



The Marvin & Sybil Weiner
Spirit of America Collection Association

Adopt-A-Book Catalog



The *Spirit of America* Collection contains rare books dating to the 16th, 17th, and 18th centuries. It is modeled on the libraries of founding thinkers such as Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and John Adams. Many of these books are fragile and in need of restoration by experts if they are to remain accessible to generations to come.

In their time, Benjamin Franklin and his fellow civic-minded colonists formed voluntary associations to improve society in early America. Franklin encouraged the establishment of libraries in order “to render the benefit from books more common.”

Today we have launched our own voluntary effort—the Associates of the *Spirit of America* Collection.

You can help in two ways:

By “adopting” a book with a donation of \$500, members of the public can support the conservation of these important pieces of American history. Donors’ names will appear on an electronic bookplate in the library’s catalog to acknowledge their involvement in preserving these pieces of our past.

By joining the Association, you will help to support public exhibitions and events that make it accessible to the South Florida community and beyond.

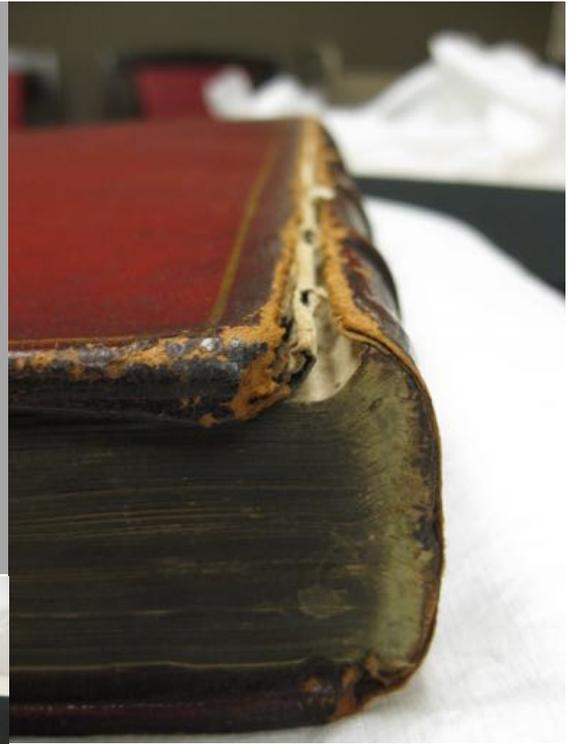
Supporters who join at the “Washington’s Inner Circle” level automatically “Adopt a Book” with no additional donation.

For donations, visit: <https://fauf.fau.edu/WeinerAssociates>

If you are interested in adopting a book, contact Adrian Finucane at afinucane@fau.edu before making your donation.

Don Quixote

The Life and Exploits
of the Ingenious
Gentleman Don
Quixote De La Mancha
(1756, 2 Volumes)



Don Quixote is one of the most beloved stories in early Spanish literature. Written by Miguel Cervantes in two volumes in 1605 and 1615, the tale of madness and adventure is translated here into English, in a set published in London with gorgeous engravings and striking red covers. Unfortunately, the copies in the collection are in need of some care, as the covers have become detached and the pages are no longer secure. Help us conserve this amazing resource for generations to come.



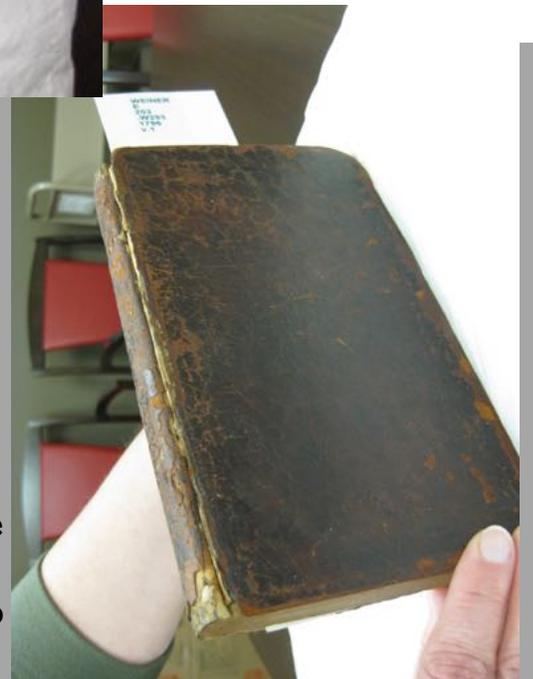
ADOPT
VOLUME 1 OR
VOLUME 2

Official Letters to the Honorable American Congress (1796)



This book collects the letters of George Washington when he commanded the Continental Army against the power of Great Britain. The letters were copied from the records of the Secretary of State and published at the end of Washington's term as President of the United States.

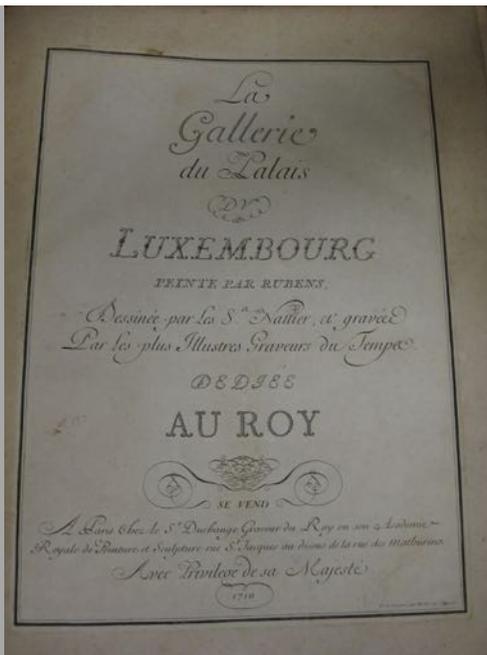
This book has some damage to its cover, and the front and back boards have become detached from the spine. This artifact of Washington's influence on the war needs to be conserved for years to come.



La Galerie du Palais du Luxembourg, peinte par Rubens

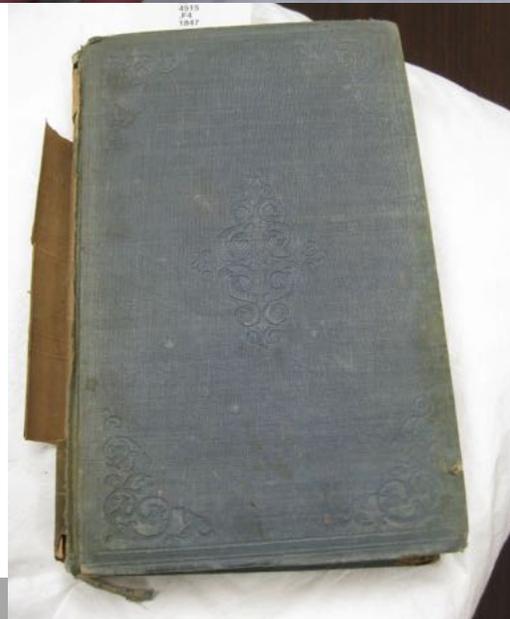
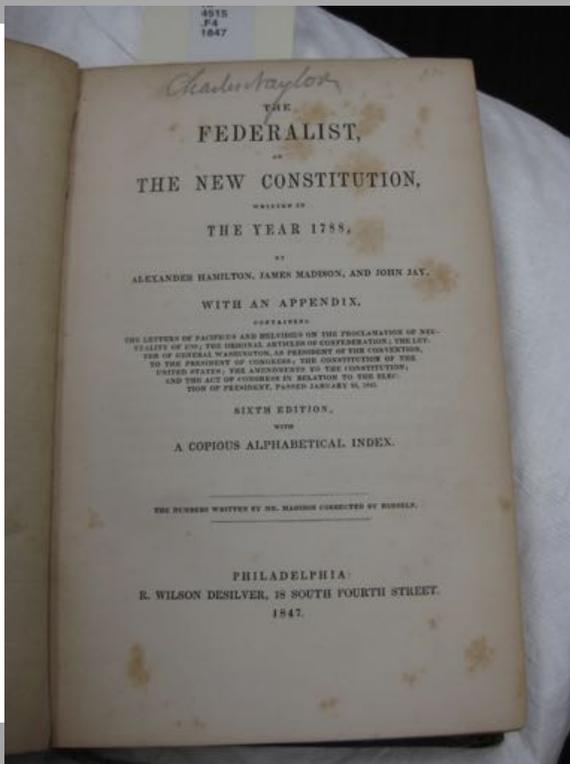
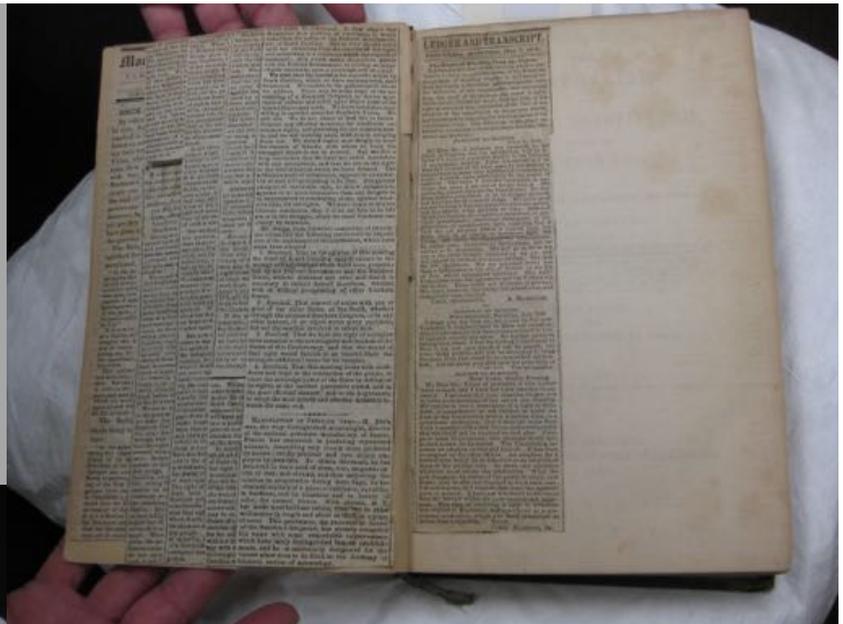
This large 1710 first edition volume collects engravings modeled after paintings by Rubens from a number of artists, and is a wonderful resource for students of the fine arts. You can see one of the beautifully detailed plates reproduced here.

The covers have come away from the binding, leaving the book vulnerable. Once it is restored, it can be used by students and scholars safely.



The Federalist Papers

(1847 reprint)

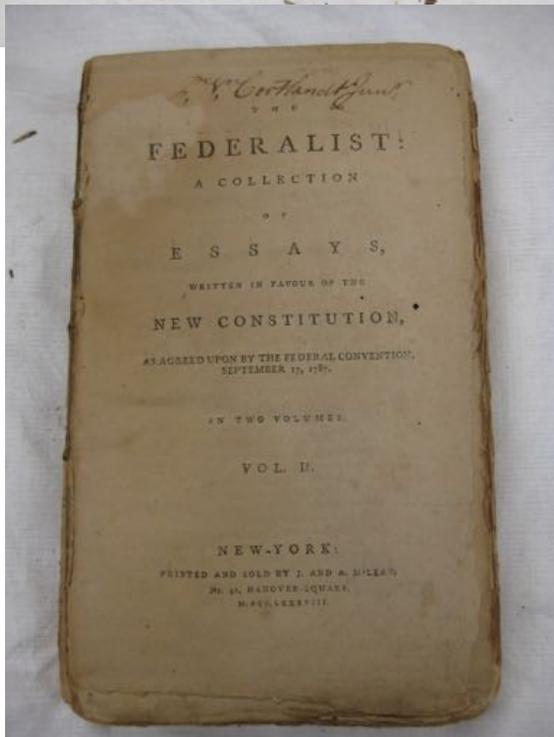


Some of the most famous documents produced after the Revolution, the Federalist papers were written by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison, and John Jay in defense of the newly-created Constitution. They urged Americans to support the new government, creating a record of political thought whose influence has echoed through the centuries since the essays' publication.

We are fortunate to have multiple copies and versions of the Federalist papers, which were popular enough to be reprinted through the years. This 1847 reprint demonstrates the importance of the ideas of these authors even on the eve of the Civil War. This volume is particularly special because one of the previous owners added newspaper clippings to the first pages, giving us a unique insight into how one reader interacted with this book.

The spine of this book needs conservation, in order to preserve the originally printed contents as well as the artifacts added by readers.

The Federalist Papers, 1788



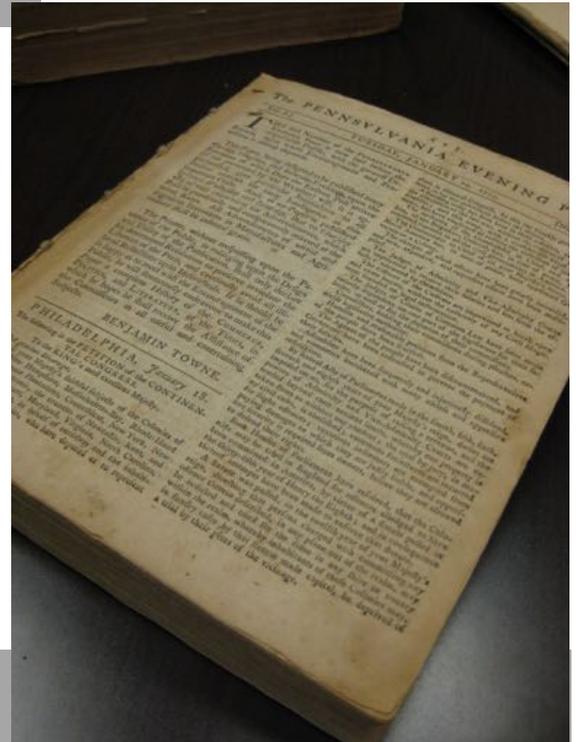
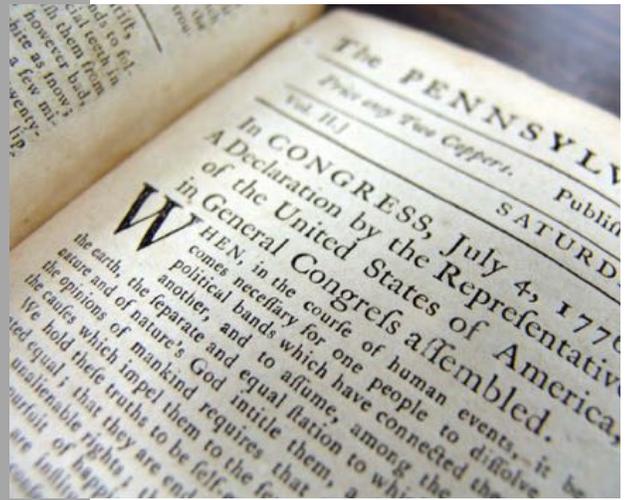
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As you can see, the boards and spine have come off of this book, exposing the sewn binding and delicate pages.

The Pennsylvania Evening Post, July 6, 1776

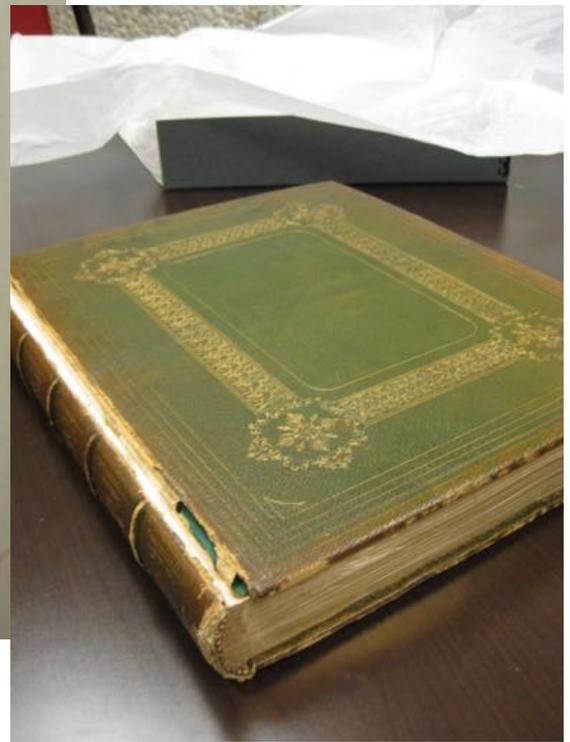
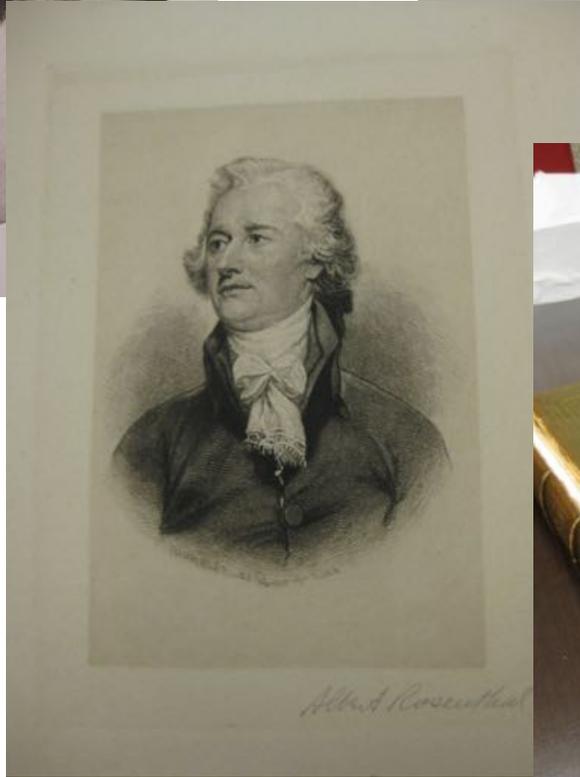
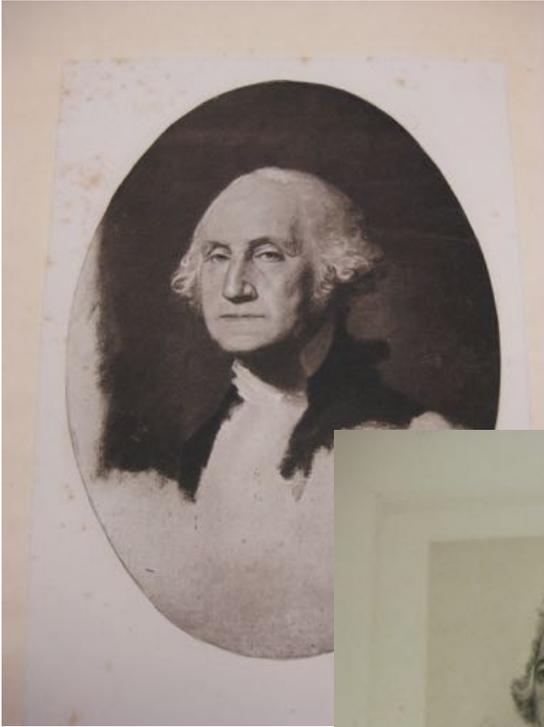
First Newspaper Printing of the Declaration of Independence



This truly remarkable document is the first printing of the Declaration of Independence in a newspaper. In 1776, the best way to let the public know about something as monumental as the decision to break away from Great Britain was in newsprint. The news was published in the newspaper two days before Philadelphia's public proclamation on July 8th.

This is a very rare and special document, one that connects students and community members directly with the birth of the United States. It is currently bound in with other issues of the newspaper, giving a full view of the events around the Revolution and independence. The cover has come away completely, and the volume has broken into two pieces, requiring careful conservation.

Portraits of the Members of the Federal Convention (1888)

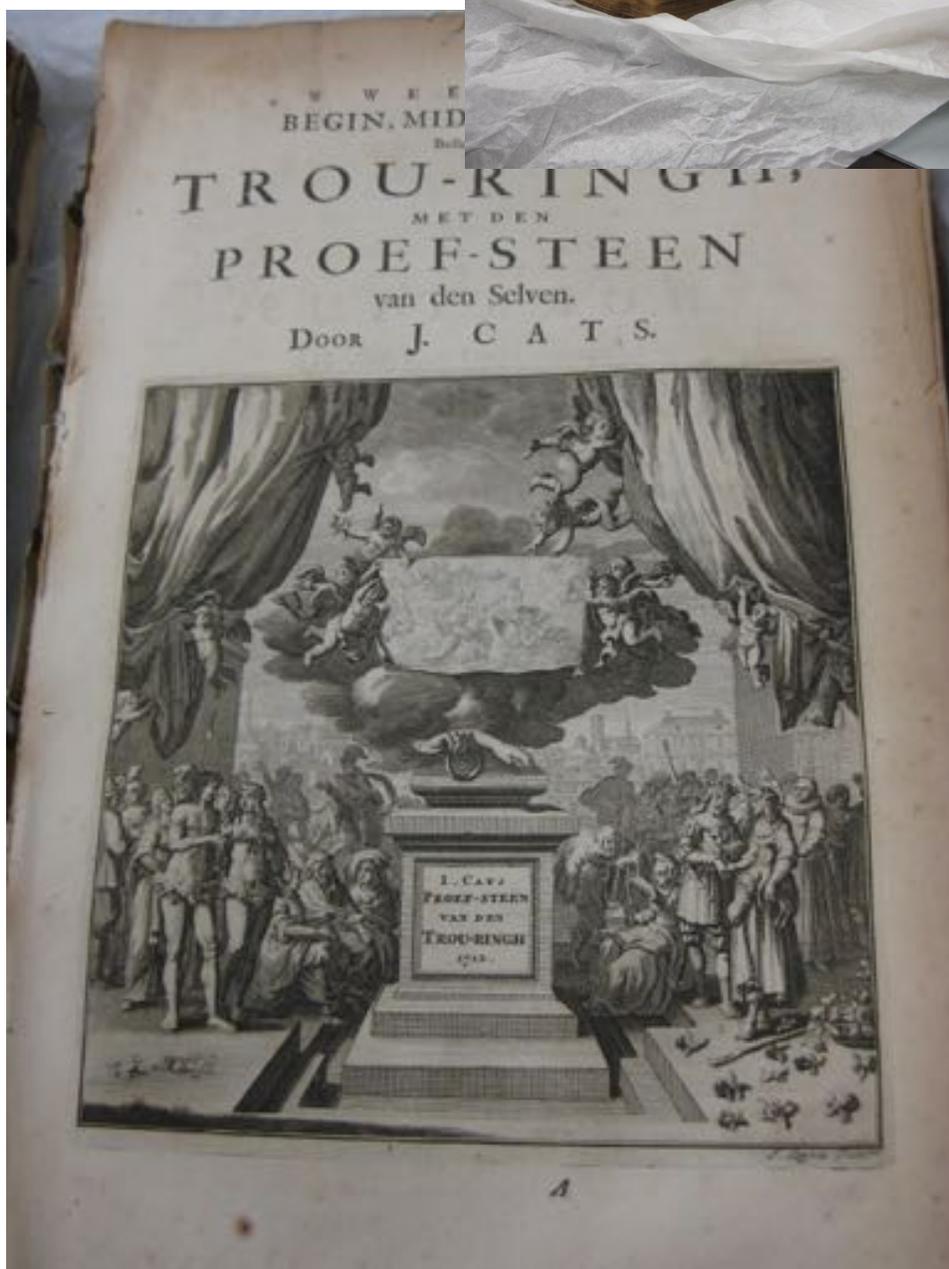


In this book, Max Rosenthal, a celebrated Polish-American lithographer and artist, collected proof impressions of the men who participated in the Federal Constitutional Convention of 1787 in Philadelphia. Rosenthal, who used cutting-edge techniques during the nineteenth century, was also involved in creating battlefield maps during the American Civil War.

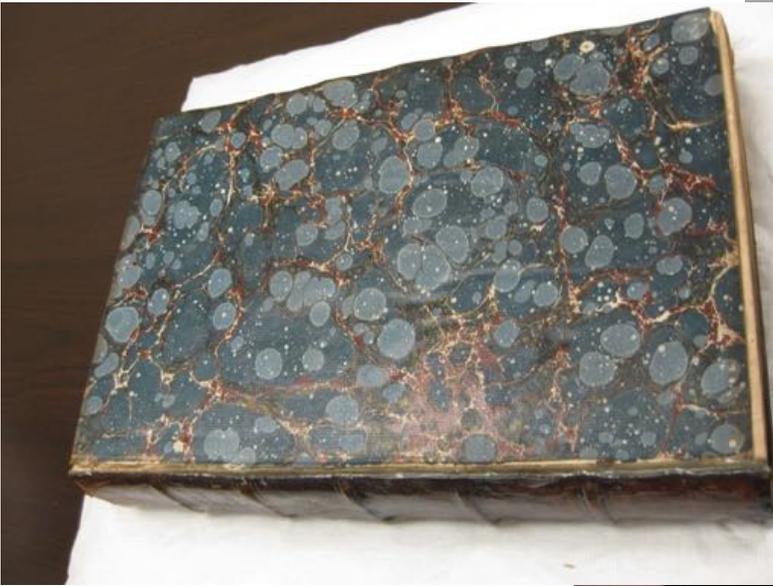
The large plates in this book illustrate the creators of the Constitution of the United States in gorgeous detail, and their collection in this volume demonstrates the importance of the creation of the Constitution as America came together again after the Civil War. The binding of this copy has been damaged, and needs repair.

Alle de
wercken van
den here
Jacob Cats
(1712)

This “emblem book,” a collection of striking allegorical engravings and stories promoting morality, was created by the Dutch poet and politician Jacob Cats. During the Dutch Golden Age of literature, Cats wrote prolifically, and this volume is valuable for cultural studies, art history, comparative literature, and a host of other kinds of inquiry. The spine on this volume is broken, and some of the pages have come loose, requiring conservation.



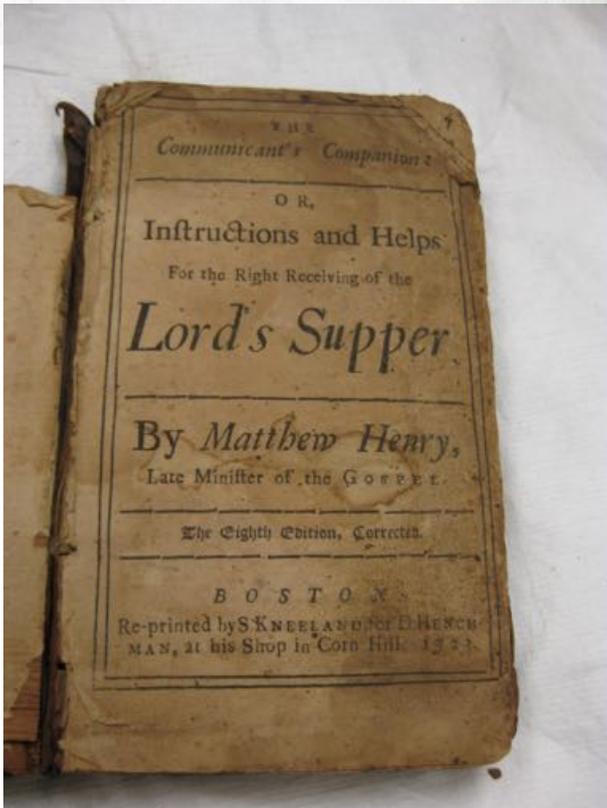
The Anatomy of Melancholy (1652)



This seventeenth-century medical textbook offers prognoses and cures for a bevy of early-modern ailments. Burton, a scholar at Oxford, explores not only physical ailments but also human emotions, geography, and goblins.

This volume has come apart at the seams, and a previous owner's attempt to repair the spine with an epoxy has further damaged it. This book, which is useful for investigations into the history of medicine, literature, and psychology, needs an expert's help.

The Communicant's Companion (1723)



The celebrated bible commentator Matthew Henry wrote *The Communicant's Companion, or, Instructions and Helps for the Right Receiving of the Lord's Supper* to teach Christian non-conformist readers how to prepare themselves for the sacrament, and to explain to them why they should receive it. This eighth edition is a testimony to the popularity of Henry's straightforward style in a book that the Reverend John Brown in 1825 praised as having "a simplicity, a naturalness, and a familiarity, which renders it peculiarly delightful reading."

This volume, which represents one part of the strength that the Collection has in religious history and the history of toleration, is in need of extensive conservation. The covers have significantly deteriorated, and a portion of the top board is missing, leaving the pages below unprotected.