Fine Americana:
Books, Periodicals, Maps & Views

January, 2015
Courteous Reader,

Thank you for perusing this list of a few highlights of my current offerings. It focuses, as usual, on 18th century New England books, maps and other printed material, although there are several notable items outside of those temporal and geographic ranges. I hope that you will find something of interest. And if not, I am always happy to learn of areas of interest and/or specific wants in order to be of future assistance.

Items are offered subject to prior sale; please call or email to reserve.

Thank you for your attention, consideration and patronage.

Steve Hanly

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**On the cover:** *Granite Mountains, Mount Desert* from the Jackson Atlas. Item # 12

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**Scarce 18th century Maine Almanac**


According to Drake, the first almanac was published in Maine in 1787 by Thomas B. Wait. The present almanac is the eighth in the series of almanacs printed by Wait. Evans attributes authorship of this almanac to Nathanael Low. In the preface, the author notes the necessity of having an almanac for the District of Maine, citing sunrise/set and tide differences between Portland and Boston. The almanac contains two longish excerpts from published works: "A Description of the Natives of the north-west coast of America" by Capt. Portlock and "Account of the Electric Eel, or Torpedo of Surinam" by William Bryant. Also of interest are the road listings at the back of the almanac; they provide information on Maine roads rarely, if ever, seen in other almanacs. Eighteenth century Maine imprints are scarce in any condition. ESTC locates only two institutional holders of this almanac (the American Antiquarian Society and the Lilly Library at the University of Indiana) and Drake adds three (the Library of Congress, the Maine Historical Society and the Portland Public Library). A good example of a scarce Maine imprint. Evans, *American Bibliography*: 28989. Drake, *Almanacs of the United States*: 1951. Noyes, *Maine Imprints to 1820*: 76. Williamson, *A Bibliography of the State of Maine*: 10205. Not in O'Neal, *Early American Almanacs*. [Item no. 3627.] $425.00.
2. [Almanac.] [Massachusetts.] Travis, Daniel. **An Almanack of Coelestial Motions and Aspects for the Year of the Christian Aera 1711...** Boston: Printed. Sold by N. Boone, [1710]. 8 leaves (16 pages). String-tied in early marbled paper wrappers. Age toning and a bit of light staining; overall, a very well-preserved example. Drake calls for eight leaves; the ESTC record notes two leaves of bookseller's advertisements following the almanac proper. The additional two leaves are not present here.

A very scarce early Boston almanac, printed by Bartholomew Green who was also the printer of the *Boston News-Letter*. The almanac presents the standard fare, including a small cut of the Man of Signs. The final page consists of an advertisement for two books for sale at Nicholas Boone's (the publisher) bookshop -- *Husbandry Spiritualized* by Flavel and *The Constable's Pocket-Book* by "a late Constable in the Town of Boston." There is a gift inscription on the ffep: "Dr. T. L. Jennison's gift to S. Webber." This would appear to be Timothy Jennison and Samuel Webber; both were tutors at Harvard during the years 1787 and 1788, and the two served together on a committee of the First Church in Cambridge in 1795.
Little is known of Daniel Travis (1652?-1720?), the almanac's author. His almanacs were published in Boston from 1707 and 1723; for some of those years, Travis almanacs were also printed in New York and Connecticut. Travis's published output was apparently limited exclusively to almanacs; ESTC identifies no non-almanac imprints by Travis.

American almanacs from this early in the 18th century are now a rarity in the trade. ABPC identifies only two Travis almanacs as having been sold since 1975: the almanacs for 1721 and 1722 sold at auction in 2003. ESTC locates examples of the 1711 almanac at only three institutions: the American Antiquarian Society, the Huntington Library and the John Carter Brown Library. Evans, American Bibliography: 1490. Drake, Almanacs of the United States: 2940 (adding the Boston Public Library, the Massachusetts Historical Society and a private collection). [Item no. 3656.] $2,750.00.

Revere Compass Cut in a Scarce Almanac


Scarce Philadelphia Pocket Almanac from 1782


A very nicely preserved example of a late-Revolutionary War-era almanac published in Philadelphia. As a "pocket almanac," this small volume had two special features -- first, it sports apparently original marbled paper outer wrappers, and, second, it has interleaved blank pages for the owner's notes during the year. (The owner of this almanac, alas, was not a note writer, so the interleaved pages remain blank.) Also, befitting its intended use, the almanac measure a mere 4 1/8 x 2 1/2." A scarce little almanac, with ESTC identifying but four institutional holders. Evans, American Bibliography: 17082. Drake, Almanacs of the United States: 10135. [Item no. 3658.] $375.00.
First Windsor, Vermont Almanac
with an Early Vermont Register


A review of Drake's Almanacs of the United States suggests that this was the first almanac printed in Windsor, Vermont, although Alden Spooner had had a printing establishment in that town since 1783. (Evans attributed authorship of this almanac to Levi Hackley, but evidence suggests that Williams was more likely the author.) The present almanac and register was an ambitious undertaking of 60 pages, half of which were dedicated to one of the earliest registers of the state of Vermont. Among other data, the Register contains the number of inhabitants of each town in 1791. The almanac portion of the work includes a full-page historical account on various topics opposite each monthly calendar page. Among the topics presented: Independence of Vermont, General Washington, Battle of Bennington, General Montgomery, and History of Ticonderoga and Crownpoint. Uncommon; ESTC cites holdings only at American Antiquarian Society and British Library, although Drake adds a few others. Evans, American Bibliography: 27079. Drake, Almanacs of the United States: 13482. McCorison: Vermont Imprints 1778-1820: 291.  [Item no. 3632.] Sold.
Account of the Boston Tea Party and a Very Scarce Boston Map in a Dublin Magazine, 1774


Despite the title, this Magazine was published in Dublin. It is the volume of twelve issues plus indices for the year 1774. There is considerable reporting of the American unrest, including "Thoughts of a Traveller upon our American Disputes" (pp. 789-794). An account of the closing of the port of Boston as of June 1 notes that the day was observed as one of mourning "at Harvard in Connecticut [sic]" with bells ringing, the town-house draped in black and shops closed. Most significant, however, is a nice report on the Boston tea party and the events leading to it (pp. 84-85). Finally, an extremely uncommon map of Boston remains bound into the volume in the June, 1774 issue (opposite p. 358). Titled A New and Accurate Plan of the Town of Boston, in New England, the map is clearly based on a very similar map that appeared in the May, 1774 issue of the London-based Universal Magazine. The map is newly engraved, however, as is evident by the orientation of the title block and the misspelling of a few street names. Jolly does not list the map in his Maps of America in Periodicals Before 1800; he does, however, describe maps from the Gentleman's and London Magazine "as rare as all get-out." In addition, Jolly does describe the map in his more comprehensive Maps in British Periodicals (GAL-104). A rare map in an uncommon magazine presenting an Irish perspective on the growing unrest in the American colonies. [Item no. 3378.] $2,500.00.
Two by Jonathan Fisher…

After graduating from Harvard in 1795, Jonathan Fisher (1768-1847) served as the Congregationalist minister in Blue Hill, Maine for about a half a century. When not tending his flock, Fisher found time for many and varied pursuits. He was an author, a woodcut engraver, an artist, a farmer, a bookbinder, a surveyor, a furniture maker and a scientist. We are pleased to offer two of Fisher’s most important published works.

Jonathan Fisher’s Scripture Animals

Published in 1834, Scripture Animals is Jonathan Fisher’s most admired and sought after work. "A labor of fifteen years, Scripture Animals is a delightful synthesis of his theology, natural observations, and skill as a wood engraver," according to The Mirror of Maine (p. 41). The work includes more than 130 woodcut engravings, many of which are signed, initialed and/or dated. Fisher graduated from Harvard in 1795 and served as the minister of the Congregational Church in Blue Hill, Maine for nearly 50 years. A self-taught wood engraver, Fisher was also a writer, farmer, surveyor, architect, furniture maker, painter and scientist. Scarce in the trade. Auction records (ABPC as of 11/14) note the last copy sold at auction in 1982. No online examples located as of November, 2014. Checklist of American Imprints for 1834: 24434. Sprague (ed.), The Mirror of Maine: 17. [Item no. 3641.] $6,500.00.
Jonathan Fisher's First Book of Poetry

8. Fisher, Jonathan. **Short Poems: including a Sketch of the Scriptures to the Book of Ruth; Satan’s Great Devise, or Lines on Intemperance; I and Conscience, or A Dialogue on Universalism; and a Few Others on Various Subjects.** Portland [ME]: A. Shirley, Printer. 1827. 24mo. 143, (1) pp. Quarter calf over marbled boards; some wear and creasing to marble paper covering; tips worn a bit. Occasional foxing and staining throughout, for the most part light and unobtrusive. Fore-edges somewhat rough on first several leaves. Good.

This was Jonathan Fisher's first commercial attempt at having his poetry published. It was a long process... He first approached Boston publishers in 1805. Then in 1807. And then again in 1823. Finally, in 1827, he decided to self-publish the poems and engaged the Portland printer, Arthur Shirley, to print them. According to Fisher's accounting six years later, he had generated a profit of $23.04 on the venture, clearly qualifying it as a labor of love. **Short Poems,** which was followed in 1834 by the better known Scripture Animals, contains two Fisher woodcuts -- "the vile drunkard" on page 74 and "Catharine Brown" on page 121. A scarce Fisher title, for which we find no auction (ABPC) records through 1975. No online offerings (per ViaLibri) as of January, 2015. [Item no. 3630.] $2,500.00.

Franklin on Chess – Steamboat Image – Gulf Stream Map


This issue of The Columbian Magazine -- one of the first successful magazines in the United States -- has three notable features:

- Benjamin Franklin's famous essay "The Morals of Chess" -- this is one of the earliest accounts of chess published in America,

- a brief article by John Fitch with an illustration of his steamboat -- less than year after this article appeared, Fitch successfully tested the Perseverance on the Delaware River,

- a map of the Atlantic Ocean illustrating Annual Passage of the Herrings -- this map appeared as a sub-map with Benjamin' Franklin's famous map of the Gulf Stream. (Wheat & Brun: 722).

The "Intelligence" or current news section of the Magazine contains a report from Massachusetts on "insurgents" in that state. This would later become known as Shays' Rebellion. [Item no. 3603.] $500.00.
The Causes and Necessity of Taking Up Arms – The Only Contemporary Magazine Printing


This is the July, 1775 issue of The Pennsylvania Magazine, a month after the battle at Bunker Hill. It contains a complete, contemporary printing of one of the nation's foundation documents -- the "Declaration... setting forth the Causes and Necessity of... taking up Arms." That Declaration of the second Continental Congress, dated July 6, 1775 and signed by John Hancock, justified the armed resistance the colonists were compelled to undertake against Britain.

Written by John Dickinson and Thomas Jefferson (in an unhappy collaboration), the Declaration enumerated multiple grievances against their mother country, including taxation without representation, the quartering of troops, attacks upon the judicial system, and so on. Although this Declaration specifically denied an interest in separation from Great Britain, many of the same themes would be laid out again just one year later in the Declaration of Independence. The “Causes and Necessities” was a decisive milepost on the Colonies' path to independence.

The Pennsylvania Magazine was the only magazine being printed in America at this time. Thus this was the only contemporary magazine printing of “the Causes and Necessities.” Thomas Paine was editor of the Magazine for much of its 19-month run, including for this issue.

Contemporary printings of "the Causes and Necessities" appear as separately issued pamphlets, in newspapers and in this sole magazine format. The separate issues and newspaper appearances generally sell in the $25,000 to $35,000 range. A July 21-27, 1775 Massachusetts newspaper printing of the Declaration was recently offered by a prominent dealer for $35,000 (and has been sold). The example offered here in the July, 1775 issue of The Pennsylvania Magazine has the added advantage of being an imprint from Philadelphia, the site of the Continental Congress. A foundation document of the United States in an important American magazine. Mott, A History of American Magazines 1741-1850: pp. 87-91. Richardson, A History of Early American Magazines, 1741-1789: pp. 174-196. [Item no. 3566.] $12,500.00.
Scarc First Authorized Printing of the Maine Constitution, 1820


A very scarce and early printing of the Maine Constitution; as noted on the verso of the title leaf, 200 copies were ordered "printed for the use of the Legislature." In contrast, the next printing ordered by the Legislature -- in 1825 -- was for 10,000 copies. OCLC locates examples at six institutions. Noyes, Maine Imprints to 1820: 931. Not in Williamson, A Bibliography of the State of Maine. Thompson: Important Maine Maps, Books, Prints and Ephemera: 28A. (The Thompson copy sold for $1,840 in 2003.) Sprague (ed.), The Mirror of Maine: see 11 (for the 1825 edition). Shoemaker, A Checklist of American Imprints for 1820: 2075. [Item no. 3654.] $2,400.00.
Jackson's Rare Atlas for the Geology of Maine with 24 Exquisite Lithographed Plates

12. [Maine.] [Geology.] Jackson, Charles T. **Atlas of Plates, Illustrating the Geology of the State of Maine, Accompanying the First Report on the Geology of That State.** [Augusta.]: Published by Order of the Legislature of Maine, [1837]. 24 plates. Lovingly recased in half leather over marbled paper covered boards with a facsimile of the title label on the front board. The plates have been professionally conserved and are bright, clean impressions. There are small, light remnants of staining on a few of the plates; one plate (XI) has a moderate stain remnant in the margin below the image area. Unlike the original, this volume now sports a dust wrapper of heavy white paper with a facsimile of the title label. In all, a very appropriate treatment for a very scarce set of plates.

This atlas of 24 lithographed plates provides some of the finest early visualizations of the State of Maine. It accompanied Jackson's **First Report on the Geology of the State of Maine**, an example of which is included with the Atlas. While several of the Atlas plates are of purely geologic interest, many are very early published views of well-known Maine locales or landmarks. Among them: "Mount Ktaadn....", "Mount Desert," "West Quoddy Head Lighthouse," "View of Camden & The Kennebec [i.e., Penobscot] Bay," "Cape Rosier...." and "Pulpit Rock...." With the exception of one of the plates, the drawings were done by Franz Graeter, a German artist who was a member of Jackson's field party; the plates were lithographed by Thomas Moore (successor to Pendleton Lithography) in Boston.

This is the second state of the Atlas as identified by Sprague, with all plates numbered with Roman numerals and three plates having been hand colored. An important and scarce Maine and geology item: no examples found online as of November, 2014 and a single example appearing in the ABPC online auction records (in 2001), also as of November, 2014. Thompson: *Important Maine Maps, Books, Prints and Ephemera*: 181. Williamson, *A Bibliography of the State of Maine*: 4896. Sprague (ed.), *The Mirror of Maine*: 19. [Item no. 3642.] $6,500.00.

**French Edition of Southack's Casco Bay**


The roots of this attractive -- but hydrographically imprecise -- chart may be traced to Captain Cyprian Southack, who explored Portland harbor in 1698. Southack published his chart in London in 1720 and it appeared, with minor modifications, in many editions of *The English Pilot* between 1721 and the 1790s. Here it has been appropriated by the French, where it appeared in *Neptune Americo-Septentrional* at the time of the American Revolution. By the time this French version appeared, the British had vastly superior charts of Casco Bay that were included in *The Atlantic Neptune*. Sellers & Van Ee, *Maps and Charts of North America and the West Indies, 1750-1789*: 843 (1780 copy 2, with plate number 9 just above the lower right neat line). For the history of the Southack chart: Osher Map Library, *The Cartographic Creation of New England* (online catalogue): Part III. [Item no. 3525.] $1,750.00.
"A Map of Great Importance"
Dividing Up New England in 1625


"Unreasonably dismissed by many, this map is of great importance." Philip Burden. The map records, for the first time, the names of the twenty English patentees who had received land in New England at a 1623 meeting of the Council for New England. Prince Edward Island is shown (but not named) for the first time. Some of the place names used reflect Alexander's Scottish interests -- "New Scotland" would stick for Nova Scotia, but others, such as renaming the St. Croix River as the "Clyde" River, would not. Kershaw notes that this map has the apparent first use of the name Cape Cod on a printed map. This, the second state of the map, appeared in Purchas his Pilgrimes. The first state appeared (without the page numbers at the upper left and right) in Alexander's An Encouragement to Colonies from 1624. A very scarce and desirable map. Burden, The Mapping of North America: Vol. 1, 208. Schwartz and Ehrenberg, The Mapping of America: pp. 99-100, Plate 54. Kershaw, Early Printed Maps of Canada: 86, Plate 58. [Item no. 3400.] $15,000.00.
Bond’s Map of the White Mountains


The Bond map and the Champney views are without doubt one of the White Mountains classics. On the Bond map, "[t]he names of the individual peaks of the Presidential Range appear for the first time on any map, as well as the names Cannon Mt., Twin Mts., Carrigain, Tremont, and Giant's Stairs." (Bent, p.84). Hachure marks are employed to suggest elevation, and Apt notes that this is the first topographic map of the region. The five lithographed views after Champney are printed on the reverse of the map as called for by Bent. Apt notes that map and views appear on separate sheets in some cases. We do not know the priority or relative rarity of the two formats. The front paste-down provides a "Table of Distances" while the rear has a "Table of Heights, Bearings and Distances" of 30 peaks. Apt, Maps of the White Mountains of New Hampshire (Exhibition Catalogue): Map 14, pp. 9-10. Hanrahan [ed.]. Bent's Bibliography of the White Mountains: p. 84. Cobb, Maps of New Hampshire to 1900: 206. [Item no. 3467.] $1,250.00.

French & Indian War Newspaper from New York with Report of the Oswego Defeat


A well-preserved New York newspaper from the French & Indian War period. This issue of the paper contains several reports of privateer takings, troop movements, small skirmishes, settlement burnings and an occasional scalping. Taken together, these reports emphasize the widespread nature of the hostilities. The most detailed report in the paper is the account of Enos Bishop, "an English Captive from Canada, who was taken from Contoocook [NH], above two years since." Bishop, arriving in Charlestown, New Hampshire, said he had been at Montreal when the French forces returned from their victory at Oswego in August. He relayed detailed information provided by English prisoners taken at Oswego regarding the battle. In addition, Bishop "further informs, that there is a great Army gone to Crown-Point, consisting of 13,000 regular Troops, besides Indians..." The French strategy, as reported by Bishop, was to "take the forts at or near Lake George; then to proceed to Albany, and from thence, if the Season will allow, to advance further into the Country, even to Boston..." American newspapers from the French & Indian War period are increasingly difficult to acquire. Brigham's census of early American newspapers identifies six institutional holders of this issue of The New York Mercury. Brigham, A History and Bibliography of American Newspapers, 1690-1820: Vol. I, pp. 662-664. [Item no. 3643.] $1,400.00.
Washington Awarded Harvard Honorary Degree in 1776

17. [Newspaper, Early American.] [American Revolution.] The New England Chronicle. Thursday, April 25, 1776. Vol. VIII. Numb 401. Boston: Printed by Samuel Hall... 4 pp. Old folds with minimal impact on legibility. Stab holes in the gutter from string binding. Loss of about 20 words to Washington article now expertly restored in manuscript; another loss (dime-sized) on front leaf also filled and restored in manuscript. Tissue strengthening along inner gutter and at several folds. A few minor stains and separations, as well as a tiny burn hole.

This issue of The New England Chronicle was published in Boston about five weeks after the British evacuation of Boston, or, as one article in the paper describes it -- "after the flight of the ministerial barbarians." Indeed, the front page prominently features the honorary degree granted by Harvard College to George Washington, in part as recognition of his success in driving out the British so that "the neighbouring Towns are freed from the Tumults of Arms, and the University has the agreeable Prospect of being restored to its antient Seat." The honorary Doctor of Laws degree is rendered in both Latin and English; it may well have been the first of many honorary degrees awarded to Washington.

The newspaper also contains significant War-related reports: The front page provides a good account of the exploits of Esek Hopkins along the southern New England coast. It also has a detailed report of Hopkins very successful attack on Nassau in the Bahamas in the previous month, including a list of the considerable (and much needed) arms and supplies captured. Page three has a description of the recovery of the remains of General Warren from the heights of Charlestown and their reinterment "with as great respect, honour, and solemnity as the state of the Town would admit." On the political front, page three prints the April 6 resolutions of the Second Continental Congress, including the significant resolution "that no slaves be imported into any of the Thirteen United Colonies."

The New England Chronicle can be traced back to the Essex Gazette, first published in August, 1768 by Samuel Hill in Salem. In May, 1775, Hill moved to Cambridge and the paper's name changed to The New England Chronicle and Essex Gazette. Then, with the issue of April 25, 1776 (this issue, in fact), the paper was relocated to the newly liberated Town of Boston and known simply as The New England Chronicle. Much great content from the start of the second year of the Revolution. [Item no. 3637.] $1,500.00.
Early View of Boston Light


A few small areas of foxing, primarily confined to the margins. Overall, an attractive example.

There are very few 18th century American printed images of lighthouses. One is the unobtainable 1729 Burgis mezzotint of Boston Light. Four other images of lighthouses appeared in American magazines between 1788 and 1791. This view of Boston Light is one of those. It appeared in the February, 1789 issue of The Massachusetts Magazine. The lighthouse, located on Little Brewster Island, had been destroyed by the British as they evacuated Boston in early 1776; it was rebuilt and placed back in service in 1783. Based on a drawing by J. Edes, the image was engraved by Samuel Hill, who did many of the plates for The Massachusetts Magazine. Lewis: A Guide to Engravings in American Magazines, 1741-1810: p. 9. Stauffer, American Engravers Upon Copper and Steel: 1393. John Carter Brown Archive of Early American Images (online): Record no. 5437-3. [Item no. 3562.] $1,500.00.
18th Century View of Castle William in Boston Harbor


Castle William's heritage as a military installation dates to 1634 when cannons first were deployed in an earthen fort to defend Boston Harbor. British officials used the fort as a refuge in the tumultuous times leading up to the American Revolution; on their way out of Boston in March, 1776, the British destroyed the Fort. It was quickly rebuilt by Bostonians. The present view shows the rebuilt Fort with an oversized American flag flying above. The Fort served as an active military installation during the American Revolution, the War of 1812, the Spanish-American War and World Wars I and II. Known as Fort Independence since 1797, the Fort today is a state park.

Crawford’s Classic History of the White Mountains


The first edition of one of the early classics about the White Mountains of New Hampshire, and accordingly, the first book listed in Bent's Bibliography of the White Mountains. Two ownership inscriptions in ink on ffep: "Mrs. Newcomb, White Mountain House, 28 July 1846." and "From Coll. of N.L. Goodrich, P. F.[?] Norton, 1957." (Nathaniel Goodrich was the head of the Dartmouth College Library from 1912 to 1950.) A very nice example of a cornerstone work for any collection of the history or literature of the White Mountains. Hanrahan [ed.], Bent's Bibliography of the White Mountains: p. 1. [Item no. 3468.] $1,250.00.

TERMS:
• All items offered subject to prior sale.
• Domestic shipping costs included.
• Payment by check, MasterCard, VISA or PayPal in U.S. funds.
• Any item may be returned for a refund within ten days of receipt, provided it is in condition sent. Please contact us to make return arrangements.