**Women’s Work for Women**  
**A Short List in Celebration of Women’s History Month**

The diversity and importance of women’s history can never be contained in a single month, much less a single Ex Libris post. Nonetheless, we were excited to take on the challenging task of compiling a condensed list of material that represents some of the (often lesser celebrated) historical women whose contributions inspired us, pushed us to grow, or offered us new perspective. A much wider inventory is available on our website under the category Women.

Peruse, and reach out if there is something that is a complement to your collection – we are always happy to work on terms that fit libraries’ fiscal year needs, and are particularly flexible on invoicing and shipping given the closures affecting some acquisitions departments. In the event that you have specific collecting goals and would like to discuss them with us, we invite you to reach out via phone or email Tuesday-Saturday when our liaison to institutional clientele is on site.

All items subject to prior purchase.

Descriptions of all items are abbreviated. For full descriptions and images, or to access our full inventory, please visit WhitmoreRareBooks.com.

For inquiries and orders, please contact Miranda directly:

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A novel addressing the violence that systemic racism perpetrates on women

1. **[Anti-Racism] (Pike, Mary Hayden Green)** Sydney A. Story. 
   *Caste: A Story of Republican Equality.*

   Boston: Phillips, Sampson & Company, 1856. First edition. Original publisher's cloth binding stamped in gilt and blind. Yellow endpapers. Some fading to spine, with cloth generally a bit rubbed; small chips to spine ends and minor fraying to corners. Early ownership signatures of M. Nett and T.B. Long to front pastedown; ownership inscription to front endpaper, "Thomas B. Long, May 5th 1868." Internally with a bit of toning as is expected of the period, and some marginal staining not affecting text on pages 430-433 and 452-464. With first endpaper excised, else complete. An early anti-racist novel by Mary Hayden Green, under one of her preferred pseudonyms, nicer than is typically found.

   "Mary Hayden Green Pike, a pre-Civil War novelist, was one of the more popular writers to follow in the wake of Harriet Beecher Stowe. Deeply concerned with the moral issues at the root of slavery, she visited the South, where she made close observation of the system...Her second novel, Caste, dealt with the problems of racial discrimination, particularly that of miscegenation" (Griffin). Though composed in the popular sentimental style of the 1850s, Caste's unabashed depiction of the violence caused by systemic racism met with some opposition in its time for being too overtly abolitionist. Following the Helen Dupre's life as a governess on a Southern plantation, Pike initially presents her naïve protagonist as perceiving the enslaved people around her as "happy and well cared for...because she sees few examples of the system's real cruelties" (Griffin). But slowly, her eyes are opened to the atrocities around her, beginning with witnessing the separation of an enslaved husband and wife, and their desperate attempt to escape North. When Helen and her suitor, a South Carolina plantation heir, discover her own interracial heritage, they are also ripped apart by the system that defined Helen as less than human. Initially contemplating suicide, Helen ultimately accepts the beauty of her identity; she and her lover escape to Europe to begin anew. An overt critique of American racism and a call not only for abolition, but for the recognition of BIPOC people's dignity and humanity within society. (3948) $950

A novel in defense of single women, written by an infamously intellectual single woman

2. **Bowdler, Henrietta Maria [Harriet].**
   *Pen Tamar; or, The History of an Old Maid (Presentation Copy).*

   London: Longman, Rees, Orme, Brown & Green, 1830. First edition. Contemporary straight grain morocco with griffin embossed in gilt to boards; rebacked to style with gilt to spine. All edges marbled. Some light scuffing near joints. Signed by the author on a bound-in presentation page and addressed to Mrs. Ed. Hawkins. Measures 127 x 203mm and collates complete: ix, [1, blank], 244, including both half and full title, frontis, and three plates. Light scattered foxing throughout, largely confined to the margins; else a clean and neat text. Fairly scarce at institutions, this is presently the only first edition on the market.
An infamous Bluestocking and companion to writers Hannah More and Maria Edgeworth, Henrietta Maria Bowdler was invested in women's education at the same time that she was influenced by her family's more conservative religious views. This tension is apparent in Pen Tamar, which "gives a mixed message: ostensibly defending both virtue and single women [while] it excuses the hero's prejudice" (Blain). Yet its posthumous publication -- a purposeful decision by Bowdler, who "decided on deferring it during her life, expressing a wish that it should finally be offered to the public -- suggests that the author saw it as more progressive in its views than we might consider it today. It is after all a defense of single women, presented in novel form by a notoriously intellectual single woman who had the ear and the admiration of Church authorities and promoted the work of other female authors. Pen Tamar is a striking reminder of a woman's desire to let herself be seen in her society, and of the ability of publication to make that happen and have an impact for others like her.

(3244) $1,850

Encouraging young woman & their employers to see domestic service as a specialized profession

3. [Domestic Service] A Lady.
Instructions in Household Matters, or the Girls' Guide to Domestic Service with an Especial View to Young Girls Intended for Service on Leaving

School, London: John W. Parker, 1844. First edition. Original publisher's cloth blinding with blind stamped on front and rear boards, measuring 101 x 165mm. Gentle rubbing and shelfwear to boards; some small chips and tears near base of spine. Yellow endpapers. Collates viii, 124, 8: complete, including frontis and six additional illustrations. Quite rare in trade and institutions, this title has not appeared at auction and is listed at only 4 libraries according to OCLC.

A scarce and important example of an employment manual treating women's domestic labour as a serious profession. Rather than positioning household work as a natural feminine role, Instructions in Household Matters assumes that women entering service have been educated, have received career training, and should continue to improve and hone their professional skills by staying up to date with new practices and technologies. This slim, pocket sized volume intended to help women in their daily tasks, ensuring that they met employers' expectations for downstairs tasks such as the washing of fine linens and the maintenance of silver and china, as well as upstairs responsibilities like the safe lighting of fires, care of household papers, and etiquette of serving at tableside. Toward the book's rear, the author included 5 narratives allegedly by housemaids and other servants, documenting common situations and their proper responses. A fascinating work that encourages young women and their employers to see the positions of housemaids, ladies' maids, kitchen and nursery staff as professional and specialized career paths. (2670) $2,250
An activist detective novel, requiring readers to see and acknowledge the plight of abused wives.

4. **Domestic Abuse**
   Green, Anna Katharine [Mrs. Charles Rohlfs].  
   Miss Hurd: An Enigma.

New York and London: G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 1894. First edition. Original publisher's cloth binding with bright gilt to spine. Clean and vivid, with the faintest hint of wear to extremities. Textblock tight and unmarked; middle signature a bit proud but firm. A much better copy than is typically found, of an activist novel by one of the mothers of detective fiction. Best known for The Leavenworth Case, Green helped define a new genre and created space for female writers within it; and she has been credited with the invention of the "girl detective" that served as a predecessor for characters such as Miss Marple and Nancy Drew.

Though it has received less critical attention than titles such as The Leavenworth Case, Miss Hurd: An Enigma was important for its use of mystery and the chase to convey a feminist message. Contemporary reviews certainly picked this up, railing against Green and her heroine. At its release, The Atlantic Monthly complained "The so-called Miss Hurd, a heroine of the impressive, queenly order, spends her time in running away from her husband -- who is liberally endowed with many of the gifts and graces which attract ordinary young women -- and in being discovered by him in various ingenious hiding places. To the reader the principal enigma should be, why should this long-suffering gentleman have cared to reclaim his errant spouse?"

Already popular for her detective stories featuring intelligent and independent women characters, "Green's attitude toward women evolved throughout her writing career, and her portrayal of them is bolder following her marriage [in 1884]...Green also became more sympathetic to women trapped by failed marriages and subjected to psychological and physical abuse. Miss Hurd depicts a battered wife, a runaway, whose husband continually claims 'she belongs to me.'...ultimately, although she evokes sympathy, no one can legally prevent her husband from reclaiming her. By revealing this woman's desperate attempts to free herself, Green presented to situation for public scrutiny -- to an audience of both men and women" (Maida). Miss Hurd stands as an activist, feminist novel -- Green's use of her very public platform to advocate for women's rights. (3411) $600

5. **Gleason, Mrs. R. B. [Dr. Rachel Brooks Gleason].**
   Talks to My Patients: Hints on Getting Well and Keeping Well.

New York: Wood & Holbrook, 1870. First edition. Original publisher's cloth binding with gilt to spine and front board. Rubbing to extremities of cloth and small bump to edge of front board; spine gently rolled. Brown coated endpapers. Light scattered foxing concentrated at the preliminaries, with the textblock largely clean and unmarked. Collates xii, 228, [16-24, publisher's ads], [2, Hygienic Institute ads], [1, blank]. Scarce in institutions and trade, this volume of medical advice was issued by the fourth woman to earn an M.D. in the U.S. It is the only copy presently on the market.

Earning her M.D. from the Central Medical College of Rochester only two years after Elizabeth Blackwell's graduation from Geneva Medical College, Rachel Gleason became the fourth licensed female doctor in the U.S. For over forty years, she was the director of the Elmira Water Cure, later called the Gleason Sanitarium, a luxurious health resort that specialized in...
providing homeopathic treatments to upper class women. In addition to giving these women a space where their health issues were taken seriously, Gleason used the funds she earned from this and from consulting to drive social change. She shaped the next generation of medicine, providing financial support for eighteen women to attend medical school -- all of whom graduated with degrees and became prominent physicians (Willard). The present work, Talks to My Patients, makes her medical advice accessible to women in the home. "The book is not intended to do away with doctors, but to aid the young wife when there is no experienced mother or intelligent nurse at hand; to advise in emergencies or to guide in those matters of delicacy with which woman's life is so replete." Across thirty chapters, Gleason provides women with guidance on their own and their daughters' bodies from puberty to menopause, using a combination of frank medical language and sympathy rarely found in men's medical books of the period. She describes symptoms many women undergo, pointing out which are part of typical development, which are typical difficulties that can be treated, and which are cause for larger concern about underlying illness. She does the same for the health of babies and children being overseen by women readers. Notably, Gleason acknowledges abortion, both accidental and purposeful, alongside pregnancy as possibilities for women; and she addresses the treatment of bodies that have undergone either. (2961) $1,250

Hopkins' influential anti-lynching novel, speaking to audiences across racial divides

6. Hopkins, Pauline E.
Contending Forces: A Romance Illustrative of Negro Life North and South.

Boston: The Colored Co-operative Publishing Co., 1900. First edition. Original pictorial red publisher's cloth binding with the slightest slight sunning to spine. Upper front corner gently bumped and some minor spotting to the rear board; rear hinge strengthened. In all a square, bright copy better than is usually seen. Alcuin Library deaccession stamp to front pastedown. Internally else a clean and unmarked copy.

"Pauline Hopkins first and best-known novel, Contending Forces, is a work of activist literature whose goal was to lead both its black and white audiences to understand the wide-spread nineteenth century lynching and raping of black Americans as a form of political terror, and to persuade them that the most effective way of resisting this terrorism was through aggressive, African American agitation. However, because Hopkins understood her black and white audiences to be far apart on racial issues (and depicted them as such in her preface and in the novel), she developed a self-contradictory narrator -- omniscient but unreliable -- whose moral judgements are shaded according to the complexion of the audience Hopkins is trying to reach, whose views sometimes contradict one another, and whose opinions are sometimes refuted by her characters and by her story" (Cassidy). In this sense, Hopkins in her fiction deploys a split-subject position similar to that used by Booker T. Washington in his tracts on black education. It is a method that scholar Houston Baker has called "Hopkins' masked use of masking--her doubly masked double-voicedness." Ultimately, Hopkins enters the popular genre of the sentimental novel to push for social awareness and change, awakening readers of all kinds to their own ability to resist the current status quo and redefine the spaces African Americans could inhabit. Near Fine. (3418) $5,500
Women activists use their domestic authority to contribute to an unprecedented international effort for hunger relief

7. [International Relief] [Archer, Mary] Ladies of the Belgian Relief Committee.
Belgian Relief Cook Book.

Reading, PA: Reading Eagle Co., 1915. First edition. Quarter cloth over tri-color paper boards with metal rings at spine, measuring 160 x 240mm. 319 pages. Boards rubbed, with some paper worn away at extremities; rear board a bit bumped. Internally with some foxing and occasional kitchen soiling, usually limited to the margins or versos of pages; in all, surprisingly clean and unmarked. A scarce example of American women's efforts to use the domestic space in ways that generated international aid, OCLC reports only 16 copies held at institutions, with this as the only one on the market.

"This little book, which mingles the recipes of to-day with the recipes of our great-grandmothers, never before revealed, is sent forth with the earnest hope that it may bring happiness to many American homes and earn the wherewithal to feed the starving householders of Belgium." A concise mission, but there is much to be unpacked. As WWI raged on across Europe, German troops pushed into neutral Belgium, occupying the nation in an attempt to more effectively attack France. Though hundreds of thousands fled, the Belgians who remained faced forced labor, military violence, and coal and food shortages. American women -- many of them working for their own enfranchisement -- became concerned about how war was affected not only their home front, but the lives of women and children abroad. Guided by Jane Addams and the Women's Peace Party, relief organizations began emerging all over the country. The Belgian Relief Committee that compiled the present work focused its efforts solely on Belgium, "where food supplies dwindled ominously"; in this sense, it was part of a larger humanitarian effort, "an undertaking unprecedented in world history" to conduct "an organized rescue of an entire nation from starvation" (Nash). Drawing on their own domestic knowledge -- deeply rooted in the traditions of their families, as well as linked to modern innovation -- its members encouraged American women to find solidarity in sharing their knowledge for the common good, with the book's sale assisting in feeding families that, though an ocean away, were not so dissimilar from those in the U.S. (3848) $1,200

The first published translation of the Anglo Saxon Chronicle into modern English

8. [LGBTQ+] [People with Disabilities] [Gurney, Anna].
A Literal Translation of the Saxon Chronicle (Presentation Copy).

Norwich: Stevenson, Matchett & Stevenson, 1819. First edition. Bound in modern quarter calf over marbled boards, with two raised bands and later morocco label to spine. A wide margined copy measuring 195 x 110mm. Presentation inscription to the front endpaper: "Miss Hancock from Anna Gurney." An additional early gift inscription beneath in another hand: "Presented to Thomas Seaward by Miss Hancock of Norwich." Internally with occasional marginal notations on linguistics, else bright and fresh. Collating [4], 324, [94, index and errata]: complete and retaining original blanks at front and rear. Of the five copies reported in the modern auction record in the past century, none have been signed. It is the only signed copy on the market.
Known now as the "learned Saxonist," Anna Gurney's "intellectual interests were wide-ranging and included botany and geology, though she became known for her knowledge of philology, languages, and archaeology...In 1819 she produced her Literal Translation of the Saxon Chronicle, by a Lady in the Country. It was the first translation of the Anglo Saxon Chronicle into modern English to be printed...Having heard about the forthcoming publication of another work (an edition by James Ingram, then Rawlinson professor of Anglo Saxon at Oxford," Gurney presented her work anonymously and self-effacingly as a "very limited impression...intended for private circulation." Following this designedly modest start, Gurney's translation received positive attention from reviewers...being praised by scholars for its accuracy, literalism, and clear, plain style" (ODNB). It was a remarkable achievement for any scholar, particularly a young woman of 22.

Gurney's ability to develop private intellectual networks and never to appear a threat to the masculine-academic status quo allowed her to publish several influential works of philology and translation. She became the first female member of both the British Archaeological Association (1845) and the Philological Society (1848). And she used her platform strategically to support "campaigns for the abolition of slavery and the rights of indigenous peoples in the colonies" (Brookman). Paralyzed from the waist down since childhood, Gurney used a wheelchair to maintain her mobility; and she lived for almost two decades with cousin Sarah Buxton. "Known locally as 'Cottage Ladies' and to each other as 'Partner,' they lived together sharing a bedroom for the rest of their lives. Gurney's loss was said to be 'beyond our fathoming, beyond...most cases of widowhood' when Sarah died in 1839" (MacInnes). In her public and private lives, Gurney is a historic icon for feminist scholars, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ+ people. (4176) $1,650

Two ground-breaking sociological studies on the conditions endured by working women, with a rallying call for unionization

9. MacLean, Dr. Annie M.

New York; Chicago: Macmillan; McClurg, 1910; 1916. First editions. Both books in original publisher's cloth bindings with titles to spines and front boards. The former in VG+ condition with some sunning to spine and offsetting to rear board. The latter Near Fine, with the slightest bumping to extremities and early ownership inscription to front endpaper "C.W.B.M. [Christian Women's Board of Missions] Millersburg, Ohio Oct. 1918." Internally both copies clean, square, unmarked, and complete, with Wage-Earning Women retaining the two folding charts to the rear. A pair of important and ground-breaking studies on the conditions of working women in the United States and its national and international impacts.

Annie M. MacLean was a cutting-edge sociologist whose work focused on the conditions of working women in the United States. Immersive in her work, she was a contributor to Jane Addams' Hull House as well as an investigative researcher on the treatment and conditions working women experienced. In 1907-1908, MacLean supervised a major study on behalf of the YWCA, using a staff of 29 women sociologists surveying a total of 400 companies employing a total of 135,000 women in more than 20 cities (Fish). The result was Wage-Earning Women, a data-driven survey on women's labor and labor conditions the likes of which had never before occurred in the U.S. And it took into account a wide array of situations in which women functioned: industrial work, office labor, seasonal farming. MacLean's work ushered in a new era, where women could draw on measurable statistics to press organizations like the YWCA to move past an emphasis on individual wellbeing of women to an interest in studying the systemic conditions women faced and pressing for corrections through education and legislation. Within six years, MacLean's work had already had a significant impact. Women
Workers and Society follows up her previous work with a concise study on the improvements and new challenges faced by a recognizable and "an important class of women in society; namely the eight million or more women who go out from the home daily to the various tasks that the industrial and professional world offers them." While MacLean's research shows some progress for women, it undeniably concludes that "our industrial structure has grown up around a man's labor and is not yet adjusted to the capacity of women." This is a problem, as "American can never reach the highest point of strength if she fails to heed the needs of her women workers." Moving beyond the cold hard facts of both studies, this later work also issues a rallying cry for women to unionize and unite to demand change. (3350)

Arguing that the education & employment of women benefits the entire population

10. [Phillips, Lydia F. M.] L.F.M. English Matrons and their Profession, with some considerations as to their various offices, their national importance, and the education they require.

London: Sampson Low, Marston, Low & Searle, 1873. First edition. Original publisher's cloth binding stamped in black and gilt. All edges stained red. Bookplate of the Fraser Institute on the front pastedown; small binder's ticket to the rear pastedown. Front hinge a bit tender but holding well. Collates xii, 284, 48: complete. Internally a clean, tight, square copy of this work on women's education and employment, which OCLC records at only 8 institutions worldwide, with only 1 of those in the U.S. A scarce work in trade as well, this is currently the only copy on the market, with none appearing in the modern auction record.

"The interests of women and men are identical, one, and inseparable." So Phillips initiates her argument on the need to expand and improve women's education, particularly as it applies to their employment. Admitting that the topic is well-trod territory, she points out that she must lend her voice to the debate specifically because it has not been adequately solved and is occurring at a time when "our whole system of national education is being readjusted, reendowed, refixed." Indeed, the 1870s in England saw a rising clamour of proposals and arguments for the improvement of national education, particularly as high levels of urban poverty resulted in many children landing either in the poorhouse or in factory work. Here, Phillips identifies an opportunity to assert women's right to education as well. "The claims of half the nation to such a share of that national provision for education is absolutely necessary to fit them to discharge their half of the nation's work." In what follows, Phillips provides a brief background on the history of women in England before moving forward into the areas where they currently need education -- to discharge their work as wives and mothers running households, to efficiently do domestic labour as housekeepers and cooks, as well as to function in key fields like teaching, nursing, and the running of poorhouses. In each circumstance, the book outlines those positions and how education will ensure their proper execution. A logical argument for equal access to education, English Matrons notable separates itself from debates on suffrage and citizenship to focus solely on the topic of the important work women are already performing. (2685)
A survey of the first symposium on commercial computers, compiled by the first woman president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science


Washington DC: [U.S. Department of Commerce, Office of Technical Services], 1952. First Edition. Near Fine copy in original orange paper wraps, with spine lightly sunned. Internally about Fine. Quarto measuring 7.75 x 10 inches and collating [2], 41 pages: complete. Rare surviving copy of the first survey of electronic digital computers in the U.S., organized by pioneering mathematician Mina Rees. This is a title that has never before sold at auction and is listed by OCLC at only 10 institutions.

In her introduction to the survey, Rees notes that "Until recently, all commercially available general-purpose digital computers were large and cost many hundreds of thousands of dollars. Within the past year, however, a number of manufacturers have smaller, more compact (usually slower) automatic computers for sale at less than one hundred thousand dollars." Because this change opened the door to a wider variety of businesses and firms accessing computers, Rees points to the symposium as being timely and necessary. In this space and this historic moment, scientists, mathematicians, manufacturers, and government agencies could consider how to continue improving and reducing cost on the machines; and they could consider their wide applicability across fields. Rees, herself a luminary who became the first woman president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, is featured in this survey among other notables including Albert Auerbach and Richard E Sprague. The papers include work the MINIAC, the Eleco, and the Circle Computer. These were the first of their kind, as was the symposium itself. Complete with over 20 black and white photos, charts, and diagrams, it is an important and rare piece documenting computers' shift into the necessary and ubiquitous technology they are today. Origins of Cyberspace 853. (2294) $2,850


Boston: W. B. Clarke Company, 1913. First edition. Green publisher's cloth binding with bright gilt to spine and front board. Scattered rubbing to front board; small scuff to rear board. Tight and square. Internally clean and unmarked, containing 19 portraits, and 2 facsimile letters from Wendell Phillips and Joseph Twichell respectively. This copy presented by the author to activist and reformer Rev. Joseph Twichell, who was featured in the book and was part of a literary circle that included Mark Twain. Author's calling card affixed to the front endpaper with Twichell's annotation regarding the gift; two page Autograph Letter Signed from Wyman to Twichell affixed in transmittal envelope to front pastedown.

American Chivalry is Lillie Buffum Chace Wyman's monument to the two largest social movements of nineteenth-century America and some of their leading figures: the abolition of slavery and women's suffrage. The volume is a collection of six biographical sketches of Wendell Phillips, Lillie's mother Elizabeth Buffum Chace, her aunt Rebecca Buffum Chace, Parker Pillsbury, Sojourner Truth, and her late husband John Crawford Wyman. These
different figures were all connected to Lillie Wyman, either as family members or as friends. Wyman’s sketch of Wendell Phillips is particularly notable for its impressionistic style. Unlike many biographies which relied on birth-to-death chronology to coherence to a life, the biography of Phillips is made of vignettes that Wyman uses to stitch together a rich and intimate portrait of Phillips’ renowned moral character.

Included is an Autograph Letter Signed from Wyman to Rev. Joseph Twichell, an important clergyman (and close friend of Samuel Clemens). Wyman's letter poignantly dwells on the challenge she faced writing about her late husband: "You can imagine, I think, how I paused over many words and sentences in the chapter about John, hesitating between a shy fear of revealing too much of the inner sanctuary, and a strong desire to show him where and how he was most beautiful,—in that sanctuary." (3387) $1,000

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