *Ballads and Other Poems*. Cambridge, 1842.
48. William H. Prescott. *History of the Conquest of Mexico*. New York, 1843.
49. William T. Porter. *The Big Bear of Arkansas*. Philadelphia, 1845.
50. Herman Melville. *Typee*. New York, 1846.
51. James R. Lowell. *The Biglow Papers*. Cambridge, 1848.
52. Henry D. Thoreau. *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers*. Boston, 1849.

53. Francis Parkman. *The California and Oregon Trail*. New York, 1849.
54. Nathaniel Hawthorne. *The Scarlet Letter*. Boston, 1850.
55. Herman Melville. *Moby-Dick*. New York, 1851.
- *56. John C. Calhoun. *A Disquisition on Government, and a Discourse on the Constitution and Government of the United States*. Columbia, S.C., 1851. (Also published in Charleston in 1851.)
57. Harriet B. Stowe. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. Boston, 1852.
58. Henry D. Thoreau. *Walden*. Boston, 1854.
59. Walt Whitman. *Leaves of Grass*. Brooklyn, 1855.
60. George H. Boker. *Plays and Poems*. Boston, 1856.
61. Oliver W. Holmes. *The Autocrat of the Breakfast-Table*. Boston, 1858.
62. John G. Whittier. *Snow-Bound*. Boston, 1866.
63. Mark Twain. *The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, And other Sketches*. New York, 1867.
64. Bret Harte. *The Luck of Roaring Camp, and Other Sketches*. Boston, 1870.
- *65. George Bancroft. *A History of the United States*. Boston, 1834-75. (Princeton has Vols. I, II, and IX only.)
66. Henry James. *A Passionate Pilgrim, and Other Tales*. Boston, 1875.
67. Sidney Lanier. *Poems*. Philadelphia, 1877.
68. Henry George. *Progress and Poverty*. San Francisco, 1879.
69. Joel C. Harris. *Uncle Remus; His Songs and His Sayings*. New York, 1881.
70. William D. Howells. *A Modern Instance*. Boston, 1882.
71. Mark Twain. *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. New York, 1885.
72. Edward Bellamy. *Looking Backward*. Boston, 1888.
73. Henry Adams. *History of the United States of America*. New York, 1889-91.
74. Emily Dickinson. *Poems*. Boston, 1890.
75. William D. Howells. *Criticism and Fiction*. New York, 1891.
- *76. Stephen Crane. *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*. [New York, 1893.]
- *77. Edwin A. Robinson. *The Torrent and the Night Before*. [Gardiner, Maine], 1896.
78. Sarah O. Jewett. *The Country of the Pointed Firs*. Boston, 1896.
79. Thorstein Veblen. *The Theory of the Leisure Class*. New York, 1899.
80. Theodore Dreiser. *Sister Carrie*. New York, 1900.
81. Henry James. *The Ambassadors*. New York, 1903.

82. William James. *Pragmatism*. New York, 1907.
- *83. Henry Adams. *The Education of Henry Adams*. Washington, 1907.
- *84. Ezra Pound. *A Lume Spento*. [Venice, 1908.]
- *85. Gertrude Stein. *Three Lives*. New York, 1909.
- *86. Frank L. Wright. *Ausgeführte Bauten und Entwürfe*. Berlin [1910].
87. Willa Cather. *Alexander's Bridge*. Boston, 1912.
88. Robert Frost. *North of Boston*. London [1914].
89. Sinclair Lewis. *Our Mr. Wrenn*. New York, 1914.
90. Eugene O'Neill. *Thirst And Other One Act Plays*. Boston [1914].
91. Carl Sandburg. *Chicago Poems*. New York, 1916.
92. H. L. Mencken. *A Book of Prefaces*. New York, 1917.
93. T. S. Eliot. *Prufrock and Other Observations*. London, 1917.
94. John C. Ransom. *Poems about God*. New York, 1919.
95. John Dos Passos. *One Man's Initiation*. London [1920].
- *96. Ernest Hemingway. *Three Stories & Ten Poems*. [Paris, 1923.]
- *97. Wallace Stevens. *Harmonium*. New York, 1923.
98. F. Scott Fitzgerald. *The Great Gatsby*. New York, 1925.
99. Hart Crane. *White Buildings*. [New York], 1926.
100. William Faulkner. *The Sound and the Fury*. New York [1929].



The exhibition is based upon the list of "One Hundred Notable American Books" compiled by members of Princeton's Department of English and originally published in *The Princeton University Library Chronicle*, Vol. XIX, No. 2 (Winter, 1958). All the books shown are from the collections of the Princeton Library. Wherever possible the edition shown is the one listed; in those instances where Princeton lacks the original edition, an appropriate alternate such as a facsimile, or a significant early edition, has been substituted. Reading texts of most of these books are, of course, available in the Library in many forms. The present display, however, makes it possible to see the majority of these notable American books in their original dress—format, paper, typography and binding—as they appeared to their first readers.

1. John Smith. A True Relation Of Such Occurrences and Accidents of Note As Hath Happned In Virginia Since The First Planting Of That Colloony. London, 1608. [Ex 1230.862.41].

Smith's True Relation is the earliest printed account of the English settlement at Jamestown. It was written in America, presumably some time before June 2, 1608, for on that date the ship "Phoenix" left Virginia carrying Smith's news-letter to "a worshipfull friend of his in England." The True Relation was entered for publication at Stationers' Hall on August 13, 1608.

The final paragraph of the Relation brought this message from Virginia to friends and relatives at home:

"Wee now remaining being in good health, all our men wel contented, free from mutinies, in love with another, and as we hope in a continuall peace with the Indians, where we doubt not but by Gods gracious assistance ... to see our Nation to enjoy a Country, not onely exceeding pleasant for habitation, but also very profitable for comerce in generall, no doubt pleasing to almightie God, honourable to our gracious Sovereigne, and commodious generally to the whole kingdome."

2. George Sandys. Ovid's Metamorphosis. "Englished by G.S." 1632 ed.: [NE 910.G3C5.1632q (SAF).] 1640 ed.: [Ex 2893.357.640q].

George Sandys' complete translation of the Metamorphosis was first published in 1626, following his return to England after five years spent in Virginia. It was reprinted at least ten times in the course of the century. Shown here are the revised edition of 1632, the first to include the elaborate engraved illustrations, and the 1640 edition.

Even before it was finished -- perhaps indeed because it was unfinished when Sandys left England for Virginia in 1621 --

this volume was made a symbol of the impact of America on the European literary tradition. Sandys had already published five books of his translation, and his friend Michael Drayton urged him, in verse, to complete it: "Let's see what lines Virginia will produce ... Entice the Muses thither to repair."

Thus the task of writing, whatever its rewards, became a burdensome responsibility and a test imposed by Europe's hopes for America and by the hazards and duties of life in the colonies. Sandys finished his book despite his duties as an officer of the colony and despite the Indian massacre which almost wiped out the colony a few months after his arrival.

The formal dedication draws attention to the fact that his work was "limned by that imperfect light which was snatched from the hours of night and repose" and that it was a curiosity in English letters because it was "sprung from the stock of the ancient Romans, but bred in the new world, of the rudeness whereof it cannot but participate, especially having wars and tumults to bring it to light instead of the Muses."

America's first verse was, significantly, a translation, but one which bore the marks of a cultural mission as well as those of the wilderness. And it gave new significance to the myth recreated by Ovid in the poem Sandys translated: the reality of change and transformation.

3. Roger Williams. *The Bloudy Tenent Of Persecution, For Cause Of Conscience, Discussed.* [5915.975].

First printed in London, in 1644. The title-page shown here is a nineteenth-century imitation of the original one.

The most famous of Roger Williams' writings, in which he sets forth his belief that "God requireth not an uniformity of Religion," and asserts that all individuals and religious bodies -- pagans, Jews, and Catholics as well as Protestants -- are entitled to

religious liberty as a natural right.

"While I plead the Cause of Truth and Innocencie against the bloody Doctrine of Persecution for cause of conscience, I judge it not unfit to give alarms to my selfe, and all men to prepare to be persecuted or hunted for cause of conscience."

4. Anne Bradstreet. The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up In America. London, 1650. [Ex 3637.9.389].

Mrs. Bradstreet's poems -- most of them written in the 1630's and 1640's -- are vivid testimony to both the liabilities and the vitalities of early New England culture: the moral earnestness and severity, the search for genuine intimacy within the confines of established moralistic forms. They are an impressive product of a fascinating career, that of a cultured woman whose "heart rose" in apprehension when she encountered the "new world and new manners" of America, but who managed to combine the role of poetess with that of busy housewife on a farm in Andover, Massachusetts. John Berryman's long poem, Homage to Mistress Bradstreet (1956), is the most recent and fullest testimony to the fascination she has had for the American imagination.

5. John Eliot. The New Testament ... Translated Into The Indian Language

The printing of Eliot's complete translation of the New Testament was finished in the year 1661. Two years later, in 1663, the Old Testament was added to it. This was the earliest Bible printed on the American continent.

Shown here is a genuine leaf from the Eliot Bible (included in: "The First American Bible, A Leaf from a Copy of

the Bible translated into the Indian Language by John Eliot and printed at Cambridge in New England in the Year 1663, With an Account of the Translator and his Labors, and of the Two Printers who produced the Book, by George Parker Winship." Boston, 1929, limited edition).

No book better dramatizes the confrontation of Christian and Indian cultures in New England than Eliot's translation of the Bible into the Algonquin tongue. One of the most famous of the founders to arrive in Massachusetts in 1631, Eliot was a correspondent of Richard Baxter and Robert Boyle, earning his title as "Apostle to the Indians" by founding some fourteen villages of "praying Indians" and instigating the organization of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in 1649. Not all New Englanders were as genuine or as persistent as Eliot in their efforts to "save" and civilize the Indian, but Eliot's writings display the American conscience and the American mission at their best.

6. Michael Wigglesworth. The Day Of Doom. [Graphic Arts.]

Wigglesworth's poem was first printed in 1662, but no copy of this edition has survived. The earliest edition extant is a single copy of one printed at London in 1666. Shown here is a twentieth-century reprint, edited by Kenneth B. Murdock, New York, 1929.

"The Almighty of The Day Of Doom is not a reflection of a single New Englander's rigors and fierceness but of a theological conception to which great groups of Christians for years brought assent It still does not deserve to be forgotten even now when it can move no one as it once moved the Puritan children who huddled beside the fire and became breathless with terror and awe as they spelled out its lines. For, after all, is there any document which sets forth more vividly what

Calvinism meant for individuals, sects, nations, for years influenced in all the activities of life by its curious hold on the mind of man?"

(K. B. Murdock)

7. Nathaniel Morton. New Englands Memoriall. [Graphic Arts, Ex 1150.655.13, New Englands Memoriall, Boston, 1903].

First published in Cambridge, Massachusetts, 1669. A genuine leaf from this first edition is shown here (included in a limited edition of Volume I of Evans' American Bibliography, "Illustrated with Fifty-nine Original Leaves from Early American Books", Boston, 1943). Also on display is a facsimile of the original title-page.

Morton's book became important solely by virtue of being published. A resident in the Plymouth Colony since 1623, Secretary of the Colony after 1645, and nephew of the famous Governor Bradford, he had access to source materials (including Bradford's "History of Plymouth Plantation") which remained in manuscript, unpublished, for decades. The narratives of Bradford and Edward Winslow he confessed using in his preface, and indeed he copied wholesale with (fortunately) scrupulous accuracy. The result was a published historical account, defending the Puritans on all counts from such critics as Samuel Gorton and Roger Williams, which remained influential until the publication of Bradford's manuscript in the mid-nineteenth century. Morton's book had an important shaping influence on the development of American historical writing.

8. Mary Rowlandson. The Sovereignty & Goodness Of God ... Being A Narrative Of The Captivity And Restauration Of Mrs. Mary Rowlandson.

No copy is known of the first edition printed at Cambridge, Massachusetts, in 1682; and only two copies of the second edition, printed the same year as the first, have survived. A twentieth-century reprint (Boston, 1930) is shown here.

Mrs. Rowlandson's narrative of her capture by the Indians during King Philip's War inaugurates a branch of prose literature -- the "Indian captivities" -- which flourished until early in the nineteenth century. These accounts enjoyed wide popularity both as thrilling adventure stories of frontier life and as moral tracts portraying Christian fortitude and martyrdom. They were the counterpart in Protestant America of the Jesuits' "lettres édifiantes" in Catholic countries.

9. The New-England Primer. [1. Facsimile: Ex 3524.67.35; 2. 1788 ed.: Hamilton 123; 3. 1798 ed.: Hamilton 179].

No copy of the first edition, printed in Boston in 1690, has survived. The earliest edition preserved is a single copy of the 1727 edition, now in the New York Public Library -- a facsimile of which (edited by Paul Leicester Ford) is shown here. Also on display are copies of the Primer published at Hartford, Connecticut, in 1788, and at Boston in 1798.

"Whatever the first years of New England may have seen ... the church and the school were at work, and what they did needs no other monument than the history of the last two hundred years. The New England Primer is dead, but it died on a victorious battle field, and its epitaph may well be that written of Noah Webster's Spelling Book:

'It taught millions to read, and not one to sin.'

(Paul Leicester Ford)

10. Cotton Mather. Magnalia Christi Americana. London, 1702. [1. Grenville Kane Collection; 2. Ex 10994.622.22q].

Two copies are shown. One of these (the Grenville Kane - Robert Hoe copy), printed on large paper, includes the "Ecclesiastical Map of the Country," which is often lacking.

"Cotton Mather's great history, the Magnalia Christi America,

'the great achievements of Christ in America,' was in large part designed to revive fading piety He did not succeed in this objective, but he did manage to bring together within the covers of one gargantuan book almost the whole account of Puritan thought and action in seventeenth-century America. He spattered his pages with his amazing erudition, and earned himself the description of pedant, but he also summarized a century of experience."

(Ferry Miller)

11. John Wise. A Vindication Of The Government Of New-England Churches. [5629.979.11].

Shown here is a facsimile reprint (1958) of the first edition of 1717.

"In New England until well along in the eighteenth century the main battleground in the endless conflict between democracy and aristocracy was in the churches. Here Wise, whom Tyler calls 'the first great American democrat,' argues persuasively against Cotton Mather and his group in favor of the proposition that the ultimate source of power and rule in the New England churches is vested in the individual congregations and not in the ministers or any association of ministers. 'The People ... are the first subjects of Power ... a Democracy in Church or State is a very honourable Government.'"

12. Samuel Willard. A Compleat Body Of Divinity. Boston, 1726. [Ex 5960.974q].

This mammoth tome is a monument to New England's attempt to resurrect its past and to transmit the essentials, at least, of its distinctive Christian orthodoxy. The author had been dead for nineteen years when his lectures were published; the two hundred and fifty lectures themselves had been delivered twenty and thirty years before. The editors consequently apologized for Willard's old-fashioned "Philosophical Schemes and Principles," the "Systems" and "Divisions" which comprised the structure of his

analysis, while endorsing fervently his piety. Their publishing venture did little to strengthen New England orthodoxy but it rescued from oblivion the only thorough and systematic compendium of New England theology which was produced in the seventeenth century.

13. Edward Taylor. The Poetical Works Of Edward Taylor. New York, [1939]. [3953.41.1939]. Lent by Willard Thorp.

The discovery of Taylor's poetry, and its publication in 1939 by Thomas H. Johnson of the Lawrenceville School, required virtually the re-writing of colonial literary history. For here, in the works of a New England minister and physician whose works were unknown when he died in 1729, is verse of a higher order than that of his precursors and contemporaries in colonial America. Here also is imaginative experience more elaborate and more sensuous than had been thought possible in severely Puritan New England.

In the long poem "God's Determinations," the Puritan's concern for making theology dramatic found its best expression. In the series of "Sacramental Meditations" the devotional experience of the Puritans found its most intimate form. In such poems as "Huswifery" and "Upon Wedlock and Death of Children," ^{TAYLOR'S ROMANTIC IMAGERY, THE} metaphysical conceits of an earlier century in English verse, and a developed stanza pattern joined to form the most distinctive poetry written in America before Poe.

14. Jonathan Edwards. A Treatise Concerning Religious Affections. Boston, 1746. [P 96.3995.15, copy 2].

Of all Edwards' major works, the Religious Affections is the best written and stems most directly from the crisis in social and religious history which stimulated his brilliant mind, the Great Awakening. Edwards' actions in launching and conducting the religious revivals involved him in sharp controversy with the

more cautious and rationalistic ministers who were his antagonists (notably Charles Chauncy), and his commitment to the validity of the emotions or "affections" as the medium of religious insight and conversion impelled him to distinguish between orgies of religious fervor and the ecstasies of true religious experience. The result was a treatise that is at once pointed and profound, a major contribution to the psychology of religious experience. In its emphasis on experience rather than rational doctrine, and on the active vitalities of the mind rather than its machinery, his work anticipates both Emerson and William James.

15. William Byrd. Histories Of The Dividing Line Betwixt Virginia And North Carolina. Raleigh, North Carolina, 1929. [1230.231.02; 1841 ed.: Ex 1230.231.21].

Wealthy, educated as a gentleman in England, and unburdened by the ponderous missions and inhibitions that dominated New England culture, the Virginian William Byrd (1674-1744) left behind, among his occasional writings, two uproarious manuscript journals which delight anyone who likes to learn that Virginia was settled originally by "about an hundred men, most of them reprobates of good families," and that North Carolina is inhabited exclusively by backward, uncouth people who "pay no tribute, either to God or to Caesar."

The History Of The Dividing Line was first published in 1841 at a time when the South was cultivating its own distinctive past; the discovery and publication of the second journal, the Secret History by William K. Boyd in 1929 was part of the re-discovery of the American past which characterized the 1920's and 1930's.

Also shown here: the first, 1841, publication of Byrd's History.

16. Benjamin Franklin. Experiments and observations on electricity, made at Philadelphia in America ... and communicated in several letters to Mr. P. Collinson, of London, F.R.S. London, 1751. [Ex 8280.36.12].

This is the first edition of the first of the three pamphlets in which Franklin first set forth his theory of electricity. Supplemental Experiments followed in 1753, and New Experiments in 1754, paginated consecutively with the first pamphlet.

The "Philadelphian experiments," known and admired in Europe long before Franklin was famous as a statesman, have left their imprint on modern science and on American mythology as well. Still impressive are Franklin's genuine interest in scientific inquiry and hypothesis, his care in devising experimental tests and apparatus, and the clarity and utility of his coinages and vocabulary ("battery," "conductor," "electrify," "positive," and "negative" among others). The figure of Franklin as a myth hero, however, owes equally as much to these publications, for they pleased many European intellectuals, and startled others, with the conclusive evidence that America's wilderness could produce a wizard. Amateur practicality and abstract speculation could be joined. The colonial forests had produced a "natural genius." Poor Richard, with his kite and his lightning, was Prometheus.

17. John Dickinson. Letters from a farmer in Pennsylvania. [Ex 1081.298, copy 1.]

First published in Philadelphia, 1768. Shown here is a twentieth-century reprint New York, (1903).

John Dickinson's "letters" first appeared in the Pennsylvania Chronicle during the winter of 1767-1768, as a criticism of the obnoxious British legislation of 1767. As a conservative and man of property Dickinson opposed independence for the Colonies but warned that they could not be happy unless they were free, and that they would not be free if Parliament could impose taxes on them without their consent.

"To John Dickinson for his masterly defense of the rights of the Colonies America owes an everlasting debt of gratitude. The logic of his claims and his warnings as to what must be the ultimate result of the ministerial encroachments upon the liberties of Englishmen did much to win over to the American cause in England ... the support of a large body of thoughtful Englishmen. These men actively condemned the ministerial actions and during the war which followed caused the course of the government to be bitterly opposed by an influential and constantly growing minority in Parliament."

(R.T.H. Halsey)

18. John Woolman. The Works of John Woolman, Philadelphia, 1774. [Ex 3996.65.1774].

Not the traumatic crisis of conversion in New England Calvinism, but patient sufferance lies at the center of the Quaker tradition, and its expression in the career and writings of John Woolman, of Mount Holly, New Jersey, has had its impact on literature and on social reform as well. The "exquisite purity and grace" of his style was admired by the romantics in England, and his wide toleration (even of Roman Catholics) and his soul-searching, persistent attempt to remove the supports of prejudice and law from the institution of slavery had a lasting influence far beyond the bounds of the middle colonies.

The publication of Woolman's Works in 1774 -- particularly his masterpiece of religious autobiography, the Journal -- did much to commit the American Revolution to lasting and long-range reform.

19. Thomas Paine. Common Sense. [Ex 3882.8.326].

First published at Philadelphia in January, 1776. On display here is an edition published in London the same year.

Paine's pamphlet was an important influence in preparing public opinion in America for independence from Great Britain. Only three months after its first appearance, Paine wrote in

April, 1776: "Perhaps there never was a pamphlet, since the use of letters were known, about which so little pains were taken, and of which, so great a number went off in so short a time: I am certain that I am within compass when I say one hundred and twenty thousand." It has been estimated that sales of the pamphlet subsequently attained 500,000 copies. In Common Sense are to be found many phrases which have since become proverbial: "The sun never shined on a cause of greater worth" -- "Now is the seed-time of continental union, faith and honor"

20. M.G. St. Jean de Crèvecoeur. Letters from an American Farmer. London, 1782. [Ex 1053.274.11].

Few books of the eighteenth century or since succeed as well as Crèvecoeur's in bringing both imagination and analytical insight to bear on the question: "What then is the American, this new man?" The cultivated Frenchman, who could sympathize with the Loyalists during the American Revolution, saw the cost involved in the "surprising metamorphosis" of becoming an American: the "selfishness," "litigiousness," "idleness," and "frequent want of economy" drawn forth by the necessities and enticements of frontier life. Yet he knew the dream of the "people of cultivators" with whom he identified himself and gave them a candid image of their aspirations: a life centered on the institution of the family, protected from the agitations of a revolutionary society, withdrawn temporarily away from the refinements of artificial "fictitious" society and "approaching nearer to that of nature" without plunging actually into the wildness of the frontier, so carefully planned that the children would learn habits of industry by working for their subsistence receive credit on the family books and "payment in real property at the return of peace."

The expanded French version of his Letters which Crèvecoeur published later is more idealized; the edition of 1782 is more authentic. D.H. Lawrence rightly includes Crèvecoeur in his Studies of Classic American Literature.

- 21: Noah Webster. A Grammatical Institute, of the English Language. 1. The American Spelling Book, Boston, 1790. Hamilton 129. 2. A Grammatical Institute. Boston, 1790. Hamilton 132. 3. An American Selection of Lessons in Reading and Speaking. Boston, 1797. [Ex 4005.958.12.]

First published, in three parts, at Hartford, Connecticut, 1783, 1784, and 1785. The editions shown here were published in Boston in the 1790's.

Noah Webster's Grammatical Institute, which grew out of his experiences as a young school teacher, consisted of three parts: (1) a spelling book, (2) a grammar, and (3) a reader. The spelling book, under various titles, continued to be used in American schools for more than a century, and had much to do with the standardization of spelling and pronunciation in the United States. In all three books Webster consciously promoted "the honor and prosperity of the confederated republics of America," believing that America "must be independent in literature as she is in politics." The crowning achievement of Webster's career, his American Dictionary of the English Language (1828) was published forty-five years after the first appearance of Part I of a Grammatical Institute.

22. Charles Chauncy. The Benevolence of the Deity.

Published at Boston, 1784. Since there is at present no copy of this work in the Princeton University Library a copy lent by Professor Henry L. Savage is shown in its place.

This harmless-looking book, harboring doctrines long kept secret, was produced by a primly conservative and decorous Bostonian who every noon "took one pinch of snuff, and only one in twenty-four hours," and "after dinner took one glass of wine, and one pipe of tobacco, and only one in twenty-four hours," and who so disliked poetry that he wished "somebody would translate the Paradise Lost of Milton into prose." But his treatise

challenged New England Calvinism from within the safety of the Congregational Church itself, declaring that no one is eternally damned, that all men finally are saved by a benevolent deity. In Revolutionary America, Chauncey supported the patriot cause while making rationalistic theology safe and respectable and paving the way for Unitarianism.

23. Thomas Jefferson. Notes on the State of Virginia. [Paris, 1785].
1. Ex 1230.495.14, copy 2. 2. Ex 1230.495.14, copy 1.

Jefferson's Notes were compiled in reply to a questionnaire circulated by Barbé-Marbois, a French diplomat serving in America. This is the only full-length book written by Jefferson during his long and productive life. It is, among other things, a notable contribution to scientific writing, as well as the best single statement of Jefferson's principles and wide-ranging interests.

Although written in 1781 and 1782, Jefferson did not have these notes printed as a book until he reached Paris as American Minister. The first edition of the book was privately printed for him by the French printer, Philippe-Denis Pierres; it was completed in the spring of 1785. The first "trade edition" appeared in 1787. The date on the title-page of the first edition is the date when the manuscript was written, not the date of publication. The author's name nowhere appears on this edition.

One of the copies shown is a presentation copy from Jefferson to Dr. Richard Prince, British liberal and friend of America, with Jefferson's manuscript inscription.

24. Philip Freneau. The Poems of Philip Freneau. Philadelphia, 1786. [Ex 3746.5.1736].

Princeton's most famous poet, a roommate and classmate of James Madison, 1771, Freneau displayed in his earliest collection

of verse the two strains that were dominant in his career and have been central in the history of American literature as well. One is his commitment to the radical ideals and the rhetorical vision of the American Revolution - an involvement in the aspirations of the new society that led him to write revolutionary ballads and patriot elegies, a large body of effective satire, and pages of journalistic hack-work in the service of Jeffersonian politics. The other strain is the "dark underside" of the American consciousness, the brooding sense of decay, injustice (to the Indian) and alienation (of the artist). Even while writing revolutionary poems, Freneau cut himself off from the turbulence of the war by travelling in the West Indies, and was never completely at home in the society which had more use for patriotic ideology and hack-work than for authentic poetic talent. "The House of Night," in the 1786 collection, is one of the earliest American poems to sound the note of Poe.

25. John Adams. A Defense of the Constitutions of Government of the United States of America. London, 1787-1788. [Ex 7567.1.114.12].

While the more famous Federalist Papers had a significant influence in securing ratification of the federal Constitution, the first volume of Adams' Defense was published as the Convention in Philadelphia assembled, and exercised a measurable influence on the framing of the Constitution itself.

Like Adams himself, his book was later the target of political opponents (he thought the book had been "misunderstood, misrepresented, and abused, more than any other, except the Bible, that I have ever read"), but it stands as an important analysis of the state constitutions adopted after the War of Independence and as a defence of the principle of "checks and balances." Wit and an incisive irony are among Adams' assets, and his volumes are an unabashed assertion of America's mission to instruct the world in political wisdom, common sense, and the secular art of government.

The framers of the American constitutions would never claim, Adams wrote, that they "had interviews with the gods, or were in any degree under the inspiration of Heaven, more than those at work upon ships or houses, or laboring in merchandise or agriculture ... Thirteen governments thus founded on the natural authority of the people alone, without a pretense of miracle or mystery, and which are destined to spread over the northern part of that whole quarter of the globe, are a great point gained in favor of the rights of mankind."

26. Alexander Hamilton, John Jay, and James Madison. The Federalist. New York, 1788. [Ex 7567.1.34.17, copy 2].

The "Federalist" Papers, written mainly by Hamilton and Madison (with a few by Jay), were first published under pseudonyms in the newspapers. Presenting arguments in favor of ratification of the new Constitution of the United States, they exerted considerable influence at the time, and have since become one of the classic treatises on the federal system of government.

27. William Hill Brown. The Power of Sympathy. Boston, 1789. [Ex 3645.36.373.11].

The Power of Sympathy, usually called "the first American novel," deserves also to be considered a "notable" book, since the novel was subsequently to assume such an important place in American literature.

This novel is in the tradition of the English "sentimental" novel, constructed in the form of an exchange of letters between the various protagonists and observers. The main plot tells of a young man who, upon learning that his sweetheart is really his half-sister, shoots himself -- a copy of Goethe's The Sorrows of Young Werther beside him. The secondary plot tells of an unprincipled Lothario, who triumphs over the virtue of his wife's sister -- who dies by taking poison. The diction used by the author, however, is decorous to the point of obscurity.

The novel was not widely known at the time of its publication; it was suppressed by the author, because it was too obviously based upon a contemporary Boston scandal. First published anonymously, the identity of the author was not established until several generations later.

25. Royall Tyler. The Contrast. Philadelphia, 1790. [Ex 3969. 51.326.11].

As soon as we became a nation, the cry went up for a native literature comparable to our achievements in other realms. When The Contrast opened at the John Street Theater, New York, on April 16, 1787, it was at once acknowledged that the author had met the requirement, in one department, particularly because he had given us, in the character of Jonathan, our first "stage Yankee." The Prologue, spoken by Mr. Wignell, who played Jonathan, begins:

Exult, each patriot heart! This night
is shewn
A piece, which we may fairly call our
own.

29. Benjamin Franklin. Mémoires de la Vie Privée de Benjamin Franklin, écrits par Lui-Même. Paris, 1791. [1. French ed.: Ex 3744.91.313.6; 2. English ed.: Ex 3744.91.313.5].

This French translation of the first part of Franklin's memoirs, based on a manuscript copy of the original available in France, is the first appearance in print of the famous American classic generally known as Franklin's Autobiography.

This incomplete French version of 1791 was translated back into English -- without benefit of the original manuscript -- and published in 1793 in London under the title The Private Life of the Late Benjamin Franklin. A copy of this edition -- the first appearance in English of the Autobiography -- is also shown here. This translation of a translation was the only available text of Franklin's work until 1817-1818, when the author's

grandson, William Temple Franklin, for the first time brought out an edition of Franklin's own English text. Even this was incomplete, and not until 1868, with John Bigelow's edition, did a complete English text become available.

30. Hugh H. Brackenridge. Modern Chivalry. [1815 ed.: Ex 3637.3.364.12; 1855 ed.: Ex 3637.3.364.11].

Part I, Volume I of Brackenridge's novel appeared in 1792; further instalments were published and reprinted during the two decades following. The complete novel, revised, first appeared in Philadelphia in 1815 in the four-volume edition shown here. With this is a mid-nineteenth-century reprint, illustrated by F. O. C. Darley, Philadelphia, 1855.

Brackenridge, a graduate of Princeton in the class of 1771, where he was a close friend of Freneau and Madison, cast in his lot with the frontier in western Pennsylvania. He soon became one of the leading lawyers and law-givers of his region. Though an ardent democrat, he saw much to satirize in the society of which he was a part. His novel, Modern Chivalry, was written to amuse but also with the purpose of deflating the pretensions of backwoods misleaders of the people. It is the first American novel to have substance, wit, real character delineation, and to observe closely Americans as they lived.

31. Charles B. Brown. Alcuin; A Dialogue. [Ex 3643.7.311].

First published, New York, 1798. Shown here is a "type-facsimile reprint of the first edition," printed at New Haven in 1935 by Carl and Margaret Rollins, with an introduction by LeRoy Elwood Kimball.

Brown has rightly been called our first professional man of letters. As editor, essayist, and novelist, he joined

in the struggle to create a distinctive national literature. His strange but powerful novels were admired by the English Romantics and enjoyed the then distinction of being published in a complete edition (Boston, 1827). Alcuin: A Dialogue on the Rights of Women was his first work. Half novel, half argument in dialogue form, it reflects Brown's liberalism and his discipleship to William Godwin.

32. Nathaniel Bowditch. The New American Practical Navigator. [1821 ed.: 3459.204.11; 1826 ed.: 3459.204].

First published at Newburyport, Massachusetts, in 1802. Editions published in 1821 and 1826, the earliest in the Library, are displayed here.

"Bowditch" was the first complete epitome of practical navigation for the common man. Ten editions were published during the author's life time. Since 1866, when the United States Hydrographic Office bought the copyrights, it has continued to be re-published, with periodic revisions, up to the present day, as the American Practical Navigator (H.O. No. 9).

Often termed one of the greatest books in the history of navigation, this intellectual achievement of our early culture was indispensable to the maritime and commercial expansion of the nineteenth century.

33. Washington Irving. A History of New York. New York, 1809. [Ex 3797.346.13].

Irving's burlesque History of New York (ostensibly written by one Diedrich Knickerbocker) challenges Brackenridge's Modern Chivalry as "the first great book of comic literature written by an American." In it Irving satirizes pedantic historiography, the Dutch regime in New Netherlands, and, obliquely, Jeffersonian

democracy. The History was immensely enjoyed in England. Sir Walter Scott ached with laughter while reading it and Dickens wore out the copy he carried in his pocket.

34. Meriwether Lewis and William Clark. History of the Expedition Under the Command of Captains Lewis and Clark. Philadelphia, 1814. [Rollins Collection].

Lewis and Clark's expedition from the Mississippi River to the Pacific Ocean was the first governmental exploration of the "Great West." The History of this undertaking is the personal narrative and official report of the first white men who crossed the continent between the British and Spanish possessions.

The two volumes shown here comprise the first edition of the authoritative account of the Expedition, although some fragmentary accounts had appeared earlier. The History was edited from the manuscripts of Lewis and Clark by Nicholas Biddle, although his name does not appear on the title-page and although the final copy for the press was prepared by Paul Allen, whose name does appear.

"This is our national epic of exploration, conceived by Thomas Jefferson, wrought out by Lewis and Clark, and given to the world by Nicholas Biddle."

35. Washington Irving. The Sketch Book. New York, 1819-20. [Ex 3797.38, copy 1 and 3.]

These familiar essays and tales by Washington Irving, written under the pseudonym Geoffrey Crayon, Gent., were published serially in the United States between June, 1819 and September, 1820. There were seven parts, each in two issues, and although all bear a New York imprint, each part was published simultaneously in New York, Boston, Philadelphia and Baltimore. The first complete English edition was published in 1820, followed by a Dresden edition, in 1823, and a Paris

edition in 1824.

The Sketch Book came at a time when the bitterness of the war which closed in 1814 was still fresh in the minds of both contestants, but Irving's observations of English life gave his countrymen a fresh interest in the home of their forefathers. Six chapters deal with the American scene: of these "Rip Van Winkle" and "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" are adaptations of German folk tales to the New York background of Diedrich Knickerbocker. Irving's genial humor and imagination helped to make it clear to readers on both sides of the Atlantic that literary style did not rest entirely in Europe.

36. William Cullen Bryant. Poems. Cambridge, 1821.
[Ex 3649.6.1821].

When William Cullen Bryant was fourteen he wrote an indignant anti-Jefferson satire, "The Embargo" (1808) which is significant only as evidence of Bryant's precocious facility and of his twofold interest in verse and politics that was to last a lifetime. An early version of "Thanatopsis" and the lyric poem "To a Waterfowl" were left unpublished while Bryant continued to follow a legal career. In September, 1817, the editors of the North American Review printed "Thanatopsis" anonymously but later secured for their contributor an invitation to deliver the Phi Beta Kappa poem at the 1821 Harvard Commencement. This resulted in the publication of Bryant's first mature book of poems which contains only eight items, but includes the complete "Thanatopsis" and "To a Waterfowl."

37. James Fenimore Cooper. The Spy. [Ex 3689.5.388].

The first edition of The Spy was published in New York in 1821. Shown here is the London edition published in the following year (1822).

Cooper's immense fame in Europe as well as his native land begins with The Spy, the first American historical novel. It was a successful challenge to Sir Walter Scott and because of its success Cooper continued as a novelist. Otherwise he might have remained a gentleman-farmer, content with broad acres and an adoring family.

38. Edgar Allan Poe. Tamerlane and other Poems. [Ex 3894. 391, copy 2].

Poe's first volume of verse was published anonymously in Boston, when the author was eighteen years old. Tamerlane is one of the rarest of all American first editions; possibly two hundred copies were printed, of which only twelve are now known to be in existence.

A facsimile of the first edition is shown here.

The information on the title-page, "By A Bostonian," is a memento of Poe's brief residence in Boston in 1827. This period was marked by his flight from Richmond, as a consequence of a quarrel with his foster father, John Allan; by his enlistment in the United States Army as "Edgar A. Perry" and assignment to Fort Moultrie in Charleston, South Carolina. "Bostonian" is also a reminder of Poe's birth in Boston (January 19, 1809), though much of his childhood and youth had been spent in the Allan household in Richmond.

"Tamerlane," the leading poem in the small volume, is a death-bed confession of the world-weary and cynical Tartar conqueror, and owes much in manner to Byron. It was reprinted in a revised and shortened version in Poe's second volume of verse, Al Aaraaf, Tamerlane, and Minor Poems (1829).

39. John James Audubon. The Birds of America, London, 1827-1838. [Ex 8880.134.11e].

The original "elephant folio" edition of The Birds

consists of 435 hand-colored plates, which were engraved mainly by Robert Havell and son after Audubon's drawings. The plates were issued to subscribers, as they were completed, in 37 "numbers" of 5 plates each; these were usually bound up in four volumes, as is the case with Princeton's complete set. The original subscriber to this set was Stephen Van Rensselaer of Albany, New York, a Princeton graduate, Class of 1808.

The descriptive text designed to accompany the plates was first published at Edinburgh, 1831-1838, in five octavo volumes.

"The Birds of America, all in all, is one of the American achievements in the world of art ... Audubon, nevertheless, beautiful as may be his original watercolour paintings, would never have succeeded without the help of the London aquatint engravers. The engravings were undertaken by one of the leading firms, the Havelis, during the golden decade of aquatint ... But Audubon was his own painter; he survives in virtue of one work; he was part of the world Romantic movement; and after J. S. Copley, probably the most eminent of early American artists. In the aggregate, weighed in the balance of things imponderable, because they cannot be compared, Audubon is of the importance of Herman Melville, and The Birds of America is upon the scale of Moby-Dick.: (Sacheverell Sitwell).

40. Nathaniel Hawthorne. Fanshawe. Boston, 1828. [Ex 3775. 333, 1st ed.]

The first edition can now be shown. It has been acquired for the Library -- since the opening of this exhibition -- thanks to the Sutton Fund.

Fanshawe was completed after Hawthorne's graduation from Bowdoin College (Brunswick, Maine) in 1825, and published

anonymously in 1828 at the author's own expense. Hawthorne was not proud of the work, though it suggests the form and direction of his talent, and he withdrew it from publication. His next volume, Twice-Told Tales, did not appear until 1837, nine years after his debut as an author with Fanshawe. The background of the novel is Bowdoin College, but resemblances cease here. The characters and the plot bear the mark of the romantic fiction of the day -- especially that of Sir Walter Scott and John Neal. However, the ironic tone of the novel and the affection for ambiguity, as well as the preoccupation with the dangers and the rewards of the solitary life, identify Fanshawe as unmistakably Hawthorne's.

41. Noah Webster. An American Dictionary of the English Language, New York, 1828. [Ex 3532.953.2].

Noah Webster, Connecticut lexicographer and philologist, began his career with the publication of A Grammatical Institute of the English Language (1783-5). In 1806 he published his Compendious Dictionary of the English Language. His greatest work An American Dictionary of the English Language appeared in 1828.

At the time of the dictionary's publication there raged a war with the rival lexicographer Joseph Worcester. Webster's work, however, which added some 5,000 words not before included in English dictionaries, made use of Americanisms and based its definitions on the usage of American as well as English writers, soon became the recognized authority in this country. In 1840 Webster revised the dictionary to include some 70,000 words as against the 58,000 of any previous dictionary.

At the time of Webster's death in 1843, the copyright and the right to use the name Webster for the dictionary was acquired by George and Charles Merriam - a right which the Merriam Corporation still maintains.

42. William Gilmore Simms. The Yemassee, New York, 1835.
[Ex 3931.7.399].

William Gilmore Simms, son of a South Carolina storekeeper, was tremendously proud of his native state, particularly genteel, conservative Charleston and in spite of being snubbed by the local oligarchy, he defended in his writings the society by which he had been slighted. Simms has been classed as "the Southern Cooper" but the only point of similarity between the two writers is that each wrote historical romances constructed from native material. Simms was heedless of structure and careless as to style, but he was not dull and he revealed to the reading world a new adventurous frontier.

His Yemassee, a moving tale of Indian warfare in Simms' own state, was written at the beginning of his career but is nevertheless representative of his work as a whole. In the preface, Simms states that "modern romance is the substitute which the people of the present day offer for the ancient epic."

43. Ralph W. Emerson. Nature, Boston, 1836. [Ex 3730.367.11].

Nature is Emerson's first book. It was published anonymously in September, 1836, after Emerson had turned over its ideas in his mind for a period of at least three years. It was written soon after Emerson had moved to Concord, and it appeared in a year marked otherwise by the founding of the Transcendental Club and the birth of Emerson's son Waldo. Nature is the first formulation of Emerson's transcendental position, and it contains in embryo most of his later ideas. Emerson described his intention in the work in a letter written in June, 1835: "I endeavor to announce the laws of the First Philosophy." Carlyle's estimate of Nature recognizes Emerson's ambitious purpose: "You say it is the first chapter of something greater, I call it rather the Foundation and Ground-Plan on which you may build whatsoever of great and true has been given to you to build."

44. Edgar Allan Poe. Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque. Philadelphia, 1840. [Ex 3894.389].

Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque is Poe's first collection of short stories and imaginative prose pieces, twenty-five of them in all. Poe had cherished the desire to publish a book of tales for some time before 1840. In 1835 he had in manuscript sixteen of these tales, to which he had given the title "Tales of the Folic Club," but Harper's had rejected them as being "too learned and too mystical." The new title, Tales of the Grotesque and Arabesque, may have been suggested by Sir Walter Scott's essay "On the Supernatural in Fictitious Composition," in which Scott used the terms "arabesque" and "grotesque" to describe the imagination of the German master of the Gothic tale, E. T. A. Hoffmann. We find included in the 1840 collection an early tale like "MS. Found in a Bottle," which had been published in the "Baltimore Saturday Visitor" (October 19, 1833) and later, better known pieces like "Ligeia," which had appeared in the "American Museum" (September, 1838) and "The Fall of the House of Usher," published in "Burton's Gentlemen's Magazine" (September, 1839). Poe was sensitive about the charge that his tales followed the German gothic style, and he states in the preface that his "terror is not of Germany, but of the soul."

45. Richard Henry Dana, Jr. Two Years Before the Mast. New York, 1840. [Ex 3704.95.391, copy 1 and 2].

Richard Henry Dana, Jr. suffered serious eye trouble as a sophomore at Harvard and to regain his health sailed as an ordinary seaman on the brig "Pilgrim" (August 14, 1834) for a voyage from Boston around Cape Horn to California. His Two Years Before the Mast, published anonymously in 1840, was written in the form of an extended diary, based on a journal that the author kept during the voyage, for the purpose of presenting "the life of a common sailor at sea as it really

is - the light and the dark together."

The book was immediately popular, resulted in many imitations and permanently influenced the literature of the sea. During his voyage, Dana worked for more than a year on the Pacific coast gathering hides at such ports as Santa Barbara, San Diego, Monterey and San Francisco before making his return journey on the "Alert" (arriving September 2, 1836) and his report on the cattle country gives us our only trustworthy account of California before the 1849 gold rush.

46. Ralph W. Emerson. Essays. First Series. Boston, 1841. [Ex 3730.33.11].

Essays, First Series, published in March, 1841, is Emerson's most famous book of essays. This collection extended Emerson's transcendental views to an audience far wider than that which read and valued Nature in its limited edition (only five hundred copies). Emerson displayed in the Essays a mastery of the varied style and the sparkling phrase which he was, perhaps, not to exhibit again. The volume contains well-known pieces: "Self-Reliance," with its practical wisdom and radical system of ethics, "The Over-Soul," with its mysticism, and "Compensation," which would bring at a later time rare pleasure and spiritual satisfaction to young Edwin Arlington Robinson.

47. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Ballads and other Poems. Cambridge, 1842. [Ex 3832.31st.11].

This slim volume which contains such favorites as "The Village Blacksmith," "The Wreck of the Hesperus," "Excelsior," and "The Skeleton in Armour," did much to establish Longfellow's fame.

Shown here is the first issue of the first edition, as determined by the unnecessary quotations after the first line on page thirty-four.

48. William Hickling Prescott. History of the Conquest of Mexico. New York, 1843. [Ex 1397.735.18].

Hampered at the outset of his literary career by defective eyesight and ill health, Prescott visited Europe in 1815-17 to get background material for his writing. Over three years of preparation preceded the writing of the first chapter of his History of Ferdinand and Isabella which was commenced in 1829 and finished in 1838. The prompt recognition accorded this accurate and picturesque history turned Prescott's interest to another historical field. His History of the Conquest of Mexico (1843), which arranged itself around the heroic figures of Cortes and Montezuma, had an epic sweep and came to be considered Prescott's greatest triumph.

49. William T. Porter. The Big Bear of Arkansas. Philadelphia, 1845. [Hamilton 575].

As William T. Porter (1809-1859) more than any other person we owe the preservation of the tall tales of the old southwest frontier. As editor of The Spirit of the Times, a "Chronicle of the War, Agriculture, Field Sports, Literature and the Stage," he laid his hands on as many of these stories as he could find in the country weeklies or solicit from his contributors. In 1845 he put together this anthology of his favorite tales, boasting in his preface that they were written by "country gentlemen, planters, lawyers, etc. denizens of the frontier with 'exteriors like the rugged Russian bear' . . . gifted with good sense and knowledge of the world, fond of whiskey . . . characterized by their fondness for story-telling."

50. Herman Melville. Typee. New York, 1846. [Ex 3854.9.39.15].

Melville's first novel, Typee, delighted readers with its frank and fascinating account of "life among the cannibals" on an island in the Marquesas. It was so much liked that it "typed" Melville as a writer of exotic South Sea adventure stories. In England Typee was issued as two volumes in "Murray's Home & Colonial Library." (Mr. Murray did not like novels and had taken Typee as a travel-book.) In this country Wiley and Putnam published Typee in their "Library of American Books." Buyers could have the

two parts for 37 1/2 cents in a paper binding; for 50 cents in cloth.

51. James Russell Lowell. The Biglow Papers, Cambridge, 1848. [Ex 3834.369].

The first of the Biglow Papers was a letter from "Mr. Ezekiel Biglow of Jassam inclosing a poem of his son, Mr. Hosea Biglow" which appeared in The Boston Courier for June 17, 1846. The collected papers were published, the first series, in 1848, and the second series in 1867.

These collections of prose and poetry, in which Lowell's wit and vernacular homeliness were the medium by which he expressed bitter criticisms of the Mexican War and vehement opposition to the aggressiveness of the slave-holding South, became a lasting part of our popular literature.

52. Henry D. Thoreau. A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers. Boston, 1849. [Ex 3960.C.398.14, copy 1 and 2.]

A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers was published by James Munroe of Boston in May, 1849. The book was a record of an excursion undertaken by Henry Thoreau and his brother John ten years earlier. Actually A Week does not cover the entire journey, since it does not proceed with the Thoreau brothers to the White Mountains. For the book Henry Thoreau adopted a scheme of seven days, all on the river. Only part of the record is concerned with what Thoreau saw or felt. Much of the book is in the form of an anthology, which contains Henry's poems, lectures, essays, critiques on a variety of subjects ranging from the great Greek and Hindu writers, to Chaucer and Goethe, to the history of the rivers. Henry Seidel Canby, Thoreau's biographer, calls the book with justice "a history of his (Thoreau's) own imagination"

53. Francis Parkman. The California and Oregon Trail. New York, 1849. [Hamilton 602 and Rollins Collection.]

A devious sagebrush course leading from Missouri across the plains and over the mountains to the "Oregon country" was used extensively as an emigrant route in the 1840's. Francis Parkman, starting out, in 1846, with the dual purpose of studying the Sioux Indians in their savage state and of improving his frail health, travelled over the eastern portion of the "Oregon Trail" as far as Fort Laramie.

Observing the frontiersmen and Indians at first hand, he dictated to his cousin and companion, Quincy A. Shaw, his account of the journey. This autobiographical narrative, in serialized form, appeared in the "Knickerbocker Magazine" between February 1847 and February 1849. Issued in book form in 1849 as The California and Oregon Trail, it is still considered one of our best descriptions of Indian life.

54. Nathaniel Hawthorne. The Scarlet Letter. Boston, 1850. [Ex 3775.38.115, copy 1 and Ex 3775.38.11].

The Scarlet Letter, a sombre romance of conscience and the tragic consequences of concealed guilt, was the outgrowth of an earlier short story of Hawthorne's - "Endicott and the Red Cross" (1837).

The novel was published in an edition of five thousand copies, which was soon exhausted and a second edition was issued in the same year. Shown here besides the first issue of the first edition is a copy of the second edition with the author's presentation inscription to the Philadelphia playwright George Henry Boker, a member of Princeton's class of 1842.

55. Herman Melville. Moby-Dick. New York, 1851. [Ex 3854.9.364, copy 2 and 3].

The eighteen-month voyage to the South Seas, made by Herman Melville on the whaler "Acushnet" (January, 1841) pro-

vided a factual basis for his later novel, Moby-Dick. Within Moby-Dick's realistic account of a whaling voyage is set a symbolic account of the conflict between man and his fate in which Melville strikes through the surface of his adventurous narrative to formulate concepts of good and evil deeply imbedded as allegory in its events.

The first American edition of Moby-Dick presumably published on November 14, 1851, was preceded by the first English edition which was published in London earlier in the year under the title The Whale. The American edition was issued in various colors of cloth so that attractive displays could be arranged in bookstore windows. Shown here is a copy bound in bright red morocco cloth.

Although Moby-Dick is now an established American classic and has gone through over one hundred editions, including translations and adaptations, it was not a popular book during its first forty years. In its first four months in England less than three hundred copies were sold and only 3,147 were sold in this country from 1851 to 1887.

56. John C. Calhoun. A Disquisition on Government. [1083.233 v. 1].

The first edition was published in 1851, in Columbia, South Carolina, and an edition was also published in Charleston in the same year. Shown here is Volume One of Calhoun's complete works, published in New York in 1883.

In propounding his theory of states' rights ("concurrent majority") Calhoun was seeking a means of preserving the authority of the central government without infringing on the liberty of minorities. During his busy lifetime the champion of "State Veto" had little opportunity of setting forth at length his views on the question. He had worked on two treatises, however, which were found among his papers and published posthumously: A Disquisition on Government and the much longer, unfinished Discourse on the

Constitution and Government of the United States.

57. Harriet Beecher Stowe. Uncle Tom's Cabin. Boston, 1852.
[Hamilton 408 and Kane Collection].

Harriet Beecher Stowe began this story in February, 1851, and long before the tale's completion offered it to the editor of the Abolitionist journal, The National Era, in which it began to appear serially with the June, 1851 issue. While two serial installments were still to come the novel was published in March 1852 by a Maine Abolitionist, John P. Jewett. Over 3,000 copies were sold on the day of publication, and during the first year over 300,000 copies were sold in this country. The book became America's most popular novel and it had a powerful antislavery influence.

Attacks upon the accuracy of the books' facts caused Mrs. Stowe to publish a Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin in 1853. The story was frequently translated and republished and was successfully dramatized by George Aiken in 1852. Lax copyright laws, however, brought Mrs. Stowe nothing for the dramatic rights or the sales in England of one and one-half million copies.

58. Henry David Thoreau. Walden. Boston, 1854. [Ex 3960. 6.394.16, copy 2 and 3].

On July 4, 1845, Thoreau began his occupation of a cabin which he had constructed on the shores of Walden Pond near Concord, Massachusetts. He remained there, living alone, reducing his physical needs to a minimum, until September, 1847. At Walden, Thoreau developed and tested his Transcendental philosophy of individualism, self-reliance and material economy for the sake of spiritual wealth. He observed the flora and fauna of the locality and wrote a voluminous journal, the result of which is Walden, a series of eighteen essays describing Thoreau's idealistic creed.

Like Noby-Dick, Walden sold badly during its early years - eight years were required to exhaust the first impression of two thousand copies. "Yet now," according to Walter Harding, "it can perhaps rightfully be claimed that it has since been more frequently reprinted than any other book-length work in American literature written before the Civil War."

59. Walt Whitman. Leaves of Grass. Brooklyn, 1855.
[Ex 3988.1.35.19].

In the Leaves of Grass Whitman worked out the belief that was to show how man might achieve for himself the greatest possible freedom within the limits of natural law, for the mind and body through democracy, for the heart through love, and for the soul through religion.

The first edition, containing a prefatory essay in prose and twelve poems (none of which have separate titles) was published anonymously on July 4, 1855, without a regular publisher. Except for Whitman's own anonymous but enthusiastic reviews, the Leaves received comparatively little attention and sold badly. Whitman enlarged a second edition of the book (1856) and continued his writing. The 1860 edition, greatly enlarged, containing two new sections, "Children of Adam" and "Calamus", found a publisher. For the rest of his life Whitman continued to revise Leaves of Grass and to publish new editions. His executors published a standard edition of his Complete Writings (Ten volumes, 1902).

This copy of the first edition belonged to the playwright, poet and diplomat George Henry Boker, of the Class of 1842.

60. George Henry Boker. Plays and Poems. Philadelphia, 1856. [P 94.842.004.02].

George Henry Boker was a Philadelphia playwright who longed for poetic fame but is remembered today for his dignified romantic tragedies rather than for his long poems. He wrote eleven plays. The first, Calaynos, was produced in 1851 with modest success. His most famous, Francesca da Rimini, a tragedy of high literary quality, ran for only a week when it first appeared in 1855; but on its revival in 1882, Lawrence Barrett scored a triumphant success with this story of Dante's doomed lovers, Paolo and Francesca. Boker tried to repeat the success in two late tragedies, Nydia and Glaucus. Plays and Poems appeared in 1856. It contains fifty-eight love sonnets, several occasional and narrative poems, as well as the major plays. In Boker's plays heroic tragedy in America achieved the dignity of art. George Henry Boker was a member of Princeton's Class of 1842.

61. Oliver Wendell Holmes. The Autocrat of the Breakfast-table.

In addition to being a physician, professor of anatomy, lecturer, and novelist, Oliver Wendell Holmes was a writer of light verse and informal essays. The earliest paper of the Autocrat of the Breakfast-table series appeared in the "New England Magazine" in November, 1831. When James Russell Lowell became editor of the "Atlantic Monthly" in 1857, he encouraged Holmes to continue the Autocrat papers. Characteristically, Holmes opened the first "Atlantic essay: "I was just going to say, when I was interrupted . . ." The success of these papers was instantaneous. They were published in book form in 1858 and were followed by The Professor at the Breakfast-table (1859) and The Poet at the Breakfast-table (1872). A more subdued product of Holmes' old age is the last series, Over the Teacups (1890).

62. John Greenleaf Whittier. Snow-Bound. Boston, 1866.
[Ex 3988.5.386, copy 1 and 2 and Hamilton 731.]

Whittier's New England was not Emerson's, nor even Longfellow's or Lowell's. This "American Burns" was of Quaker stock, not Calvinist Puritan, and he spent most of his life in small towns in Massachusetts. His first poems appeared in local newspapers. Between 1833 and 1865 he was directly involved, as poet, journalist, and lobbyist, in the anti-slavery battles of the abolitionists. After the war he devoted his energies to poems of rural New England and deep religious faith. Snow-Bound appeared in 1866, in pamphlet form. It brought him his first financial security and, ultimately, fame. He called the poem "a winter idyl." It remains today as a charming recapturing of a lost way of life. In 1888-89 it was reprinted in the seven volume Complete Poetical and Prose Works.

63. Mark Twain. The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County, and other Sketches. New York, 1867. [HTN 3679. 7.318 and Leeming Collection.]

The Celebrated Jumping Frog was Mark Twain's first published book, one made up largely of Western sketches. Twain had heard a version of the leading story, the old folk tale about Jim Smiley's talented pet, about February, 1865, when he swapped yarns with California miners on Jackass Hill. Twain's own account, much enriched by shrewd characterization and a sense of human values, was published originally in the "Saturday Press" of New York, of November 18, 1865. It established Twain's reputation as a Western humorist, a claim strongly reinforced by his first book of sketches.

64. Bret Harte. The Luck of Roaring Camp, and other Sketches. Boston, 1870. [Ex 3773.1.355].

In 1864, Bret Harte, a young Easterner, joined the staff

of the San Francisco newspaper, The Californian. When the first issue of its successor appeared in July, 1868, young Harte as editor of The Overland, called the publisher's attention to the lack of any distinctly California romance on its pages and since no such contribution was offered for the next issue, sent the manuscript of a story of his own, "The Luck of Roaring Camp" to the printer. It is to the lasting credit of the periodical's publisher, Anton Roman, that he finally overrode the printer's and a young lady proofreader's indignant criticism that the story was indecent and irreligious.

With the publication of The Luck of Roaring Camp and other Sketches (1870) Bret Harte was swept into popular favor and he received a contract from The Atlantic Monthly for \$10,000 for twelve contributions. During the last years of his life, however, he was little better than a hack writer, turning out imitations of the California stories that had won him fame.

65. George Bancroft. History of the United States. Boston, 1834-75. [Ex 1066.141.18]. (Princeton has only Vols. I, II and IX in the first edition).

No other history of the United States received in the nineteenth century, the praise, verging, at times, upon veneration, which Americans gave to Bancroft's twelve-volume study. When the first volume appeared in 1834, Edward Everett hailed it as a classic: "You have written a work which will last while the memory of America lasts." Though the History displays factual accuracy and a commendable reliance upon archival material, we remember it today chiefly for its enthusiasm for political freedom and individualism and for its faith in the Providence which marked America for future glory. Bancroft's History, with its florid rhetoric and its flamboyant declamations about Liberty, Democracy, and the Nation, represents the height of nationalism in historiography.

66. Henry James. A Passionate Pilgrim and other Tales. Boston, 1875. [Ex 3799.7.3095].

A Passionate Pilgrim, and other Tales is the first published volume of Henry James. 1875 does not mark his debut as a writer of fiction, since the six stories which composed the volume had all been published previously in periodicals. "A Passionate Pilgrim," the title story and the one which William Dean Howells valued most, had appeared in the "Atlantic Monthly," March-April, 1871, and "Madame de Mauves," which other critics thought the finest of the group, had been published originally in "Galaxy", February-March, 1874. "The Romance of Certain Old Clothes," interesting, in part, because it displays the influence of Hawthorne, had received publication as early as February, 1868, in the "Atlantic Monthly." James' first book received a warm critical reception. There were favorable comments upon his literary art, his richness of expression, and the rewarding evidences in his work of a careful study of distinguished French masters of fiction, of Balzac, especially.

67. Sidney Lanier. Poems. Philadelphia, 1877. [Ex 3820.3.1877].

Sidney Lanier's Poems (1877) is the work of the matured artist, not the struggling young poet. His first volume, Tiger-Lilies, appeared in 1867, two years after his release from a Maryland prison camp where, during the last months of the war, he had contracted tuberculosis. In the short life left to him, Lanier published enough to fill ten volumes in the Centennial Edition (1945), but none of his later work so ably demonstrates his attempts at bringing music and poetry into resolution as "The Symphony," "The Marshes of Glynn," and "The Song of the Chattahoochee." His 1877 collection did not, alas, sell widely and Lanier was forced into hack work to earn a living.

68. Henry George. Progress and Poverty. San Francisco, 1879.
[HB 171.027.1879 (Ex).]

The most influential American work on economics, this book gave its author an international reputation as a reformer. He proposed to abolish poverty and secure fair distribution of the rewards of labor by appropriating all economic rent by taxation and abolishing all taxation except upon land values.

This "author's edition" precedes by a few months the trade edition published by Appleton in New York in 1880.

69. Joel Chandler Harris. Uncle Remus; His Songs and His Sayings. New York, 1881. [Ex 3772.1.392 copy 2 and 3.]

"My purpose," wrote Harris in the introduction, "has been to preserve the legends themselves in their original simplicity, and to wed them permanently to the quaint dialect -- if, indeed, it can be called a dialect -- through the medium of which they have become a part of the domestic history of every Southern family; and I have endeavored to give to the whole a genuine flavor of the old plantation."

The success of this first Uncle Remus book caused a great flood of dialect literature in this country. Although the title-page is dated 1881, the book was actually published early in December, 1880.

70. William D. Howells. A Modern Instance. Boston, 1882.
[3791.5.365.11].

A Modern Instance is the first of three novels (the others are The Rise of Silas Lapham (1884) and Indian Summer (1885) which represent the finest achievement of Howells' technique of realism. The novel appeared a year after Howells had resigned from his editorship of the "Atlantic Monthly," and it ushered in the crucial decades of the eighties and the nineties during which Howells moved from "problem" novels

(Like a Modern Instance) to "economic" novels, describing industrial conflict in the American society (like A Hazard of New Fortunes, 1890). We have in A Modern Instance a study of married life ... of a devoted wife caught in an unfortunate marriage and of a selfish and vain husband who becomes progressively more unscrupulous, self-indulgent, and contemptible. Much of the power of the novel comes from the careful and complete portrait of the passionate wife, Marcia Hubbard.

71. Mark Twain. Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, New York, 1885. [Leeming Collection, 2 copies.]

The irresponsibility, the love of odd adventure, and the sense of natural justice as opposed to the village code, which characterize the hero of this book, a sequel to Tom Sawyer, presented a sharp contrast to the Sunday School or rags-to-riches literature which was the common fare doled out to children in the 80's. For once, the natural rights of the boy were set forth by a great writer who remembered his own childhood.

Huckleberry Finn was sold by subscription only. Although dated 1885, it was published in 1884, having been preceded by the first English edition, which appeared on December 4, nine days before the American publication.

72. Edward Bellamy. Looking Backward. Boston, 1888. [Ex 3625.5.35.15].

The most famous American Utopian romance. Bellamy's arguments for a socialist state, devoid of production for private profit, concentrations of wealth, and social inequalities, were presented so convincingly as reforms already accomplished that they easily roused the imagination of people ready for a new deal.

73. Henry Adams. History of the United States of America. New York, 1889-91. [Ex 10821.112].

Between October 2, 1889 and January 10, 1891 appeared the nine volumes of Henry Adams' study of the administrations of Jefferson and Madison. (In 1885 he had issued a private trial edition of his study of Jefferson's second administration; and in 1888 a similar volume covering the first administration of Madison). The greater fame of Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres (1913) and the Education of Henry Adams (1918) have tended to make us forget the magnificent synthesis which Adams achieved in the four thousand pages of the History. His latest biographer, Ernest Samuels, compares it to War and Peace: "Both works sounded the same all-encompassing themes: the unimportance of the hero in history, the mechanical determinism which governs the interplay of social forces, the absence of freedom of the will in the historic process. The similarity goes even farther, for Russia's role in Pan-Slavism is as inevitable a part of the historic process as the Manifest Destiny of American democracy.:

74. Emily Dickinson. Poems. Boston, 1890. [Ex 3715.1.1890].

The publishing history of Emily Dickinson's poems is extremely complex. Only three of her poems appeared in print during her lifetime. She asked that her writings be destroyed, but her devoted sister Lavinia saved them. Some had been revised, others were simply jotted down on scraps of paper. In 1890, Thomas Wentworth Higginson, a Cambridge minister and friend of Miss Dickinson, and Mabel Loomis Todd, the wife of an Amherst astronomy professor, edited Poems, the first of many posthumous collections of Emily Dickinson's verse. The texts of all extant manuscripts have finally been established by Thomas H. Johnson in his three-volume edition, The Poems of Emily Dickinson, published by the Harvard University Press in 1955.

75. William D. Howells. Criticism and Fiction. New York, 1891. [3791.5.327. Copy actually shown was lent by Willard Thorp].

Criticism and Fiction is a collection of critical pieces which Howells had written for the "Editor's Study" of "Harper's Monthly" from January, 1886, to 1891. The book has importance because it is the most complete statement of Howells' literary convictions, of his deep commitment to realism in literature. The purpose of fiction, as he saw it, is to be "true to the motive, the impulses, the principles that shape the life of actual men and women," and not to give life to romantic fancies or to exploit indecency. Howells had made his position amply clear earlier, in his reviews in the "Atlantic Monthly" and the "North American Review," in which he praised novelists practising realism. Criticism and Fiction was an extension of his crusade, one that had aroused violent opposition in Europe and in America.

76. Stephen Crane. Maggie: A Girl of the Streets. [Ex 3696. 3.36, copy 2].

The Library does not have a copy of the 1893 edition. Exhibited is the first trade edition of 1896.

Crane began his first novel in 1891. He revised it four times. In 1893 it was published at the author's expense and under an assumed name: Johnston Smith. The paperbound, mustard-colored "pamphlet" did not even carry the name of the printer, who feared the frankness of this tale of the slums would cause trouble. The sales were negligible, but Hamlin Garland and William Dean Howells praised it highly. After the success of The Red Badge of Courage, D. Appleton and Company reissued Maggie, in June, 1896. It appeared in hard covers with Crane's name on the title page.

77. Edwin Arlington Robinson. The Torrent and the Night Before.

Exhibited in place of the first, which the Library lacks, is the edition published by the Brick Row Bookshop of New York, New Haven and Princeton in 1928. It was limited to 110 copies, each signed by the author.

In 1896, Edwin Arlington Robinson moved from his hometown of Gardiner, Maine (the "Tilbury Town" of his poems) to New York City. Unable to find a publisher for his first volume of poems, he had The Torrent and the Night Before printed that year at his own expense, a gesture he could ill afford. When, in 1897, "Bookman" observed that "The world is not beautiful to [Robinson], but a prison-house," Robinson made the now famous reply in the March issue of the magazine: "The world is not a 'prison-house' but a kind of spiritual kindergarten where millions of bewildered infants are trying to spell 'God' with the wrong blocks." It was 1921 before Robinson achieved the recognition he wanted, on his own terms. His Collected Poems that year received the Pulitzer Prize. In 1927 his Tristram brought him financial success as well as a second Pulitzer Prize.

76. Sarah Orne Jewett. The Country of the Pointed Firs. Boston, 1896. [3803.3.327.13, copy 1].

Already known as the best of our regional writers, Miss Jewett reached the acme of her career with The Country of the Pointed Firs, a collection of related stories centered in "Dunnet Landing" in eastern Maine. William James couldn't "hold in" from telling her what exquisite pleasure it had given him. Kipling wrote her: "It's immense -- it is the very life." Garnett decided that "so delicate is the artistic lesson of this little masterpiece that it will probably be left for generations of readers less hurried than ours to assimilate."

79. Thorstein Veblen. The Theory of the Leisure Class. New York, 1899. [HB 75.V49.1899 (Ex)].

Veblen began in this book his long and provocative criticism of the business enterprise system, which he conceived of as a price economy. With acid irony and polysyllable learning, he attacked the money habits -- the "pecuniary emulation" and "conspicuous consumption" -- of people with incomes above the subsistence level. Veblen had no talent for promotion or organization, but his ideas were seminal and his influence is continual.

80. Theodore Dreiser, Sister Carrie. New York, 1900.
[Ex 3721.59.386.11].

Like Stephen Crane's Maggie, Theodore Dreiser's first novel met with a strange fate. Doubleday and Company published Sister Carrie in 1900, but virtually withheld it from circulation until 1912 because of the supposed immorality of the subject. Dreiser dared to suggest that men and women do not always suffer in this life for transgressions of the moral code. Carrie Meeber remains unpunished, though Hurstwood goes to his destruction. Dreiser treated this theme of the poor girl in the big city in a second, more carefully wrought study, Jennie Gerhardt. With its publication in 1911, the way was paved for a re-issue of Sister Carrie the following year.

81. Henry James. The Ambassadors. New York, 1903.
[Ex 3799.7.311.11 and copy lent by Richard M. Ludwig].

Henry James published his first collection of stories in 1875. By then he had determined to settle permanently in England, so it is not surprising that the great succession of stories and novels to come from his pen concern the transplanted American in Europe. The Portrait of a Lady (1881) was one of his first major successes. His maturest talent can be seen in the famous triad: The Wings of the Dove (1902), The Ambassadors (1903), and The Golden Dowl (1904). The story of Lambert Strether, as an "ambassador" to Paris whose duty it is to persuade Chad Newsome to return to Massachusetts and the family business, was revised for inclusion in The Novels and Tales of Henry James, 26 vols., 1907-1917, now known as The New York Edition. Many readers prefer the original 1903 version of this masterpiece of modern fiction.

82. William James. Pragmatism. New York, 1907.
[6063.49.373, copy 2.]

Pragmatism is a collection of lectures which James

prepared for the Lowell Institute in Boston and for Columbia University. The book defines an approach to truth which examines the relation between ideas and their practical consequences. This philosophical method, James acknowledges, had been anticipated by Charles Peirce, the philosopher and logician, who, as early as 1878, had presented it in outline in a paper entitled "How to Make Our Ideas Clear." In Pragmatism, James seeks to distinguish his method from other modes of empirical thought and to extend the method to reconcile the conflict between religion and science. James has a prose style which is justly famous; it is lucid and personal, possessing a rare mastery of the striking image.

83. Henry Adams. The Education of Henry Adams. [Ex 1085.114.11 copy 1 and 2.]

The first published edition (1918) is shown in place of the privately printed edition of 1907, a copy of which the Library lacks.

The Education of Henry Adams was privately printed in 1907. It did not receive general publication until 1918, a few months after Adams' death in the same year. The book is an amazing quest for meaning in modern life undertaken by a distinguished member of one of America's great families, and it is a frank and shocking confession of failure. The eighteenth century world that reared Adams did not equip him for life in the nineteenth century and offered nothing toward an understanding of the twentieth.

Adams' valiant attempts to span the gap in his education led him ultimately to physics and mathematics, to theories such as the law of phase and the second law of thermodynamics. Adams saw modern history as a movement toward chaos, a rapidly accelerating decline from medieval unity, imposed by the worship of the Virgin, to present-day multiplicity in which vast physical power

exists, without human or moral meaning. The Education is a sequel to an earlier work, Mont-Saint-Michel and Chartres (privately printed, 1904; published, 1913), which is a study of thirteenth-century unity. Adams made his revelations in the third person, he created an "alter ego," a character whom he viewed ironically.

84. Ezra Pound. A Lume Spento. [Ex 3899.16.37].
Exhibited also is a microfilm of A Lume Spento, made from the copy in the Huntington Library.

Exhibited is Pound's Personae, London, 1909, in which were incorporated the chief poems of A Lume Spento.

Ezra Pound's first collection of verse, A Lume Spento, was published by the author in Venice in 1908. It is one of the scarcest of modern first editions, and the Library does not yet have a copy. Mr. Pound was living in London at the time, a self-declared expatriate and a remarkable linguist who had fled the universities (he called them "learneries") for a freer life in Europe. By 1912 he had published seven volumes of verse with typical Poundian titles: A Quinzaine for this Yule (1908), Personae (1909), Canzoni (1911), Riposte (1912) among them. The first three of Mr. Pound's famous and difficult Cantos appeared in 1917 in Harriet Monroe's Poetry. Canto 99 was published in 1958 in the "Virginia Quarterly Review."

85. Gertrude Stein. Three Lives. New York, 1909.
[Ex 3942.78.392.]

The first edition can now be shown. It has been presented to the Library -- since the opening of the exhibition -- by R. Cuyler Stevens, Jr., '26.

Three Lives is Gertrude Stein's first book, and it presents three portraits of humble people -- "The Good Anna," "Melanctha," and "The Gentle Lena." The most impressive of these is that of Melanctha Herbert, the mysterious, drifting Negro girl, whose actions are recorded, weighed, commented upon by a ruminating

primitive consciousness seeking to reveal only the essential characteristics of her nature. Some critics, in accounting for the unusual style of Three Lives, have dwelt upon the intimate knowledge of modern French painting possessed by this expatriate American, and the approach to literary style by way of visual art Miss Stein has encouraged, by revealing that she wrote the book facing Cezanne's "Portrait of a Lady."

Other critics have pointed to Miss Stein's scientific background, her study at Radcliffe College under Hugo Münsterberg and William James, and to an early paper of hers on automatism, published in collaboration with Leon M. Solomons in 1896. Her friend, the novelist Carl Van Vechten, sees similarities between her manner and that of Flaubert in Trois Contes, especially in "Un Coeus Simple."

The style of Three Lives has been sometimes praised, more often abused, but it is generally thought to have had a great influence upon modern writers of fiction. That influence is clear and unmistakable in Sherwood Anderson's work; not so clear, perhaps, in Hemingway's, though there are apparent similarities in language -- in the simple diction, the natural speech rhythms, the incremental repetition, and the emphasis upon basic emotions and physical movement.

86. Frank Lloyd Wright. Ausgefurhte Bauten und Entwurfe. [NA 737.W9A31e (SA)].

This portfolio of "studies and executed buildings" was first published in Berlin in 1910. It was edited by Wright himself and contains a pamphlet of comment written by him. A basic book for an understanding of Wright's architecture, it includes in perspectives and plans much of his work executed or projected before 1910. This monograph by the one American

architect who has a really world-wide reputation, had a great influence upon the dawning European school of modern architecture.

The copy of this rare book here exhibited was issued in Berlin in 1924. It was presented to the Library by Wright in 1930, when he delivered in Princeton the Kahn Lectures (which were published by the Princeton University Press the following year).

87. Willa Cather. Alexander's Bridge. Boston, 1912.
[Ex 3670.29.311.II].

Willa Cather's first novel is Alexander's Bridge. She had published earlier a book of poems, April Twilights (1903) and a collection of short stories, The Troll Garden, but these had not led to the major work in fiction which was to establish her reputation. Miss Cather did not begin her career as a novelist until she had given up a successful career as an editor of "McClure's Magazine" in 1912. Alfred Kazin in On Native Grounds calls Alexander's Bridge "a legend of creative desire and its inevitable frustration," and his statement suggests a central theme in all of Cather's early novels. This is the description of the human will to achieve, to build, and to endure -- especially that will as it expressed itself in the last American pioneers as they toiled on the rolling plains of Miss Cather's Nebraska. Willa Cather wrote more satisfying novels than Alexander's Bridge in her early period -- O Pioneers! (1913) and My Antonia (1918), certainly -- but the direction of her art is securely established in Alexander's Bridge.

88. Robert Frost. North of Boston. London, 1914.
[4th issue: Ex 3746.98.368.II, copy 2; 6th issue: Ex 3746.98.368.II, copy 1].

North of Boston established Robert Frost's reputation; it was his second volume of poems. After a long period of

farming in New Hampshire, he moved his family to England in 1912. He stayed three years, during which time he published, in London, A Boy's Will (1913) and North of Boston (1914). Mr. Frost describes the second volume as a "book of people." It contains such well-known poems as "Mending Wall," "Home Burial," "The Death of the Hired Man," and "The Code."

The bibliography of this book is somewhat complicated, since it appears in six distinct issues. The Library has copies of the fourth issue (blue cloth), which was bound after the war, and the sixth issue (green cloth), bound in 1922 (both exhibited). The first American edition, published by Holt in 1914, consisted of English sheets with an American title-page.

89. Sinclair Lewis. Our Mr. Wrenn. New York, 1914. [Ex 3827.35.369.11].

Though Lewis published a "juvenile" in 1912 (Hike and the Aeroplane, by "Tom Graham"), his career as a novelist begins with Our Mr. Wrenn. Rather short on plot and filled with whimsy, it nevertheless displays the true Lewis hero, the man in search of self-education. It also contains passages satirizing American business. "Wrenny" is a lesser J. Alfred Prufrock.

90. Eugene O'Neill. Thirst and other One Act Plays. Boston, (1914). [Ex 3879.673.39, copy 1 and 2.]

This volume, O'Neill's first, was published before any of his plays had been produced. Richard C. Badger agreed to issue it in his American Dramatists Series if the author would pay the costs. Eugene's father, a famous actor, put up the money, thus proving, as O'Neill later said, that "he did believe in me -- in a way, but as I've said, he just thought I was crazy."

91. Carl Sandburg. Chicago Poems. New York, 1916. [3916.954.324].

Carl Sandburg, was a brickmaker, milkman, housepainter,

private secretary, and journalist before he became a poet. He moved to Chicago in 1913. The following year his now-famous poem "Chicago," with its familiar opening line: "Hog butcher for the World," appeared in Harriet Monroe's "Poetry: A Magazine of Verse." Mr. Sandburg's first volume, Chicago Poems, published in 1916, was followed by Cornhuskers (1918) and Smoke and Steel (1920). By then he was recognized nationally as the poet of the common man, a successor to Walt Whitman, and a successful popularizer of the American folk songs he had collected during his frequent journeys about the country.

92. H. L. Mencken. A Book of Prefaces. New York, 1917.
[Ex 3854.95.322.]

Mencken had issued nine books on a variety of subjects before this one appeared. In it he emerges as the critic of American life and letters who would be one of the most powerful influences on the literary generation of the 1920's. The famous fourth essay in this volume - "Puritanism as a Literary Force" - is in the true Mencken vein, a no-holds-barred attack on "comstockery" in every period of our history.

93. T. S. Eliot. Prufrock and other Observations. London, 1917.
[Ex 3728.287.373].

Prufrock and other Observations is Eliot's first book and contains his first published poem, "The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock," which had appeared in "Poetry" in 1915. Born in St. Louis, educated at Harvard, the Sorbonne, and in Germany, Eliot has lived in England since shortly after the outbreak of World War I. He is now an English citizen.

"Eliot was to teach, through both his verse and his prose, a way of seeing and feeling to a younger generation. His Prufrock (the fastidious and futile middle-aged product of the genteel

tradition), Sweeney, and Gerontion, sparsely drawn as they were, became some of the most living characters of their time" (F. O. Matthiessen).

94. John C. Ransom. Poems about God. New York, 1919. [3903.618.372].

Mr. Ransom's first volume of verse, Poems about God, appeared in 1919, after he returned to the Vanderbilt University English Department from service in the field artillery. He followed it with Chills and Fever (1924) and Two Gentlemen in Bonds (1926), his last volume of poetry before the appearance of Selected Poems in 1945. Mr. Ransom's verse reflected from the very first an ironic disillusionment and a complete absence of sentimentality. His style has been called "a semiclassical, mockingly pedantic treatment of romantic subjects." Not surprisingly, nothing from Poems about God was reprinted in Selected Poems. Mr. Ransom is the severest of self-critics.

95. John Dos Passos. One Man's Initiation. 1917. London (1920). [3719.21.368, copy actually exhibited was American issue of 1922 lent by Willard Thorp].

Martin Howe, the hero of the Dos Passos' first novel, is a rather aesthetical young man, but he is the first of a long line of fictional characters who were revolted by their experiences in the first world war. Allen & Unwin of London had the distinction of publishing Dos Passos' first book. Of this edition of 1250 copies, 500 sets of sheets were sent to America. After the success of the second novel, Three Soldiers, these were bound and issued by the George H. Doran Company to form the first American edition of One Man's Initiation - 1917. (1922).

96. Ernest Hemingway. Three Stories & Ten Poems. [Fifth cop.: 3778.74.3395; 2. Poetry: 3598.7275, vol. 21.]

Exhibited in place of the first edition (Paris 1923), which the Library does not have, is Hemingway's The Fifth Column and

the First Forty-nine Stories, New York, 1939, which reprints the three stories, and Poetry for January, 1923, which contains the first publication of six of the poems.

It was the happy lot of Robert McAlmon, who ran the Contact Publishing Company in Paris and had his books cheaply printed for him in Dijon, to be the publisher of Hemingway's first volume. Three hundred copies were printed, bound in gray-blue paper wrappers. Though his next book, in our time (1924), has more of the true Hemingway in it, Three Stories & Ten Poems was decisive in his career. He was eager to give up journalism, though he was an excellent journalist, and become a creative writer. Now he had proof that he could successfully make this break.

97. Wallace Stevens. Harmonium. [Lent by Princeton University Store].

The Library does not have a copy of the first 1923 edition. Exhibited is The Collected Poems of Wallace Stevens, New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1957 (fourth printing of an edition first published in 1954). It contains the complete text of Harmonium as revised in 1931 and reissued in 1947.

Wallace Stevens was that phenomenon in our society; vice-president of the Hartford Accident and Indemnity Company and one of the most distinguished of contemporary poets. "Poetry," he once said, "is my way of making the world palatable." His first volume of poems, Harmonium, was published by Alfred A. Knopf in 1923. Stevens was then aged 44. He revised the volume, under the same title in 1931, but did not publish another until Ideas of Order appeared in 1936. Four more volumes followed in the next decade. The titles of Stevens' poems are frequently fanciful and inspired. Harmonium contains such delights as "The Paltry Nude Starts on a Spring Voyage," "The Emperor of Ice Cream," "Hymn from a Watermelon Pavilion," and "Le Monocle de Mon Oncle."

98. F. Scott Fitzgerald. The Great Gatsby. New York, 1925.
[Ex 3740.8.341.11].

Although Fitzgerald had written two novels and a play and had put together two collections of his short stories before The Great Gatsby appeared, it was this novel which established his reputation as a serious and important novelist. Its excellence was not accidental. Fitzgerald had said to Maxwell Perkins of Scribner's: "I want to write something new -- something extraordinary and beautiful and simple and intricately patterned." Fortunately the best critics of the time realized he had done just that.

The manuscript of The Great Gatsby forms a part of the Fitzgerald Papers in the Princeton Library.

99. Hart Crane. White Buildings. New York, 1926. [3696.27.397].

Hart Crane published only two volumes of poems during his lifetime. The first is a collection of exquisite lyrics, White Buildings (1926), which established his reputation as a poet's poet. He wrote slowly, was considered a perfectionist by his admirers. His great epic, The Bridge, appeared two years before Crane committed suicide. Brooklyn Bridge is his major symbol, but here as in his earlier lyrics, the sea and the city also persist as symbols of unity. After Crane's death, Waldo Frank edited, with a valuable introduction, Collected Poems (1933).

100. William Faulkner. The Sound and the Fury. New York, (1929).
[Ex 3734.92.386].

The Sound and the Fury was published by the new firm of Jonathan Cape and Harrison Smith after it had been rejected by Harcourt, Brace and Company, the publishers of Sartoris,

Faulkner's previous novel. Faulkner has often referred to it as his own favorite among his works and the one which cost him the greatest effort in writing.

"It is an outstanding example of the interior monologue in our letters," Maxwell Geismar has said. "Filled as the tale is with all the pathetic devices and drives and tensions of infancy, and the intimations of those other lawless and poignant affections which color the better -- or the worse -- part of our lives, The Sound and the Fury is matched by few novels in its evocations of infantile origins. In spite of being specialized in form, rather self-consciously limited in appeal, it was a landmark of the new literature."

Pictorial material in "One Hundred Notable American Books" exhibition:

1. Benjamin Franklin. Engraving after L.C. de Carmontelle, Paris, n.d. E 7953
2. James Madison. Lithograph by D. W. Kellogg & Co. Graphic Arts.
3. John Quincy Adams. Contemporary American lithograph. Graphic Arts.
4. A New and Correct Map of the United States. By Samuel Lewis. Philadelphia, Henry Charles, 1819. Maps Division.
5. James Fenimore Cooper. Silver medal. Ex 1346
6. Ralph Waldo Emerson. Photograph by Silsbee, Case & Co., Boston. Portrait file.
7. Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. Oil portrait by Daniel Huntington, 1876.
8. Herman Melville. Photograph. Melville Papers, Manuscripts Division.
9. James Russell Lowell. Photograph by Conly, Boston. Portrait file.
10. Henry D. Thoreau. Picture by Warren, Boston. Portrait file.
11. John C. Calhoun. Photograph of a painting [?] E 5805. Portrait file.
12. Walt Whitman. Photograph by Sarony, New York. Portrait file.
13. Walt Whitman. Photograph by George C. Cox, 1887. Inscribed by Whitman for Laurence Hutton. Graphic Arts.
14. George H. Boker. Engraved portrait. E 7284. Princeton portrait file.
15. Oliver Wendell Holmes. Photograph by Warren, Cambridgeport, Mass. E 5758. Portrait file.
16. S.L. Clemens. Plaque commemorating the centenary of his birth, 1935. Ex 4644
17. S.L. Clemens. Portrait by Charles Noel Flagg. E 8909

18. George Bancroft. Photograph by Fredericks.
Portrait file.
19. William Dean Howells. Photograph. E 7480.
Portrait file.
20. Edwin A. Robinson. Terra cotta plaque, 1923.
Ex 4754