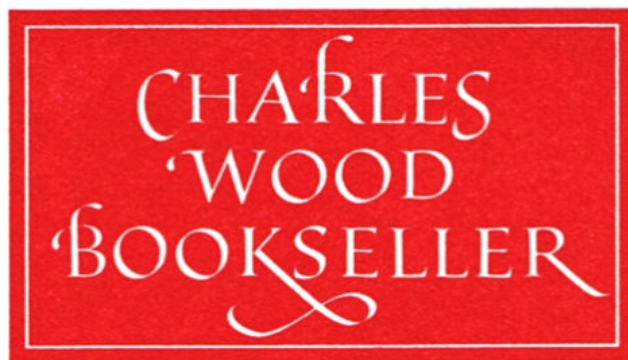


BOSTON AREA IMPRINTS

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ARCHITECTURE, ARTS, CRAFTS, TRADES,
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RELATED FIELDS



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April - May 2026

1. BENJAMIN, ASHER. The architect, or practical house carpenter.

Boston: Benjamin B. Mussey & Co., 1851

\$300.00

Originally published 1830, this was Benjamin's fourth and vastly most popular work. This was the key book in introducing the Greek Revival to the New England countryside, as well as to the states in the mid-west. Hitchcock 130.

4to, modern (but not brand new) full cloth. 119 pp. with 64 engr. plates. With occasional scattered light foxing. Signed on front fly: "Thomas Lakey's Bot 1 Mo 1854."

A BUILDING BY SHEPLEY, RUTAN & COOLIDGE

2. BOSTON. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. Ceremonies connected with the opening of the building of the Boston Chamber of Commerce Wednesday and Thursday Jan. 20 and 21, 1892. Boston: Press of Geo. H. Ellis, 1892

\$175.00

First edition. Documentation for a very handsome stone building in the Romanesque manner of H. H. Richardson but actually designed by his successors, Shepley, Rutan and Coolidge and built by Norcross Brothers. The text includes a description of the building. The frontispiece is a fine heliotype view of the exterior; other photographic plates show interior views (the trade room, reading room, and two offices). This was an important building; it is included in the list of works by SR&C in the Macmillan Encyclopedia of Architects. Not in Hitchcock.

8vo, orig. cloth. 128 pp with 9 heliotype plates. Old newspaper clipping pasted to the front flyleaf; light wear to the head of spine, else a nice bright copy.

A FINE AMERICAN COLOR PLATE ARCHITECTURAL BOOK IN A SPECIAL PUBLISHER'S BINDING

3. BOWLER, GEORGE. Chapel and church architecture, with designs for parsonages. Boston: John P. Jewett; Cleveland: Jewett, Proctor & Worthington; New York: Sheldon, Blakeman & Co., 1856

\$2000.00

A fine large copy in a variant binding (see below) of the first and only edition. This is the finest copy I have ever had of this wonderful book. One of the most attractive of American folio-sized color plate architectural books, with superb plates printed by Bufford's of Boston. The best of these plates are really beautiful with especially effective skies and clouds. The designs include simple wooden country churches, churches in the Anglo-Italian, Gothic, Byzantine, Romanesque, Norman and Grecian styles and several parsonages. The materials include wood, granite and brownstone. The basic arrangement of most of the designs is identical: longitudinal nave with tall tower and spire centralized on the gable end; this, of course, is a direct carryover from the

conventional early 19th century New England meeting house. Bowler's designs serve to illustrate both the inherent conservatism and traditional outlook of the New Englander (he came from Boston). This is not a particularly rare book, even today, but copies as good as this are distinctly rare. Hitchcock 206.

Folio (18 x 12") orig. dec cloth with gilt diestamp on upper cover, with original dark green morocco spine (hinges rubbed). As noted above this is in a special publisher's binding: a large gilt diestamp on the upper cover, reading "The Christmas Gift of Architecture" surrounding a pictorial image of a Gothic church and parsonage in a landscape. This was obviously done for the Christmas trade in 1856. 15 pp+18 ff with splendid color litho t.p. and 47 litho plates numbered 1-41, A-F (of which 31 are colored or tinted). Pls 11 & 13 misnumbered (as usual) but collates complete. Provenance: Inscribed on the printed title and plate 11: "John F. Dunning, Boston, 1856."

AN UNCOMMON BUILDER'S GUIDE

4. BROWN, WILLIAM. The carpenter's assistant; containing a succinct account of Egyptian, Grecian and Roman architecture...embracing plans, elevations, details, &c. for dwelling houses. Second edition. Worcester: Edward Livermore, 1848 \$1500.00

First published earlier the same year. One of the most uncommon builder's guides, this work is particularly interesting because it gives, in addition to the usual plates of the orders, full designs in plan and elevation for an Italian villa, a Gothic cottage and a Grecian house. These are all pre-balloon frame houses (i.e. timber frame). Though the author called himself "Architect", this is an elemental work, suited to the wants of the carpenter, yet the text contains some interesting insights; for instance, Brown points out that the Italian villa house is best suited for that "class of gentleman whose means and republican principles will not admit of their erecting more classical or regal edifices." Hitchcock 215 and calling for a frontispiece; this is a mistake, there never was a frontispiece (I have had 4 or 5 copies in the past fifty-some years, none of which had such a plate). In a utilitarian but suitable half-leather binding but otherwise a very nice clean copy.

4to, recent calf spine. marbled sides. 140 pp with 54 engr. plates. Plates and text very clean; no foxing or spotting.

5. CHAMBERLAIN, N(athan). A paper on New England architecture, read before the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Sep 1858. Boston: Grosby, Nichols & Co., 1858 \$275.00

First edition. Hitchcock points out that this is probably the first separate publication on colonial architecture. A fascinating piece, reflecting both a total lack of architectural historical knowledge

and a heavy emphasis on the Puritan background of New England village aesthetic. Scarce. Hitchcock 258. Karpel B703.

8vo, orig. printed wrappers. 30 pp. Upper and lower hinges are just starting but a good copy of this fragile pamphlet.

**A GREAT COLOR CARD!
A DROP-DEAD PIECE OF EPHEMERA!**

6. DENNISON MANUFACTURING CO. Color Card. Dennison's Imperial Crepe Paper. [Framingham, Mass., N.d. [ca. 1900] \$275.00

A great color card, a circle of stiff card about six inches in diameter with zig-zag (pinking shear) edges and with 30 samples of colored crepe papers shown through small circular traps, each identified by number. There are three short bits of text along both sides and the bottom: 'Rolls 10 feet long, 20 1/2 inches wide.' 'Strong in texture, Uniform in Creping, Rich in coloring.' 'To obtain satisfactory results in decoration you should use Dennison's Crepe Paper.'

Denison Manufacturing Co. was founded in 1844 in Framingham, MA as a jewelry and watchbox manufacturing company by Aaron Lufkin Dennison. The company manufactured paper tags, crepe paper, gummed paper labels, sealing wax, toys, books and games. The company merged with Avery International Corp, in 1990 and was moved to Pasadena, CA.

Stiff card, circular in form, six inches in diameter. Described above. Fine condition.

A RARE NEW ENGLAND DYER'S MANUAL

7. (DYEING). The Domestic Dyer, being receipts for dyeing cotton and linen, hot and cold. New-England: Printed for Domestic Uses. 1811 [Price six pence] \$1500.00

I love these little dyeing books; they are the quintessential do-it-yourself manuals of early America which were 'used to pieces' and hence most of them very rare today. The one exception, oddly, is the first American dyer's handbook: Asa Ellis, The Country Dyer's Assistant, Brookfield MA: Merriam, 1797/1798. This has never been rare and even today (Feb 2026) there are three copies for sale on the net. The publisher Merriam must have printed a very large edition. The present work, however, is very rare; this is the first copy I have seen in my 59 years in this business. It contains 21 receipts for various colors, both hot and cold. It states at the outset that "a copper, or brafs kettle is necessary in all cafes of dyeing." OCLC locates one copy (NYSHA, Cooperstown). AAS holds a copy. And the Edelstein Collection (Bibliotheca Tinctoria) in Jerusalem has a copy with the note: "Not recorded in any other catalogue or bibliography" (BT, 0319).

12mo, disbound. 12 pp. Good copy of a very charming and appealing pamphlet (though without its original wrappers which were probably plain blue paper).

**A PROBABLY UNIQUE TRADE CATALOGUE
ILLUSTRATED WITH 10 ORIGINAL SILVER PRINT PHOTOGRAPHS**

8. EMERSON & NORRIS CO. Lawn and Garden Furniture. Brighton [Boston], Mass., 1920 \$350.00

A charming and extremely rare little trade catalogue illustrated with ten original silver prints. The inside of the printed folder gives this information: "The accompanying photographs give an idea of some of our designs. These designs and many others are on exhibition at our showroom...vases, sundial pedestals, birdbaths, seats, flower boxes"...etc. All of the pieces were made of some artificial material which looked like stone. One can still see some of them (or similar ones) in 1920s gardens which have not been altered. Laid in is a typewritten letter on the company's stationery explaining the photos. The photos are loose and not attached to anything - this is a miracle of survival. Except that the condition indicates that this whole little package was put away safely in storage for the past 105 years.

12mo. Small folder printed on heavy gray stock, with fold-over edges which were to protect the photos. With 10 3 x 4 inch silver prints. Plus the letter, which was folded to fit inside the folder.

A RARE AMERICAN BUILDER'S PRICE BOOK

9. GALLIER, JAMES. The American builder's general price book and estimator...in any part of New England. Second edition, revised and improved. Boston: M. Burns, 1836 \$1950.00

Originally published 1833, both editions are rare. This edition bears the approbation of four prominent Boston architects: Alexander Parris, Isaiah Rogers, James McAllister and Gridley Bryant. The text describes and gives prices for the work of bricklayers, masons, stonecutters; plasterers work, marble, granite, Connecticut brownstone, oil mastic, carpenters work, joiners work, painting, paper hanging, etc. The fine folding frontispiece, which appears in this edition only, is a view of the facade of the Suffolk Bank, Boston, designed by Isaiah Rogers. The text concludes with the law regulating buildings in the city of Boston. An absolutely essential work for serious in-depth study of Greek Revival buildings and building practice.

This copy belonged to Robert Perley Dodge, born 1817 in Georgetown, MD. He was educated at Princeton and the School of Engineering (Kentucky). He became a consulting engineer for the C. & Co. Canal Company. In 1850, together with his brother, he engaged Downing & Vaux to design his house. American Imprints 37586. Hitchcock 486.

8vo, orig. marbled sides, roan spine, somewhat worn but a very appealing and honest copy. (iv)+130+(ii)+78+1 pp with fdg. wood-engr. frontisp. Scattered light foxing as usual, but a very good copy of a rare book. The front pastedown has the ticket "W. Stewart's Bookstore & Bindery, Hagerstown.

GODINE INCUNABLE

10. [GODINE, DAVID R., Publisher]. MARVELL, ANDREW. To His Coy Mistress. N.p. [Brookline, MA], 1969 \$200.00

Fine copy of one of the noted publisher's earliest works. Colophon reads: 'This poem, set in Arrighi and printed at the Gehenna Press, is the first in a series of single poems and letters, tracts and broadsides to be published by David R. Godine. 1969.' Wikipedia: "Godine had worked for artist Leonard Baskin and printer Harold McGrath, but who had no publishing experience when he opened his printing shop in 1970 in a barn in Brookline, MA. Many of the early titles were fine letterpress editions, using a 40" Kelly-3 flatbed reciprocating letterpress with three form rollers...his early editions include Andrew Marvell's Garden printed on a Vandercook Press #20..."

12mo, orig. dark blue paper wraps, stitched. T.p. printed in red and black and gold. (8) pp. Fine copy.

THE FINEST PIECE OF TATOO FLASH I HAVE EVER SEEN

11. IMPEDUGLIA, MILO ANTHONY (1904-1991). (attr to). Patriotic Shield (fine water color design of a spread-winged eagle atop an American shield with arrows, a cannon barrel and an American flag draped in the background). N.p., N.d. [American, New England area, possibly Boston, ca. 1890s-1900s] \$3000.00

A wonderful piece of tattoo flash [art] which to me evokes nineteenth century American folk art. In fact were it not for the writing on the reverse, I would call it a piece of folk art. But the writing on the back suggests otherwise. I have contacted Derin Bray, who is an expert on the history of American tattoo art. He writes: "There was an early Boston tattoo artist named Milo Anthony (1904-1991), real name Vito Impeduglia. Supposedly, his father was also a tattooer and went by the name of John Brown, real name "John" Giovanni Impeduglia. It's more likely that this sheet belonged to (or was painted by) Milo, but his father is also a possibility. Milo worked in Boston for only a short while and then travelled all over the country." It is not signed nor dated. There are one or two old pin holes on the corners which suggest that it was hung on the wall of a tattoo parlor.

Pen and ink and watercolor on a piece of stiff card (7 x 8 1/4"). Pinholes on the corners but otherwise in excellent condition.

A LANDMARK BUILDING DESIGNED BY PETER HARRISON IN 1748-50

12. KING, DAVID. An historical sketch of the Redwood Library and Athenaeum in Newport, Rhode Island. Boston: John Wilson, 1860
\$275.00

First edition. Hitchcock 675. "Harrison's selection of a design for his first building, the Redwood Library (1748-50) clearly established his alliance with Burlington's academic school [of English Palladianism]. A small wooden rusticated Roman Doric pedimented temple with portico and side wings, it was an almost literal adaptation of a classical scheme that had appeared in Hoppus, in Ware, and in Kent. It was probably the first time that this scheme was used in the American colonies. Thomas Jefferson later used it." - Antoinette Downing in the Macmillan Encyclopedia. "The books purchased with Mr. Redwood's money were considered the finest collection of works on theology, history, and the arts and sciences in the American colonies" - Public Libraries in the United States, I, Wash. D.C., 1876. The library today holds a very strong collection of early British architectural books as well as the Cary Collection, which is a remarkable collection of very rare English 18th century pattern books.

8vo, orig. printed wrappers. liii (i.e. 53) pp. Old waterstain on the front cover (does not affect the pages). Spine a bit ragged. Internally fine.

A VERY RARE WORK WITH 46 COLOR PLATES

13. MASS. BOSTON. City of Boston. Digest of the statutes and of the ordinances relating to the inspection and construction of buildings in the city of Boston 1887. Boston: Rockwell & Churchill, 1887
\$750.00

Only edition. Hitchcock was able to locate only 2 copies and failed to mention the color plates. The present volume is of interest on two counts; for the building laws, which are essential for the historian of city architecture and urban development, not only of Boston, but of all cities which were experiencing the great building boom at the end of the nineteenth century. Perhaps of most interest are the fine series of color plates of details of foundations, party walls, fire stops, sanitary arrangements, framing, etc. Illustrated details of such construction features of city architecture are not easy to find; these are particularly attractive due to the color. Not, as far as I can find, in OCLC. The color litho plates are all signed M.W.F., Del. The printer who made them is not identified. Hitchcock 199.

In the past 60 years I have had only one other copy of this book and that copy was complete with 26 color plates.

8vo, orig. cloth, title in gilt on upper cover; neatly rebacked in matching black cloth. 75 pp. with 25 color litho plates. Excellent clean copy.

BETTER TENEMENTS FOR THE POOR

14. MASSACHUSETTS. BOSTON. PERKINS, STEPHEN H., a.o. Report of the Committee on the Expediency of Providing better Tenements for the Poor. Boston: Eastburn's Press, 1846 \$350.00

As an important industrial center, Boston typified rapid growth patterns of urban density, and its residential conditions worsened rapidly. In 1846 concerned citizens sounded the first alarm. the Report of the Committee on the Expediency of Providing Better Tenements for the Poor warned that Boston already faced conditions as bad as the slums of Europe, with some districts harboring "a density of population surpassed, probably, in few places in the civilized world." The Report concluded "the only solution was to build better tenements..." For more on this see Vale, From the Puritans to the Projects, Public Housing and Public Neighbors, Harvard, 2000). Vale underscores the ineffectiveness of this "early call" to improve Boston's housing, noting that the intense demand for housing, coupled with lax regulation "led to the gradual in-fill of any potential habitable portion of the central city." The subject of in-fill has been brilliantly treated by Nancy Seasholes in her Gaining Ground A History of Landmaking in Boston (MIT Press, 2003).

Hitchcock, in his American architectural books, gives four entries on workers housing but not this one.

8vo, disbound (but well sewn). 36 pp. Old stain across lower inner quarter of t.p. and following 3 leaves. Not objectionable.

"OAKLAND PARK" A BEDROOM COMMUNITY FOR BOSTON

15. MASSACHUSETTS. BOSTON. (N. WOBURN). Own a home in Oakland Park. Secure your Land by a small amount down...The Oakland Park Land Co., Raymond & Eaton, Fitchburg & Boston, N.d. [ca. 1885] \$350.00

"Oakland Park" is located on the Boston & Lowell division of the Boston and Maine Railroad, eleven miles from Boston. This is a charming and rare (not in OCLC) 4 page illustrated flyer advertising building lots in Oakland Park. The regular lots were 35 x 70 feet, twenty-five to seventy-five dollars each. A few late 19th century houses built on these lots are still standing to judge from "Zillow" and other present day real estate agencies, but it would appear that much of the original Oakland Park is now apartment houses.

Late 19th and early 20th century development prospectuses such as this are of value for tracing the history of suburbia in most cities in this country. To the best of my knowledge they have not been systematically collected except by a few university libraries, e.g. Harvard, Columbia, Yale and UC Berkeley. They are now increasingly difficult to find in the market place and there

are now institutional collectors for this material.

Sheet, (9.5 x 12" folded down to 9.5 x 6"). 4 pages of letterpress with two wood-engr. illustrations.

**"A MODEL INDUSTRIAL TOWN
LAID OUT IN ACCORDANCE WITH ADVANCED GARDEN CITY PRINCIPLES"**

16. MASSACHUSETTS. HOPEDALE. Industrial Housing at Hopedale, Massachusetts. Robert Allen Cook, Architect. Milford, Massachusetts. [N.Y (?), Architectural Review, n.d. (ca. 1917)] \$395.00

A small published booklet reprinting seven photographs of semidetached houses designed by Cook, originally published in the Architectural Review. Hopedale was a company town owned by the Draper Company which had an enlightened policy about employee housing. According to the April 1917 issue of AR, quoted in the booklet, "The town was laid out in accordance with advanced Garden City principles, and from an architectural and landscape standing is one of the most interesting examples of Garden City work in this country."

Hopedale is given a long account in Stern's Paradise Planned. "In 1896 Warren H. Manning (landscape architect) laid out Hopedale's Bancroft Park comprising thirty two-and-a-half story semidetached houses placed on either side of an oval road looping around a knoll to the west of the factory, which was screened from view by a berm. Completed in 1903, the symmetrical cypress-clad houses were designed according to eleven distinct plans by Robert Allen Cook (1872-1949)...[and others]...The houses were widely recognized for their quality, garnering a silver medal at the Paris Exposition Universelle in 1900, a gold medal at the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, and gold medals at the expositions in Liège in 1905 and Milan in 1906." - p. 826. This is a short selective quote from the Paradise book; the whole entry should be read for a full appreciation of Hopedale and its place in architectural and planning history. OCLC locates six copies.

12mo (4 3/4 x 7 inches) orig. printed wrappers. (8) pp with title page and 7 halftones. "Text", quoted above, is printed on the inside of the back wrapper. Fine copy.

**THE FIRST GENERAL HISTORY OF ART & ARCHITECTURE
PUBLISHED IN AMERICA**

17. MEMES, J. S. History of sculpture, painting and architecture. Boston: Allen & Goddard, 1831 \$350.00

First published Edinburgh, 1829; this is the first American edition. This has been noted by Elizabeth Blair Macdougall: "Books originally published in Great Britain but reprinted in the United States - the first general history of art published here was John

Memes' History of sculpture, painting and architecture [Boston] of 1831, a reprint of the 1839 Edinburgh edition." Pages 227 - 299 deal with architecture. Schimmelman 342 noting that Memes also discusses issues of taste and principles of imitative art in his introduction. - The Architectural historian in America, Wash: Nat'l; Gall of Art (1990), pp. 16-17. This is a scarce book; this is only the second copy I have had in the past 60 years. Hitchcock 768.

12mo, orig. cloth, paper label on spine, untrimmed. xii+299 pp.

18. SILSBEE, E. A. An informal talk on art and architectural topics. Salem: Essex Institute, 1880 \$250.00

Withey, in his Biographical dictionary of American Architects (deceased) (1956; 1970) gives an entry for a James Lyman Silsbee (1845-1913) of Salem who practiced architecture in Syracuse NY (1872-82) and in Chicago (1882-90). In 1890 he came back east; what his relationship was to our E. A. Silsbee I do not know. The present essay deals with the local architecture of Salem. This is a separately paginated offprint from the Bulletin of the Essex Institute. Hitchcock 1184.

8vo, orig. printed wrappers. 22 pp. Fine copy.

19. SGANZIN, M. E. An elementary course of civil engineering...from the third French edition with notes and applications adapted to the United States. Boston: Hilliard &c., 1827 \$375.00

A nice large copy in the original boards, untrimmed. First American edition; first published in Paris 1809. The question of English versus French influence in early 19th century technology in America is one of some importance; French texts came to be preferred because of their emphasis of first principles and their compatibility with the empirical methods used in America. Text books used at our early institutions for technical education are of much help to the historian; Sganzin was used at West Point from 1823. Hitchcock 1142. American Imprints 30576. Rink 2358, the earliest entry under civil engineering. Shaw, Engineering books avail in Amer before 1830, no. 589A.

8vo, orig. paper boards, neatly respined with gray cloth with a printed paper title label; slightly foxed throughout but a good copy. viii+220 pp. with 6 fdg. engr. plates. The title label is modern but it is well done.

AN ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIC

20. VIOLLET-LE-DUC, E. Discourses on architecture. Translated from the French of Viollet-Le-Duc by Benjamin Bucknall, Architect. Boston: Ticknor & Co., N.d.[ca. 1875-77] \$950.00

The first translation of this great book into English was made by Henry van Brunt and published in Boston in 1875; vol II was published also in Boston, in 1881. According to Hitchcock the first London edition appeared in 1877, translated by Benjamin Bucknall. The present edition is curious; it is undated and it is stated in fine print at the end of each volume: Thomas and Archibald Constable, Printers to Her Majesty, Edinburgh University Press. Furthermore, all of the 36 folding plates (of which 3 are in colors) were printed in France. This is thus a French-British-American edition. The demand for it at the time must have been huge. But this particular edition is rare; this is the first copy to come my way. It is not in Hitchcock.

Sir John Summerson has commented: "For us, today, Viollet-le-Duc is a figure of considerable importance because he is the last great theorist in the world of architecture, and the modern architect still leans heavily on verities which he expounded...his principal legacy to architectural thought is contained in the two dictionaries and the lectures - most clearly of all in the first volume of the latter." - Heavenly mansions, p. 135. And of course the famous comment of Frank Lloyd Wright to his son must be given: "In these volumes you will find all the architectural school you will ever need." A useful synopsis of the contents of the Lectures is given by Robin Middleton in his piece on Viollet in the Macmillan Encyclopedia of architects.