New Acquisitions in Early Americana, 1706–1817

ANN CHEW’S COPY OF THE 1786
PROPOSED AND REJECTED AMERICAN BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER,
WITH ENGRAVED MUSIC BY FRANCIS HOPKINSON,
IN CONTEMPORARY STRAIGHT-GRAIN RED MOROCCO GILT EXTRA
BY PHILADELPHIA BINDER CALEB BUGLASS

1. (AMERICAN BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER). Episcopal Church. The Book of Common Prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments, and other Rites and Ceremonies, as Revised and Proposed to the Use of the Protestant Episcopal Church, at a Convention . . . Held in Philadelphia . . . 1785. Philadelphia: Hall and Sellers, 1786. [364] p. + 8 p. of engraved music. Original full red morocco, spine (flat, with sunken cords) elaborately gilt using several different tools, gilt sawtooth roll around the boards with gilt devices as cornerpieces, gilt roll on the board edges, all edges gilt, marbled endpapers, by Philadelphia binder Caleb Buglass. “Ann Chew her Book the Gift of R: Chew July 1, 1788” in a neat calligraphic hand on the front flyleaf. Also the signatures of Philadelphia and Rhode Island printer William Goddard and his daughter, Mary A[ngell] Goddard. Leaf e4 pasted over with a contemporary newspaper cutting of a Morning Prayer and a small chip out of the bottom margin; leaves S2–3 scruffy in blank margins and formerly pinned in; a few other leaves slightly loose or pulled. Two early and not offensive library stamps on front flyleaf and title, else unmarked. Other than these issues, a lovely copy in a superb contemporary Philadelphia “gilt extra” red morocco binding. $4,000

The first American Book of Common Prayer, proposed by the newly-formed convention of the Protestant Episcopal churches in America, with eight pages of engraved music with tune settings by Francis Hopkinson. The text was compiled under the direction of the Reverend (later, Bishop) William White of Philadelphia, with the assistance of the Reverends William Smith and Charles...
Wharton. Francis Hopkinson, also a member of the convention, was responsible for providing the tune settings for the selected hymns and psalms, and Hopkinson's music appears on eight leaves at the end of the text.

With great pride in their book, the committee members had a number of copies specially bound by Philadelphia bookbinder Caleb Buglass in “the best and first binding in his power.” These copies, referred to by the committee as “Morocco” or “Red Bound” copies, were sent to friends and patrons. Of the surviving specially-bound copies, all exhibit stylistic similarities but very different tools. See Hannah D. French, “Caleb Buglass, Binder of the Proposed Book of Common Prayer, Philadelphia, 1786” in Winterthur Portfolio 6 (1970): 15–32. Our copy exhibits a tool not recorded by French.

Despite the efforts of the committee, the 1786 Book of Common Prayer was not acceptable to most members of the Church in America, and it was officially rejected. A new, and approved, Book of Common Prayer was published in 1790. While there are numerous copies of the 1786 book in institutions, it is quite rare in trade. A copy in the extra gilt binding, in lovely condition, is most desirable. Evans 19940; Griffiths 1786/9; ESTC W29995.

**THE RARE 1789 ENGLISH EDITION OF THE PROPOSED AMERICAN BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER, OF WHICH ONLY FIFTY COPY WERE PURPORTEDLY PRINTED**

2. (AMERICAN BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER). Episcopal Church. The Book of Common Prayer, and Administration of the Sacraments, and other Rites and Ceremonies, as Revised and Proposed to the Use of the Protestant Episcopal Church, at a Convention . . . Held in Philadelphia . . . 1785.
The English reprint of the first American Book of Common Prayer as proposed by the newly-formed convention of the Protestant Episcopal churches in America. There is a long tradition that only fifty copies of this edition were printed. The source for this statement is found in the Historical Magazine I (1857), p. 221, in a footnote to a list of pre-1800 American editions of the BOCP: "The only copy of this I have ever seen was in the library of the Rev. Wm. B. Stevens, D.D., of Philadelphia, and contains immediately under the book-plate of one of the English nobility from whose collection it originally came, the manuscript note that only fifty copies were published—probably for the use of the English bishops who were then considering the request of the American Church for the 'succession.'" Griffiths 1789/8 states “Only fifty copies printed.” ESTC T161150.

THE FIRST AMERICAN BOOK ON POMOLOGY


$1,000
First edition of the first American book devoted exclusively to pomology. William Coxe was one of the foremost fruit growers in America in the early years of the nineteenth century as well as the most important American writer on pomological topics. He owned extensive orchards in Burlington, New Jersey, which contained most of the varieties of fruit that could be grown in America. His descriptions are detailed and accurate, as are the nearly 200 woodcut illustrations, executed by William Mason of Philadelphia, depicting 100 varieties of apples, 63 pears, 15 peaches, 17 plums, 3 apricots, and 2 nectarines. For a detailed nine-page essay on the printing and publishing history of this important book, see Felcone, *New Jersey Books*, 532–533. Rink 1653, S&S 40585.

RARE 1805 AMERICAN JUVENILE CARD GAME

4. (EARLY AMERICAN JUVENILE CARD GAME). *Geography an Amusement. Or a Complete Set of Geographical Cards, by which the Boundaries, Situation, Extent, Divisions, Chief Towns . . . of all the Countries, Kingdoms, and Republics in the Known Habitable Globe, may be Learned by way of Amusement, in a Pleasing and Satisfactory Manner. By Several Persons Conversant with Maps and who have made the Science their Particular Study*. Burlington [N.J.]: Published by David Allinson, bookseller, [1805]. [2], lxxvi pastepaper cards printed in red, yellow, blue, and black ink, and housed in the original four-panel printed pastepaper sleeve. Sleeve very worn at the extremities, one panel cleanly detached, cards all in lovely condition. A remarkable survival. $3,800
A complete set, in the fragile original printed pastepaper sleeve, of one of the earliest surviving American educational card games. The set consists of 76 numbered cards, each printed in either red, yellow, blue, or black ink, and each devoted to an individual state, territory, country, or empire, plus two cards of directions (“The manner of using Geography an Amusement” and “Explanation of terms”). The cards are contained in a paper-covered pastepaper sleeve, printed on all four panels. In more than 45 years of very close attention to the products of the early New Jersey press, we have seen very few copies of Geography an Amusement on the market, and those were invariably incomplete. S&S 8509 locates two sets (DLC and MiU-C), and we know of a few other institutional sets, nearly all of which are incomplete, usually lacking one or both cards of directions. The present set contains both cards of directions plus all the geographical cards. See Felcone, New Jersey Books,
717, for a very detailed description of this early American juvenile card game.

**FIRST AMERICAN EDITION OF THE CONSTITUTIONS OF FREEMASONRY**

5. FREEMASONS. GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA. *Ahiman Rezon Abridged and Digested: as a Help to All that Are, or Would be Free and Accepted Masons. To which is added, A Sermon . . . by William Smith, D. D.* Philadelphia: Hall and Sellers, 1783. xvi, 166 p. Engraved frontis. Contemporary sheep, skillfully rebacked in period style. Some overall soiling and dampstaining, free endpaper and frontis. browned at the edges and neatly guarded. Small early ownership stamp of I. Morrell on first two leaves. A good copy. $1,800

□ The first American edition of the Constitutions of the Antients, originally published by Laurence Dermott in London in 1756. The elaborate frontispiece of the Mason’s arms was engraved by Robert Scot and printed by Kinnan & Leacock. The book is dedicated to George Washington. A cornerstone book in Freemasonry in America, and very difficult to find in good condition. Most copies are incomplete and heavily worn; this copy, though not a great beauty, is complete and relatively attractive. Evans 17915; Bristol B5800; Walgren 74; Lowens 34; ESTC W37160.

**FIRST PLAY WRITTEN, PUBLISHED, AND PRODUCED IN AMERICA**

6. GODFREY, THOMAS. *Juvenile Poems on Various Subjects. With the Prince of Parthia, a Tragedy . . . To which is prefixed, Some Account of the Author and his Writings.* Philadelphia: Henry Miller, 1765. 4to. xxvi, [2], 223 p. Neat modern cloth, leather spine label. Overall light browning of the text with some foxing, dampstains on first and last few leaves, two very faint old institutional perforation stamps. An entirely respectable, wide-margined copy of a book that is never found in fine original
First edition of one of the landmarks of early American literature. Written in 1759 when Godfrey was 22 years old, published in 1765 just shortly after his death at age 27, and produced at the Southwark Theatre in Philadelphia, the “Prince of Parthia” was the first play to be written, published, and produced by an American in America. “The publication of ‘The Prince of Parthia’ makes 1765 a landmark in American cultural history . . . an important dramatic precedent in America. . . .” (Two Hundred Years of American Plays, 1765-1964: An Exhibition Arranged to Celebrate the Bicentennial of the Publication of Thomas Godfrey's “The Prince of Parthia” (Brown University Library, 1965).

Edited by Nathaniel Evans, himself an important early American poet who also died young, the work includes an introductory sketch of Godfrey and his writings, a postscript, list of subscribers' names, and a considerable selection of Godfrey's verse. The subscribers, chiefly in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and North Carolina, include Benjamin Franklin and his son, Governor William Franklin of New Jersey, Governor John Penn of Pennsylvania, many students of “Jersey College,” &c. Thomas Godfrey was the son of Thomas Godfrey, a friend of Franklin, one of the original Junto members, and the inventor of the quadrant. A very scarce book: only one copy, disbound and in mediocre condition, has appeared at major auction in the last fifty years. Evans 9983; Stoddard & Whitesell 176.

MISSIONARY ACTIVITY IN THE AMERICAN COLONIES BEFORE 1728

but in a lighter-colored calf), retaining original spine label but with later endpapers. Corners worn, else a very good, clean copy. Bookplates of Albert Edgar Lownes and Morgan Dix. $2,000

square A fundamental text on the history of early missionary work in the North American colonies, with separate chapters and sections on individual colonies, the education of slaves, and relations with native Americans. Both maps are by Herman Moll and are dated 1730, one depicting New England south through New Jersey and the other the Carolinas. Howes H-795; European Americana 730/125; ESTC T36297.

IMLAY ON THE WESTERN TERRITORY OF AMERICA: 1793

8. IMLAY, GILBERT. A Description of the Western Territory of North America ... To which is Annexed, a Delineation of the Laws and Government of the State of Kentucky. . . . Dublin: For William Jones, 1793. 12mo. [4], xx, 249 p. Contemporary mottled calf. Hinges cracking but firmly held by cords, crown of spine chipped, else a fine copy, fresh and crisp. $1,000
Dublin reprint of the first edition of what would eventually contain—with the publication of the third edition of 1797—“the most complete information on the trans-Alleghany region available at the end of the 18th century”—Howes I12. ESTC T55139.

KEITH TAKES ON THE “STUBBORN AND IRASCIBLE” COLONISTS


First edition. After Keith was disowned by the Quakers and read out of the Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, he moved to England where, in 1700, he was ordained to the Anglican Church. In 1702 he returned to America as an S.P.G. missionary. He landed in Boston in June 1702, and for the next two years he traveled from New England south to Currituck, in present-day North Carolina, largely trying to win over the Quakers and the Congregationalists by preaching, arguing, and writing. He mentions many names of local individuals—often those with whom he stayed or preached or won over. An important record of religious life in Colonial America by a significant figure of the period. Howes K33; *European Americana* 706/141; Streeter Sale 817; Clark I 108; ESTC T61193.
A controversy over infant baptism between Abel Morgan, a Baptist minister at Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey, and Samuel Finley, a Presbyterian minister in Cumberland and Cape May Counties and later president of the College of New Jersey. The controversy began at Cape May in 1743 when each visiting minister was asked to preach a sermon on the subject. Evans 6013; Miller, Benjamin Franklin’s Philadelphia Printing, 425; Felcone, New Jersey Books, 145; ESTC W37801.

PRINTED BY BENJAMIN FRANKLIN

11. MORGAN, ABEL. Anti-Pedo-Rantism Defended: A Reply to Mr. Samuel Finley’s Vindication of the Charitable Plea for the Speechless... Philadelphia: Printed by B. Franklin, and D. Hall, 1750. 8vo. 230 p. Contemporary sheep, rebacked in period style. Endpapers with the signatures and writing of several members of the Crawford family, dated 1751. $3,200

Morgan’s rejoinder to a sermon published by Finley in Philadelphia in 1748, continuing their controversy over infant baptism. Evans 6555; Miller, Benjamin Franklin’s Philadelphia Printing, 508; Felcone, New Jersey Books, 146; ESTC W11648.

THE EARLIEST AMERICAN SURVEYING INSTRUCTIONS

Apparently the earliest American surveying instructions. The first four pages contain highly detailed instructions to be followed by all deputy surveyors in East New Jersey. Page 5 contains examples referred to in the first four pages as well as a woodcut diagram of a completed survey of an odd-shaped tract of land, measured in chains and links. The final page contains a copy of the letters patent appointing James Alexander surveyor general of East New Jersey, 11 May 1746/7. Identical instructions were printed from the same type for the deputy surveyors in West New Jersey, with only a type alteration from “Eastern” to “Western.”

The work was long thought to have been printed by Benjamin Franklin, but Miller removed the item from the Franklin canon and assigned the printing to James Parker, who at the time was working closely with James Alexander on the printing of the Elizabethtown Bill in Chancery. Rink, Technical Americana, 2363, lists an old NUC record assigning the date [1721?] to the work and reporting a copy at the Library of Congress; the date is incorrect and the library does not have the work, despite a record in its OPAC. Bristol B1354; Miller B46; ESTC W18934.

THE FARMER’S DAUGHTER SEDUCED: 1798

13.[PENN, JAMES]. The Farmer’s Daughter of Essex. Containing an Account of her Distress, Wonderful Adventures, Manner of being Courted and Seduced by a Nobleman in London, who after Living with her Some Years, parted in the most Dishonorable Manner . . . Written by Herself. New York: Printed by John Tiebout, 1798. 96 p. Contemporary marbled paper-covered boards, sheep spine. Covers considerably worn and at one time crudely stitched on, now detached. Some foxing and spotting but internally very good. $750
Early American edition of this pseudo-salacious tale of the corruption of a farmer’s daughter, first printed in London in 1767. Just three copies of this New York edition are recorded: MWA, MeHi, and NjP. Tiebout shared the edition with fellow printer Jacob S. Mott, whose copies are only slightly less scarce. Bristol B10458; ESTC W12103.

EARLIEST ACCOUNTS OF THE S.P.G., PROBABLY BY WHITE KENNETT

14. SOCIETY FOR PROPAGATING THE GOSPEL IN FOREIGN PARTS. An Account of the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts... with their Proceedings and Success, and Hopes of Continual Progress. . . . London: By Joseph Downing, 1706. 4to. [4], 97 p. including engraved imprimatur leaf. [Bound with:] A Collection of Papers, Printed by Order of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. . . . London: By Joseph Downing, 1706. 4to. 45 p. Two items, bound together in modern half calf, marbled sides. Fine and fresh. $800

Two items recording the philosophy and earliest events of the S.P.G. Authorship is generally assigned to White Kennett (1660–1728). There are numerous references to spreading Christianity in the English colonies in America, including initial resistence of the “independent Congregations” in New England, and a discussion of the “more effectual conversion of the Negroes and other Servants in the Plantations” in the South. European
THE FOUNDATION DOCUMENT ORGANIZING THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN THE UNITED STATES: A FLAWLESS COPY INSCRIBED BY WHITE


□ First edition. The first attempt to organize the Episcopal Church in the United States. White’s
essay, written while the war with England was still ongoing, was conceived by its author as a way to temporarily establish the church in America for as long as the emergency existed. Happily, the political situation changed very quickly, and beginning negotiations for a general peace were commenced soon after White’s pamphlet was in circulation.

White (1748–1836) was the first bishop consecrated in England for the Episcopal Church in the United States and the first presiding bishop of that church. Samuel Powel (1738–1793) was a prominent Philadelphian and twice mayor of that city. Evans 17802; ESTC W30224.