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October 23, 2018 eList Definitely NOT Recent Acquisitions

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A note on this catalogue: These nine items are the only ones of any significance in my database with inventory numbers under 1000 (to be precise, nos. 42, 54, 256, 559, 564, 565, 584, 814, and 915). The book I've had in inventory the longest is the Osmont, purchased in 1977 or 1978, before the rise of computers. As the computer took hold, older inventory was entered into our database willy-nilly, and were not entered in the order they were purchased. Hence,

the inventory numbers are not in sequence with the catalogue date or date of purchase. Needless to say, these are my old, old friends.

My friend and colleague Brian Cassidy made a catalogue some years ago now in which he revisited his inaugural catalogue and analyzed his triumphs and mistakes. With this short list, I give Brian a thumbs-up, and I note as well as the names of those who sold me these books in the first place as well as the occasional circumstance.

1. [Atlantic Ocean.] Janssonius, Johannes.
Mar del Nort. Amsterdam: ca. 1680.

Price then: \$1,500 ... price now: \$1,000

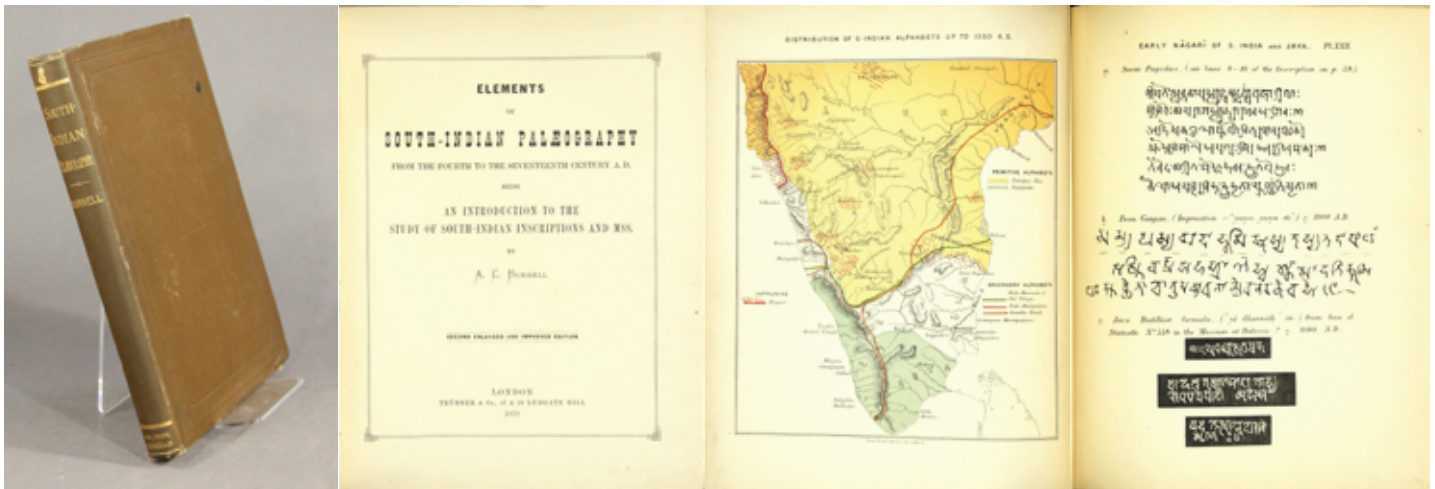
Double-page engraved map, 435 x 560mm., full margins, Latin text on verso; hand-colored in outline, with title cartouche surrounded by animals and an American Indian dressed in skins, and scale cartouche flanked by putti with surveyor's instruments; central compass rose and an extensive grid of rhumb lines; some age-darkening and offsetting, but generally very good condition or better, matted.



Great chart of the North Atlantic from the first real sea atlas. Covers area from Rocky Mountains (not shown) in the west to Italy in the east and from the equator in the south to the southern portions of Greenland and Iceland in the north. [54]

Inventory no. 54: purchased privately from an old southeastern New England scout Harvey Caldwell

1979 or before, while I was still working for The Current Company in Bristol, RI – my father’s business, whence sprung Rulon-Miller Books. While I love maps and charts, I’ve never bought or sold many, and consequently never had many customers for them. I’ve sailed across the North Atlantic twice which likely was in the back of my mind when I purchased this.



2. **Burnell, A[rthur] C[oke].** *Elements of south Indian palaeography from the fourth to the seventh century a.d. being an introduction to the study of south-Indian inscriptions and MSS.* London: Trubner & Co., 1878.

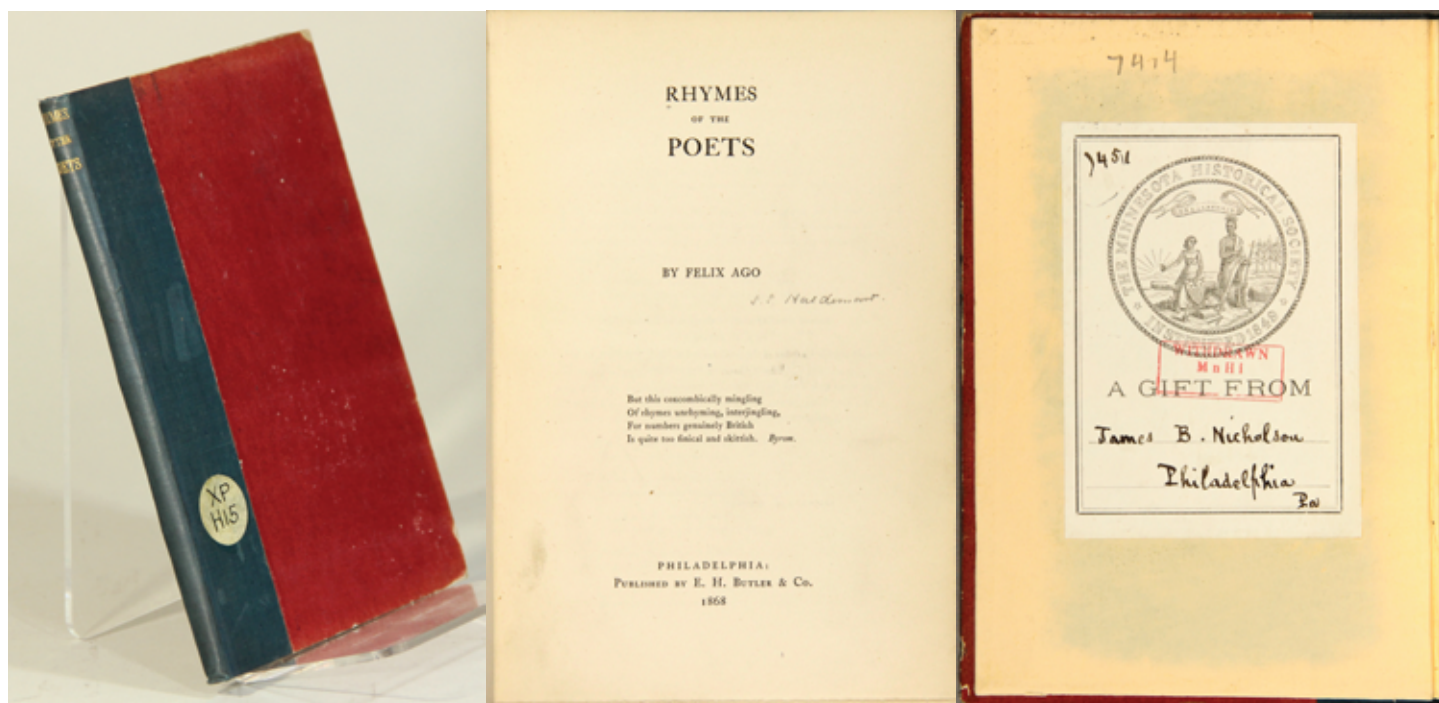
Price then: \$375 ... price now: \$250

Second edition “enlarged and improved,” 4to, pp. xii, 147 plus 34 plates bound in at the rear (a number folding); colored frontispiece map; a near fine copy in original brown cloth gilt.

Burnell (1840-1882) was “a very eminent Sanskrit scholar and high authority on the language and literature of southern India... [He] did for south Indian writing what Prinsep had attempted four years before for the palaeography of the north, and his *Elements of South Indian Palaeography* is a standard work, and deservedly won for him the honorary doctor’s degree of the University of Strasburg” (see DNB III, 384). Max Muller

has said that this work “opens an avenue through one of the thickest and darkest jungles of Indian archaeology, and is so full of documentary evidence that it will long remain indispensable to every student of Indian literature.” [814]

Inventory no. 814: purchased from my friend John Hellebrand of Palinurus Books in 1987 during those years when language books were the mainstay of my business. John and I had a falling out shortly after this purchase and we didn’t speak to each other for a couple of years, but we kissed and made up long ago. I consider him one of my best friends in the trade, and back in the day we traveled together quite a bit. We both made a huge mistake once when scouting in Sweden where we had the opportunity to buy an incomplete Caxton Chaucer for what I remember was about \$40,000, but we didn’t have the courage. Or sense. Or more likely, money.



3. [Haldeman, Samuel Stedman.] *Rhymes of the poets*. By Felix Ago. Philadelphia: published by E.H. Butler & Co., 1868.

Price then: \$150 ... price now: \$150

First and only edition, slim 8vo, pp. 56; orig. cloth-backed paper-covered boards a little rubbed, ex-MHS, else near fine.

A scarce and curious little book by a Pennsylvanian perhaps better known for his contributions in the natural sciences, especially entomology where his work on the sounds of insects was widely acclaimed. “Haldeman’s sense of hearing was so acute that he could differentiate the sounds emitted by insects. He studied exhaustively the American Indian dialects, becoming a recognized authority on the subject, and he also devoted much labor to the investigation of English, Chinese, and other languages. He developed an intense interest in the study of vocal sounds, and was deeply interested in spelling reform. He was the first professor of comparative philology at the University of Pennsylvania” (see DAB).

Rhymes of the Poets works off the premise that “it is better to spoil a rhyme than a word”; and the author gives an alphabetical accounting of several dozen imperfect rhymes from various poets. Also included is a brief chapter on dialects -- (“Longfellow has laid himself out in Chippeway with a hero whose name, Hiawatha, a Chippeway cannot pronounce”) -- and short statements on rhyme, alliteration, blank verse, etc. [915]

Inventory no. 915: consigned (and still consigned!) to Rulon-Miller Books by the Minnesota Historical Society. The librarian at MHS, Pat Coleman, has been one of my steady customers over the years, both as a purchaser of books, and as a consignor. He and I have touched tens of thousands of books together (and pamphlets too – but that’s another story), and I like to think that our relationship has been mutually beneficial. Pat’s daughter Natalie, formerly an employee of Jeremy Norman, is one of my long-time assistants.

4. **Monosini, Angelo.** *Floris Italicae linguae libri novem. Quing de congruentia florentini, siue etrusci sermonis cum graeco, romanoque voi, praeter dictiones, phraseis, ac syntaxin, conferuntur ... & explicantur ...* Venice: Io. Guerilium, 1604.

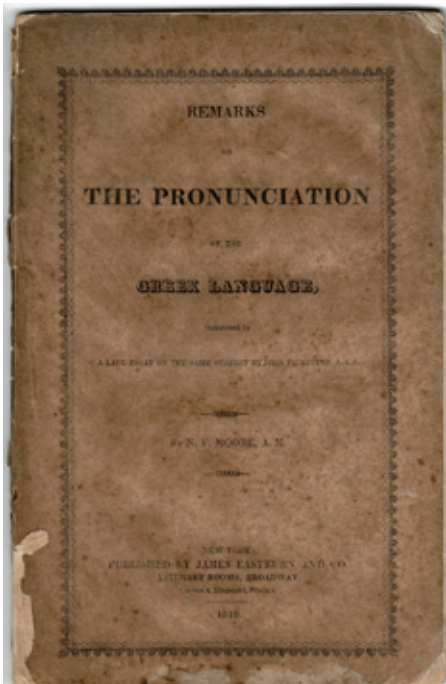
Price then: \$600 ... price now: \$600

First and only edition, small 4to, pp. [20], 434, [62]; contemporary full limp vellum, morocco label, vellum soiled, mild waterstain enters at top margin and pervades most of text, otherwise a very good copy of a scarce title. A collection of excerpts from Italian literature, proverbs, maxims, etc., with comments thereon, including books on diction, syntax, the art of translation into Italian from Greek and Latin, with notes on the Etruscan and Florentine dialects, etc. Contains author index, phraseology and general index. [565]

Inventory no. 565: purchased prior to 1985 from my old friend Dan De Simone during the years when I was feverishly buying language books and stockpil-



ing them for my inaugural catalogue of dictionaries and grammars. Of the 409 items in that catalogue only this and the Rampini (see below) remain in inventory. At the time, Dan was buying much of the language material from the incomparable Madeline Kripke whom I did not know at the time, a source Dan was loathe to reveal. In the end, Madeline found me.



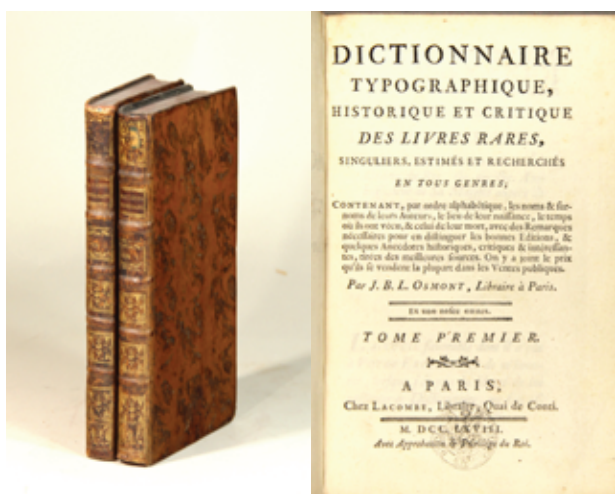
5. **Moore, N[athaniel].** *Remarks on the pronunciation of the Greek language. Occasioned by a late essay on the same subject by John Pickering.* New York: James Eastburn & Co., 1819.

Price then: \$225 ... price now: \$150

First edition of the author's first book, 8vo, pp. 46; orig. printed wrappers (soiled and stained, with some chipping along spine), contemporary annotation inside upper wrapper reading: "N.F. Moore Junr. Prof. Languages, Col. Coll. New York." A good copy. A graduate of Columbia in 1802, Moore went on to be full professor of languages by 1820, and was president of the University 1842-49. He wrote a number of pamphlets and essays on language and literature, An Historical

Sketch of Columbia College (1846), and an interesting and somewhat popular book on ancient mineralogy in 1834. Pickering, whose original essay had inspired Moore, went on to review Moore's reply in the April, 1820 issue of the North American Review. [564]

Inventory no. 564: I believed this was purchased from Jim Cummins in New York. At the time I was of the opinion that the inscription on the wrapper was Moore's himself, but such was not the case. Jim didn't attribute it as such, but I took a shot. And missed.



6. **Osmont, J[ean] B[ap-
tiste] L[ouis]**. *Dictionnaire
typographique, historique et
critique des livres rares, sin-
guliers, estimes et recherches
en tous genres...* Paris:
Lacombe, 1768.

Price then: \$500 ...

Price now: \$375

First edition, 2 volumes, 8vo, pp.
xii, 515; [4], 456, [3] approbation;
full contemporary cats-paw calf,

gilt spines, minor rubbing and chipping, else very good. Arranged alphabetically by author, this title includes biographical particulars, notes on important editions, historical and critical anecdotes, and opinions on rarity and market value. Bigmore & Wyman, II, p. 96: "A bibliographical work on rare and best editions ... superseded by Brunet." [42]

Inventory no. 42: The oldest book in my database, purchased at the 1977 or 1978 Boston Book Fair from the Toronto bookseller, Don Lake. Don and I spent quite a bit of time together back in the days he was coming to do the American and London fairs. He and I shared a booth in London for perhaps a half-dozen years. Like many who know him, I have plenty of stories I can tell about Don, a lover of haggis and grappa.



7. **Peringskiold, Johan**. *En book af menniskio-
nes slächt och Jesu Christi börd eller, Bibliskt
slächt-register från Adam, til Iesu Christi Heliga
Moder Jungfru Maria, och hennes trolåfwade man
Ioseph: med the förnämsta hufwud-slächtens brenar
efter then Heliga Srift och lärda mäns böcker.*
Stockholm: Kongl. Antiquities Archivi Bostrnck-
aren, Olof Enaeus, 1713.

Price then: \$550 ... price now: \$450

First edition, folio, pp. [8], 210; engraved frontispiece
and engraved vignette title page, 5 engraved plates (3
folding), numerous woodcut illustrations throughout the

text, several full page, plus tables (a
number double page), typographic orna-
ments and initials, text partially in black
letter; a few spots and stains, but general-
ly a very good, sound copy in contem-
porary full paneled calf, rebacked. Genea-
logical register of Biblical characters, from
Adam to Mary and Joseph. A handsome
production typographically, and with many
textual illustrations of monuments and
inscriptions. [256]

Inventory no. 256: This was purchased
on my first solo buying trip to the UK. I'd previous-
ly been there with my father, and at that point I was
already doing the London fairs, but this was the first
time on my own with the specific intention of scouting
the countryside. I think it was 1982 or 1983. I'd flown
to London and rented a car and drove south to
Brighton, my first stop, where this book was pur-
chased. I thought the typography, the genealogical
trees, and the illustrations were unlike anything I'd
ever seen before, and I was very pleased with the
purchase. While I certainly don't have that same
opinion now, the book is still a pleasure to look at.

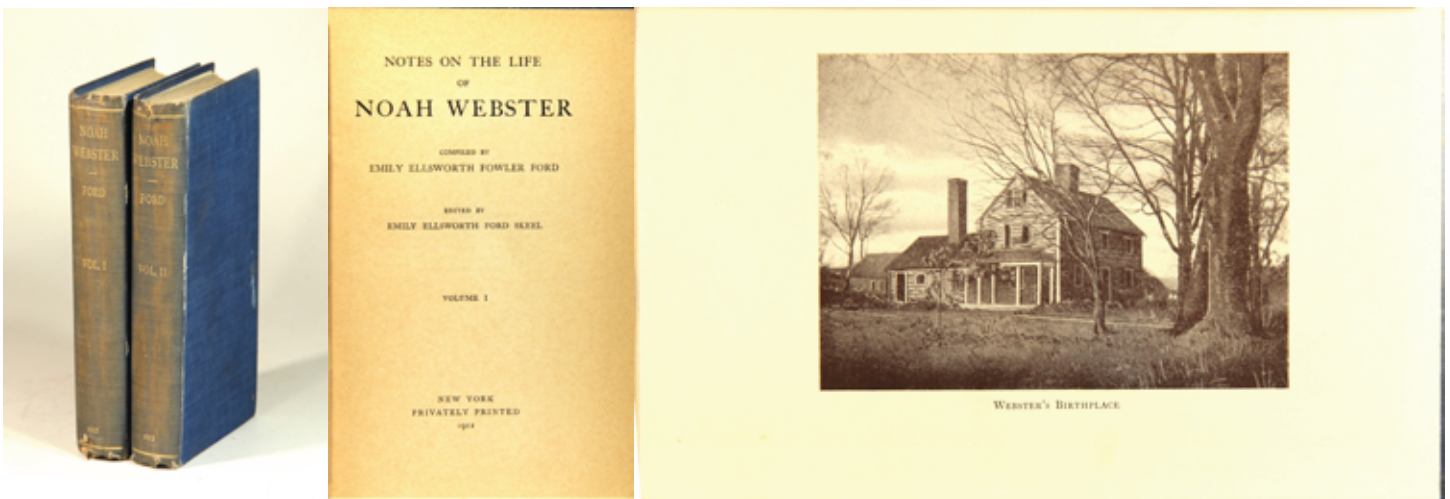


8. **Rampini, Joseph.** *A grammar of the Italian Language.* Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd, 1852. 1985

Priced then: \$150 ... price now: \$100

First edition, 12mo, pp. xiv, 189; orig. blue cloth (spotted); with an advertisement slip tipped-in at title. A concise grammar written for the use of Scottish students by a professor of language and literature in the Naval and Military Academy. Rampini was also a fellow of the Educational Institute of Scotland and the Edinburgh Philosophical Society. A second edition of this work appeared in the 1860's. Three copies in OCLC. [559]

Inventory no. 559: see Monosini (above). As originally catalogued, I noted there was only 1 copy in NUC – a count which remains the same, of course. OCLC notes 3 copies, and as of last week, there was no other copy available on line. And it hasn't been digitized yet, either.



9. **[Webster, Noah.]** *Notes on the life of Noah Webster. Compiled by Emily Ellsworth Fowler Ford. Edited by Emily Ellsworth Ford Skeel.* New York: privately printed, 1912 [i.e. 1913].

Price then: \$500 ... price now: \$300

First edition, 8vo, 2 volumes; presentation copy “from the daughter of Emily Ellsworth Fowler Ford [i.e. the editor, Emily E.F. Skeel], Xmas 1913” to [name erased]. A note on the verso of each title reads “Printed by Kathleen Gordon Ford Turler, Rosalie Greenleaf Ford Barr, Grace Kidder Ford Williams, Emily Ellsworth Ford Skeel, Worthington Chauncey Ford, Roswell Skeel, Jr.”

A printer's imprint at the end of each volume shows that

the book was printed in Glasgow by Robert Maclehose & Co. The work contains seven first printings of certain Webster materials (mostly extracts, letters and memoranda -- see Skeel 766). With two frontispiece portraits (browned from acidic tissue) and 7 plates; extremities lightly rubbed and with some slight chipping, spines soiled, else a good, sound set in orig. blue cloth. [584]

Inventory no. 584: I can't remember from whom I bought this. I became very interested in Noah Webster and in my research on him this biographical work by his granddaughter was often cited. In the pre-internet days books were not so easy to find, and I was delighted to have finally found one – and with a presentation, no less. Shame on me for not knowing about the 1971 Burt Franklin reprint.