



**CHARLESTON
LIBRARY
SOCIETY**

**CONSERVATION
WISH LIST**

Myrtus arborea, folijs laurinis, aromatica
Pimenta or Iamaica-pepper-tree.



Fig. 1.

Fig. 2.

Arbor bacifera, laurifolia, aromatica,
fructu viridi calyculato racemoso.
Cortex Winteranus or wild-Cinamon-tree.

**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

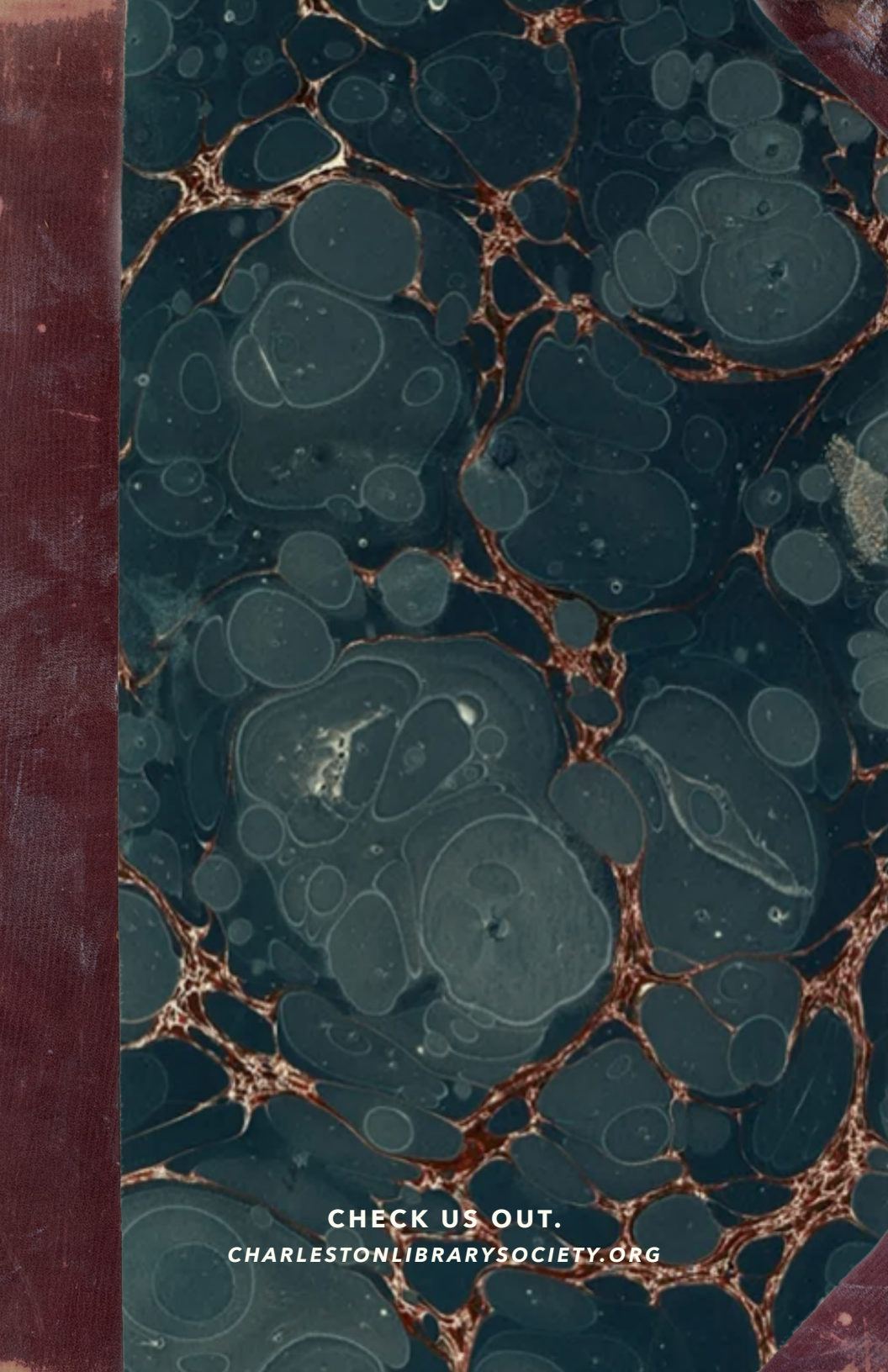
Director of Special Collections

843.723.9912 x110 | lhayes@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 WISHLIST

SPRING 2024

ADOPTED

WAREHOUSE LEASE FOR CLS, 1765 | \$1,150

For the Library's first 17 years, the collection was moved from place to place based on the Librarian at the time. In 1765, Gabriel Manigault offered to lease to the Library the top floor of a warehouse he owned on Kinloch Court, today's Philadelphia Alley. Manigault, a merchant and banker, had been the CLS president from 1753-1756. For 10 shillings per year, about \$110 today, our leaders signed a 21-year lease with Manigault for space in his new brick building. The warehouse space was also being used to store wares for his retail business which included wine and liquor. When a massive fire broke out in 1778, the warehouse went up in flames fed by the stores of alcohol, and decimated the Library's nearly-6000 volume collection. Somehow, 28 volumes of the Library's Foundation Collection remain today - perhaps they were checked out during the time of the fire? The Lease is a great reminder of all that the Library's collections have been through, and the fire, the reason for the Foundation Collection Prelacement.

LAWS OF THE PROVINCE OF SOUTH CAROLINA, 1736 | \$4,300

The Library Society has two copies of Trott's Laws, the earliest book printed in South Carolina. Printer Lewis Timothy was a friend and business partner to Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia. Timothy settled in Charleston in 1733, eventually becoming the official Colonial Printer. He offered this very early volume in two different editions, the larger on nicer paper at an increase of 3 pounds (about \$900 today). This copy was given to the Library in 1944 by Donald McKay Frost, a book collector, attorney, and Harvard graduate from Charleston. Penned by Chief Justice Nicholas Trott, this is a Foundation Collection Replacement for a copy we ordered in 1767.

LOUISA WELLS JOURNAL, circa 1800 | \$4,300

Obtained through a purchase made possible by Kathy Salmanowitz in 2021, this journal is a record of Ms. Wells' journey from Charlestown to London in 1778. The Loyalist Wells family, including Louisa's father, bookseller and printer Robert Wells, had close ties to the Library making this item a particularly significant recent addition to our holdings. Louisa's father had already fled to London by the time she set out in June of 1778. She and her shipmates were waylaid to New York when their ship was captured by the British off the coast of Hatteras, N.C. Her description of Brooklyn indicates her overall unfavorable feeling toward New York: "I must confess makes no figure from the water : nothing to equal the order and regularity of the once beautiful Bay Street of Charlestown! Every house for a mile, three stories high!" After waiting several months, she boarded a new ship and made it to London where she was reunited with her father at their home near Paternoster Row. Written after Louisa was in London, the journal is likely based on letters and notes she had written to her fiance.

CLIONIAN DEBATING SOCIETY MINUTE BOOK, 1847-1851 | \$2,600

In wishing to highlight and give voice to Free People of Color in Antebellum Charleston, we received a SHRAB grant last year to digitize, transcribe, and then contextualize this item. An informative LibGuide and an illuminating program followed. After recognizing its informational significance previously, we believe it is now important to preserve the Clionian Debating Society's physical record of its existence. The Clionians debated literary and classical topics shying away from anything that might attract attention. Examples of debate topics include: Is education beneficial to society? Who deserves the greater need of praise - the inventor or improver of a project? Was the treatment of the English to the Irish tyrannical? Members had a library of their own and elected officers, while conducting their meetings with great seriousness. The Library purchased the minute book in 1919; the second half is held by the David Rubenstein Library at Duke.

ADOPTED

**JULIET GEORGIANA ELLIOTT DAILY BOOK,
1844-1874 | \$2,200**

Juliet was born in 1805 to parents Barnard Elliott, III and Juliet Georgiana Gibbes Elliott. Her “Daily Book” consists of expenses such as piano tuning, presents for loved ones, mourning clothes for when her mother died, and a trip to Paris. Income is indicated for the sale of enslaved peoples’ labor, dividends on investments, and the sale of her pearls in New York. Juliet also included a small section detailing her travel to Europe indicating “absent nearly 4 years, spent 10,000 Francs.” The account book concludes with the sentence “1863 War, lost all negroes on plantation \$467.35.” It is unclear when the Library acquired this item, though the Library’s connections with the Elliott family are deep: among the early Elliott family who were members, Juliet’s mother’s name can be found in our list of members in 1835 (as Mrs. J. Elliott, widow to Barnard Elliott, III) and numerous times within our Circulation Book starting in 1811. Additionally, we have the elder Juliet’s sheet music and Revolutionary War-era military records that belonged to her grandfather, Captain Barnard Elliott.

**JOSEPH J. LEGARE’S COLLECTION OF DRAWINGS OF
SHELLS circa 1860 | \$5,700**

A lovely, exceedingly fragile volume of hand-drawn sea shells by Charlestonian, Joseph John Legare, the item consists of ten pencil sketches and six colored sketches, placed in a small velvet-covered portfolio. Executed with minute detail and exquisite craftsmanship, Legare (1831-1901) sketched from shells found on nearby beaches. A book collector, Legare lived above the drugstore where he worked as a bookkeeper and “shed that part of his existence promptly at five o’clock each afternoon” no doubt headed for a nearby beach for inspiration. The Library was given this small notebook and the personal library that belonged to him and his brother, poet James Matthews Legare, by his lifelong friend Mrs. Cotesworth Pinckney around 1910.

ADOPTED

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| **PORGO TYPESCRIPT, 1924 | \$1,800**

First penned 100 years ago, the Library is proudly celebrating DuBose Heyward's very first draft this year of "Porgo," the manuscript that came to be known as the novel Porgy, and eventually the opera Porgy and Bess. Heyward (1885-1940) and his wife Dorothy were leading members of the Charleston Renaissance and active members of the Library. In 1944, Dorothy Heyward gave the Library both his first draft and this second draft, in typescript, by request of DuBose. After completion of the typescript, he and John Bennett decided to change the main character's name from Porgo to Porgy and marked these edits in pen throughout, providing evidence of the authors' collaboration and thought process.

| **REDOUTÉ LILLIES, "Grand Papier" édition,
1807-1816 | \$12,450**

Pierre-Joseph Redouté was a Belgian botanical illustrator, well-known for his watercolor floral paintings on vellum, which were then replicated by craftsmen into multi-color stipple-engravings. The extraordinary results are evident in the luminous velvety textures seen throughout the work. This process was intensely laborious but resulted in consistent and reliable plates. Our large paper edition was begun in the midst of the work being done for a smaller paper edition, and the two editions were completed concurrently between 1807 and 1816. During the French Revolution, Redouté (1759-1840) taught Queen Marie-Antoinette and later his patrons included Queen Maria Amalia and Empress Josephine Bonaparte. He based his watercolor floral designs on flowers grown in French imperial gardens including the Château de Malmaison. The Library acquired this nearly-complete set (482 plates of 486 possible) of five volumes of his work in 1972, when Mrs. Mary Alston Read Hume Simms bequeathed them in honor of artist Alice Ravenel Huger Smith, who had been a CLS member. Bound alphabetically, this large edition is exceedingly rare, with Redoute noting that only 18 were produced.