NINE OLD AND RARE BOOKS ON LIBRARIES

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1. [DUREY DE NOINVILLE, J. 13.]. *Dissertation sur les Bibliothèques avec une Table Alphabetique, tant des Ouvrages publiés sous les titre de Bibliothèques, que des Catalogues imprimés de plusieurs Cabinets de France & des Pays étrangers* [BOUND WITH] *Table Alphabetique des Dictionnaires en toutes sortes de Langues & sur toutes sortes de Sciences & Arts*. Paris: Hug. Chaubert & Herrisant, 1758 $850.00

First edition of each title. The first is widely held in libraries (OCLC locates 14 copies in this country). But the second is rare. I can find no copies located in OCLC except for one (US, NH - GOBI LIB SERVS) which seems to be a 2013 Hachette reprint. The dealer from whom I bought this stated: “the second title is, according to Besterman, the first bibliography of dictionaries, listing about 1000 titles.” I do not have a copy of Besterman at hand so I cannot check this out for myself.

Small 8vo, old marbled boards rebacked with modern patterned cloth spine with red leather lettering piece. 156+ [iii]; (iv)+187+(1) pp. The first work is lacking the half-title but includes the 3 page approbation/priviedge leaf at the rear; the second work is cropped at the head just touching the “T” of TABLE. Still, good copies.
2. GUILD, REUBEN A. *The librarian’s manual; a treatise on bibliography, comprising a select and descriptive list of bibliographical works; to which are added, sketches of public libraries*. New York: Charles B. Norton, 1858

First edition and scarce; the edition was limited to 510 copies (10 of which were on large paper). An interesting book on several counts; it is noteworthy in the history of American fine printing as it was printed by J. Munsell of Albany in Caslon, a font of which he imported from England shortly before 1856. It is printed throughout in 18th century style and is said to be one of Munsell’s most handsome volumes (see American Fine Printing 1820-1880, ExCat., Lib. Co. of Phila., 1979-80, no. 23). It is also important for its contents; the DAB says it was “a standard work for many years.” The first part consists of an annotated list of 495 separate “bibliographical” works; the second part contains historical sketches and wood engraved views of 14 of the largest public libraries in this country and in Europe.

4to, early 20th stiff board sides, cloth spine with laid down label (an Italian binding of no great distinction but quite serviceable.) 10+304 pp. with 16 wood-engr. illus. Title page in red and black. With a small bookplate “Ex Libris Jacoby Manzoni.” A good, clean, large untrimmed copy.

First published 1839. Of special interest is the chapter on the conservation of books with sections on insects, humidity, dust, etc. as well as the wear and tear of everyday use. Other chapters discuss the running of the library, shelving, physical layout, cataloguing, etc. This work was translated into German and published in Leipzig in 1842. An early owner of the present copy has inscribed on the blank front fly: “L’auteur de ce livre est M. Leopold Auguste Constantin Hesse, ancien librarie a Amsterdam et connus chez Panckouke. Il est mort en 1844. Voir Querard, Supercheries Litteraries Devoilées, tome 1, p. 243.”

12mo, 19th century marbled sides, polished dark red calf spine with black lettering pieces. iv+266 pp with 2 large fdg engr plates. Plates slightly browned but a fine copy.
TWO LANDMARK BOOKS IN THE HISTORY OF LIBRARIES


First edition of the Jacob Traicté, an important primary source description of the libraries of France (as well as of other countries) when Mazarin dominated 17th century politics and France was the cultural capital of Europe. “This work addresses a relatively wide audience, ranging from the curious amateur to the professional librarian. The author presents his project in a preface “To the reader.” It states in part that his work aims only at libraries composed of a minimum of three to four thousand volumes. Each library is the subject of a brief description giving highlights of the library (and of the owner in the case of a private library) and of books that constitute it. These descriptions are presented chronologically and divided by the geographic location of the libraries. The book thus covers an historical period and a large geographical area ranging from Egyptian, Greek and Roman civilizations through to the large European libraries (e.g. the Vatican Library) of the 16th and early 17th century and even including collections held in Asia.” - cribbed from a French record done by the Ecole Nationale Superieure des Bibliothecaires; thanks to David Richtmyer for this. Jacob’s book has just recently been translated into English by John Warwick Montgomery (The libraries of France at the ascendancy of Mazarin; Louis Jacob’s Traicté des plus belles bibliothèques) published in Germany by VKW; it is not as of February 2016 available in America. OCLC locates ten copies of the Jacob book in American libraries.

The Naudé Advis was originally published in Paris in 1627; it was revised by the author himself for this second edition. Naudé and Jacob were friends and colleagues and it is said by Archer Taylor that Naudé inspired Jacob to write his book. The Naudé is well known to the English speaking world; it was translated into English by John Evelyn and published in London in 1661. His Advis “advised collectors to buy books on all subjects, taking pains to seek out the best commentaries and critical editions; the contents were all important, and nothing was to be bought on account of its antiquity, appearance or associations.” - Hobson, Great Libraries, p. 14. Both the Jacob and the second edition Naudé are usually found bound together (they were issued by the same publisher). This edition of the Naudé is rare; OCLC locates but three copies in this country: U of Ill., Columbia, Grolier.

8vo, two works in one vol; bound in contemp vellum. Jacob: (xx)+438; 439-717 + appendix (35) + index (36) + priviedge leaf (2). Title page to second part bound at the end. Naudé: (viii)+164 pp. Old sticker removed from spine; old stamp expertly removed from verso of title page. Excellent copy.
“LES PLUS BELLES BIBLIOTHEQUES DE L’EUROPE”


12mo, orig. sheep, cont gilt spine, lettering piece, rubbed but a very nice honest copy; (10)+210+(28) pp. Pagination very erratic but the work is complete due to signature collation and catchwords.
“The citizens of New-Windsor and the surrounding neighbourhoods not enjoying all the necessary facilities for improvement in science and literature; it is proposed to establish a Circulating Library in that village, in order to provide more effectually for the intellectual improvement of the rising generation and the community at large.” The separately printed Catalogue of Books is arranged in ten classes: I. History; II. Biography and Memoirs; III. Science and Arts; IV. Politics, Law, Jurisprudence; V. Theology and Religion; VI. Moral and Mental Philosophy; VII. Voyages and Travels; VIII. Belle Letters; IX. Dictionaries and Encyclopedias; and X. Miscellaneous. The catalogue is interleaved with blanks to leave space for additions to be entered by hand. This copy is untouched. Very rare; not in American Imprints. OCLC locates one copy of each title; both in AAS. That’s all.

New Windsor is a town in Carroll County, MD; the population in 2010 was 1390. It was laid out in 1797. Much of the town was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1997.

2 12mo pamphlets, both in orig. yellow printed wrappers. Constitution 9 pages; Catalogue 12 pp (but in fact double that number due to the interleaves) Both items have illustrated advertisements on the outside of the rear covers. A little dusty but nice copies.
W. F. Poole (1821-1894) was an important figure in the world of 19th-century libraries and is given a good entry in Wikipedia. He graduated from Yale in 1849 and began his library career at the Boston Athenæum. He was subsequently head of several big-city public libraries. He capped his career as librarian of the Newberry Library, a private research institution, from 1887 to 1894. Poole designed the building, which still stands at 60 West Walton St (Chicago).

In the present work he is critical of the “conventional American library building.” By this he means the style of the Boston Public Library (not the present one but the previous one), Boston Athenæum, Astor Library, Cincinnati Public Library, Baltimore Peabody Institute, Library of Congress, and others. He favors designs which foresee and provide for future enlargement. He also objects to the great cost of the above listed buildings, favoring a simpler, less pretentious and more convenient style. Also less expensive. “Is it not lavishing upon the casket what ought to be spent on the jewels?”

Widely held in libraries, this pamphlet is rare in the marketplace. It is fragile and I am sure many copies have self-destructed. Hitchcock, American Architectural Books, 943.

8vo, orig. printed wraps. 26 pp with 6 wood-engr illus. Staples have rusted; first two and last two leaves have become separated and put back in place with acid-free paste. Slight chips along the edges of covers.
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS
SHOWN AS A NEW BUILDING


An excellent copy of this very scarce work, twenty fine and sharp heliotype plates devoted to the LC, both interior and exterior views, identified by the table of contents (i.e. captions) as printed on the inside front pastedown. Architects of the building were Smithmeyer & Pelz, Paul J. Pelz and Edward P. Casey. Artists and sculptors of the interior decorations are identified in the captions. The views are most appealing as the building was them brand new.

The series “Monographs on American Architecture” was published by the American Architect and Building News. Monographs nos. I-V (as worked out from Hitchcock, AAB) are as follows: I. Austin Hall by HHR, 1885; II. State Capitol Hartford Ct by Upjohn; III. Ames Mem. Bldg by HHR, 1886; IV. Memorial Hall by Ware & VB., 1887 and V. Trinity Church by HHR, 1888. The present work is no. VI in the series. John L. Smithmeyer wrote several essays on library architecture; three of them are listed as entries nos. 1225, 1226 and 1227 in Hitchcock’s American architectural books. The present work is very scarce; no copies in the book auction records.

Folio, orig. printed boards, linen spine replaced, ties are original and good and strong. 20 fine heliotype plates.
9. SMITHMEYER, J. L. *Suggestions on library architecture, American and foreign, with an examination of Mr. Wm. F. Poole’s scheme for library buildings.* Washington: Gibson Bros., Printers, 1883 $400.00

Hitchcock 1227, rare. A vitriolic privately printed attack on librarian Poole’s proposals for the new Library of Congress (Poole favored bookrooms with shelves rather than unsightly, badly lighted, and frequently dirty stack storages). Poole had previously published his views on library architecture (Hitchcock 943-945). Smithmeyer ultimately won the controversy and his firm prepared the designs for the executed Library of Congress; the building, erected in 1888-1897, was in full classic regalia and fulfilled its role as an imperial monument much more effectively than its function as a repository for the purveyors of reading material. See: Burchard & Bush-Brown, *Architecture of America,* pp 279-281. Very uncommon. Smithmeyer was an architect of some importance; while the LC was his major work, he did other buildings of importance as well (see Withey).

8vo, orig printed wrappers. 31 pp with 6 text illus.