Archives Fine Books

"M" IS FOR MISCELLANY

Rare Book Fair 2017
Front cover images are from Item 14, “The Car and The Driver/1928 Marco Polo and Will C.” on page 16.
M is for a miscellany of 17 items plucked from the collection that we are bringing to the 2017 Melbourne Rare Book Fair. From early Mathematics (Item 1) to the 1928 Grand Tour undertaken by four friends in a car they called ‘Marco Polo’ (Item 15) we hope this handful of items intrigue and delight. A more comprehensive catalogue (text only) is available on request.

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First edition in English; eleven folding diagrams in fine condition.


Near Fine. New eps, some offsetting from the diagrams, and the publishing date has been tampered with in pen to read MCCCXXXV (1335), one expertly repaired 5mm tear to outside margin of first diagram, lacks final leaf of adverts. Otherwise fine throughout. Expertly re-cased in full brown leather, blind double border on boards, five raised bands to spine, title in gilt on red leather label in one panel, elaborate gilt device in the other compartments. ESTC: T92649. $1200.

Mathematics is not our specialty but we were struck by the lovely condition of the fold-out plates in this volume. First published in 1669 in Latin, Barrow’s geometrical lectures were more technical and novel than his earlier lectures on mathematics and contained new ways of determining the areas and tangents of curves. He is generally given credit for his early role in the development of infinitesimal calculus; in particular for the discovery of the fundamental theorem of calculus. Although not an official tutor of Isaac Newton he recognised and encouraged the younger man’s talent and Newton is known to have attended Barrow’s lectures. This first English edition is translated by Edmund Stone from Newton’s revised, corrected and amended edition.
Memento Mori

2

Lindsay Black.
Burial Trees.

“Being the first of a series on the Aboriginal customs of the Darling Valley and central New South Wales.”

Melbourne: Robertson & Mullens LTD, 1941. First edition. Paper covers, stapled, 21.5 x 16cm, 42pp, numerous illustrations of carved trees, also known as dendroglyphs.

Very Good. Slight rust stains around the staples, faint damp staining to the foot of some leaves, paper lifting along foot of p.21 (no loss), otherwise clean. Paper covers edge-worn, with slight creases to corners and a small (1cm) chip out of the foot of bottom cover. $200.

Robert Etheridge was the first person of European descent to document the dendroglyphs or carved trees of New South Wales in 1918. At the time there were estimated to be 600 examples. This small book by Lindsay Black was the first to focus on the Wiradjuri tree carvings, particularly the taphoglyphs found at burial grounds to mark the graves of heroes. While some 7500 dendroglyphs have been recorded in NSW since 1918, fewer than 100 carved trees remain standing today.
3

Stanley B. Burns, M.D.

Sleeping Beauty.

“Secure the shadow ere the substance fade” – popular advertising slogan from the 1840s.


Very Good/Very Good. Tiny nick to top edge of front board, very slight lean. Black cloth boards with title in argent on top board and spine. In a Very Good unclipped jacket, three indentations on front, 3cm neatly repaired vertical tear along foot of front joint, minor creases. $500.

Daguerre invented the first practical and inexpensive process of photography in 1839, coinciding with a series of epidemics across the United States that raised mortality rates and often took the young before the old. For the first time ordinary people had the means of recording a likeness of their loved ones for posterity and the post-mortem or in memoriam photograph was often the only portrait ever taken of an individual. The Burns Archive is the largest archive of such photographs in the world and his landmark book Sleeping Beauty was the first of its kind ever published. When Alex Harris reviewed it for the New York Times he observed that while “…our ancestors knew all about death. We know and see – virtually nothing”, and was persuaded that, “[t]hough we have conquered many of the diseases that killed our ancestors, we fear death so much that we have forgotten how to grieve.” Nevertheless the tradition of taking in memoriam photographs continues today in some families, though they are less likely to employ a professional photographer for the purpose.
4  Percy Grainger.
Photos of Rose Grainger.

Including two in memoriam photographs.

Photos of Rose Grainger and of three short accounts of her life by herself, in her own hand-writing reproduced for her kin and friends by her adoring son Percy Grainger also table of dates, & summary of her cultural tastes.

Percy Grainger, n.d. presumably some time after April 1923, the date at the end of the introduction. First edition. Oblong, octavo, 22 x 30cm, 92pp printed one side only, numerous photographs of Rose and Percy Grainger including two in memoriam photographs after Rose’s tragic death. Stiff sewn card wrappers. $250.

This is a tender tribute from a grieving son to his dear departed mother. Australian musician and composer Percy Grainger and his mother Rose were rarely ever apart during life. The many photographs of the two of them together included in this memorial book evidence a comfortable physical closeness and imply an emotional connectedness. Rumours of ‘improper love’ between them are thought to have unhinged Rose in her final months of sharply declining health and may have led to her suicide. While the text emphasises Rose’s love of life, family, siblings and friends, there is only one group shot included in the book - the rest are of Rose alone or together with her ‘adoring son’.

5  Hans Holbein.
The Dances of Death.

London: Printed by W. Smith & Co. for John Scott & Thomas Ostell, 1803. The Dances of Death. Through the various stages of human life: wherein the capriciousness of that tyrant is exhibited in forty-six copper plates; done from the original designs, which were cut in wood and afterwards painted, by John Holbein, In the town house of Basil. To which are prefixed, descriptions of each plate in French and English, with the Scripture text from which the designs were taken. Etched by D. Deucher, F.A.S. Quarto, 21 x 16cm, pp [4], 47, 46 original copperplates etched by D. Deucher (plus portrait of Holbein, title page and vignette); full vellum, gilt dentelles and title, all edges gilt.

Very Good. Slight age-toning, occasional fox mark. Two small (0.5cm) spots on top board on the dentelles, cluster of pin prick spots below Holbein’s name (also on top board), bookplate on front paste-down. $1000.

Holbein’s Dance of Death woodcuts are renowned for representing the shift between the medieval Dance of Death wall paintings, designed to bring men to a Christian life, and the more satirical renaissance illustrations in books, showing the sudden intrusion of death into life. The bookplate belongs to Francis Henry Vivian Voss (1860–1940), an outstanding medical practitioner in obstetrics and gynaecology. He emigrated from England to Bowen, Queensland in 1885 and settled in Rockhampton where he built a modern private hospital. He is known to have had a fine library and a lifelong love of literature and learning.
In Memoriam Postcard.

Europe, early 20th Century. Black and white photo postcard, 9 x 14cm, of young woman lying in state in an open coffin covered by fine lace netting and surrounded by mourners. Two young women of a similar age to the deceased hold a massive bouquet of flowers. An older woman wearing a head scarf stands by the head of the coffin. The women are flanked by two men and three children and there are many more mourners gathered in the background. Appears to have been taken outdoors, possibly at the graveside.

Near Fine. Slight edgewear, numerical note in pencil to verso. $150.

This memorial postcard is a European example (acquired from Latvia) and appears to be early twentieth century. It is a particularly beautiful image with floral tributes and lace coverlet countering the grim and grieving expressions of the mourners, and accentuating the youth of the deceased. Mourning portraiture depicting the deceased in an open coffin and with a large gathering of mourners are generally later examples (early twentieth century) of the in memoriam tradition.
Thomas Rowlandson.  
*The English Dance of Death.*  
New York: D. Appleton & Company, 1903. A New Edition. Note: This edition is founded on the original Edition published by R. Ackerman in the year 1815. Octavo, 17.5 x 11cm, two volumes, pp. vii, 236, title vignette and 36 colour plates; 261, 37 coloured plates including frontis. Red publisher’s cloth and paper labels to spines, top edges gilt, untrimmed.

*Very Good.* Scattered foxing, occasional unopened page. Corners sharp, head and foot of spines gently pushed, paper labels age-toned, spines sunned and volume 1 with three small spots below the label. $200.

First published in 1815, Rowlandson’s crowded and humorous illustrations with their emphasis on social satire provided a completely new and original take on the Dance of Death.

Susan Darling Safford.  
*Quaint Epitaphs.*  
Boston: A. J. Ochs & Company, 1900. Third edition. Octavo, 20.5 x 14cm, 64pp (last 16 blank); black boards, red spine, gilt title.

*Near Fine.* The final blanks, for the collector of epitaphs, are unused. Small mark on top board, lower corners of boards. $95.

According to her introduction Susan Darling Safford collected epitaphs over thirty-five years from 1860–1895. She chose to publish when her cherished notebooks, being passed from friend to friend and town to town began to fall apart, and requests to view her collection remained high. Her motivation to collect ‘quaint’ epitaphs arose from a fondness for human eccentricity, whimsy and freakish ingenuity. The collection is mostly comprised of examples from North America and England, with a few selected others. Nearly all have been seen or at least verified by Safford, and she makes clear those that are not. The last part of the book is filled with blank pages for the reader to begin their own collection. This copy is completely unused.
Mrs Mary Watson. Handwritten Mid-Nineteeth Century Poetry Album with some correspondence loosely inserted.

Leather bound Album, 24 x 19cm, with two distinct sections of unlined paper (second blank). The word ‘Album’ on the spine. Handwritten copies of poems, hymns, published letters, with loosely inserted ephemera including three partial correspondences. The album is comprised of 85 unpaginated cream leaves plus 43 blank blue leaves at the rear with the water mark “Whatman 1855”.

Very Good. Occasional fox marks. Some strips of leather have lifted on the top board. The whole is encased in a plain hand-sewn canvas cover. $650.

According to an inscription in the family bible that we acquired with this album, Thomas James Watson married Mary in August 1861. They moved to Fort William in India, where he rose to the rank of Major General before retiring to Tasmania. He and Mary had six children and when she died in 1915 her youngest daughter Jessamine was made executrix of her will. We acquired the journal, along with the family bible (separate item, SOLD) from Jessamine’s grand-daughter, now resident in Queensland. Not all of the entries are in the same hand, suggesting family members and Mary’s friends and guests contributed to the album. Information about the author is implicit rather than explicit, drawn from the choice of poems, quotations and worldly wisdom she collected. One section of the album seems devoted to poems and Christian meditations on death, loss, and parting. One or two appear to be personal messages, either composed by friends or copied by Mary. One of these is titled ‘Lines by our dear friend Captain Page” and begins, “Watson, what subject shall engage / a pen so void of power as mine / so little skilled to grace the page / of the fair Book that once was thine...”. One of the notes loosely inserted is addressed to “Dear Mrs Watson” on black bordered rice paper, thanking her for her thoughtful invitation to dinner. Another appears to be a note of condolence “...for you must feel it is so clearly His Will and that he alone will tend and can send you the comfort you need just now...May happy days be in store for you...” A third slip of paper appears to be part of a longer letter from mother to son, “...it proceeds from the spine which is [illegible] between the shoulders and it is now evident that this was the cause of the pain in my left side... dear Son - I would that it might be His will that I might watch over your darling child till I give her back into your arms.” There is also an endearing entry titled “Lines addressed to his Mother by George Oliver Watson aged fourteen”.

We include it in our memento mori section for the poems of loss and mourning and for these three lines in the centre of an otherwise blank page half-way through, “Mine own grief / Is in mine eyes a richer, holier thing / Than all thy happiness.” Unlike most of the other entries, this one is unattributed, but it is from the beginning of Mrs Heman’s poem ‘A Sea-Bird Flying Inland’. It seems in some way to go to the heart of things in Mary’s album.
Wizārat al-I‘lām. Syria After Two Years of the March Revolution 1965 offered together with a brightly coloured Map of Syria produced by the Republic of Syria.

Very Good. A clean copy that has had a paper repair to the foot of the spine. The front free endpaper has torn a little at the two staple points as a result of the repair. Not listed in Trove, 11 listings in OCLC. The map is clean and bright with some creasing at the edges. $200.

Glorious propaganda from the Arab Ba‘ath Socialist Party, two years after the largely bloodless Syrian military coup and one year before the coup d’état led by Salah Jadid. Despite its positive tone and its celebration of the nationalisation of means of production (industry, agriculture and oil ‘potential’), Syria was, at the time of publication, under Emergency Law, which effectively suspended most constitutional protections for citizens. The country remained under Emergency Law until 2011 and the start of the current conflict.


Fine. Bookplate of the 6th Marquess of Slico and his wife Agatha affixed to both front paste-downs. *$500.*

This collection of anonymous tales of military life is attributed to journalist and miscellaneous English writer William Maginn (1793–1842). The narrator is an old soldier whose recollections take the reader on a journey from the cut of a Captain’s coat, through the Walcheren Expedition, a rough passage to Portugal, and the last campaign in Portugal. Interspersed throughout are sections on Mess Table chat and Guard House stories, the last of these recounting the narrator’s participation in the capture and demise of two notorious Tasmanian bushrangers, Whitehead and Howe.

12 Lord Hamilton.

*Australia’s Glorious Day: April 25th, 1915.*

Sir Ian Hamilton’s Despatch. Official Story of the Landing and attack by our Combined Forces at the Dardanelles. Also contains Australia’s Roll of Honor, killed and wounded in the first 18 casualty lists.


Fine interior except for a torn corner at the foot of p.11. Paper covers are in Very Good condition, a little creased along edges with some small expertly repaired tears. *$250.*

WI Souvenir ephemera, the first to make clear how dangerously difficult the landing at the Dardanelles had been and the gallantry and heroism that had been essential to victory. Net proceeds from the sale of the book were donated to the “Fund for Relief of our Wounded Soldiers”.
Miscellaneous
13 [Anon, Photo Album]

“Gee-ologists at the Jenolan ‘22”

46 period photographs including 32 of a field trip to the Jenolan Caves by the Sydney University Geology Department in 1922.

Heavy card photo album, 22.5cm x 18cm, with a small blind embossed art nouveau image of a nymph playing a double horn on top cover. Bound with a fine cord. Houses forty-six black and white photographs (almost uniformly 10.5cm x 5.5cm). Many, but not all, have captions underneath, and the first thirty-two photographs document a trip to the Jenolan Caves by the Geology Department of Sydney University in 1922.

Photos: Very Good to Fine. All with “Kodak Print” to verso, six photos slightly marked, one slightly unfocussed, three slightly faded, all edges clean, corners sharp. Album: Very Good. Corners expertly reinforced, edges slightly frayed, minor foxing to the edge of the card pages. **SOLD.**

The provenance of this enchanting album is unknown, but the playful tone of the captions underneath the photographs suggests it belonged to one of the students. The embellishments further suggest it may have been one of the women students, and groups of female students feature quite prominently throughout. The last fourteen photographs focus on family and friends, usually girl friends, again suggesting the album belonged to a young woman.

Only four people are named: Professor Cotton and Dr Brown (one image) and Sir Edgeworth David and Prof. T. Griffith Taylor (one image each). Sir Edgeworth David was Professor of Geology at Sydney University from 1891–1924. Together with Mawson he found the magnetic South Pole in 1909. Taylor was a student of David’s and appointed associate professor in 1920. He was part of Scott’s Terra Nova expedition (1910–1913). Cotton became Professor of Geology at Sydney from 1924. He specialised in geophysics, isostacy, diastrophism, the strength of the earth’s crust and geographical polar wandering.
A Grand Tour photo album containing 401 photographs taken predominately in Italy, England and Egypt with some photos from Adelaide and on board the SS Caprera as it crossed the Indian Ocean. Places visited include Harrow, Cambridge, Igtham, Canterbury, Fawley, Henley, Bellagio, Ravenna, Lake Orta, San Gimignano, Mentone, Renne, Appia, Vallombrosa, Selinute, Girgente, Campanile, Gubbio, Segesta, Pisa, Perugia, Mt Vesuvius, Urbino, Oberhoffen, Goshenen, Chamoix, Locarno, Matterhorn, Syracuse, Entreveaux (and more).

Oblong album in original black leather cover with new cord binding, 34 x 25cm, 24 thick black card leaves containing 401 black and white photos mounted loosely in black paper corners, numerous captions in white lettering on black.
Very Good. Boards are edgeworn, corners rubbed and frayed, photos are Very Good to Fine, nearly all in focus, corners sharp, occasional nicks and tears to margins (some expertly repaired), one or two missing a corner, one of Vesuvius with a cluster of pin prick holes, many with additional notes in ink to the versos. Photos range in dimensions from 4 x 6cm (smallest) to 10 x 15cm (largest). Lacks 9 photos as indicated by empty frames. Nevertheless an impressive collection. **$1200.**
A coherent album documenting a trip that appears to have begun in Sydney on board the SS Caprera in December 1927, but also includes photos in the Adelaide Botanical Gardens that may have been taken before or after. Several people are identified on board the SS Caprera including Melbourne University’s Professor Boyce-Gibson and a gentleman captioned “Carllini” who bears a passing resemblance to contemporary philosopher Armando Carlini, lecturer at the University of Pisa and follower of the Fascist philosopher Giovani Gentile. There is an Elsie Chalmers on board and elsewhere which leads to speculation that “Will C” is perhaps an abbreviation for William Chalmers. The car “Marco Polo” appears only a handful of times throughout and if the driver “Will C” appears in any photographs he is not nominated. Perhaps he was the photographer. Whoever the photographer was, they had an eye for architecture and form. The most regularly nominated subject is a woman designated by the initials “N.J.” and almost as often another woman designated “W.A.W.” Elsie Chalmers also appears in some non ship-board photos as “E.C.”
The journey as presented here may not be in its original order as the leaves were disbound when we acquired it. We have chosen to keep the order as we received it as it seems to have a rough logic. There are numerous photographs throughout of significant architecture, monuments and ruins, landscapes, street-life and marketplaces, including peasant life and a fascist march. Vesuvius smokes in a handful (dated March 1928) and the travellers were in San Marino for the April election of the Capitani Regenti. Altogether the album appears to be a wonderful pictorial record of a journey undertaken by at least four friends through England, Europe and Egypt between the wars.

Count Alexander Mercati’s copy, one of the original members of the Hellenic Olympic Committee.


Near Fine. Slight soiling to outer edges of boards, corners ever so slightly bumped, expertly re-backed using original spine. $1200.
Twenty eight nations participated in the fifth Olympiad, including Japan as the first Asian nation. It was the last Olympics to issue solid gold medals and the first to introduce electric timing in athletics. The name inscribed at the front of this volume is of Count Alexander Mercanti, a boyhood friend of King Constantine of Greece (for whom he served as Grand Marshal of the Court), and one of the original members of the Hellenic Olympic Committee.
Mary Mountier, Douglas M. Barrie and Graeme Clarke.
*Notable Australian Thoroughbreds.*

Wiarua Martinborough NZ: Alister Taylor, 1981. First, Limited 2665/3500. Octavo, oblong format, 30.5 x 40cm, pp. (4) + 318, 52 tipped-in colour plates (including frontis) taken from original paintings, numerous b&w intext illustrations, chevron eps. Navy blue quarter leather and matching cloth boards with gilt title on spine and cut-out horse in gilt oblong on front board (repeated at head of spine). In solander box lined with matching chevron paper. Illustration of Phar Lap on top cover.

Near Fine. Small flecks of gilt missing from the oblong on the top board. The Solander box is in Very Good condition. Slightly sunned, a little fraying to the top fore-corner, and scratch marks on the paste-down image of Phar Lap. $750.

A beautifully produced volume that outlines Australian racing history and the history of notable Australian bloodlines. Describes 51 notable Australian thoroughbreds and acknowledges 25 notable omissions. Companion volume to Notable New Zealand Thoroughbreds and Notable English and Irish Thoroughbreds.
17 Treacher’s New Ordnance Plan for Brighton.

London: H & C Treacher, n.d. [1880s] Fold-out linen backed colour map of Brighton in red blind embossed boards. Being an exact reduction from the New 25 inch Ordnance Map Revised to date of publication from surveys made especially for this map. Drawn and Engraved at Bacon’s Geog! Estab! 127 Strand London. Dimensions of the map are 63 x 87cm.

Very Good. Some of the folds have tiny holes from wear that have been expertly reinforced. Corners lightly abraded, some insect damage to cloth on the top of the front board. $350.

H & C Treacher was founded in Brighton in 1858 and became a successful local booksellers, printers and stationers. I was unable to locate a copy of this map using the Worldcat catalogue. However I did locate one copy published by Bacon in 1875 held by the Bibliothèque nationale de France; presumably the same Bacon’s Geog! Estab! printed on the bottom right hand border of this map.
OLYMPISKA SPELEN
STOCKHOLM 1912
29 JUNI – 22 JULI