CHARLESTON LIBRARY SOCIETY

CONSERVATION WISH LIST

Tab . 191. Myrtus arborea, folijs laurinis, aromatica Pimienta or Iamaica-pepper-tree. Fig.1. Fig.2. Arbor bacifera, laurifolia, aromatica, fructu viridi calyculato racemoso. Cortex Winteranus or wild Cinamon-tree. 2 ...

BOOKS ARE GOOD COMPANY, IN SAD TIMES AND HAPPY TIMES, FOR BOOKS ARE PEOPLE -PEOPLE WHO HAVE MANAGED TO STAY ALIVE BY HIDING BETWEEN THE COVERS OF A BOOK.

- E.B. White

Our *Conservation Wish List* is a regularly updated inventory of items from our Special Collections which have been identified as irreplaceable or rare, essential, and in need of conservation at any given time. With such vast collections, our list covers a wide range of topics-from natural history to American history, world exploration to the cultural influences here in Charleston. By nature, these items represent core areas of our collection that reveal our past and help us interpret our world today.

Selecting items for the *Conservation Wish List* requires thorough research and collaboration among CLS staff. This curation artfully unites the knowledge and objectives of our Librarians, Historians, and Conservators.

Before appearing on the *Conservation Wish List*, a highly individualized treatment plan for each item is developed. Treatment plans can include any combination of digitization, preservation, full conservation, and/or construction of custom storage. Each item's unique needs are evaluated by our in-house Conservator, or through collaboration with other professional conservation partners. Although the process is long, we begin essential steps as soon as an item is adopted, and we provide updates along the way.

THE CONSERVATION, SAFEGUARDING, AND PRESERVATION OF BOOKS, MAPS, AND MANUSCRIPTS OF HISTORIC AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE ARE CENTRAL TO OUR MISSION, AND REQUIRES ONGOING SUPPORT.

Interested in adopting an item on the list? It's easy. Join many other contributors in this special effort to leave a lasting impression on our Special Collections, in perpetuity, with your name and generosity forever attached to the survival of these incredible works. The *Conservation Wish List* is updated regularly, with an extensive curation of unique pieces across varying interest areas, requiring a range of conservation needs. Should you wish to contribute more broadly, we also maintain a General Conservation Fund that allows us to internally select and care for important works that may not be suited for individual adoption.





WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Each wish list item presents an opportunity to become directly involved in one of the most important and historic, but often hidden, aspects of the Library Society. To become a donor and start the process of adoption, or for any related questions, please contact:

LISA HAYES

Special Collections Librarian 843.723.9912 x110 | lhayes@charlestonlibrarysociety.org

For further inquiry about the general conservation fund, or other ways to support the ongoing efforts of the Library, please contact:

CATHERINE BRACK

Director of Development and Membership 843.723.9912 x108 | cbrack@charlestonlibrarysociety.org

CHARLESTON LIBRARY SOCIETY

164 KING STREET CHARLESTON, SC 29401

Monday-Friday 9:30AM-5:00PM Saturday 9:30AM-12:00PM Tel: 843.723.9912

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THE WISH LIST

2023

THOMAS ELFE ACCOUNT BOOK, 1768-1775 | \$8,400 OPTED

This volume offers an intimate view into the life and work of a premier Colonial-era Charles Town craftsman. Englishman Thomas Elfe moved to Charles Town in 1746 and operated a successful furniture business for nearly thirty years. A contemporary of Thomas Chippendale, Elfe produced an eponymous account book detailing his mastery of all types of woodwork, which also included other transactions, such as purchases of sugar and tuition payments for his children's education. With the help of enslaved craftsmen, Elfe built furniture for Charles Town's elite, including many members of the Library Society: Dr. Alexander Garden (likely a member as early as 1759) not only purchased a coffin and had a tea chest repaired, but the account book also indicates that Elfe paid Garden for caring for his family.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS TO GOVERNORS OF THE COLONIES, 1750 | \$5,900

A very curious item, this book was given to the Library by William G. Hinson in 1919. But there is a possibility that CLS actually received it twice: William Wragg Smith, whose ancestor William Wragg was a member of the Royal Council in 1756, donated a very similarly described item in 1835; alternatively, the book could have belonged to South Carolina's last Royal Governor, William Campbell, who took office in 1775. The spine label indicates it is *Campbell's America*, 1660-1738, and its contents provide instructions to Royal Governors in Barbados, Jamaica, South Carolina, Nova Scotia, and more, under King George II. It's possible that the item could have been lost and then purchased by Hinson before coming back to the Library Society.

A CATALOGUE OF BOOKS BELONGING TO THE INCORPORATED CHARLESTOWN LIBRARY SOCIETY, 1770 | \$3,500

Items which tell the story of our institution are of the utmost importance. This volume is one of only a handful of known copies of the Library's *1770 Catalogue*. It contains nearly 900 titles, organized by size first and then alphabetically. It was printed by member Robert Wells, a bookseller and newspaper printer in Charleston. Among the books still held by the Library indicated here are Bayle's ten-volume *General Dictionary* (1734) and Mortimer's *Whole Art of Husbandry* (1721).

SACRED HISTORY OF ANIMALS, VOLUMES I AND II | \$16,800 REV. ARCHIBALD SIMPSON, 1780

These two handwritten journals are translations from the Latin of a 1642 bestiary that would have been used by theology students. Each creature is described by its physical characteristics and Christian morals that it symbolizes. The Library has had these journals since at least 1813. They are attributed to the Reverend Archibald Simpson, of the Lowcountry, based on their bindings, which match an eight-volume set of his sermons also owned by the Library Society. They contain several elaborate drawings, including a foldout of a person in nature surrounded by various creatures. The creatures are amalgamations of more than one animal, with birds and mammals represented.

ANATOMY OF THE HEART, CRANIUM, AND BRAIN | \$6,500 ALEXANDER RAMSAY, 1813

Dr. Alexander Ramsay was reported to be an anatomist and dissector of great renown. He was born and educated in Edinburgh, Scotland, but focused much of his work in America. In 1817, he traveled to Charleston and presented this volume to the Library Society, along with a note of *Remarks from the Author* and instructions on the proper handling of the hand-tinted plates to prevent damage. This book was unique at the time due to Ramsay's style of presenting the subject in a way that mimics actual dissection, allowing the reader to delve deeper into the anatomical structures of the human body as the pages progress.

A DESCRIPTION OF THE ENGLISH PROVINCE OF CAROLINA, BY THE SPANIARDS CALL'D FLORIDA, AND BY THE FRENCH LA LOUISIANE... | \$4,600 DANIEL COXE, 1722

The Englishman Daniel Coxe lived in the Colonies from 1702 to 1716 and explored lands stretching from the Carolina coast to the Gulf of Mexico. Competing with the French and Spanish for land already inhabited by Indigenous peoples, Coxe sought to describe and document the exploration and settlement of the areas with the idea that the published documents and maps would prove ownership of the land by the English. This 1722 first edition of Coxe's work predates the 1741 edition that the Library Society had in 1750, according to our *1750 Catalogue of Books*.

HUGUENOT RECORDS, 1576-1787, VOLUMES I, II, AND III | \$11,800 REV. ALEXANDER CROTTET, COMPILER

Crottet compiled these three volumes during his tenure as Pastor at the Protestant Church in Pons, Saintonge, France, from 1836 to 1846. They represent a combination of 16th to 18th–century records documenting French Huguenot history and genealogy, as well as later transcriptions and annotations. The earliest record dates to 1576, after the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre, and the most recent to 1787, one year before it became legal again to be Protestant in France. Many Library members trace their ancestry to the French Huguenots who fled persecution, including the Prioleau family, who facilitated the purchase of the manuscripts from Crottet's widow in 1874.

MICROGRAPHIA ILLUSTRATA | \$11,500 GEORGE ADAMS, 1747

George Adams was an English instrument maker and science writer who published works such as *A Treatise Describing the Construction and Explaining the Use of New Celestial Globes* and *The Description and Use of a New Sea-Quadrant for Taking the Altitude of the Sun from the Visible Horizon.* This work represents an important part of the Library Society's holdings that describe new scientific discoveries and inventions. As part of our **Foundation Collection**, it is one of our earliest acquisitions, and can be traced to our *1750 Catalogue of Books.*

Any amount can be donated to our General Conservation Fund, which allows flexibility in addressing major conservation projects which can have an immediate impact on the stability and preservation of our collection.