

Lewis Walpole Library
Selected Recent Antiquarian Acquisitions 2019/20

List selected and prepared by Susan Walker, Head of Public Services
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The library continues to post recent antiquarian acquisitions on its [Recent Antiquarian Acquisitions Blog](#) to encourage their discovery and use.

This selection reflects both the continuation of long-standing collecting patterns at the LWL as well as emerging areas of focus as we work to reflect broadening perspectives and new trends in the study of Britain and the world in the 18th century.

Books and Printed Ephemera

Clark, Jeremiah (active 1741). [*The Life, History and Tryal of Harry Smythee, Esq.: Who Was Try'd at the Lent Assizes Held for the County of Dorset, 1741; and Convicted for the Murder of His Sweet-Heart Jane Mew, That Was with Child by Him; Whom He Had Deluded under the Pretences of Courtship, and Promises of Marriage. Containing, I. How He Was Entertain'd at Her Father's House ... VII. His Tryal ... IX. His Last Dying Speech ... XII. With The Reverend Mr. Clark's Remarks on the Whole. ... This Book is Recommended by the Rev. Jeremiah Clark, D.D. to the Perusal of Young People, and More Particularly the Fair Sex ...*](#) London: Printed by H. Goreham in Fleet-Street; and sold by T. Cooper in Paternoster-Row, 1741? (LWL 523 Sm64 741).

Interest in crime and punishment has led to the addition of a number of accounts of offenses, trials, and executions to the library's collections, especially in recent years. This volume sensationally tells a cautionary tale of a crime involving Jane Mew, who became pregnant by Harry Smythee and subsequently confronted him at his home with his wife. Subsequently, Jane's body was discovered in the woods with her throat cut. Although Jane purportedly committed suicide Smythee was accused of her murder. He was tried, convicted, and executed for the crime, but not before his words and behavior impressed the author with his piety and contrition.

Nugent, Thomas (1700?-1772). [*The Grand Tour: Containing an Exact Description of Most of the Cities, Towns, and Remarkable Places of Europe, Together with a Distinct Account of the Post-Roads and Stages, with Their Respective Distances Through Holland, Flanders ... Likewise Directions Relating to the Manner and Expence of Travelling ... : As also, Occasional Remarks on the Present State of Trade ...*](#) London: Printed for S. Birt, in Ave-Mary-Lane; D. Browne, without Temple-Bar; A. Millar, in the Strand; and G. Hawkins in Fleetstreet, MDCCXLIX [1749]. 4 volumes. (LWL 81 749 N89).

This set of four volumes, each covering the Netherlands, Germany, Italy, and France respectively, is reputedly the first such comprehensive guide for young English gentlemen taking the Grand Tour through Europe in the mid-eighteenth century, an important and influential experience of social and cultural education. Walpole and his friend and schoolmate Thomas Gray went on the Grand Tour a decade before the publication of this guide, so they could not benefit from the useful and practical details it contains. These include roads and distances between towns, terrain, sightseeing recommendations, history, religion, governance,

characterization of the citizens, and more. It also includes advice on staying safe. For example, "A traveler should be very cautious of pulling out money or valuable things before strange company on the road or in public inns; almost all the robberies and murders that are committed on passengers, are occasioned by such imprudences." (vol. 3, p. 61). This is the first physical copy of this title to be held at Yale. Accounts of experiences on the grand tour have for some time been of interest to a number of our researchers, and this addition to the collection enriches our holdings which already include several Grand Tour diaries.

Four playbills announcing performances at London's renowned Covent Garden Theatre *Covent Garden Theatre. 1753, 1755-56.*

1. [*At the Theatre Royal in Covent-Garden, This Present Saturday, Being the 7th of April, Will Be Presented a Tragedy, Call'd The Seige of Damascus ... : the Part of Phocyas To Be Perform'd by Mr. Barry, Eumenes by Mr. Ryan ... and the Part of Eudocia to be perform'd by Mrs. Cibber ...*](#) London: The Theatre, 1753. (LWL File 767 P69B C838 1753).
2. [*Theatre Royal in Covent-Garden, This Present Thursday, Being the 24th of April, Will Be Presented a Comedy, Call'd Love for Love: Valentine by Mr. Smith ... To Which Will Be Added a Burlesque Opera, Call'd The Dragon of Wantley. The Part of Moore of Moore-Hall by Mr. Lowe ...*](#) London: The Theatre, 1755. (LWL File 767 P69B C838 1755 4/24).
3. [*Theatre Royal in Covent-Garden, This Present Tuesday, Being the 10th of February, The Rival Queens, or The Death of Alexander the Great: Alexander by Mr. Barry ... Starira by Mrs. Bellamy, Roxanna by Mrs. Woffington ... In Which Will Be Introduc'd the Triumphal Entry of Alexander into Babylon with Dancing by Mr. Granier, Miss Hilliard, &c To Which Will Be Added a Farce, Call'd The Virgin Unmask'd ...*](#) London: The Theatre, 1756. (LWL File 767 P69B C838 1756).
4. [*For the Benefit of Mr. Clarke, at the Theatre Royal in Covent-Garden, on Thursday Next, Being the 29th of April, Will Be Reviv'd a Tragedy, Call'd Alzira: Zamor by Mr. Clarke, ... Alvarez by Mr. Sparks, Carlos by Mr. Dyer ... To Which Will Be Added a Farce \(Not Acted These Ten Years\) Called Duke and No Duke...*](#) London: The Theatre, 1756. (File 767 P69B C838 1756 4/29)

Horace Walpole, an enthusiastic theatre-goer, frequented the Theatre Royal. His letters feature numerous references to well-known actors, among them Spranger Barry (1717-1777), George Anne Bellamy (1731-1788), Susannah Maria Cibber (1714-1766), William Smith (1730-1819), and Peg Woffington (1720-1760), performing in contemporary and revival plays, including the *The Siege of Damascus*, *The Devil to Pay*, *Love for Love*, *The Rival Queens*, *Alzira*, and *Duke and No Duke*, among others. These playbills from the mid-1750s are among the earliest examples in the Library's already-strong eighteenth- and early nineteenth-century British theatrical ephemera collection, all of which is now digitized and catalogued.

Cries of London

[*The Cries of London, as They Are Daily Exhibited in the Streets: with an Epigram in Verse, Adapted to Each. Embellished with Sixty-Two Elegant Cuts. To Which is Added, a Description of the Metropolis in*](#)

[Verse](#). London: Printed for F. Newbery, at the corner of St. Paul's Church-Yard, 1775. (LWL 646 775 N534).

[Sam Syntax's Description of the Cries of London: as They are Daily Exhibited in the Streets; with Appropriate Engravings](#). London: John Harris, St. Paul's Church-Yard, 1835. (LWL In process).

The Library has been developing its collection of “Cries” or prints showing street vendors hawking their wares since the Lewis years. The longevity of the street cries theme is in itself interesting as it dates back to medieval times. The Library’s holdings reflect the popularity of the form throughout the eighteenth and into the nineteenth centuries. These two additions to the collection, from 1775 and 1835 respectively, demonstrate not only the evolving nature of the cries but also the changing market for material illustrating these figures. Of additional interest are the fact that the 1775 edition is still in unbound sheets, the 1835 edition is still in its original blue paper wrappers, and the publisher Harris’s shop can be seen in the background of one of the scenes. As a whole, the “Cries” illuminate the wide variety of goods and services offered by working class inhabitants in the metropole, and provide glimpses into the lives and dress of these individuals. At least one of our recent Fellows found depictions of working mothers among the Cries useful material for her research project.

[Bills of Entry Recording Exports from the Port of Bristol During 1816](#)
Bristol, England, 1816. 48 items. (LWL In process).

Printed handbills detailing exports from provincial ports are rare survivals. Listing the names of ships, their masters and owners, as well as their destinations and the inventory of exported goods, they provide details of commerce between England and Europe and the transatlantic world. Among the cargos listed here are various cooking utensils, preserved foods, ironware, farming equipment, tools, and medicines needed to support the plantations of the West Indies.

Manuscript and Archival Collections

William Tooke, William, 1744-1820. [Tooke Family Album of Unpublished Correspondence and Commonplace Manuscripts](#). St. Petersburg and London, bulk 1773-1811. 1 volume, (approximately 200 pages). (LWL In-process).

William Tooke (1744-1820) was an historian of Russia and chaplain to the factory church of the Russia Company at St Petersburg, where he resided with his family for two decades, during which he wrote letters to friends in England and contributed pieces to English periodicals. Upon his return to England he published translations of histories of Catherine the Great and of Russia itself. This manuscript album contains around 30 letters between members of the Tooke family (14 of which were written while the family was living in Russia) as well as two commonplace manuscripts, a large fragment of an apparently unpublished play, and a broadside regarding the sale of Mrs. Tooke’s family property. The bulk of the material dates to the last quarter of the eighteenth century and first decade of the nineteenth. The volume complements 18th century editions of works by Tooke already held, and has already attracted the attention of a member of the Yale faculty who observed “*I can imagine graduate students making good use of [this*

material], and I would like to see them myself at some point. It's good that you have some letters from Tooke's family as well as his. Historians don't usually pay much attention to the families in such cases, but I once wrote a short piece on one of the US ambassadors to Russia who had interesting comments on the politics of the 1820's. I found his daughter's diary of social engagements and his wife's letters to her sisters to be extremely informative. From the description it seems that we have another such case here."

Prints and Drawings

Mason, James (approximately 1723-1805), after Dominic Serres (1722-1793). [To Mariot Arbuthnot Esqr., Commander of His Majesty's Ship of War Orford, at the Reduction of the Havannah in the Year 1762, this Perspective View of ...](#), London: J. Bowles, 1766. Engraving. (LWL Drawer 762.00.00.54+).

The Serres family were prominent artists in the depiction of naval scenes. This view of Havana harbor, with the HMS Orford at anchor, was issued with eleven other plates and four pages of text as part of *Britannia's Triumph in the Year 1762*. It is a fitting addition to the library's collection in support of new attention to topographical views and as a complement to various manuscript collections describing British naval activity in the attack and conquest of Havana under Admiral George Pocock, Lord Albemarle and others. Finally, Caribbean materials are receiving increased scholarly attention.

White, George (approximately 1684-1732), after James Thornhill (1675 or 1676 – 1734). [John Sheppard](#). Published by T. Bowles in St. Pauls Churchyard, ca. 1724. Mezzotint, [state 5]. (LWL 724.00.00.01+).

The infamous highwayman and thief, John Sheppard, known as Jack, is depicted seated three-quarter length in a prison cell with hands in chains. He wears a plain coat and necktie, his hair cut short. He made repeated prison escapes before his execution. Sheppard's exploits inspired pamphlets, ballads, engravings, and plays. The acquisition of this portrait augments the library's holdings relating to portrayals of criminals, one of the categories of collectible portraits established in James Granger's *Biographical History of England* (1769).

Artist Unknown. [James Maclean, the Gentleman Highwayman at the Bar](#). Printed for T. Fox in the Old Baily, 1750. Etching with letterpress. (LWL In process).

The famous highwayman James Maclean (1724-1750) robbed Horace Walpole of a gold watch in 1749. He held up the Salisbury Coach at Turnham Green, 26 June 1750 wearing a Venetian mask as disguise. This Hogarthian broadside illustration of his trial at the bar recalls the scene of the trial of Tom Idle from Hogarth's series *Industry and Idleness*.

Nicholls, Sutton. *The English General Eternized*. [London] : [Sutton Nicholls], [1706]. Etching & engraving with full original water color. (LWL In process).

This rare print is not in the British Museum, nor has any other impression been identified. It is a fine example of an early trompe-l'oeil medley print. As such it augments the library's holdings of other fine examples of medley prints by George Bickham, the elder. The coloring is a fine example of original coloring. The images represented in this medley celebrate the military campaigns of John Churchill, First Duke of Marlborough, during the War of Spanish Succession, including the Battle of Blenheim, August 13, 1704, as noted on the broadside image at the bottom left of the collected prints.

Henry William Burgess (approximately 1792-1844). [*Six Drawings by H.W. Burgess Presented to his Much Esteemed Pupil Miss Bell*](#). (LWL Folio 633 817 B955).

In keeping with Horace Walpole's strong interest in amateur artists as well as his own artistic practices, the library continues to collect material by amateur artists and those who tutored them. While Miss Bell is unidentified, William Henry Burgess (circa 1792-1844) was landscape painter to William IV and the teacher of John Leech and Thackeray. The album includes seven pencil sketches, mounted with a neat ink borders. beginning with a title page. The six drawings following are [imaginary topographical subjects](#) including castles, gates, and ecclesiastical buildings, in ruins, enveloped in trees and foliage, from the vantage point of a river or along the roadside.

Smith, John Raphael, 1752-1812, after George Romney, 1734-1802. [*Mrs. Robinson. London, J. R. Smith, 25 August 25, 1781*](#). Mezzotint [state 1]. (LWL Portraits R65 no.1+).

This beautiful mezzotint portrait depicts the author and actress Mary Robinson, known as "Perdita." Mrs. Robinson appears caricatured in numerous political satires in the library's collection, most notably for her relationship with George IV, Prince of Wales.