



Research Rich for RBMS: A Virtual Showcase Table

As sad as we are not to join our trade and institutional colleagues this week in Bloomington, we are also excited to share a short list of material that would have come with us to the showcase. 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 diversity of closures affecting 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.

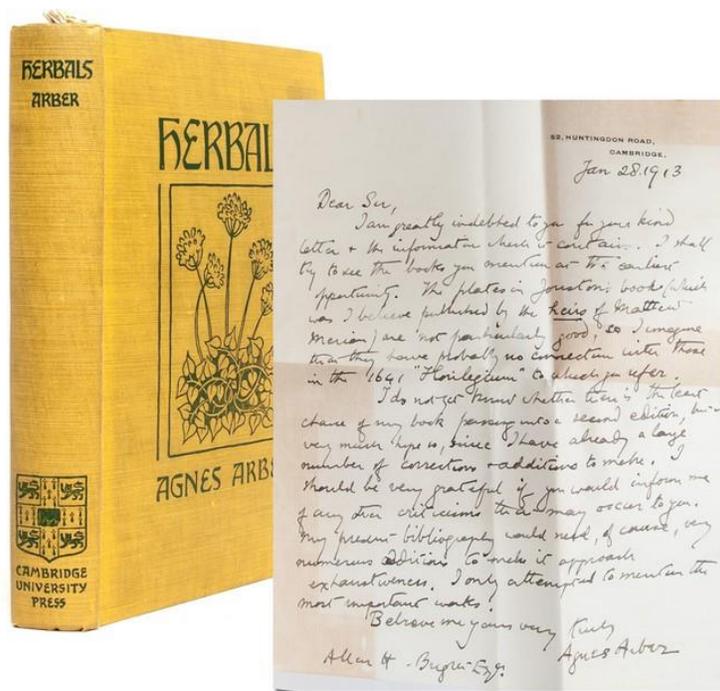
All items subject to prior purchase.

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:

miranda@whitmorerarebooks.com or 626-714-7720





A well-researched work of wide range and enduring impact, in and beyond the field of botany

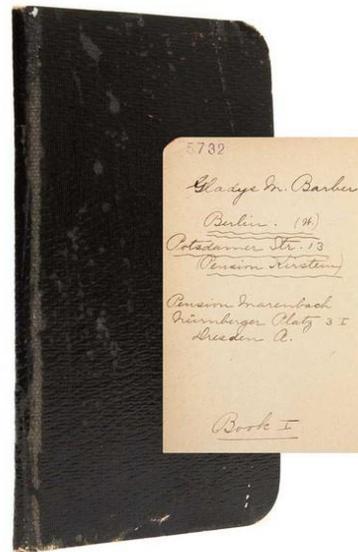
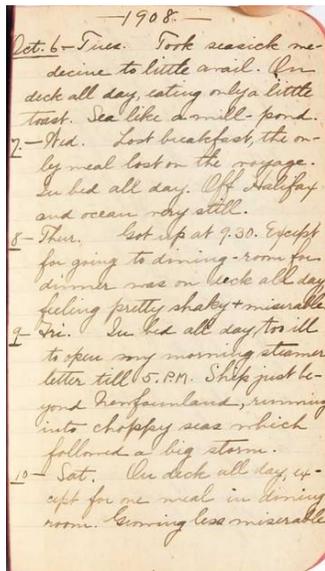
Arber, Agnes.

Herbals, Their Origin and Evolution: A Chapter in the History of Botany 1470-1670 (with accompanying ALS).

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1912. First edition. Original publisher's cloth binding with title to spine and front board. Top edge gilt. Bookplate of the Medievalist Allan Heywood Bright to front pastedown, with accompanying Autograph Letter Signed by the author to Bright tipped in on the front endpaper. With the exception of offsetting to the front and rear pastedowns, the present is a pleasing, neat, and square copy containing the frontis and all 21 illustrated plates.

"Arber's research centered on the form of plants, both living and fossil specimens...The philosophy of plant form not only underpinned Arber's laboratory, but was also reflected in a range of historical and philosophical publications which have had wider and more enduring impact. The first of these was Herbals" (ODNB). Drawing not only on established science but also the views of early humanities scholars, Arber was able to interact with a broader range of thinkers. Among these were the owner of the present volume, Allan Heywood Bright, whose most important work centers on Piers Plowman. A book he clearly valued, he marked key illustrations and passages with slips of paper and tipped in a letter from Arber to him. (2862)

\$795



A young woman's post-college experience of the world

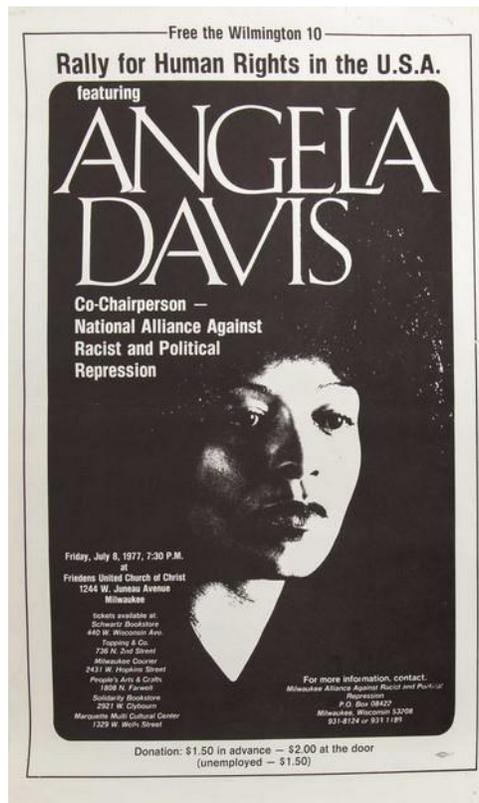
[Diary] Gladys M. Barber.

1908 Travel Diary of an American woman college graduate, documenting her trans-continental experiences of art, music, and contemporary politics.

[Germany]: 1908. Black sheep over stitched card, with some rubbing to the spine and edges. Text block reinforced internally with paper tape. Measures 3 x 5 inches. Comprised of 72 densely handwritten pages documenting the European travel experiences of Gladys M. Barber, who earned her A.B. from Boston University in 1905 and would return soon after as a Master's Candidate.

Immersing herself in Berlin, Potsdam, and Dresden, recent graduate Gladys visits museums and galleries and she attends concerts and operas. She attends a performance of Mendelssohn's *Midsummer Night's Dream*, a performance of *Wilhelm Tell*, and a Wagner opera conducted by Rudolf Krasselt. She hears a piano performance by Martha Siebold, who would later be called "one of the most gifted and proficient pianists of the day" (*Musical Courier*, 1916) and who Gladys described as a player "with great control, ability, and good interpretation." As she examines the nude masterpieces of Rubens at the National Gallery, she comments with amusement that "upon noticing that we were only females in the room we laughingly whispered 'Do you think this is a proper place for us?'" She also reveals her knowledge of contemporary Continental art when she compares the landscape of the countryside to "the famous paintings by the Dutch painter," Einar Wegener (*Lili Elbe*). According to Boston University records, Gladys M. Barber earned her A.B. in 1905; and by 1911, she was listed among Master's Candidates at the same school. Her European travel as recorded in this diary falls squarely between her two degrees, suggesting that first-hand experience of the world was a supplement to higher education rather than a break from it. An exceptionally rich resource, with research possibilities including but not limited to women's education, contemporary approaches to modern art, global politics leading up to WWI, travel and tourism history, German art and architecture, the history of fashion, and the history of music. (2204)

\$835



Rare poster promoting Angela Davis' crucial push to overturn racism in the US Justice system

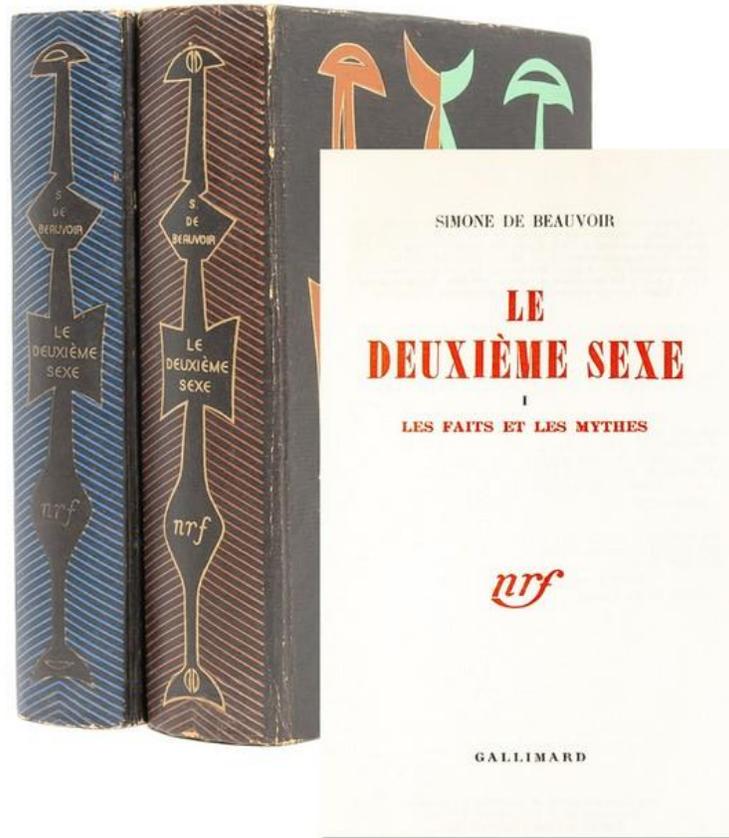
[Davis, Angela].

Free the Wilmington 10, Rally for Human Rights in the U.S.A. featuring Angela Davis, co-chairperson – National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

Milwaukee: Milwaukee Alliance Against Racial and Political Repression, 1977. First edition. Near Fine poster measuring 11x17 inches. Unbacked; with small staple holes to all four corners; one small tear to right not affecting text or image. Overall exceptional condition of a rare piece of ephemera that does not appear in any institutional collection.

Following increasing tension between the KKK and black residents of Wilmington, North Carolina in the aftermath of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s assassination, ten community members were wrongfully convicted of firebombing a white-owned grocery store. Known by news outlets and activists as the Wilmington 10, these nine black men and one white woman were sentenced to 282 years in prison despite evidence of tampering, bribery, and unreliability among witnesses. In 1973, following her own acquittal and the end of her political exile, Angela Davis and the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression began hosting rallies across the country to raise awareness and demand fair treatment of black prisoners and the Wilmington 10. By 1976 Amnesty International joined them, calling for the release of the Wilmington 10, declaring them political prisoners of the U.S. race wars. The surviving 6 members of the Wilmington 10 were released and pardoned in 2013. A rare surviving document of an important American activist's early work to create change. Near Fine. (2033)

\$1,250



"One is not born but rather becomes a woman..."

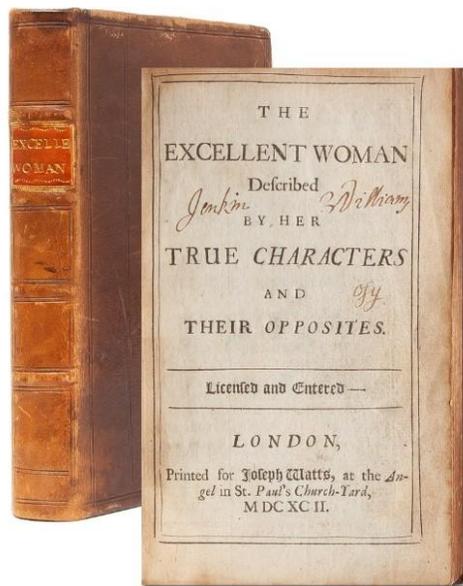
de Beauvoir, Simone.

Le Deuxieme Sexe (in 2 vols.).

[Paris]: Gallimard, [1949]. First edition. Original publisher's cloth bindings with titles to spine and pictorial illustrations of Mario Prassinis to boards. Pegasus motif endpapers. Gentle rubbing to extremities of spines; gentle bumps to corners. Front board of volume II mildly bowed. In all, a pleasing pair of this important philosophical work, which was released in a limited edition of 2,105 copies, including the present set which is one of 2,000 numbered copies on Alfama Marais paper.

One of the preeminent French existentialist philosophers, working alongside other intellectual greats such as Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus, Simone de Beauvoir made her greatest contributions in the fields of ethics, feminism, and politics. She is perhaps best known for the present work, *The Second Sex*, which argues that women have been historically relegated to a second class as men's 'Other,' and that this has led to systemic oppression. "Her revolutionary magnum opus, it was published in two volumes and immediately found both an eager audience and harsh critics. *The Second Sex* was so controversial that the Vatican put it on the Index of Prohibited Books...Striking for its breadth of research and the profundity of its central insights, it remains to this day one of the foundational texts in philosophy, feminism, and women's studies" (Encyclopedia of Philosophy). Near Fine. (2869)

\$1,750



Signaling the end of the Querelle des Femmes, an argument for women's national value and the need for their education

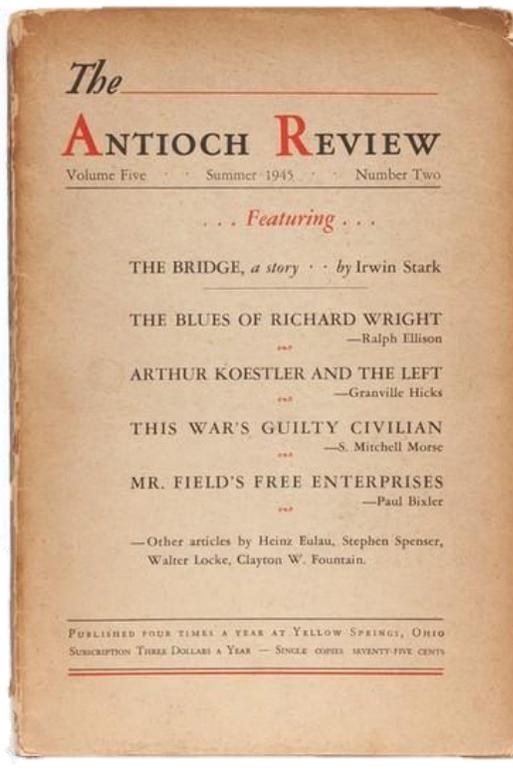
[Du Bosc, Jacques].

The Excellent Woman Described by Her True Characters and Their Opposites.

London: Printed for Joseph Watts, 1692. First English language edition. Later full sheep with red morocco label to spine. Light rubbing to extremities; in all square and tight. Collating [10], xix, [3], 304: complete, including frontis. Internally a clean copy, with text block only mildly toned and some offsetting to front and rear leaves. Top edge trimmed a bit close, but with no loss to running title or page numbers. Ownership signature of Jenkin Williams to title page. The first appearance in English of Du Bosc's L'Honneste Femme, it is scarce institutionally and in trade. ESTC reports 14 copies at libraries (10 of these in North America); currently the only copy on the market, only 1 complete copy has appeared at auction in the past half century, the other two being defective.

The Querelle des Femmes (the Woman Question) was a debate on women's status that raged across Europe and England through the 16th to 18th century, depicted at times in drama and literature but most often enacted through broadsides, pamphlets, and tracts. While early iterations of the debate focused on whether women were humans or indeed possessed souls, this began to shift as women and their allies used logic to argue against some inherent inferiority in the sex in favor of pointing out the educational disadvantages imposed upon women. France, more progressive in England in regard to women's abilities, offered the present work as a means of promoting their social value. Translated and distributed in English, The Excellent Woman similarly drew attention toward British women's contributions to the nation and the need to continue training them as cornerstones of the empire. "[This Book] is design'd and directed to serve the Honour and Happiness of the Female Sex, who are perhaps the larger Half of Mankind; and who doubtless are, or may be, as important, as the Other. I cannot but chuse but think that the Glory, and Worth, and Happiness of any Nation depends as much upon them as upon the Men...We are born of them; we commonly derive from them what we are in our Nature." To this end, Du Bosc and his translator call for improved education for women both for their minds and their behaviors. Wing E3838. ESTC R21842. (3458)

\$4,500



The incredibly scarce true first appearance of Ellison's review of Wright's memoir

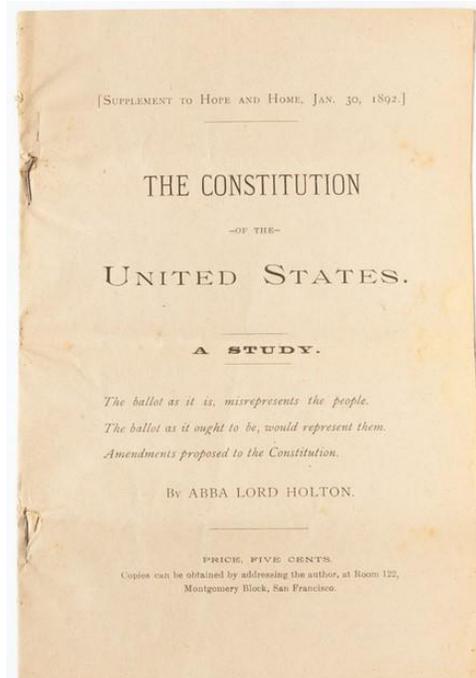
Ellison, Ralph.

Richard Wright's Blues.

Yellow Springs, OH: 1945. First edition. In *The Antioch Review* (V: Summer 1945: 2), pages 198-211. Original printed wrappers with title and selected contents to the front, and adverts to rear wrap. Spine soiled with some chipping to the paper; toning to edges of wraps. Front wrap chipped at upper corner with no paper loss; small closed tear and chipping to top rear wrapper. With the exception of offsetting to pages 198-199, internally clean and unmarked. The first appearance of Ellison's important review of Richard Wright's autobiography *Black Boy*; it was later re-released as an offprint that occasionally appears on the market. The present format is incredibly scarce. Currently the only copy on the market, it does not appear in the modern auction record.

Pre-dating *Invisible Man* by seven years, Richard Wright's *Blues* holds an important place among Ellison's early works of literary and social criticism. As a piece in the *Antioch Review*, a quarterly linked to a notoriously progressive and activist college, it positioned Ellison as a cutting edge voice for the rising generation. "As a writer, Richard Wright has outlined for himself a dual role: To discover and depict the meaning of Negro experience and to reveal to both Negroes and whites those problems of a psychological and emotional nature which arise between them when they strive for mutual understanding." With deep appreciation for Wright's mission, Ellison asserts that his literary predecessor's work weaves together influence from across the canon; yet Wright's work is different because it emphasizes a specifically African American experience, which, like the blues, has "an impulse to keep the painful details and episodes of a brutal experience alive in one's aching consciousness, to finger its jagged grain and to transcend it." (3193)

\$2,500



A California suffragist argues for the dissolution of districts and a shift to the popular vote to ensure a representative government

[Women's Rights] Holton, Abba Lord.

The Constitution of the United States. A Study.

San Francisco: [N.P.], January 30, 1892. First edition. A supplement to Hope and Home from the same date, featuring the subtitle: "The ballot as it is misrepresents the people. The ballot as it ought to be would represent them. Amendments proposed to the Constitution." Original printed self-wraps stapled at spine. Faint soiling to outer margins and light scattered foxing to rear advertisements, but in all a clean copy. An exceptionally rare work by San Francisco suffragist and California reformer Abba Lord Holton. OCLC reports only 2 institutionally held copies, one of those in the US (LOC). It does not appear in the modern auction record and is currently the only copy on the market.

Abba Lord Holton, alongside business partner Alfred Cridge, ran the magazine Hope and Home from San Francisco largely at their own expense. A periodical that "waged war on the enemies of equal representation," its agenda was shaped by Holton's role as editor and suffragist (Proportional Representation Review, 1893). The present pamphlet was a supplement to their January 1892 issue; in it, Holton draws on her past role as a teacher and present role as an activist to compose a clear, concise, and eloquent case for amending the Constitution to account for current failures in the system. These failures do not affect women alone. Indeed, she argues, they reflect a failure of representative government across the board. Near Fine. (3339)

\$1,750



Tracing how lessons in handwriting also served the purpose of indoctrinating girls into socially-appropriate femininity

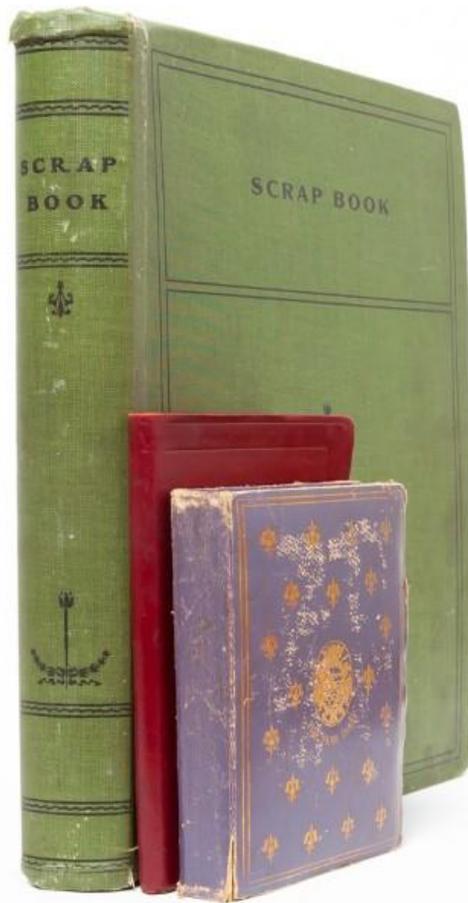
[Girls' Education] [Commonplace Book] Ada N. Kenney.

Commonplace Copy Book of a Young Woman in School.

Brimfield, MA: 1848. Columbian Writing Book #7 Designed for Use in Schools. Blue stitched paper wraps with flag and manicule motifs to front cover and general directions for proper handwriting on rear cover. Completely filled and comprised of 20 densely written manuscript pages in ink and pencil, created by Ada N. Kenney of Brimfield, Mass, who leaves her ownership information in pencil on the front wrap. A lovely and fascinating historical document tracing both the method by which a young woman developed her hand as well as how such lessons served the additional purpose of indoctrinating her into socially-appropriate femininity.

Ada Kenney's copybook contains a neat and precise hand throughout, which suggests that she was educated and belonged to the rising middle class. Meticulous and organized, Ada breaks her book into two clear sections. The first 9 pages contain precisely copied and repeated sentences such as "Assiduity in labor produces fame and fortune," "Cherish sentiments of charity towards all men," and "Discretion of speech is superior to eloquence." As the lines get repeated 19 times each in the alphabetical order dictated by the first word, it is clear that Ada is being trained in an elegant cursive. Yet the content of the lines and their repetition also serve as lessons to her about the value of female silence, virtue, and chastity. By the second half of the book, Ada commits another 9 pages to carefully copying out poetry; and here, her choices push up against the demure repetitions of the previous pages. "Long Fanny Gray," "The Troubadour" [Gaily the Troubadour Touched his Guitar], and "Highland Mary" are each ballads of romance and flirtation, love and loss. These selections suggest a burgeoning interest in courtship and men, as well as women's expressions of desire and jealousy. (2532)

\$950



Significant material from the Maverick family, documenting the experiences of a professional woman and artist traveling the world before and after suffrage

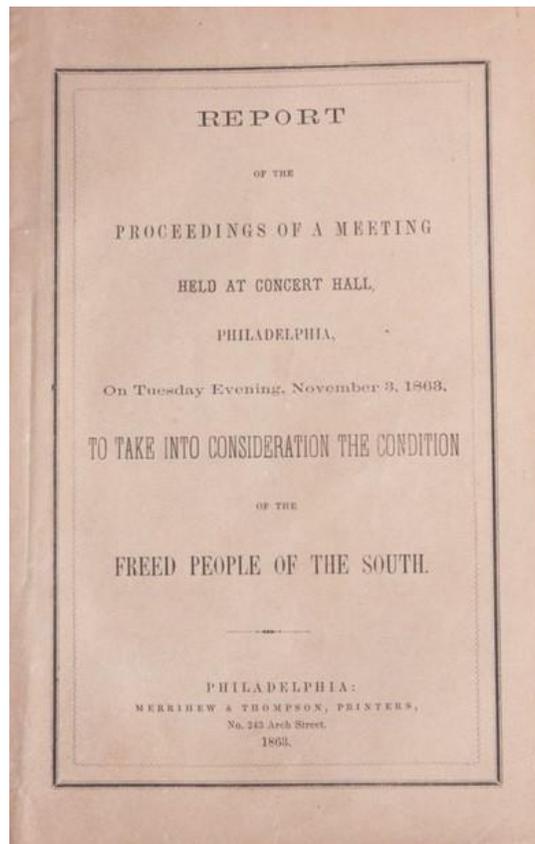
[Women in the Arts] [Women's Travel] Laura Maverick.

Collection documenting the uncommon life and international career of touring concert contralto Laura Maverick.

1911-1937. Significant collection of material documenting the life and work of internationally renowned contralto Laura Maverick, of the influential Maverick family (whose wide-ranging contributions to U.S. politics, business, and the arts are outlined in detail in Lewis Fisher's *Maverick: The American Name that Became a Legend*). Maverick began her career as a classical contralto touring the US and later the world, and performing at such venerable locales as the Metropolitan Opera House and Carnegie Hall. Later, she would make it to Broadway, participating in hits like *Ziegfeld Follies*, *Tickle Me*, and *Hitchy-Koo*. The manuscript, ephemeral, and photographic items in this collection cover the most active span of her career.

With over 500 pages of handwritten, ephemeral, and photographic content, the present collection contains a wealth of information not only on the Maverick family and some of its members movements, but also on early travel in modern America, the experiences of a working woman and artist before and after suffrage, and life in theatre and music. Full description of contents available online. (3311)

\$2,500



Documenting the commitment and struggle to provide food, clothing, and education to freed peoples in the South

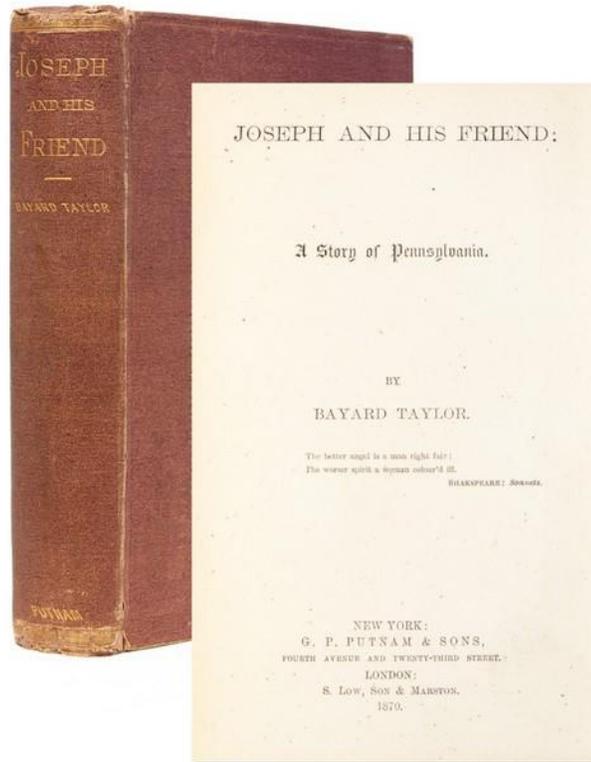
[Pennsylvania Freedmen's Relief Association].

Report of the Proceedings of a Meeting Held at Concert Hall Philadelphia...To Take into Consideration the Condition of the Freed People of the South.

Philadelphia: Merrihew & Thompson, 1863. First edition. Original paper wraps stitched at spine. Gently toned and with a small snag causing paper loss to the rear wrap and final two leaves with loss to the words "help" and "Next." Else an internally clean and complete copy of this rare piece of African American history documenting the efforts of the Port Royal Experiment following the area's abandonment by former slaveholders. Scarce at institutions and in the trade, the present is the only copy on the market.

Beginning in 1861, as the Union army began liberating the coast of South Carolina near the harbor of Port Royal, abolitionists initiated a program in which emancipated families worked land abandoned by former slaveholders. Known as the Port Royal Experiment, the program moved into full force in 1863 as the war ended, making it possible for freedmen to take full possession of the land as citizens. The present report was the first one compiled by the Philadelphia Freedmen's Relief Association; and it documents the difficult realities of transitioning a community from slavery to freedom. Providing training, food, and clothing to so many people -- even those who had money -- was a challenge in a region that had suffered wartime damage to infrastructure. Nevertheless, the report reveals the commitment on both sides to build up and help the Port Royal Experiment succeed; if it did, it was not only aid to those in South Carolina but could serve as an assistance model to other new communities. Near Fine. (2813)

\$1,500



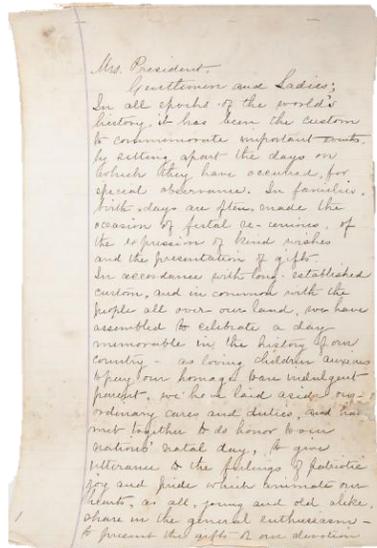
[LGBTQ] Taylor, Bayard.

Joseph and His Friend.

New York: G. P. Putnam & Sons, 1870. First edition. Original publisher's cloth binding with rubbing to extremities of spine. BAL printing A, purple C cloth. Coated tan endpapers, with slight chipping to fore-edge of front paper. Just about Near Fine. Oft digitized but available in hardcopy at few institutions or on the market, this has become a particularly difficult book to obtain in collectible condition. Joseph and his Friend has been acclaimed as America's first published openly gay novel.

Young, sheltered, and wealthy Joseph Astor is engaged to the lovely Julia Blessing when he is seriously injured in a train crash. Nursed to health by a fellow passenger, the working class Philip Held, Joseph develops strong feelings and a lifelong bond to his new friend; yet he opts to move ahead with his marriage to Julia. As the plot progresses, the loveless marriage between the Astors leads to misery and resentment on both sides; meanwhile, Joseph's comfort is his deep connection, "a man's perfect friendship" with Philip. "Joseph and his Friend, which some scholars refer to as America's first gay novel...presages popular early-twentieth-century notions of sexuality and identity that were still coalescing in the mid-nineteenth-century, offering an insightful glance into the development of American queerness...It taps into the particularities of its own historical moment while imagining future queer utopias left for us to cultivate" (Wagner). A landmark moment in American LGBTQ history. BAL18713. (3340)

\$1,650



"The effort of securing the vote will be the next step in the development of the struggle for independence in our country"

[Women's Suffrage] [Activism].

Manuscript Suffrage Society Speech for Independence Day, 1884, to an Activist Gathering.

[N.P.]: [July 4, 1884]. 32 manuscript pages in a single hand, on lined legal paper. Some edges chipped; pages uniformly toned. Speech fully legible but cut short on the final page, where sentences are struck out and no conclusion exists. Composed to address a suffrage gathering at a critical time in the movement, the unknown writer draws attention to women's unnoted roles in American history and calls attendees to action, and encourages awareness of the important and expanded roles women are already claiming across the nation.

The U.S. women's suffrage movement experienced several key shifts in strategy during its seven-decade campaign for equality. 1884, the date of the present manuscript, was one of them. In March of that year, Susan B. Anthony submitted a statement to the House Judiciary Committee and testified before the Senate of the 48th Congress arguing for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution granting women the vote. Across the country, grassroots organizations gathered together in like fashion, ramping up their speeches, emboldening women to canvas and gain signatures for petitions at the state and federal levels. Independence Day, which had become a symbolic event for the women to rally around since the 1876 Centennial, remained an annual opportunity to call out the nation's hypocrisy. The present is a perfect example of this, ripe for researching local groups' rhetoric and the balance members needed to strike when addressing their own neighbors, friends, and husbands. Promoting the power of the vote, the speaker reminds listeners that even without enfranchisement, women have and will continue to shape their communities. "Women need not wait for it [the vote] to be assured of the tremendous power they are already wielding for good." The orator gestures to women's roles as "educated nurses," as contributors to fields of "science which every day is opening up new and wonderful discoveries," and to new possibilities unfolding as "schools and colleges everywhere invite the student to explore the realm of knowledge." Notably, the speech ends on a conservative note. Emphasizing all the women can already accomplish, the speaker urges moderate involvement in the pursuit of voting, and increased focus, in the end, on all women have already achieved. (3430)

\$1,950