

ILLUMINATING THE WORLD

FOUR CENTURIES OF SCIENTIFIC INNOVATION



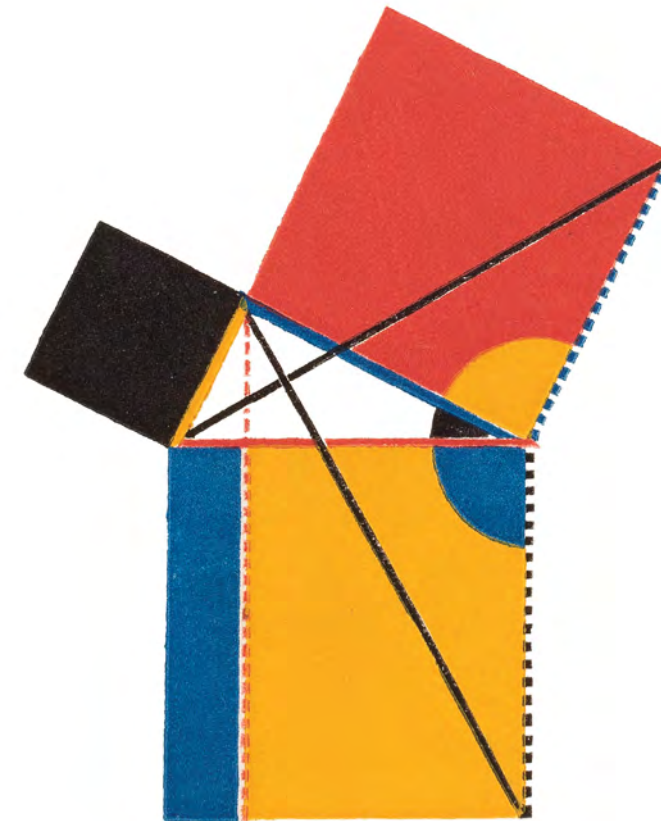
BORIS JARDINE | RARE BOOKS

with

JULIAN WILSON
RARE BOOKS

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WELCOME TO our first collaborative catalogue, showcasing four centuries of scientific innovation, featuring 36 landmark texts, maps, and artefacts that illuminate the remarkable creativity and ingenuity of modern science.

This catalogue offers a rare opportunity to acquire important items such as Charles Darwin discussing the classification of barnacles in a letter to marine biologist Henry Lee, Marie Tharp’s groundbreaking contributions to Plate Tectonics, James Hutton’s foundational ‘Theory of the Earth’, Srinivasa Ramanujan’s elegant number theory papers, and Andrew Wiles’ celebrated solution to Fermat’s Last Theorem.

If there is a leitmotif to the collection, it is the ‘art of science’: highlights include three masterpieces of nineteenth-century graphic design, namely Byrne’s Euclid, Youmans’ *Chemical Atlas*, and Quin’s *Historical Atlas*, alongside which sit Émile Blanchard’s exquisite botanical and entomological illustrations. We are also offering four wonderful geological maps, their beautiful colours revealing the hidden structures of our world, while Hooke’s paper on the micrometer features some ingenious ‘paper engineering’.

Other pivotal scientific documents offered here include Babbage’s original Difference Engine proposal, the earliest discussion of Gregor Mendel’s Laws of Inheritance, Max Born’s classic work on atomic structure annotated by Douglas Hartree, Cantor’s first publication on the ‘Continuum Hypothesis’, and the landmark 1953 *Nature* issue containing papers by Crick, Watson, Franklin, and Wilkins unveiling the structure of DNA.

Each item in this collection not only represents a milestone in scientific thought but also exemplifies the art and craft of scientific communication. We invite you to explore and acquire these rare and inspiring pieces that have shaped our understanding of the natural world and the universe beyond.

Boris Jardine & Julian Wilson
May 2025

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Rear cover: No. 27

Inside covers: No. 17

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BABBAGE, Charles (1791–1871)

Mr. Babbage’s Invention. Copies of the Correspondence Between the Lords Commissioners of His Majesty’s Treasury and the President and Council of the Royal Society, relative to an Invention of Mr. Babbage [INCLUDING:] Letter to Sir Humphry Davy, Bart. [...] on the Application of Machinery to the Purpose of Calculating and Printing Mathematical Tables

London: House of Commons, 1823

Folio (309 x 202mm); pp. [1]–6, docket title to leaf B2 verso; Sig: A–B²

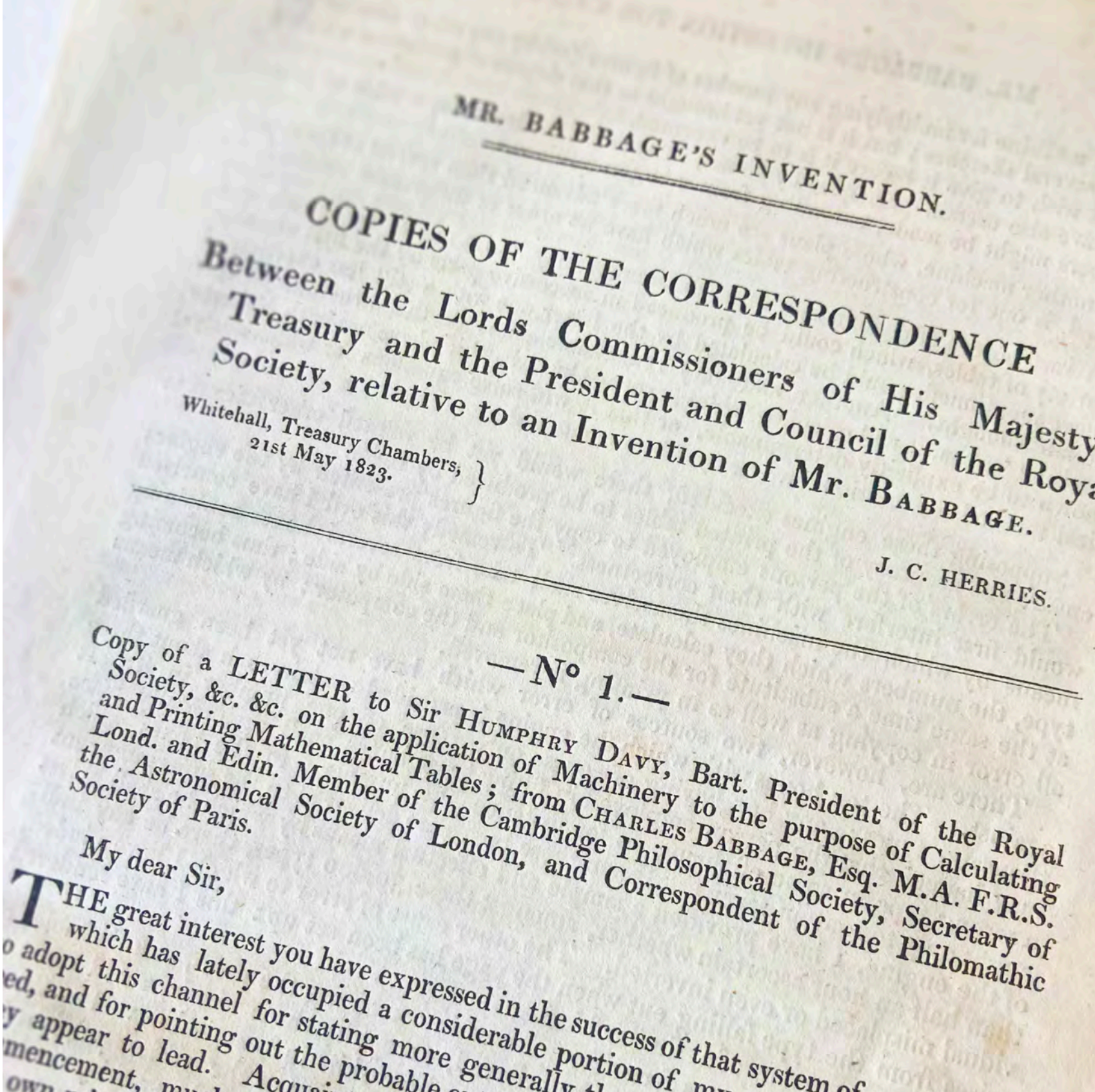
Stab-stitched; spine reinforced with archival grade Japanese paper; near fine condition, housed in a custom made drop-leaf folder

References: Origins of Cyberspace 29 (for the separate printing of the *Letter to Sir Humphry Davy*)

THE BIRTH OF AUTOMATIC COMPUTING. The presentation to the British government of Charles Babbage’s case for funding for his ‘Difference Engine’, with the Royal Society’s assent and the government’s favourable response. This elegant, separately paginated and stab-stitched production, with the docket title to the final leaf (see image, below), contains Babbage’s celebrated letter to Humphry Davy, as well as supplementary material that resulted in the government’s remarkable grant of £1,500 (a fraction of the eventual cost). Only one other copy is recorded worldwide, at the University of Illinois.

Although many calculating machines predate Babbage’s Difference Engine (see Cat. No. 22), the Engine marks a decisive break: Babbage wanted not only to mechanize calculation, but to automate it. Specifically he wanted to automate the compilation and printing of astronomical and other mathematical tables. The present document marks the moment when Babbage’s Difference Engine went from an inventor’s dream to a reality – albeit one only ever partially completed.

Babbage had created a model of his Difference Engine in the early 1820s, but he knew that only with public support could he create a fully operational machine. To this end he wrote his famous open letter to Humphry Davy, then President of the Royal Society and probably the most renowned scientist in the land, giving extensive detail of the project. With Davy’s backing, the Royal Society’s response was given: a grant to Babbage was made, and production began in earnest.



2.

EXQUISITE BOTANY AND ENTOMOLOGY

BLANCHARD, Émile (1819–1900)

La Zoologie agricole: ouvrage comprenant l'histoire entière des animaux nuisibles et des animaux utiles

Paris: Victor Masson, for the Bureau de la Zoologie agricole, 1854–56

Quarto (334 x 230mm); 15 fascicles in original wraps, continuously paginated to p. 192, with a total of 28 plates, (15)

Very good condition: the first wrap is age-darkened; all wraps somewhat chipped; internally near fine throughout

References: d'Aguilar, *Les illustrations entomologiques*, p. 21

ONE OF THE 19TH-CENTURY'S GREAT WORKS of botanical and entomological illustration. Émile Blanchard (1819–1900) rose from the position of préparateur – begun at the age of 14 – to become, in the words of his *Nature* obituary, the 'doyen' of French zoologists and a Professor at the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle. Blanchard's fame rested on an unusual fact: he possessed extraordinary powers of unaided visual perception – working on minute subjects that others would have examined with microscopes. Shortly after the completion of the present work his eyesight began to fail, lending extreme pathos to the last years of his career.

Zoologie agricole is Blanchard's study of the damage done by particular insects to crop plants and ornamental flowers, with plates after original illustrations by his father, the illustrator Émile-Théophile Blanchard (1795–1877). It is one of the finest works of nineteenth century scientific illustration – though from its complex bibliography we can surmise that the production was too ambitious ever to be completed. The plates (as always) are out of sequence; the text (as always) ends abruptly on p. 192; the final fascicle is almost entirely plates, two of which remain uncoloured. Moreover, no two copies are identical. The copy at the Bibliothèque nationale de France has only 20 plates. The UK Natural History Museum's catalogue states that only 21 plates were published. The present copy, however, has 28 plates, the same number as the copy at the Royal Danish Library. We can locate no other similar copies. The work is very scarce in any format, and in this condition, level of completeness and preserving the original fascicle format, we are confident that this is the finest surviving example.



BLOMBERG, Albert (1844–1922)

Om hybridbildning hos de fanerogama växterna

Stockholm: P. A. Nymans Tryckeri, 1872

Octavo (240 x 139mm); pp. 41

Academic thesis issued in self-wraps; bound with another shorter work on botany in later brick-red cloth with gilt title to the spine; ownership signature to the front free endpaper

Provenance: Arne H. Holmqvist (20th-century Swedish botanist)

References: Orel, 'The enigma of hybrid constancy in Mendel's *Pisum* paper perceived by Albert Blomberg in 1872'



MENDELIAN INHERITANCE

THE EARLIEST RECORDED discussion of Gregor Mendel's Laws of Inheritance. In 1865 Mendel had published his famous paper 'Versuche über Pflanzen-Hybriden', describing his experiments with pea plants (mostly *Pisum sativum*), in which he showed that traits are inherited as discrete units, and established the famous 1:2:1 ratio of variation. The standard account is that these results were entirely forgotten until 1900, when a group of papers constituted the 'rediscovery' of Mendel and the true origin of Mendelianism.

Extensive bibliographic research has revealed a more complicated situation: in 1869 Hermann Hoffmann referred briefly to Mendel, but did not discuss his Laws of Inheritance, merely mentioning the work and reporting briefly on the results. Then in 1872 the present work appeared, a dissertation by a little known Uppsala student botanist Albert Blomberg, the title of which translates as *On Hybrid Formation in Phanerogamous Species*. Blomberg's thesis is really a literature review of recent work on hybridization, and he cites Mendel a number of times, writing on page 37 that

Mendel supposes that two kinds of characters are transmitted to the hybrid when it is formed: 'dominant' are those which in the first generation determine the appearance of the hybrid, and 'recessive' those which in the beginning are latent.

In addition to this specific reference to Mendel's breakthrough discovery, Blomberg also gives a careful account of Mendel's thinking on the constancy of hybrids. That Mendel would be known in Uppsala is perhaps explained by the presence there of the mycologist Elias Fries, who was an expert on *Hieracium* – the other main genus studies by Mendel after *Pisum*.

As a student thesis this text is predictably rare – in fact the reference to Mendel was only noticed in 1915. Two copies can be located in the UK, at Kew and the Natural History Museum. Only one copy can be located outside Europe, at the Center for Research Libraries, Chicago IL.

OM HYBRIDBILDNING

HOS DE FANEROGAMA VÄXTERNA.

AKADEMISK AFHANDLING

SOM MED VIDTBERÖMDA FILOSOFISKA FAKULTETENS I UPSALA SAMTYCKE

FÖR DEN FILOSOFISKA GRADENS ERHÅLLANDE

TILL OFFENTLIG GRANSKNING FRAMSTÄLLES

AF

ALBERT BLOMBERG,

FIL. KAND. AF SÖDERMANLANDS OCH NERIKES NATION.

PÅ BOTANISKA LÄROSALEN TORSDAGEN DEN 23 MAJ 1872,

KL. 4 E. M.

STOCKHOLM,

P. A. NYMANS TRYCKERI.
1872.

4.

BORN, Max (1882–1970)

**Vorlesungen über
Atommechanik**

Berlin: Julius Springer, 1925

Octavo (209 x 145mm),
softcover; pp. ix, 358

Fair condition: binding frail
and edges chipped; housed in
a custom clamshell box

Provenance: Douglas Rayner
Hartree (1897–1958),
physicist and computer
pioneer

References: Giulini, 'Max
Born's Vorlesungen über
Atommechanik, Erster Band'



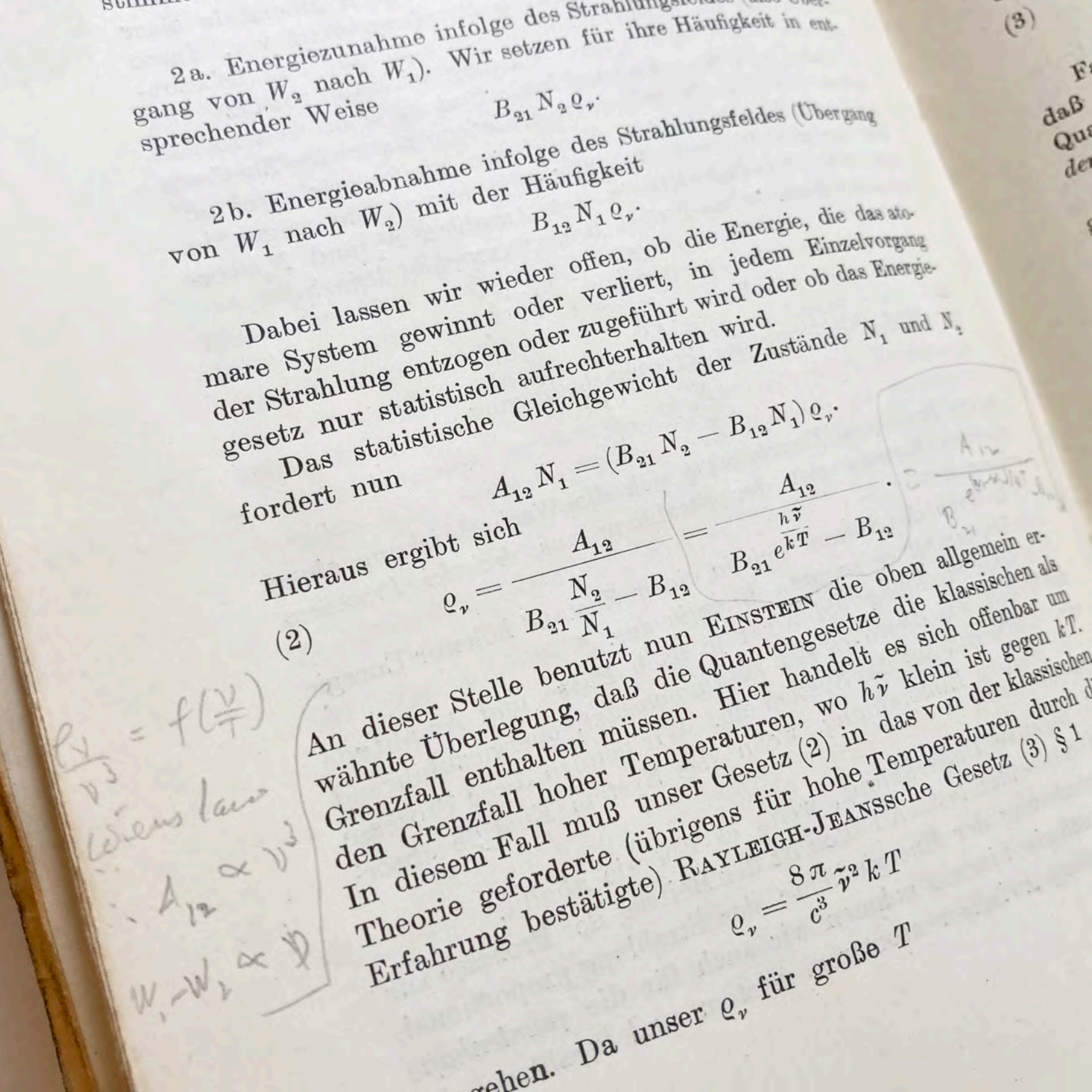
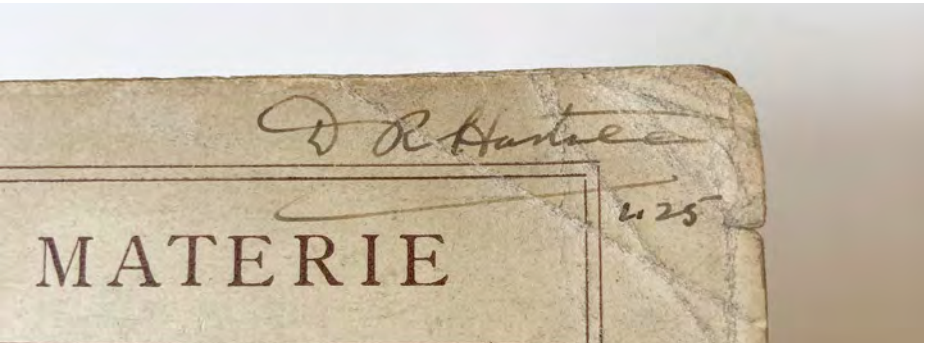
BORN'S QUANTUM MECHANICS: EDITOR'S COPY

AN IMPORTANT COPY of Max Born's classic work on atomic structure: physicist Douglas Rayner Hartree's working copy, acquired by him in the year of publication and extensively used in his editorial work for the English publication, in 1927, as *The Mechanics of the Atom*.

Hartree (1897–1958) is now more famous for his very early contributions to the history of computing. But in fact his physics and work on computing are closely connected. Around the time he acquired and annotated this book he was working on Bohr's model of the atom, using his skill in numerical analysis to complete a PhD in 1926.

The book itself would have been crucial to Hartree: it was a state-of-the-art summary of the 'Bohr-Sommerfeld quantization' – Sommerfeld's improvement on Bohr's fundamental contribution to atomic theory in the 1910s. Hartree therefore was a natural choice to act as editor, and as evidenced from the marginalia he worked with Max Born in the preparation of the English version, though the translation itself was undertaken by J.W. Fisher.

The text is extensively annotated by Hartree, with corrections, additions and marginal notes, many of which resulted in changes to the text for the English version. The English version, then, is more than a simple translation – it is a revised version, with the marginal notes here constituting a unique record of Hartree's process of revision. Even in biographical material on Hartree there is little mention made of this work – the full study of which awaits its historian.



CANTOR, Georg (1845–1918)

‘Ein Beitrag zur Mannigfaltigkeitslehre’

[IN:] *Journal für die reine und angewandte Mathematik*, Vol. 84

Berlin: G. Reimer, 1877

Quarto (280 x 220mm); pp. iv, 359 (Cantor at pp. 242–258)

Whole volume in contemporary cloth binding; minimal ex-library markings. Very good condition faint foxing to prelims but otherwise very good internally

References: Grattan-Guinness, *From the Calculus to Set Theory*, pp. 197ff.

THE FIRST PUBLICATION of ‘the Continuum Hypothesis’, one of the most profound statements about the nature of infinity, and a foundational work in Set Theory.

The Hypothesis states that: *There is no set whose cardinality is strictly between that of the integers and the real numbers.*

With this idea Cantor was attempting to resolve a fundamental question about the new kinds of infinity that his revolutionary Set Theory generated. The integers make up what we might call an intuitive infinity; Cantor, with his diagonal argument, had shown that the infinite set of real numbers was *bigger* than that of the integers – so how were these two orders of infinity related? The Continuum Hypothesis suggests that the two orders are contiguous, that another order of infinity cannot be interpolated between them.

David Hilbert was so impressed with this idea that he made its proof or disproof the first of his famous 23 problems in 1900. A few decades later Gödel showed that the Continuum Hypothesis was consistent with the axioms of Set Theory, i.e. it could not be *disproved* with the mathematical tools then available. But, astonishingly, Paul Cohen later showed that the Continuum Hypothesis could not be *proved* either – work that won him the Fields Medal in 1966. So the Continuum Hypothesis lies outside of the known world of mathematics.

At the deepest level the Continuum Hypothesis poses a question about the nature of mathematical reasoning itself: can there be a problem to which there simply is no answer? Cohen believed so: the Continuum Hypothesis is unanswerable, so one could assume it was true or untrue and each would lead to a rigorous though independent mathematics. Gödel, meanwhile, believed that the failure to resolve the Continuum Hypothesis just showed the paucity of the methods employed. Research into the Continuum Hypothesis continues to this day, and has resulted in many breakthroughs in Set Theory in the last century and a half.

Ein Beitrag zur Mannigfaltigkeitslehre.

(Von Herrn G. Cantor in Halle.)

Wenn zwei wohldefinirte Mannigfaltigkeiten M und N sich eindeutig und vollständig, Element für Element, einander zuordnen lassen (was, wenn es auf eine Art möglich ist, immer auch noch auf viele andere Weisen geschehen kann), so möge für das Folgende die Ausdrucksweise gestattet sein, dass diese Mannigfaltigkeiten *gleiche Mächtigkeit* haben, oder auch, dass sie *äquivalent* sind. Unter einem *Bestandtheil* einer Mannigfaltigkeit M verstehen wir jede andere Mannigfaltigkeit M' , deren Elemente zugleich Elemente von M sind. Sind die beiden Mannigfaltigkeiten M und N nicht von gleicher Mächtigkeit, so wird entweder M mit einem Bestandtheile von N oder es wird N mit einem Bestandtheile von M gleiche Mächtigkeit haben; im ersteren Falle nennen wir die Mächtigkeit von M kleiner, im zweiten Falle nennen wir sie grösser als die Mächtigkeit von N . Wenn die zu betrachtenden Mannigfaltigkeiten endlichlichen Anzahl von Elementen bestehende, und wenn der Begriff der Mächtigkeit in diesen Mannigfaltigkeiten endlich und positiv ist, so ist die Mächtigkeit eine natürliche Zahl.

THE STRUCTURE OF DNA

CRICK, Francis (1916–2004); FRANKLIN, Rosalind (1920–1958); WATSON, James D. (b.1928); WILKINS, Maurice (1916–2004)

‘A Structure for Deoxyribose Nucleic Acid’ [WITH:] ‘Molecular Structure of Deoxypentose Nucleic Acids’ [WITH:] ‘Molecular Configuration in Sodium Thymonucleate’

[IN:] *Nature*, Vol. 171, No. 4356
London: Macmillan, 1953

Large octavo (255 x 180mm); pp. cclxx–cclxxviii, [709]–732, i–xii [supplement], 733–758, cclxxix–cclxxvi

Single issue in self wraps as issued. Near fine condition; lower staple very slightly rusting; discreet library stamps

Provenance: Cheshire Joint Sanatorium, received on the day of publication

References: Dibner, *Heralds of Science*, 200. Garrison-Morton 256.3; Judson, *Eighth Day of Creation*

A LANDMARK IN THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE, and one of a handful of the most important (sets of) scientific papers ever published. Crick and Watson announce their double-helical structure for DNA; Franklin and Gosling present ‘Photo 51’; Wilkins publishes the paper that will place him alongside Crick and Watson for the 1962 Nobel Prize (with Franklin having died in 1958).

The longer story of DNA goes back to the 1860s, and the discovery of ‘nuclein’ by the Swiss physiological chemist Friedrich Miescher. The chemical composition of what came to be called deoxyribonucleic acid was worked out in the early 20th century. Around the same time, new innovations in x-ray crystallography led to the idea of understanding the physical structure of biomolecules.

In 1944 a paper was published by Oswald Avery and his colleagues at Rockefeller University showing that hereditary units, or genes, are composed of DNA. Inspired by this, Erwin Chargaff established his famous ‘rules’ that govern the ratios of the different nucleic acids.

By the early 1950s a number of research teams – at Cambridge and King’s College London – were close to solving exact arrangement in space the DNA molecule. Notoriously, Jim Watson was given a glimpse of Franklin’s work by Maurice Wilkins, and this proved to be the final piece of the puzzle: on 25 April 1953 *Nature* published three papers in issue No. 4356, with Crick and Watson claiming the ‘prize’ of discovery, and the two King’s teams represented by their complementary papers – Franklin’s including one of the most famous scientific images ever printed, ‘Photo 51’.

Far from being the end of the race, however, this marked just the start of a revolution in molecular biology. As Crick and Watson wryly commented at the end of their paper:

It has not escaped our notice that the specific pairing we have postulated immediately suggests a possible copying mechanism for the genetic material.

The 1962 Nobel Prize honoured two of the teams – Crick and Watson’s, and Wilkins’ – and subsequent historians have rightly placed Rosalind Franklin and her colleagues back at the heart of the story.



DARWIN: A FINE SCIENTIFIC LETTER

DARWIN, Charles (1809–1882)

Autograph Letter Signed ('Ch. Darwin'), to Henry Lee, on barnacles and their classification

23 December 1871, Down House, Kent

201 x 125mm; 2 leaves, retaining the original envelope, addressed in Darwin's hand; stamped at Down and Beckenham on 23 December and at Croydon on 24 December

Loose leaves, housed in a custom-made drop-leaf cloth-bound folder with leather spine, gilt title, and inset photograph of Charles Darwin. Fine condition; envelope a little worn and marked

Provenance: Kenneth W. Rendell; Rick Watson

References: Darwin Correspondence Project, Letter no. 8086A; *The Correspondence of Charles Darwin* Volume 19; Stott, *Darwin and the Barnacle*

CHARLES DARWIN CLASSIFYING BARNACLES. An attractive and revealing letter from Darwin, writing to the marine biologist Henry Lee (1826–1888), author of *Sea Monsters Unmasked* (1883). Here Darwin identifies two groups of barnacle specimens, telling Lee that both are *Lepas anatifera*, the pelagic gooseneck barnacle or smooth gooseneck barnacle. Darwin gives intricate details of the dissections he has conducted:

I have disarticulated the right-hand scutal valve in both & the umbonal teeth are plain in both

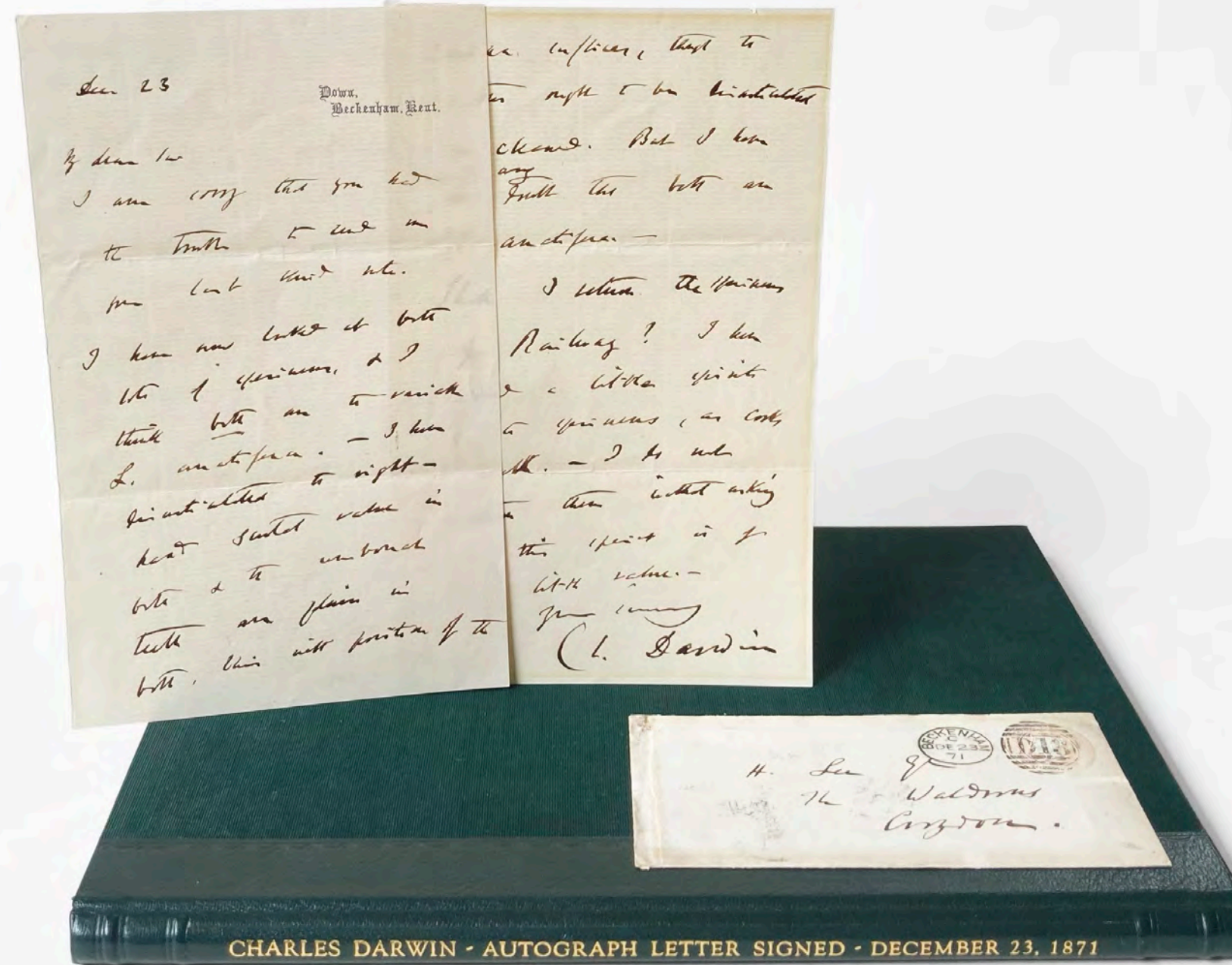
These are the diagnostic anatomical features that Darwin himself had identified in his *Living Cirripedia* (1851). Darwin goes on to discuss other minutiae of classification and offers to return the specimens by railway, adding 'I have added a little spirits to the specimens, as corks leak.'

Darwin's interest in this particular species was profound. While composing *Living Cirripedia* he had trained himself in microscopy and, especially, fine dissection. The *Lepas* genus had given Darwin a particular challenge, leading to reflection on the nature of speciation and the 'tree of life'.

More broadly, the barnacle work was important for Darwin for two reasons: first, it established him as a naturalist, rather than a geologist (as he had previously attempted to become), and, second, it allowed him to build up an exceptionally detailed knowledge of one single area of the natural world.

By the time of this letter Darwin was in his scientific prime. Where he had previously sought the advice of others on classification, he was now an acknowledged master, consulted by scientists like Lee, who had first contacted Darwin in 1868. A discussion over barnacle classification ensued and Lee sent the specimens referred to here. Testament to Darwin's diligence, the letter was composed just before Christmas, when family matters must surely have been pressing.

Unusually, the letter retains the envelope, personally addressed by Darwin himself, postmarked at Down and Beckenham, 23 December 1871, received at Croydon a day later.



8. THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES: THE KEY REVIEW

DARWIN, Charles (1809–1882) – ANON. [but, OWEN, Richard (1804–1892)]

Review by Richard Owen of Darwin’s On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection

[IN:] *The Edinburgh Review or Critical Journal*, Vol. cxi

Edinburgh: Longman, Green, Longman, and Roberts; London: Adam and Charles Black, 1860

Octavo (214 x 135mm); Owen at pp. 487–532

Contemporary half calf over purple textured boards (extremities lightly rubbed); a fine, clean copy with only some very faint insignificant spotting on last 2 leaves

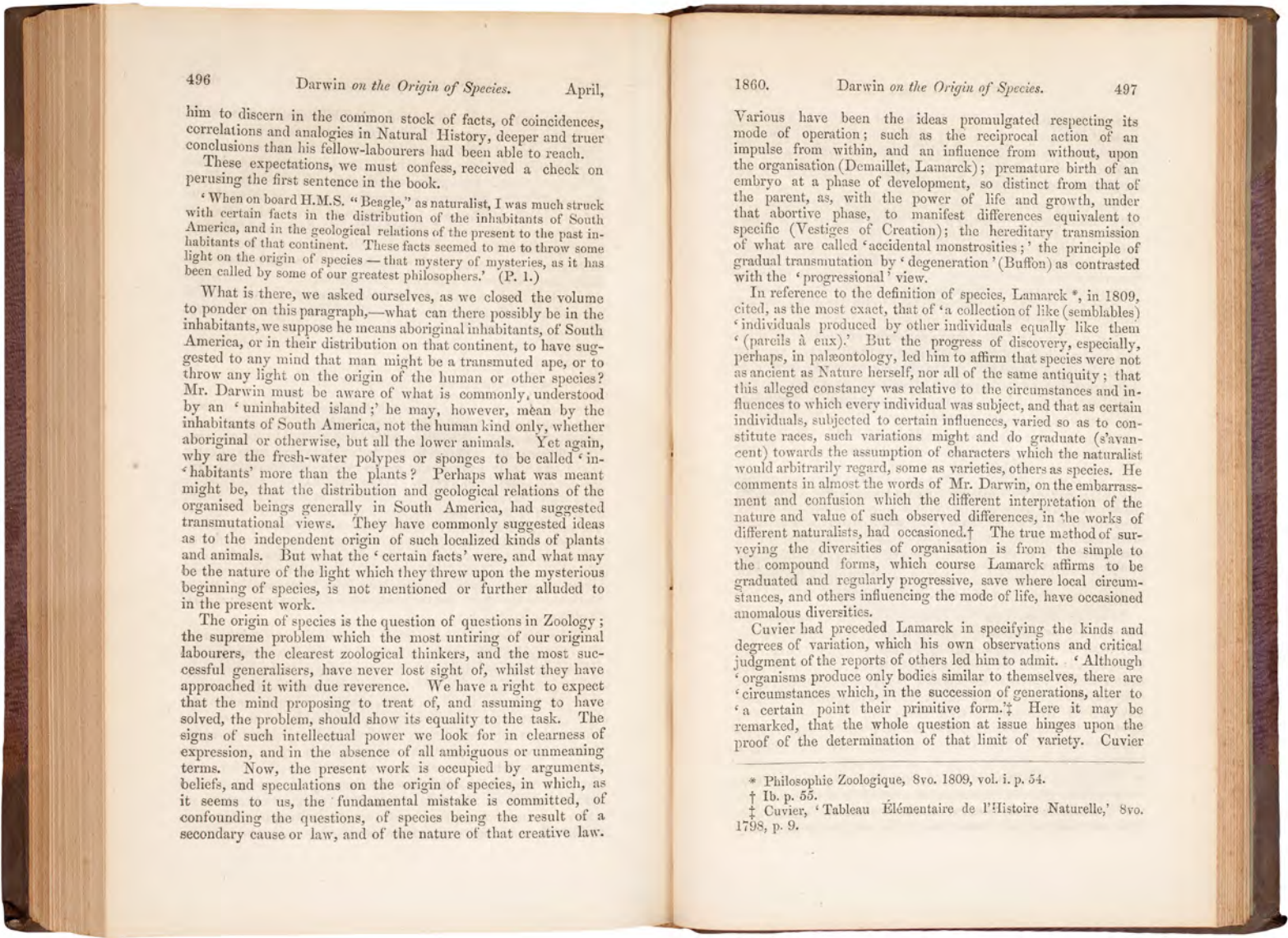


THE REVIEW THAT SHAPED all future public discourse about Darwinism. Richard Owen was the leading British biologist and anatomist of his time, and his opinion carried significant weight in Victorian Britain. Although submitted anonymously, this review of Darwin’s work – in Freeman’s words, ‘The most important biological book ever written’ – was widely read by both scientists and the educated public, and informed reaction. Although Owen acknowledged some of Darwin’s research as ‘gems’ (p. 494), particularly regarding his work on bees and pigeons – he was fundamentally critical of Darwin’s mechanism of natural selection and the speculative nature of Darwin’s broader claims. Owen argued that Darwin’s work left the question of the origin of species ‘very nearly where the author found it’ (p. 494), suggesting that Darwin had not provided a satisfactory explanation for the origin or diversification of life.

Owen vacillated between accepting some form of evolution (as long as it fit within his own framework of ‘archetypes’ and divine design) and rejecting Darwin’s specific mechanism of natural selection. He believed in evolutionary change but attributed it to ‘secondary causes’ under divine guidance, rather than to natural selection as a blind, material process. This put him at odds with Darwin’s naturalistic explanation and made his review a focal point in the broader debate between creationist and evolutionary interpretations of nature.

Thus, Owen’s review marked the beginning of a public and personal rift between him and Darwin, which escalated into a long-standing scientific and personal rivalry. Owen not only criticized Darwin’s theory but later attempted to claim priority for aspects of evolutionary theory himself, leading Darwin to respond in later editions of the *Origin* and in his ‘Historical Sketch’.

Perhaps more importantly, the review contributed to the polarization of opinion both within the scientific community, as well as in the public sphere. Owen’s stature lent credibility to anti-Darwinian arguments, while also prompting Darwin’s supporters, such as T.H. Huxley, to defend and clarify the new theory, most famously in the 1860 Oxford evolution debate.



EDDINGTON, Sir Arthur Stanley (1882–1944);
DYSON, Sir Frank Watson (1868–1939)

Stereo diapositive image of the 1919 full solar eclipse, observations of which were used to confirm Einstein’s Theory of General Relativity

90 x 170mm

Two glass transparencies loosely mounted on a clear glass plate; plates in fine condition; mount worn and fragile

References: F.W. Dyson, ‘Drawings of the Corona from Photographs at Total Eclipses’; L.A. Bauer, *Résumé of Observations concerning the Solar Eclipse of May 29, 1919, and the Einstein Effect*, *Science*



A UNIQUE STEREOVIEW OF THE 1919 ECLIPSE

AN EXCEPTIONAL SURVIVAL: the sole recorded stereoview of the famous 1919 eclipse, produced as part of the famous ‘Eddington experiment’, which offered the first experimental proof of Einstein’s theory of General Relativity.

In May 1919 a team of observers led by Arthur Eddington and Frank Watson Dyson conducted observations of a total solar eclipse, from stations at Sobral in Brazil (Charles Davidson and Andrew Crommelin) and at Príncipe, off the West Coast of Africa (Eddington, with Edwin Turner Cottingham). Dyson remained in Europe to co-ordinate the operation, and was later responsible for analysing the data. The team’s aim was to measure the deflection of star-light by the gravitational mass of the Sun – a phenomenon predicted by Einstein but only visible during eclipse conditions.

Close study of the images has revealed that the two images that make up this stereoview match published photographs taken at both locations just before midnight. It is almost certain that both images are from the set of observations made at Príncipe, as these were considered the superior observations, and the photographs made there had shorter exposures and are therefore much sharper.

Astronomical stereoviews were typically made from time-series (rather than being made from simultaneous photographs at different locations), and this is likely the case for the present stereoview. Although it is known that Eddington developed photographs immediately at Príncipe in order to measure the stellar positions, we propose that this stereoview was made by (or under the direction of) Dyson back at Greenwich, for it was Dyson who maintained an interest in solar phenomena separate to the Relativity studies. Further archival research may shed further light on the purpose of the stereoview: no published version or discussion is known.

The stereoview dramatically shows the solar flare that was visible during the eclipse. The totality lasted for more than 5 minutes, an exceptionally long time for a total eclipse, meaning that the photographers could capture many very fine images.



EUCLID (fl. 300 BCE) –
BYRNE, Oliver (1810–1880)

The First Six Books of the
Elements of Euclid in Which
Coloured Diagrams and
Symbols Are Used Instead
of Letters for the Greater
Ease of Learners

London: Charles Whittingham
at the Chiswick Press for
William Pickering, 1847

Quarto (230 x 183mm); pp.
[i]–viii–xxix–[xxx], [1]–268, half-
title, numerous criblé initials,
most text in black, but the text
interspersed with a plethora of
illustrations, diagrams, figures
and symbolic elements printed
in 4 colours

Very good: occasional
offsetting and scattered
spotting as usual, but much
cleaner than most other copies
of this book. Contemporary calf
(extremities lightly rubbed)

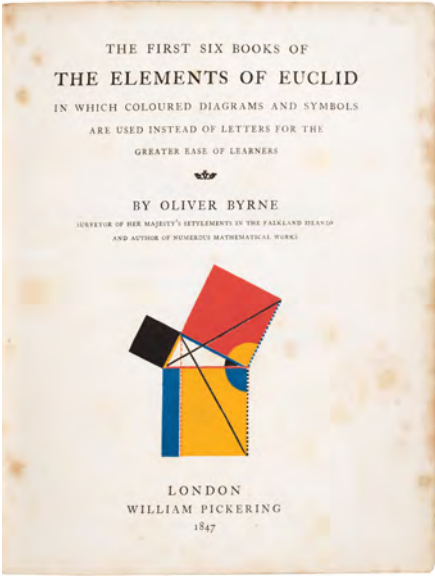
References: Friedman, *Color
Printing in England* 43; Ing,
Charles Whittingham Printer,
46; Keynes, *Pickering*, pp. 37,
65; McLean, *Victorian Book
Design*, pp. 50–51

A TECHNICAL TOUR-DE-FORCE of colour printing. Oliver Byrne was
a self-educated mathematician and engineer, who came to believe
that

it might be easier to learn geometry if colours were substituted for the letters usually
used to designate the angles and lines of geometric figures. Instead of referring to,
say, “angle ABC”, Byrne’s text substituted a blue or yellow or red section equivalent to
similarly coloured sections in the theorem’s main diagram (Friedman)

Exhibited at the Great Exhibition in London 1851 with a price of 25
shillings, the work was exceedingly expensive and unaffordable for
educators who could have put the new teaching method to practical use.

Regardless, it is considered a landmark example of Victorian book
production. Its innovative graphic conception and style prefigures the
modernist experiments of the Bauhaus and De Stijl movements, and has
so much contemporary appeal that the publisher Kroncker Wallis has
initiated a Kickstarter campaign to complete all thirteen books of Euclid
in the style of Byrne’s production. See also Cat. No. 35 for a near-contem-
porary example of virtuosic printing in the service of scientific education.



II.

FARADAY, Michael (1791–1867)

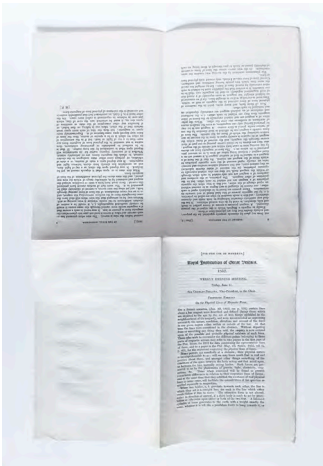
On the Physical Lines of Magnetic Force

London: Royal Institution, [1852]

Single halved demy sheet (225 x 114mm) twice folded; 5pp.

Fine condition, noting only the very faintest darkening to the lower right-hand corner. Uncut, as issued

References: Gribbin, *Science: A History*, pp. 411ff; Cox and Jeff Forshaw, *Why Does $E=MC^2$ (And Why Should We Care?)*, pp. 17–21



THE ELECTROMAGNETIC FIELD IS REAL

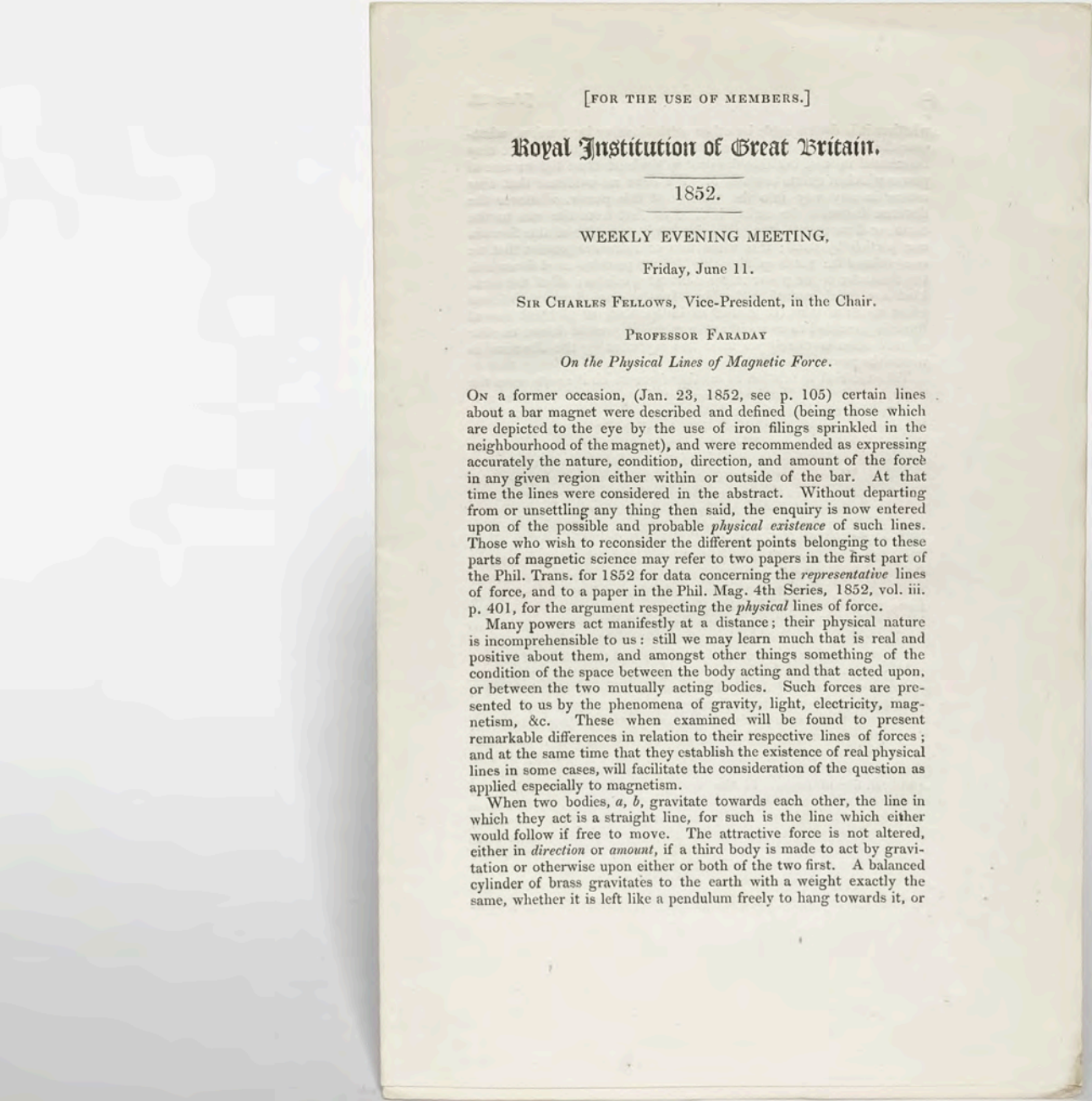
AN EXCEPTIONAL COPY of the separate printing of Faraday’s famous lecture, arguing for the physical reality of the ‘lines of force’, read to the Royal Institution on Friday 11 June 1852, with demonstrations. Exceptionally scarce: no other copies recorded.

Faraday first developed his ideas about lines of force and the electromagnetic ‘field’ that they must comprise in the early 1830s – even taking the precaution of sealing an account of his theory in a vault in case he needed later to claim priority. He worked through the idea slowly, revisiting it in earnest only after his major period of experimental research into electricity and magnetism was concluded.

A few month’s prior to the present lecture, Faraday had given a more tentative account of the lines of force to the Royal Institution, hedging on the issue of their physical reality. By June he was more confident, writing, in the text offered here:

Many powers act manifestly at a distance; their physical nature is incomprehensible to us: still we may learn much that is real and positive about them, and amongst other things something of the condition of the space between the body acting and that acted upon [...] Such forces are presented to us by the phenomena of gravity, light, electricity, magnetism, &c.

Faraday’s physical intuition about fields and lines of force held the interest of the scientific community. But one man, very different in character from Faraday, would bring new methods to bear on the problem. This was James Clerk Maxwell, who in the 1850s was a young mathematician at the University of Cambridge. By placing Faraday’s work on sound mathematical foundations Maxwell was able to develop his famous field equations – the direct precursor to and inspiration for Einstein’s work on relativity.



I2.

HAWKING, Stephen W.
(1942–2018)

‘The Universe in a Nutshell’

[IN:] *Builders of the
Millennium: A Series
of Lectures Delivered
to Celebrate the 750th
Anniversary of the
Endowment of University
College, Oxford, 1249–1999*

Oxford: University College,
Oxford, 2000

Octavo (216 x 151mm); pp. ix,
[1], 104

Blue cloth binding with gilt
title; near fine condition:
slight warp to front cover, but
otherwise fine

Provenance: personal
collection of Stephen W.
Hawking, with a presentation
bookplate to the inside cover,
and a provenance label to
the verso of the front free
endpaper

PRESENTED BY ‘UNIV’ TO STEPHEN HAWKING

STEPHEN HAWKING’S OWN COPY of this elegant commemorative volume, issued on the occasion of the 750th anniversary of his *alma mater*, University College Oxford, and containing lectures by a number of illustrious *alumni*, including Tony Blair, Richard Branson, and Rupert Murdoch.

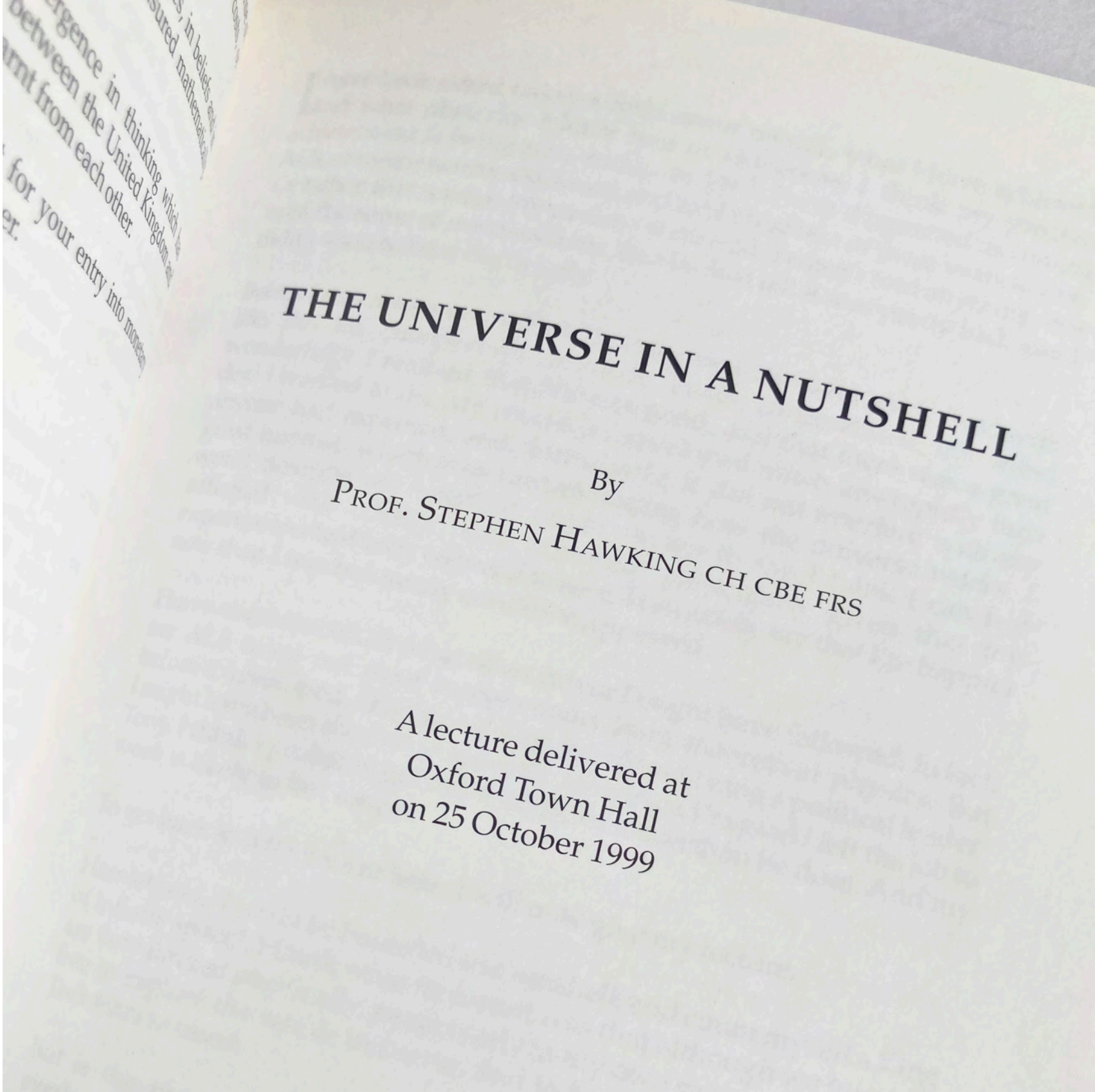
Hawking’s lecture is ‘The Universe in a Nutshell’ – the précis of his book of the same name, published a year after the present volume as a ‘sequel’ to *A Brief History of Time*.

The lecture is a minor classic, beginning with some of Hawking’s personal circumstances, before turning to the size and nature of the universe, his and Roger Penrose’s work on singularities, the Uncertainty Principle, the notion of a boundless universe, the anthropic principle, and much else. There are many humorous asides, including a comment that ‘There must be a history of the universe, in which Oxford United won the Cup, though maybe the probability is low.’

The lecture concludes on a poignant note:

This is a tiny, slightly flattened sphere. So it is quite like the nutshell with which I began the lecture. Yet this nut encodes everything that happens in real time. So Hamlet was quite right. We could be bounded in a nut shell, and count ourselves Kings of infinite space.

What more can I say after that.



HENSLOW, John Stevens
(1796–1861)

Geological Map of Anglesea

Cambridge: Cambridge
Philosophical Society, 1822

285 x 445mm, hand-
coloured, together with two
plates of parallel sections
from the NW to SE of the
island, also hand-coloured,
(3)

Near fine condition; a few very
small chips to the edges

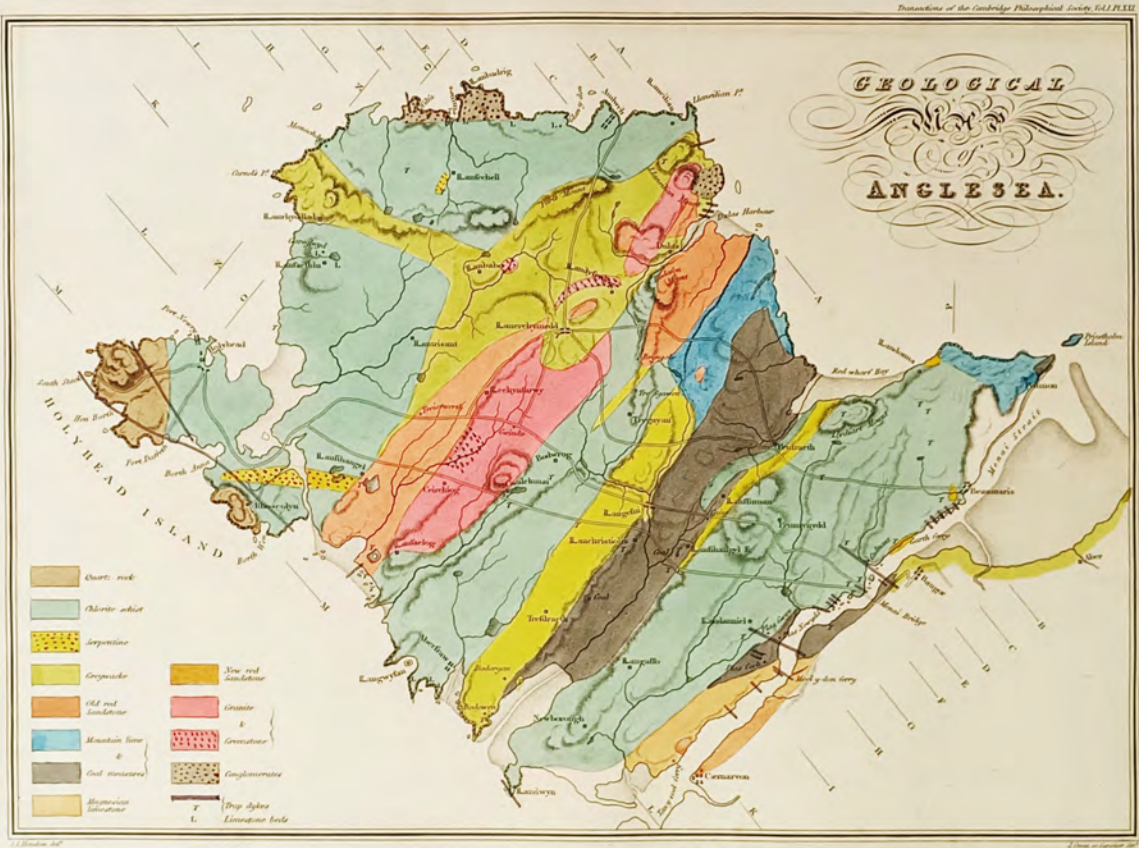
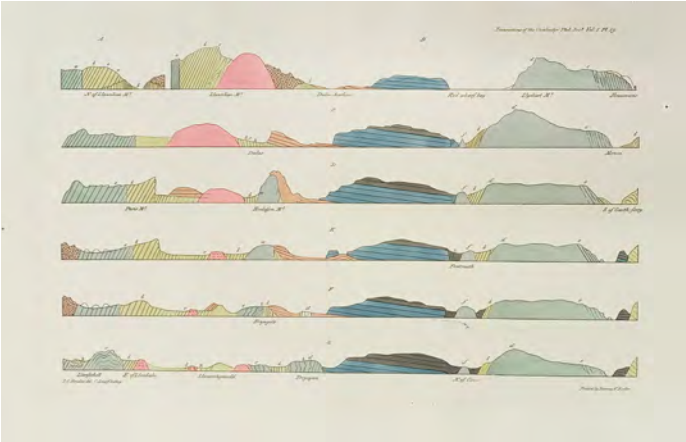
Provenance: Cambridge
Philosophical Society,
retained from the time of
publication until 2024

A STUNNING HAND-COLOURED geological map by John Stevens Henslow, printed to accompany his first published scientific paper – but here offered in its pristine unfolded state, having been retained by the Cambridge Philosophical Society as part of a collection of unissued archival materials.

Although Henslow was to become most famous as a botanist, like his pupil Charles Darwin he began his scientific career in geology. His fieldwork in on Anglesey initiated the scientific study of the island:

The history of geological study on Anglesey goes back to John Henslow (1796–1861) even though geologists first think of Edward Greenly when they hear of Anglesey. Henslow was educated at St John’s College, Cambridge where he graduated in 1818, the year in which Adam Sedgwick became Woodwardian Professor of Geology. He developed a passion for geology and accompanied Sedgwick on fieldwork. He arrived on Anglesey to investigate aspects of the island’s geology, recognising the belts of ‘chloritic schists’ and other exotic rocks, and published his observations in the first volume of the *Transactions of the Cambridge Philosophical Society* in 1822. (Geomon website)

Charles Darwin took a copy of Henslow’s paper with him on the *Beagle* Voyage, and used the map as a model for his own geological studies of the Falkland Islands.



HERSCHEL, Caroline (1750–1848)

‘An Account of a New Comet. In a Letter from Miss Caroline Herschel to Charles Blagden, M.D. Sec. R.S. Read. Nov. 9, 1786’

[IN:] *Philosophical Transactions*, Vol. LXXVII

London: Sold by Lockyer Davis, and Peter Elmsly, Printers to the Royal Society, 1787

Quarto (225 x 176mm); pp. [1]–5 [folding plate]

Extract; bound in modern marbled-paper wrappers. Very good condition: paper very lightly toned



THE FIRST SCIENTIFIC PAPER in English ever published by a woman. Here Herschel announces the discovery of what is now known as Comet c/1786 P1, discovered while her brother William was travelling in Germany. This is an important detail: Caroline had become her brother’s assistant, and, as she writes in the present paper,

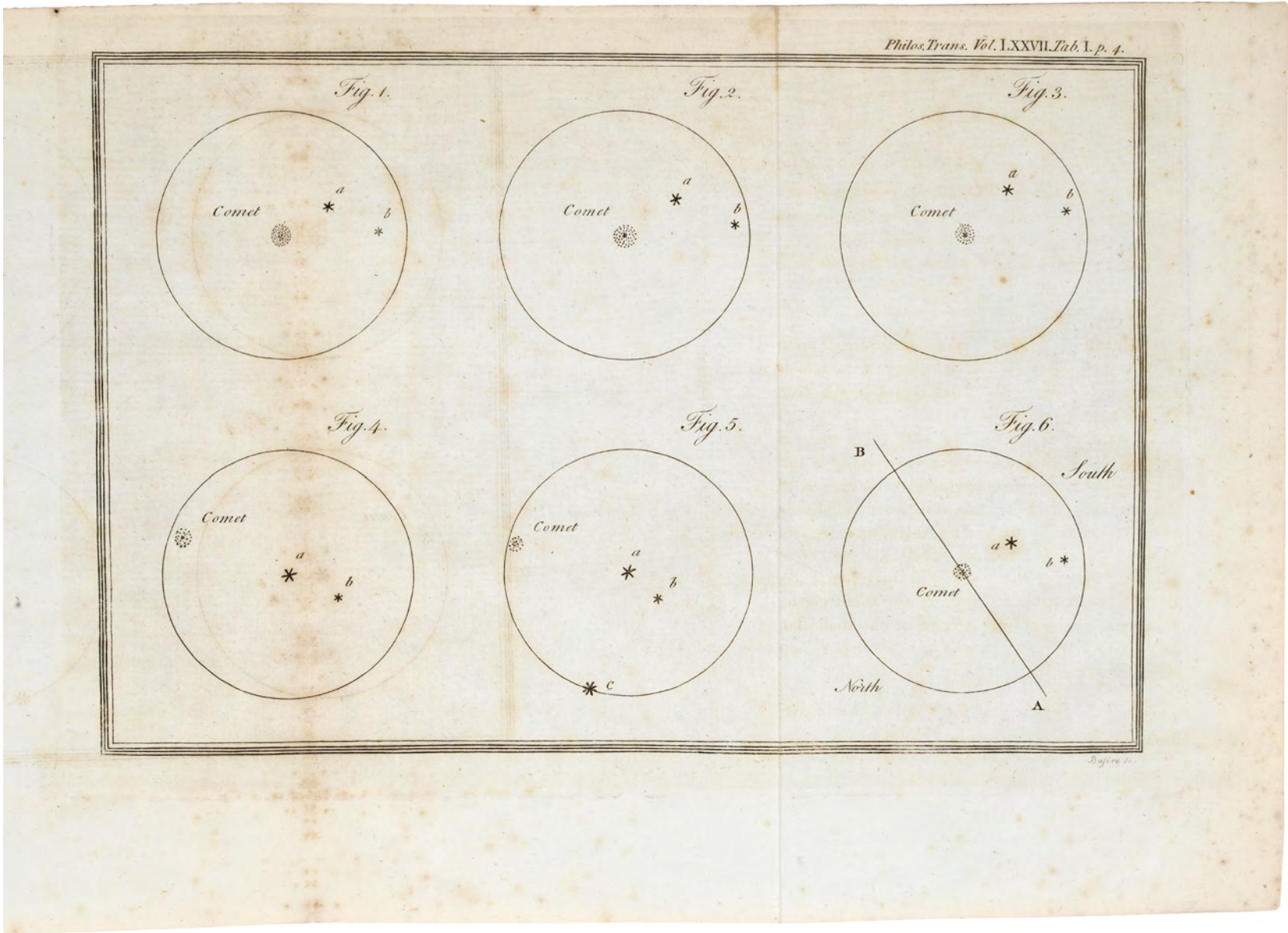
The employment of writing down the observations, when my Brother uses the 20-foot reflector, does not often allow me time to look at the heavens; but as he is now on a visit to Germany, I have taken the opportunity of his absence to sweep in the neighbourhood of the sun, in search of comets; and last night, the 1st of August, about 10 o’clock, I found an object very much resembling in colour and brightness the 27th nebula of the Connoissance des Temps, with the difference however of being round. I suspected it to be a comet; but a haziness coming on, it was not possible intirely to satisfy myself as to its motion till this evening.

The discovery made Caroline Herschel the darling of the astronomical community, and – absolutely without precedent – she was granted an annual stipend of £50 from the King.

Herschel’s career was remarkable. She was denied any formal education by her mother, and was rescued from Hanoverian torpitude in 1772 by her brother William, who had been resident in England since 1757 and was then living in Bath and working as an organist, with astronomy his main pastime. Learning the rudiments of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry, Caroline was soon serving as assistant to her brother, and by the time of their move to the neighbourhood of Windsor Castle she was in possession of two telescopes and could – in snatched moments away from her brother – conduct her own observations.

By the time of this paper Herschel had already observed three new nebulae, and over the coming years she discovered many new comets, and made dramatic improvements to existing star catalogues.

In 1835 she and Mary Somerville were the first two women to be elected honorary members of the Royal Society (the first full Fellows were Kathleen Lonsdale and Marjory Stephenson, elected 1945).



15.

HOOKE, Robert (1635–1703)

‘A Description of an Instrument for Dividing a Foot into Many Thousand Parts, and Thereby Measuring the Diameters of Planets to a Great Exactness, &c’

[IN:] *Philosophical Transactions*, No. 29
[TOGETHER WITH:] *Philosophical Transactions*, No. 25

London: Printed by T[homas] N[ewcomb] for John Martyn, Printer to the Royal Society, and are to be sold at the Bell a little without Temple-Bar, 1667

Two complete single issues, quarto (225 x 172mm); pp. 449–274 and 541–556 [folding plate], (2)

Very good; some light even browning throughout; bound in modern marbled-paper wrappers



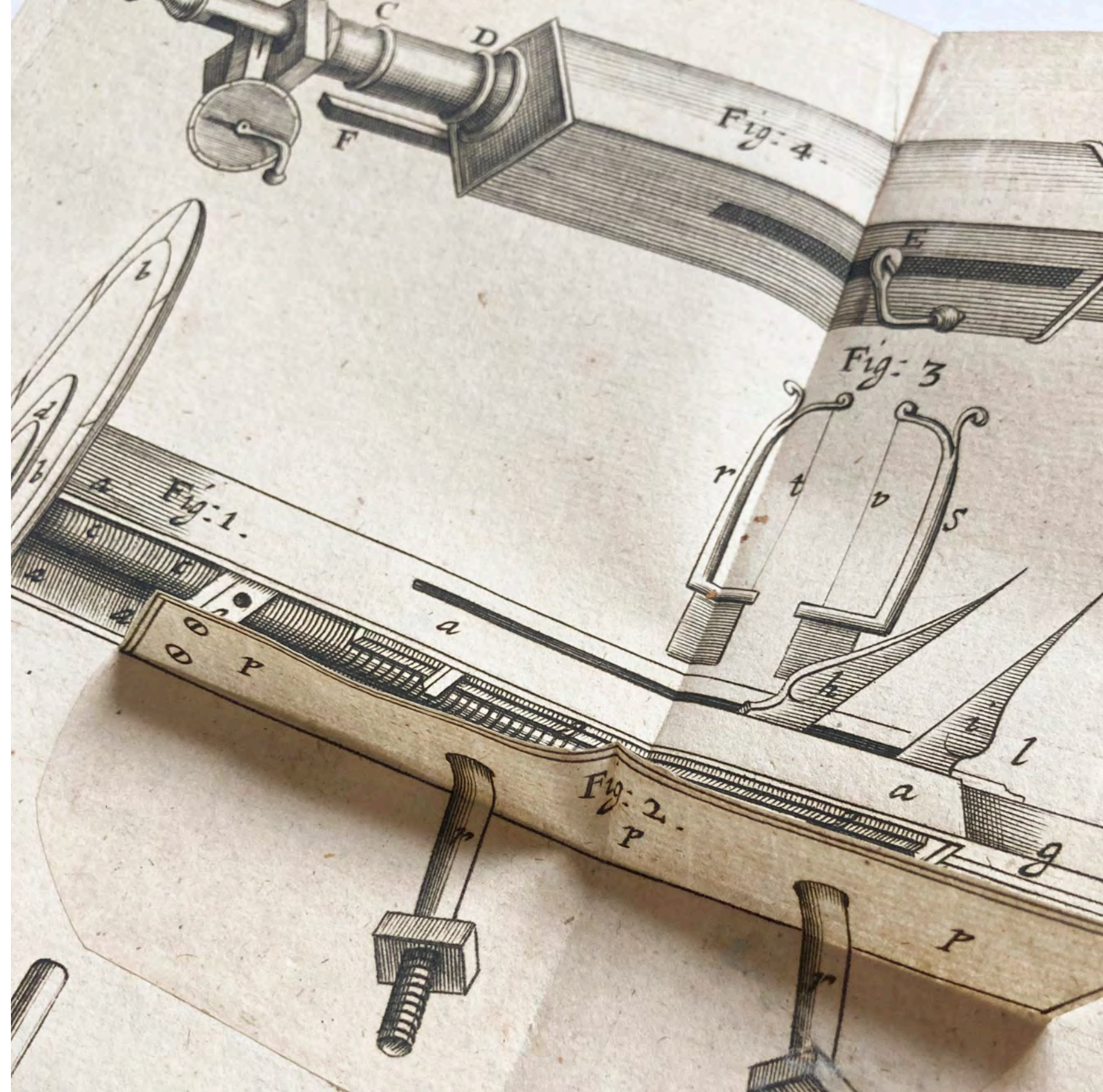
THE ORIGIN OF PRECISION MEASUREMENT

A PIVOTAL MOMENT in the history of science: William Gascoigne's invention of the micrometer, communicated here by Richard Towneley and Robert Hooke in two issues of the *Philosophical Transactions* for 1667 (nos 25 & 29).

Inspired by the work of Johannes Kepler, Gascoigne studied astronomical phenomena from the 1630s until his early death in 1644. Around 1638 Gascoigne devised his micrometer, consisting of two fine wires brought closer together or further apart by means of a screw of known pitch. Together with the focal length it is possible to calculate the size of astronomical objects with this set-up. In 1666, the French astronomer Adrien Auzout wrote to the Royal Society to describe his own micrometer, which was similar in design to Gascoigne's. Gascoigne's collaborator Richard Towneley, who was in possession of a micrometer of Gascoigne's design, wrote a strongly worded letter to Society, published in the 25th number of the *Philosophical Transactions* [offered here]. Towneley claimed Gascoigne's priority and gave a brief description of the instrument, an example of which he then sent to London. Hooke created his own version of the micrometer and wrote a thorough description, published in No. 29 [also offered].

Perhaps the most significant feature of Hooke's description is the remarkable engraving of the micrometer, which reveals aspects of its design not covered in the text. Moreover, the engraving is a piece of paper engineering in its own right: it shows two aspects of the design by means of an ingenious flap, which allows exterior and interior views (see image overleaf).

The micrometer was immediately put to use by Hooke and, more importantly, John Flamsteed, who used one extensively in the creation of his masterpiece *Historiae coelestis*, begun in 1676. In various forms, the micrometer has been central to precision astronomy ever since, and has transformed scientific understanding of the nature of celestial objects.



HUTTON, James (1726–1797)

‘Theory of the Earth; or an Investigation of the Laws Observable in the Composition, Dissolution, and Restoration of Land upon the Globe’

[IN:] *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, Vol. 1

Edinburgh: for J. Dickson, 1788

Full volume offered [TOGETHER WITH:] Vols 2–8, 1790–1817, bound in 9 volumes, quarto, volumes 2–7 in contemporary calf (265 x 210mm), volume 8 bound in two parts and in original boards (293 x 234mm); numerous engraved plates (not collated), a few joints cracked, volumes 5 and 7 front boards detached, spines scuffed, numbering-pieces and a few title-labels perished, (9)

Provenance: from the library of the Murrays of Dollerie, Crieff, Perthshire

References: Ward & Carozzi 1161; cf. PMM 247

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT scientific papers ever published. James Hutton’s ‘Theory of the Earth’ in its original journal appearance.

A true landmark in the history of science: in 1785 Hutton presented this paper to the Royal Society of Edinburgh, arguing for what we would call ‘uniformitarianism’:

The formation of the surface of the earth is one continuous process which can be studied entirely from terrestrial materials without cosmological or supernatural intervention. (PMM 247)

Hutton’s fundamental intervention was to propose a mechanism for the formation, alteration and ultimate destruction of vast geological features. In observable formations we see ‘the ruins of an older world’: mountains that have been built up by igneous forces and worn down by weathering and chemical processes. This cyclical view of creation and destruction is summed up in one of the most elegant phrases in the whole history of science:

The result, therefore, of this physical enquiry is, that we find no vestige of a beginning,—no prospect of an end.

Ultimately Hutton’s work was to be continued by Charles Lyell, and, in its treatment of gradual changes over vast spans of time, forms the philosophical background of Charles Darwin’s theory of evolution.

More proximately, Hutton’s work was continued, discussed and augmented within the pages of the *Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh*, and here we offer not only the first presentation of Hutton’s paper, but also his and others’ contributions over the subsequent years, including Hutton’s ‘Observations on Granite’, Playfair’s biographical account of Hutton, and a group of papers by Sir James Hall constituting one of the most significant early defences of Hutton’s theory.

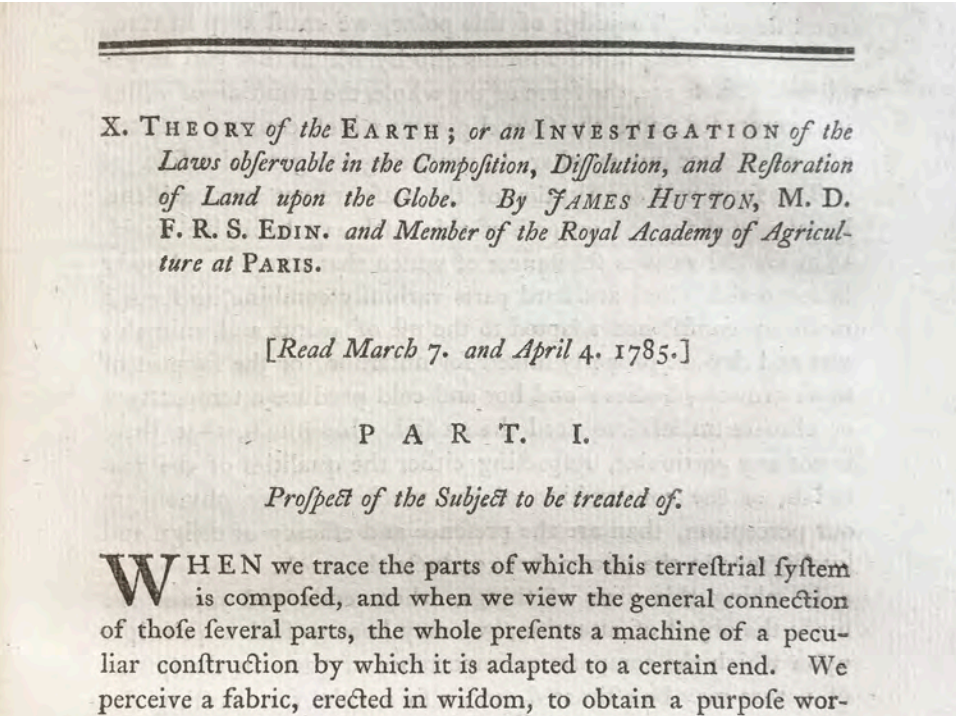
James Hutton (1726–1797) was a Scottish geologist, physician, and naturalist often referred to as the ‘father of modern geology.’ Born in Edinburgh, he initially studied medicine but developed a deep interest in agriculture and natural sciences. After inheriting family land, Hutton applied scientific principles to farming, which led to his fascination with



soil formation and rock layers. His observations during this period formed the foundation of his later geological theories.

Hutton travelled extensively across Scotland, studying rock formations, soil erosion, and the effects of weathering. He was struck by the evidence of deep time in the Earth’s layers, noting that processes such as sedimentation and erosion must have occurred over vast time spans. These observations led him to reject the prevailing view of a young Earth shaped by catastrophic events, instead proposing that the Earth was continuously and gradually shaped by observable natural processes.

‘The Theory of the Earth’ was revised and published in two volumes in 1795, with a third volume being added much later in 1899, edited by Sir Archibald Geikie.



Theory of the Earth

PLATE I.

FIG. 1.

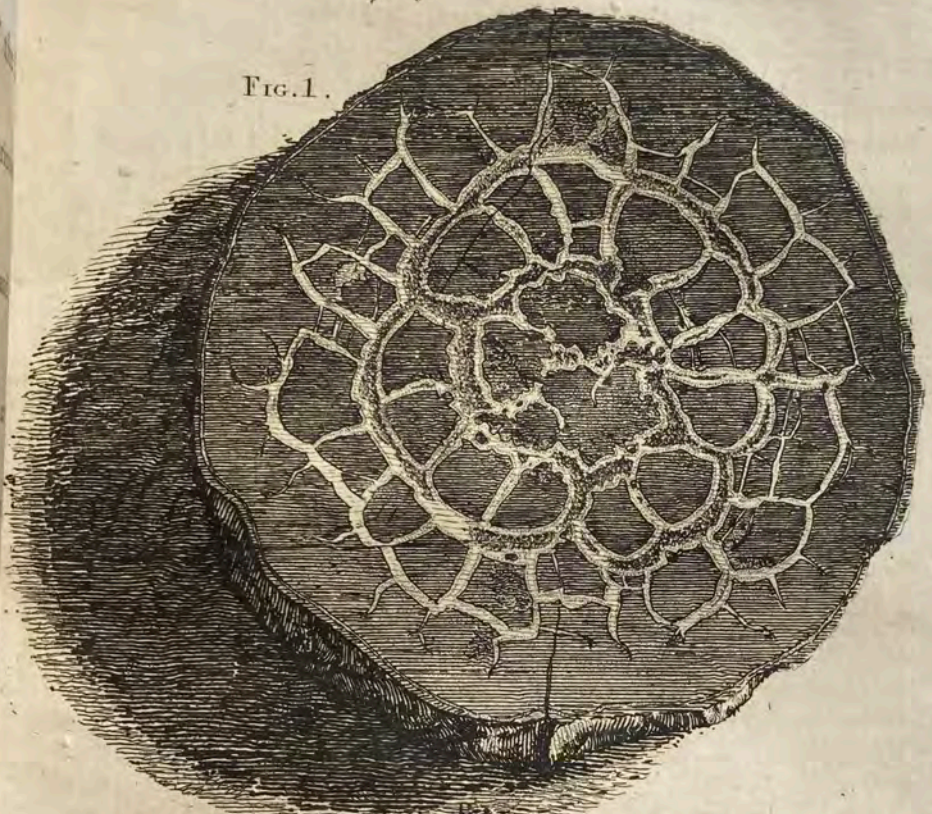


FIG. 3.

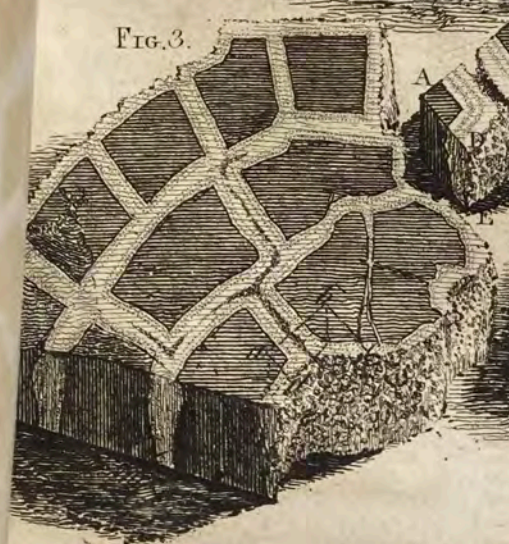


FIG. 4.

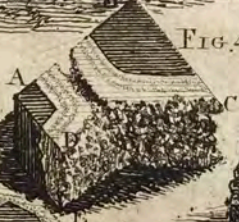
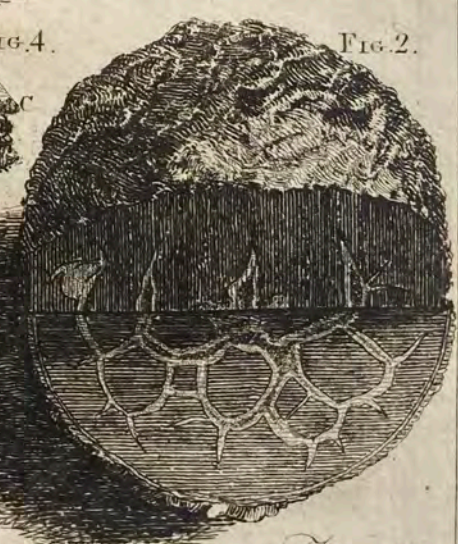


FIG. 2.



A. Halliwell del. & sculp.

Theory of the Earth

PLATE II.

FIG. 1.

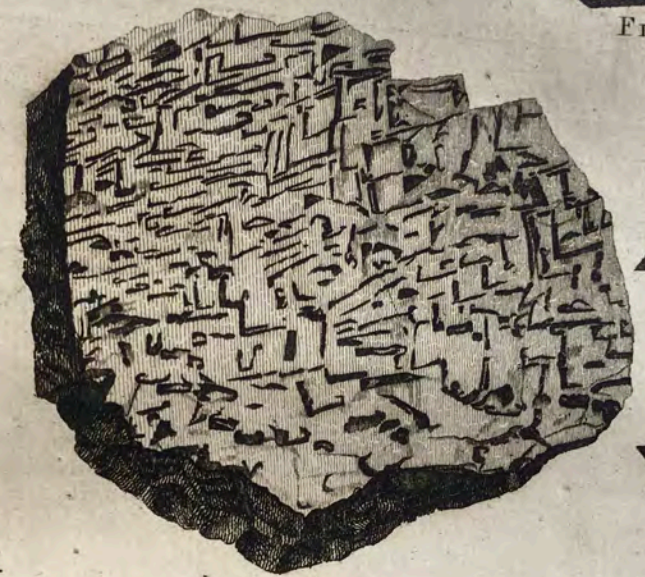


FIG. 8.



FIG. 9.

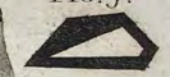


FIG. 10.

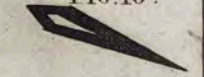


FIG. 6.

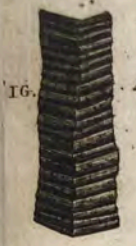


FIG. 5.



FIG. 7.



FIG. 4.

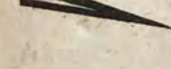


FIG. 2.

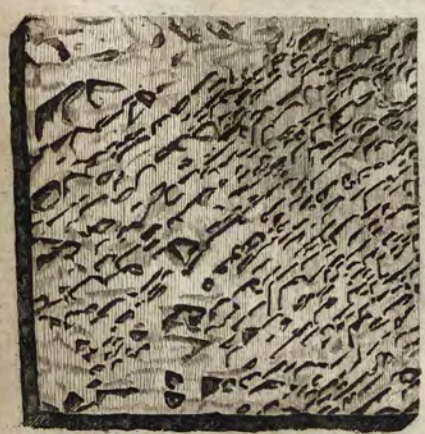
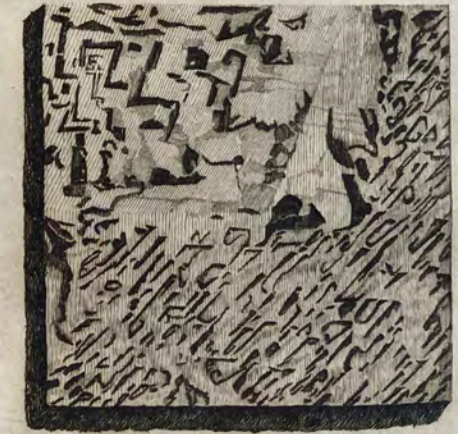


FIG. 3.



A. Halliwell del. & sculp.

JUKES, Joseph Beete (1811–1869)

Geological Map of Ireland

London: Edward Stanford,
and Dublin: Hodges & Smith,
2 December 1872

Folding lithographic map
(1005 x 783mm), coloured
by a contemporary hand,
dissected and mounted on
linen; two publisher's ads
printed on yellow paper
pasted onto two panels on
verso; folding to octavo (200
x 130mm) and housed in the
original green cloth slipcase
with green printed paper label
to upper cover

Very good condition: some
light thumb-soiling to ads,
very faint insignificant crease
to lower blank margin, but
otherwise near fine); (small
gouge to label just touching
one letter, otherwise near fine)

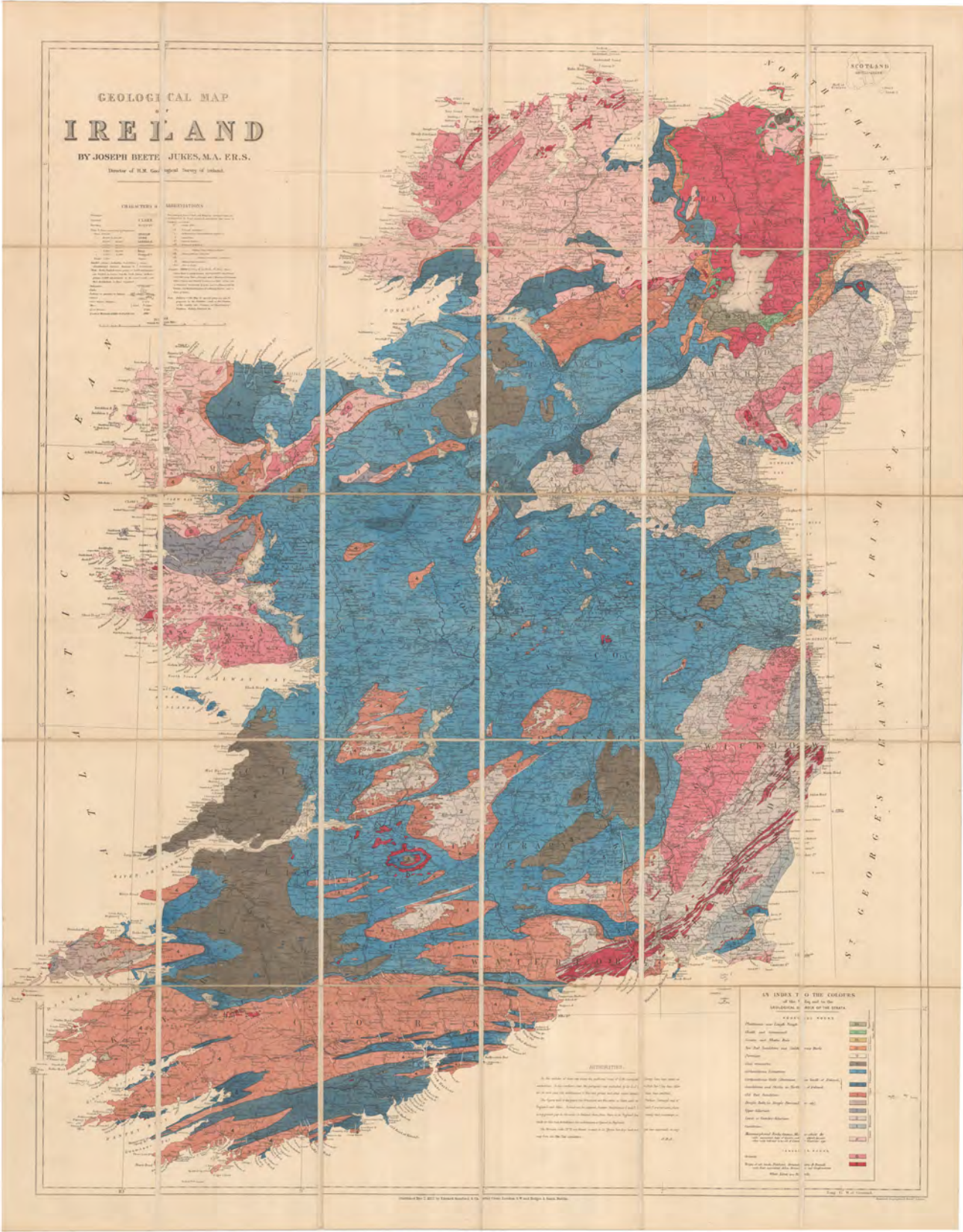
References: Davies, *Sheets of
Many Colours. The mapping
of Ireland's rocks 1750–
1890*, p.190

THE GEOLOGY OF IRELAND

EXTREMELY RARE third edition of Jukes' geological map of Ireland. Born in 1811, Joseph Beete Jukes was educated at Merchant Taylor's School, Wolverhampton, and King Edward VI's School, Birmingham, before entering St John's College, Cambridge. There, his interest in geology was nurtured by Adam Sedgwick (1785–1873), with whom he maintained a lifelong correspondence. Later, he was appointed geological surveyor of Newfoundland (1839–1840), at a time when there were no maps of the country, and from 1842 to 1846 he was naturalist aboard HMS *Fly*, sent to survey the coast of Australia and New Guinea. His publication, *A sketch of the physical structure of Australia* (London, 1850), included the first geological map of that continent.

Upon his return to England, Jukes became a member of the Geological Survey of Great Britain (1846–1850), and on the back of successful and important work in north Wales and the South Staffordshire coal field, he was asked to become director of the Irish branch of the geological survey which he held from 1850 until his death. It was while working on the memoir relating to the valley of the River Blackwater around Cappoquin, Co. Waterford, that Jukes noted the action of rivers on topography and their relationship to the underlying geological structure, which resulted in his most significant contribution to geology: 'On the formation of some of the river-valleys of the south of Ireland' (1862). This was a pioneering contribution to the understanding of the making of the Irish landscape, and is recognised as having international relevance and has become a classic in geomorphology.

From 1864 Jukes' health deteriorated, but he still managed to produce the present small-scale Geological map of Ireland. The first edition bears the publication date of 1st July 1867, and became known as 'Jukes's map'; it is well represented in institutional holdings. Jukes died in 1869, and there were a series of posthumous editions. A second edition was published in 1870; this is extremely rare, with only one record of this in an institution, namely the Universitäts- und Landesbibliothek Bonn, Germany. The present work is the third edition, we can only trace the National Library of Ireland's copy in institutional holdings.



LAMARCK, Jean-Baptiste
(1744–1829)

**Zoological Philosophy: An
Exposition with Regard
to the Natural History of
Animals**

London: Macmillan & Co., 1914

Large octavo (225 x 155mm);
pp. xcii, 410, [2]

Good condition, in original
green cloth, with gilt spine
titling; a little worn and
handled; spine with a slight
lean; early bookseller label
inside cover (Heffer's,
Cambridge); Young's name
stamp sporadically throughout

Provenance: J.Z. Young FRS
(1907–1997), zoologist and
neurophysiologist

References: Garrison Morton
216; cf. PMM 262



THE DAWN OF EVOLUTION

THE FIRST EDITION IN ENGLISH of Lamarck's *Philosophie zoologique* (1809), translated by the materialist philosopher of science Hugh Elliot and published just over a century after the French original. This copy from the library of the eminent zoologist and neurophysiologist J.Z. Young (1907–1997).

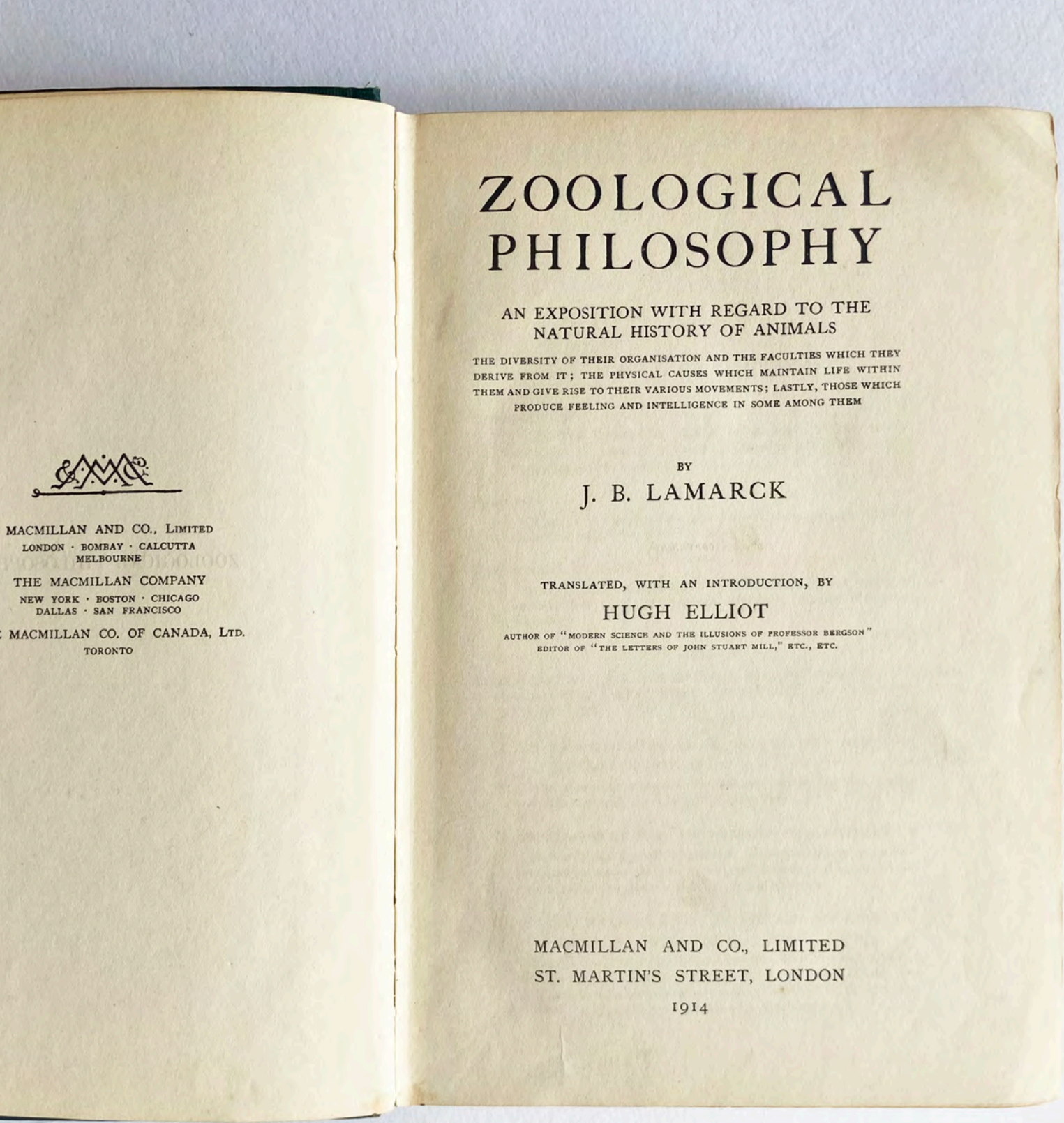
Lamarck's work is perhaps the most famous precursor of Darwin's theory of evolution, and was one of the first substantial treatises to challenge the fixity of species. Its importance is belied by the notoriety of 'the inheritance of acquired characteristics', and (at least in mid-century debates over evolution) by neo-Lamarckianism, especially Lysenkoism. Yet Lamarck was an inspiration for Darwin and laid out, in systematic form, a coherent (if incomplete) theory of evolution. Now, with the rise of epigenetics, Lamarck's ideas are undergoing another renaissance.

John Zachary Young was one of the twentieth century's pre-eminent biologists, renowned as 'the outstanding zoologist and teacher of zoology at Oxford from 1930 to 1945' (Royal Society obituary). His textbook *The Life of Vertebrates* (1950) became a classic (and cites the present volume), but in fact featured relatively little of the research for which he was to become famous, namely the discovery of the squid giant axon, and his extensive work on the nervous system.

After WWII Young turned increasingly to the science of the mind, conducting an important correspondence with Alan Turing, and writing many philosophical and methodological works.

At Oxford, when he acquired this book, he was under the guidance of two of the most able neo-Darwinian's of the era Gavin de Beer and E.S. Goodrich. The book has been carefully read, with pencil marks alongside passages throughout, and one partially erased pencil note.

Young's Oxford teaching was marked by its universality: Peter Medawar recalled that Young 'taught the whole of his subject'. In his autobiography Young emphasizes the centrality of Darwinian evolution to his work at Oxford; here we see him engaging historically with his subject.



LAVOISIER, Antoine (1743–1794)

Mémoire où l'on prouve par la décomposition de l'eau [...]

[IN:] *Histoire de l'Académie Royale des Sciences. Année MDCCLXXXI*

Paris: De l'Imprimerie Royale, 1784

Quarto (260 x 209mm); pp. [7], [1]–773, folding plates (Lavoisier at pp. 269–282, with a folding plate)

Entire volume offered: very good condition; rebaked with leather spine and original spine label laid down



LAVOISIER'S CELEBRATED PAPER showing that water is a compound of two gases, oxygen and hydrogen.

In 1783 Lavoisier learned of Henry Cavendish's experiments in which 'inflammable air' and 'dephlogisticated air' were combined by means of an electric spark, resulting in water, equal in quantity to the two gases. Working with Laplace, Lavoisier repeated the experiments, satisfying himself that within the framework of his own theory of combustion water was an oxide of 'hydrogenerative' gas.

'Mémoire où l'on prouve par la décomposition de l'eau' is not only a landmark in the history of science – it is also one of the most controversial scientific papers ever published. Lavoisier has repeatedly been charged with plagiarism, and the so-called 'Water Controversy' of the 19th century resulted in countless analyses of the major protagonists: James Watt, Henry Cavendish, Joseph Priestley, and Lavoisier. The modern consensus is that Cavendish should be credited with the experimental discovery, but that Lavoisier supplied the correct interpretation of the results, free as he was from the older theory of 'phlogiston'.

Although this paper undermined the chemical purity of the last of the four classical elements, it was only one part of Lavoisier's theory of combustion. The composition of water was important to that theory because it provided clear evidence that combustion involved a chemical reaction with oxygen, not the release of a mysterious substance called 'phlogiston' as previously believed. By demonstrating that water is composed of hydrogen and oxygen, Lavoisier showed that oxygen was a key reactant in both the formation of water and the combustion of substances. This insight helped him refute the phlogiston theory and laid the foundation for modern chemistry by establishing the role of oxygen in oxidation and combustion processes.

M É M O I R E

Où l'on prouve par la décomposition de l'Eau, que ce Fluide n'est point une substance simple, & qu'il y a plusieurs moyens d'obtenir en grand l'Air inflammable qui y entre comme principe constituant.

Par M.^{rs} MEUSNIER & LAVOISIER.

DEPUIS qu'on connoît l'expérience dans laquelle un mélange d'air inflammable & d'air déphlogistiqué, fait suivant les proportions convenables, ne produit en brûlant que de l'eau très-pure, à peu-près égale en poids à celui des deux airs réunis, il étoit difficile de ne pas reconnoître dans cette production d'eau, une preuve presque évidente que ce fluide, mis de tout temps au rang des substances simples, est réellement un corps composé; & que les deux airs, du mélange desquels il résulte, en fournissent les principes constituans. M. Lavoisier en tira cette conséquence dans un Mémoire qu'il lut à la dernière séance publique de cette Académie, en annonçant avec M. de la Place qu'ils avoient les premiers obtenu ainsi une quantité d'eau assez considérable pour la soumettre à quelques épreuves chimiques; * & en admettant quelque exactitude dans la détermination du poids des airs employés dans cette expérience, on ne voit pas comment il seroit possible de l'infirmier: on a cependant élevé des doutes sur cette réduction entière de deux fluides aériformes en eau; & malgré les soins apportés par M. Lavoisier, pour assurer, autant qu'il est possible, la précision d'une expérience aussi délicate; malgré la conformité du résultat obtenu à peu-près en même temps par M. Monge,

Là
le 21 Avril
1784.

* Ce Mémoire se trouve dans ce même volume. C'est par erreur qu'il

LEWIS, David (1941–2001)

Typed letter signed (Tls) on the Turing Test and Artificial Intelligence,

[Cambridge, MA], 3 October 1964

275 x 213mm; 3 leaves typescript; signed

Fine condition

Provenance: Jerome A. Shaffer; Samuel C. Wheeler III

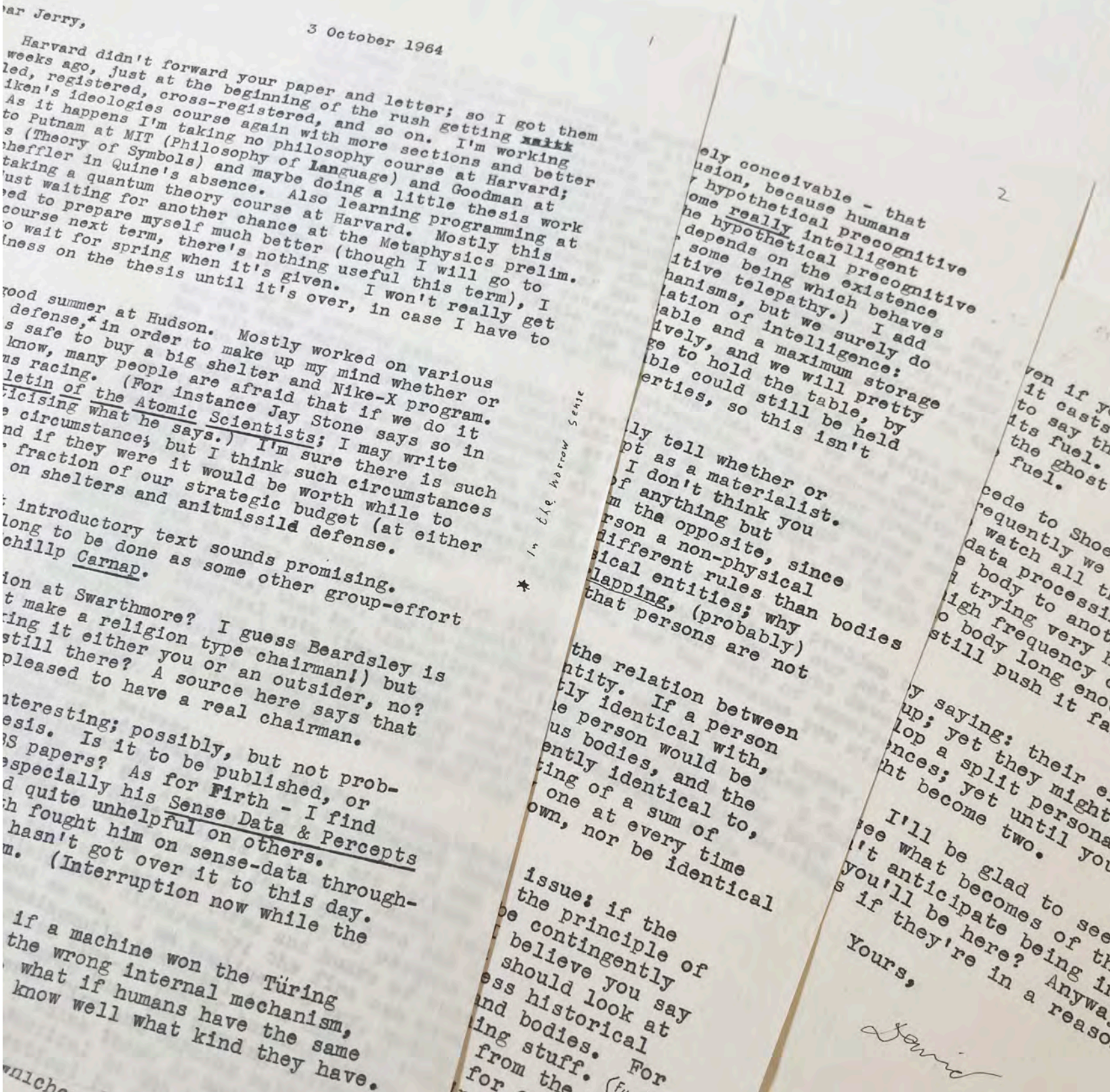
References: *Philosophical Letters of David K. Lewis*, Volume 1, No. 421

A VERY FINE AND RICH LETTER from David Lewis to his former undergraduate teacher Jerome Shaffer, in which Lewis gives updates on his recent activities before diving into a discussion of the nature of human experience in relation to the famous ‘Turing Test’, proposed by Alan Turing in 1950.

David Kellogg Lewis (1941–2001) is regarded as one of the most significant post-war philosophers, in particular for his work on possible worlds, counterfactuals and ‘modal realism’. Lewis’ position as a staunch materialist lends additional weight to his thoughts on the Turing Test, which he never published – though the present letter reveals much about the development of his thinking on the topic of identity, about which he published a number of papers.

Turing’s ‘Test’ determines whether a computer can be classed as ‘intelligent’: if a computer can fool a human then it passes the test and we remain agnostic about whether or not the structure of the computer matches in any way our own neurophysiology. Many philosophers have tackled the Turing Test, which has also become a touchstone of popular discussion about AI. Here Lewis attempts to clarify the central question of the Turing Test: could a computational mechanism substantially unlike the human brain (he uses the word ‘wrong’) ever be called ‘intelligent’? Lewis cites Hilary Putnam and immediately spins the question on its head by asking whether human intelligence itself is an illusion (i.e. as illusory as the ‘wrong’ computational model). He admits this is ‘conceivable – remotely conceivable’.

The letter rewards careful study: Lewis seems to understand the Turing test primarily as a provocation for thinking about human consciousness. Does this mean that AI must approach accurate neurophysiology in order to lay claim to intelligence? And is ‘intelligence’ therefore the wrong framework for thinking about the whole issue? In 1964 Lewis could only see mechanical cognition as an illusion - what would he make of Deep Learning?



LINNAEUS, Carl (1707–1778); [NYANDER, John]
Exanthemata viva, quae, consens. experient. Facult. Medicae in Regia Acad. Upsaliensi, praeside viro nobilissimo ac celeberrimo, Dn. Doct. Carolo Linnaeo [...]

Small quarto (185 x 147mm); pp. 16

Very good; bound in modern marbled-paper wrappers

References: Kärholm, *Swedish Dissertations and their Subjects, 1600–1820*, Vol. 2, No. 10580, DeLacy, *Contagionism Catches On*, Ch. 4



ANTICIPATING THE GERM THEORY OF DISEASE

THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE EARLY STATEMENT of the germ theory of disease, which did not take its modern form until a century later, in the work of Robert Koch and Louis Pasteur.

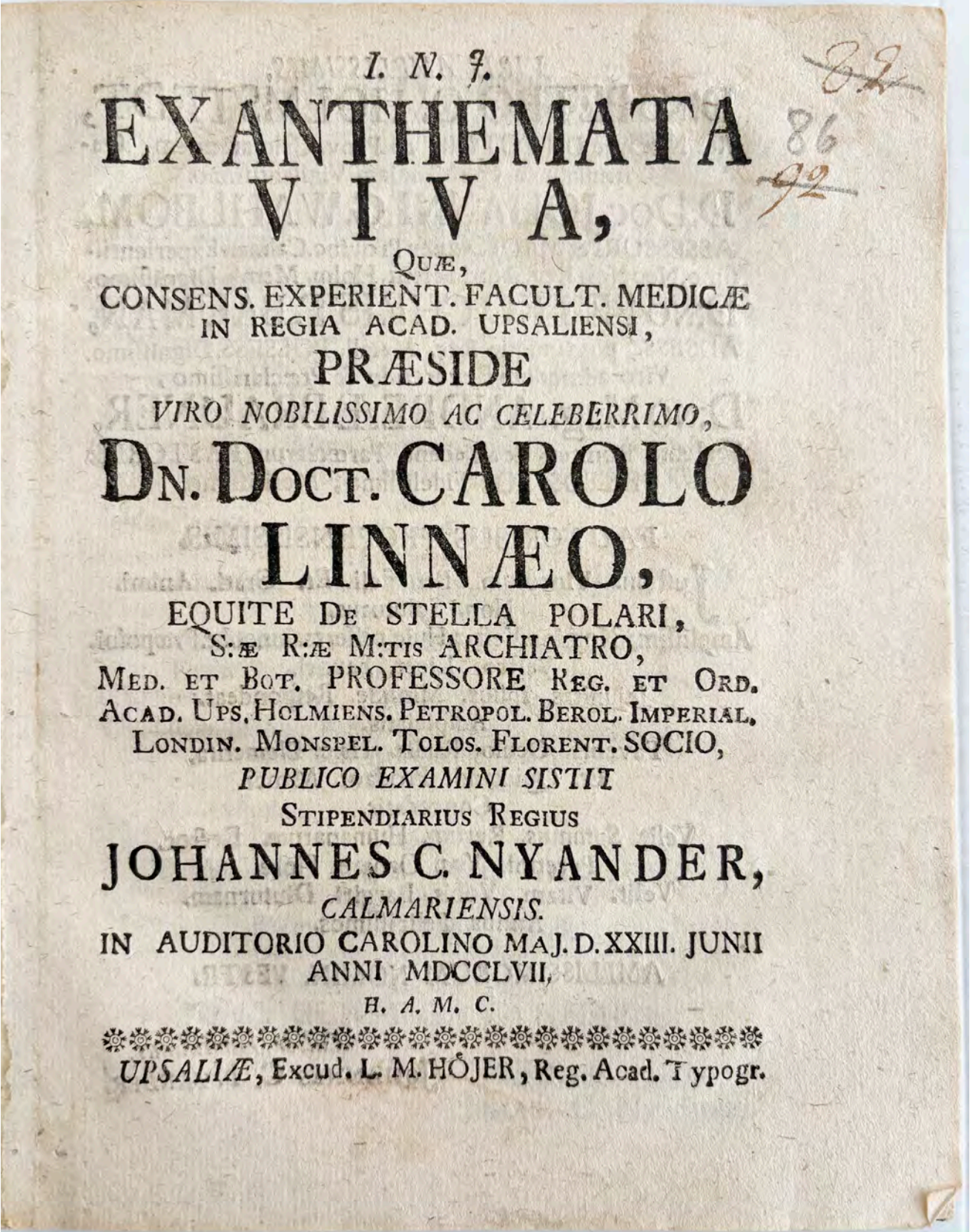
Although purportedly a thesis by the otherwise unknown John Nyander, the text was – as was custom – written by Linnaeus for Nyander to defend. As Kärholm and others have shown, Swedish theses from this period were often part of the scientific avant-garde.

Generalized notions of the spread of disease by airborne contagions are ancient, but in the early-modern period a number of natural philosophers and medics attempted to investigate the question more thoroughly. In fact the present thesis accurately describes the theories of Kircher and Fracastorius as relying on the discredited theory of spontaneous generation. Linnaeus, meanwhile, made use of the discoveries of Antonie van Leeuwenhoek. ‘To summarize,’ writes one historian, the *Exanthemata viva* argued

that all eruptive diseases were caused by living pathogens, that each disease was specific to its causative organism, and that, because of differences in the viability of these organisms, some of these diseases could be transmitted only by contagion, at least in certain climates, whereas others could be caused by organisms that persisted in particular sites such as wooden drinking vessels.

Nor was Linnaeus’ work merely an aside in the history of medicine. The *Exanthemata viva* was noticed by, for example, John Pringle, physician-general to the Army, who cited the work in the fourth (1764) edition of his influential *Observations on the Diseases of the Army*.

Rare: LibraryHub records only 5 copies in the UK, and OCLC finds copies only at Harvard, Yale and McGill in North America.



MORLAND, Sir Samuel
(1625–1695)

**The Description and
Use of Two Arithmetick
Instruments. Together With
a Short Treatise, explaining
and Demonstrating the
Ordinary Operations of
Arithmetick. As likewise, a
Perpetual Almanack, and
several Useful Tables**

London: Printed, and are to
be Sold by Moses Pitt at the
White-Hart in Little-Britain,
1673

Small octavo (143 x 85mm);
various paginations, 25 plates

Collation: A⁸ B–F⁸ A⁸(–A⁸) G⁸(–
G⁸) B⁸ *⁸

Fair condition: text and plates
in very good condition, noting
some faint staining to the
lower half of the first 7 or so
leaves; disbound, retaining
early boards, spine separated
and therefore due a sensitive
rebind

References: Origins of
Cyberspace 9

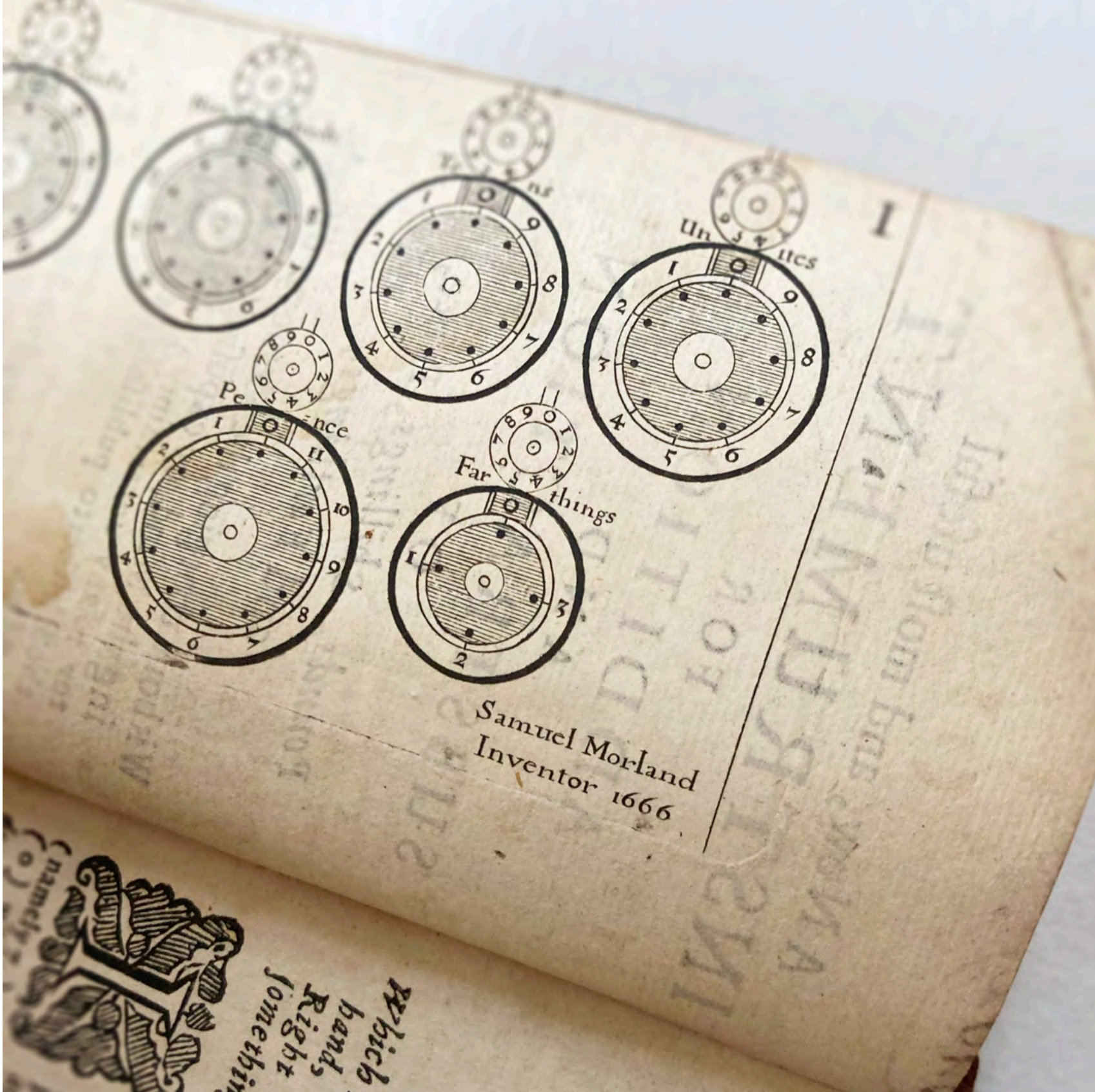
THE ORIGIN OF MECHANICAL COMPUTING

A LANDMARK TEXT by the courtier and inventor Samuel Morland (1625–1695). Preceded in the bibliography on modern computing only by works on the sector, Napier’s Bones, and Pascal’s manual for the ‘Pascaline’. This, then, is the very first book in English on a mechanical calculating machine.

Here Morland introduces his machines for addition and subtraction (of currency), and for arithmetic. The book is also a compendium on calculation, including a perpetual almanac, tables of feasts and eclipses, and much else besides.

Two Arithmetick Instruments is a highly unusual production. The engravings are very fine, and some pages are printed in letterpress on one site and copperplate on the other. But it is a bibliographic conundrum, with many pagination errors and no standard collation. This copy is unusual in having all the plates fully intact, and lacks only the portrait frontispiece.

Sir Samuel Morland (1625–1695) was an English diplomat, inventor, and mathematician. He was secretary to Richard Thurloe during the Commonwealth, but became a double agent and then a courtier after the Restoration. He was a prolific inventor – alongside his contribution to the history of computing he also invented water pumps, a modified fire hearth, and a weighing machine for ship’s anchors.



MURCHISON, Sir Roderick Impey (1792–1871)

The Silurian System, founded on geological researches in the counties of Salop, Hereford, Radnor, Montgomery, Caermarthen, Brecon, Pembroke, Monmouth, Gloucester, Worcester, and Stafford; with descriptions of the coal-fields and overlying formations

London: John Murray, Albemarle Street, 1839

2 parts in one volume, quarto (320 x 270mm); pp. xxii, 768, 3 engraved topographical maps on 2 sheets, 14 lithographic plates of which 2 folding and 3 hand-coloured, 9 folding hand-coloured engraved geological sections, 31 plates of fossils of which 25 are engraved and 6 are lithographs, 112 wood-engraved text illustrations (occasional spotting affecting some plates more heavily). Contemporary half morocco over marbled-paper covered boards (rebacked, preserving original spine, extremities

FIRST EDITION COMPLETE WITH THE VERY RARE MAP. Murchison was born in Tarradale, Easter Ross, into a prosperous family. He was educated at Durham School and the military college at Great Marlow, later serving in the British Army during the Peninsular War. After leaving the army in 1815 and marrying Charlotte Hugonin, Murchison initially pursued art and antiquities on the Grand Tour, and then settled at Castle Barnard, Co. Durham, where he seems mainly to have enjoyed field sports. However, inspired by meeting Sir Humphry Davy in 1823, Murchison turned to science, and moved to London.

Geology attracted him immensely, and by January 1825 he was a fellow of the Geological Society. The following year, his star had risen sufficiently for him to hold the position of Secretary, and five years later, in 1831, he was elected President. Murchison was also a founder member of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, attending its inaugural meeting at York on 27 September 1831, where he described the preliminary results of his fieldwork undertaken that summer in south Wales.

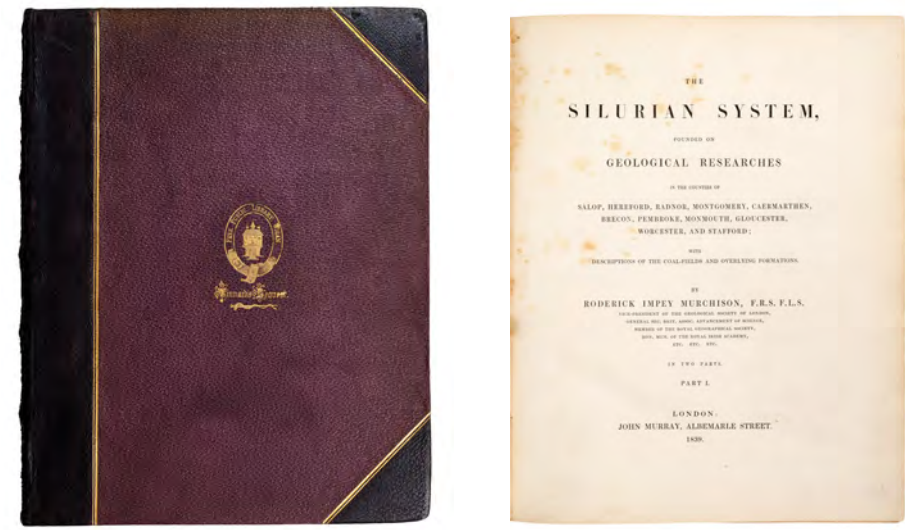
This fieldwork – an attempt to discover whether the greywacke rocks underlying the Old Red Sandstone could be grouped into a definite

rubbed, recently refurbished with expert repair to rear inner hinge) [COMPLETE WITH:] one very large, hand-coloured engraved geological map of ‘The Silurian Region and adjacent counties of England and Wales Geologically Illustrated’, printed on 3 sheets, together 1500 x 940mm, to a scale of 3 miles to one inch, 1:190,080, signed ‘Drawn & Engraved by J. Gardner. Regent Street. London.’ and in the lower-right corner ‘Rod. S. Murchison’, with inset map to top-left corner of the geological systems of England and Wales, and two geological sections along the bottom edge, dissected and mounted on linen (a fresh, clean copy); housed in a contemporary half calf over buckram solander box, gilt stamp of the Wigan Public Library to upper cover (extremities lightly rubbed, one hinge expertly repaired), (2)

order of succession – resulted in the establishment of the Silurian system under which were grouped, for the first time, a remarkable series of formations, each replete with distinctive organic remains other than and very different from those of the other rocks of England. ‘Murchison was the first to establish a uniform sequence of Transition strata, to which he gave the name “Silurian” after a British tribe; these strata constituted a major system with uniform fossil remains, displaying an abundance of invertebrates and a complete lack... of the remains of vertebrates or land plants’ (Norman). Thus, the implications of Murchison’s researches for the evolutionary history of the Earth were enormous.

Today, the Silurian is understood as a geologic period and system that extends from the end of the Ordovician Period, about 443 million years ago, to the beginning of the Devonian Period, about 419 million years ago. As with other geologic periods, the rock beds that define the period’s start and end are well identified, but the exact dates are uncertain by several million years. The base of the Silurian is set at a major extinction event when 60% of marine species were wiped out.

A full history and bibliographic description of the work is given by Thackray, although he omits mention of the 3 engraved topographical maps printed on 2 sheets. Suffice to mention here that Murchison received substantial help from Arthur Aikin with notes on Shropshire, while J. de C. Sowerby described the shells, Louis Agassiz the fishes,



References: Challinor 141; Donovan p. 117; Norman 1569; Thackray, ‘R.I. Murchison’s *Silurian System* (1839)’; Ward & Carozzi 1620



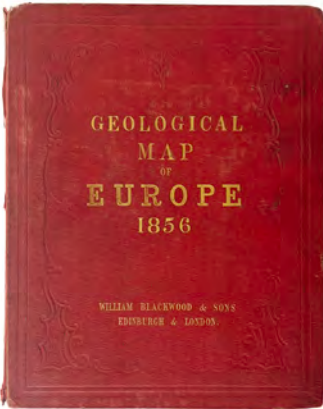
MURCHISON, Sir Roderick Impey (1792–1871) and NICOL, James (1810–1879)

Geological Map of Europe Exhibiting the Different Systems of Rocks According to the Most Recent Researches and Unedited Materials

Edinburgh: W. Blackwood & Sons, & W. and A.K. Johnston, 1856

Folding engraved map (1300 x 1077mm), coloured by a contemporary hand, dissected and mounted on linen, scale of 1 inch to 76 miles (1:4,800,000)

Very good condition: cloth binding somewhat frayed; one flattened fold to a corner of one segment, otherwise the map itself is in excellent condition



THE FIRST GEOLOGICAL MAP OF EUROPE

A HIGH POINT OF VICTORIAN GEOLOGY, and a stunning large-scale geological map – over a metre tall. Murchison and Nicol give a first overview of European stratigraphy and make a bold visual argument for deep geological time.

In 1839 Murchison published his monumental work *The Silurian System* (Cat. No. 23), establishing the Silurian Period (now understood as 443–419Ma) and making a vital contribution to the understanding of the first phase of fossil-bearing rocks.

During the composition of *The Silurian System* Murchison had entered into a famous dispute with Henry De la Beche over the correct age of certain rock formations in Devon – the so-called ‘Great Devonian Controversy’. Murchison’s proposal, with Adam Sedgwick, was to designate a new period, the Devonian, between his Silurian and the more recent coal-bearing rocks of the Carboniferous. To do this Murchison undertook an ambitious geological survey of the Rhineland and parts of Russia, resulting not only in the confirmation of the Devonian but the further establishment of the Permian Period as a sequel to the Carboniferous. In 1849, with the account of west-Russian geology published, Murchison conceived of an ambitious large-scale geological map of Europe: the first of its kind ever produced.

By the middle of the nineteenth century Murchison’s pioneering work accounted almost the entirety of Victorian understanding of the period before the arrival of the dinosaurs: it is this vast achievement that is represented in the present map, which stretches from the south-west tip of Portugal to the edge of Siberia, and from Iceland in the north to the far shores of the Mediterranean in the south.

The only comparable project was that of the Belgian geologist André Dumont, whose European map was completed in 1857. Murchison saw a copy of this map while visiting Poppelsdorf, but perhaps predictably he considered it to be derivative of his own work.



OPPENHEIMER, J. Robert
(1904–1967)

**The Problems of the
Interaction Of Elementary
Particles: Transcriptions of
Lectures by Dr. J. Robert
Oppenheimer, Given At
The California Institute Of
Technology**

N.p. [California Institute of
Technology, Pasadena CA],
1950

280 x 216mm; pp. 87 leaves,
printed on rectos only

Mimeographed lecture notes.
Very good condition: stapled
as issued, with three hole
punches; top edge chipped;
final leaf detached, browned
to the verso

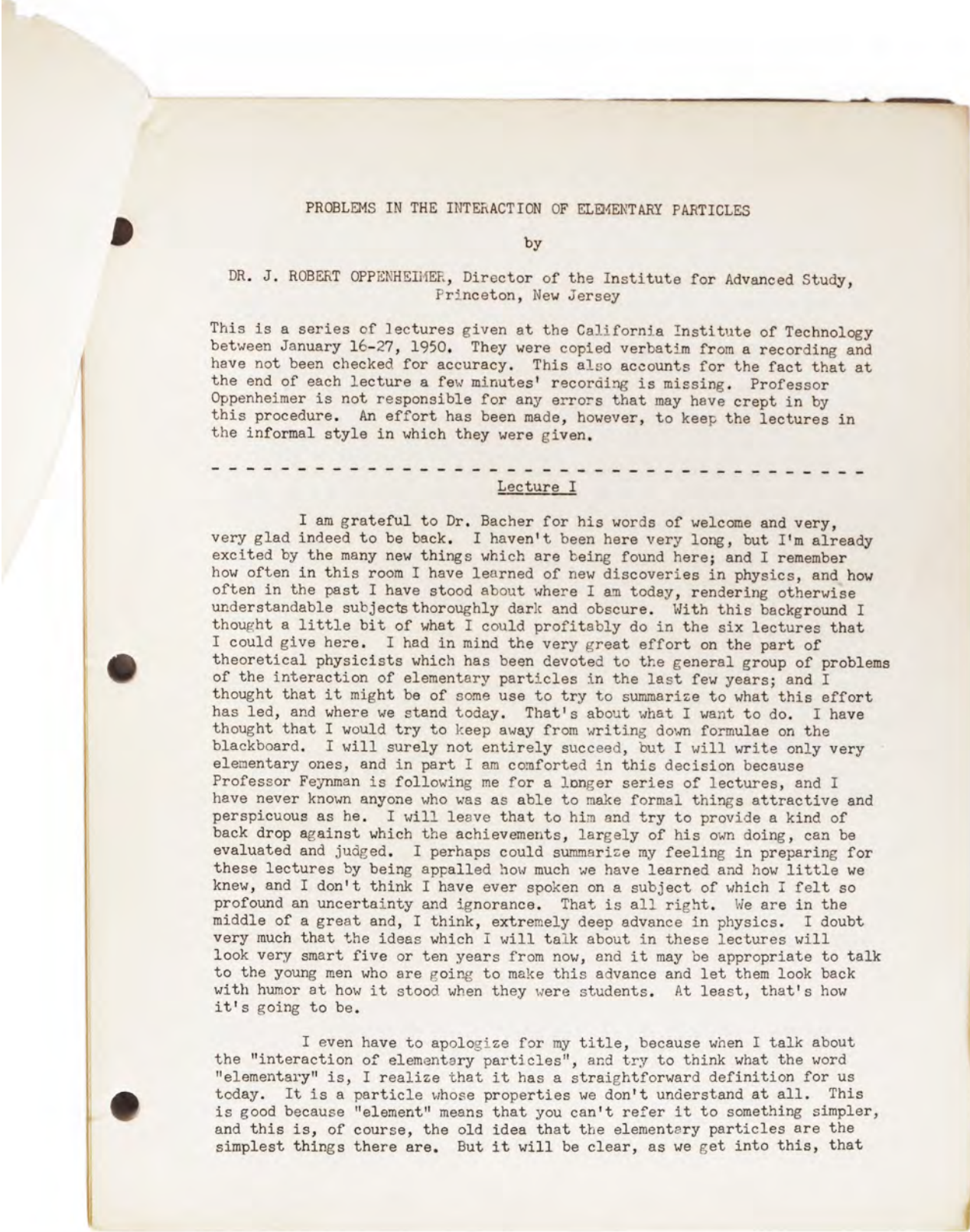
References: Schweber *QED
and the Men Who Made It*

AN EXCEPTIONALLY SCARCE set of mimeographed transcriptions of Oppenheimer’s ambitious survey of Quantum Electrodynamics up to 1950. Never published, and barely known in the literature on the history of physics.

Oppenheimer himself had presided over a series of landmark postwar conferences on quantum physics, 1947–1949 (at Shelter Island, Pocono and Oldstone), which had seen the convergence of research by Richard Feynman, Julius Schwinger, and Sin-Itiro Tomonaga. As Schweber points out in *QED and the Men Who Made It*, Oppenheimer’s Caltech lectures stand at the pinnacle of this achievement (Introduction, xxviii).

In spite of his fame for the development of the atomic bomb, it is the subject of elementary particle interaction that provides the leitmotif for Oppenheimer’s whole career: his first major papers of the late 1920s were on this topic, and immediately after the war Oppenheimer sought to use his position as a ‘statesman of science’ to oversee a new research programme on quantum physics, culminating in the present work.

Although OCLC returns no results for these lectures, we have been able to locate three copies: one in the Richard Latter Papers at the Hoover Institution Library and Archives; two at Caltech Library (one in the William A. Fowler Papers).



OSTROM, John H. (1928–2005)

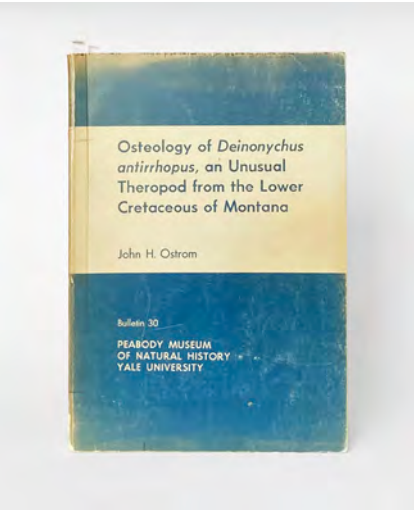
Osteology of *Deinonychus antirrhopus*, an Unusual Theropod from the Lower Cretaceous of Montana

New Haven CT: Yale University, 1969

Octavo; 251 x 174mm; pp. 165

Softcover. Fair to good condition: extensively used, as noted, with Ostrom's tape repair to the spine, and marginalia throughout

Provenance: John H. Ostrom's own working copy

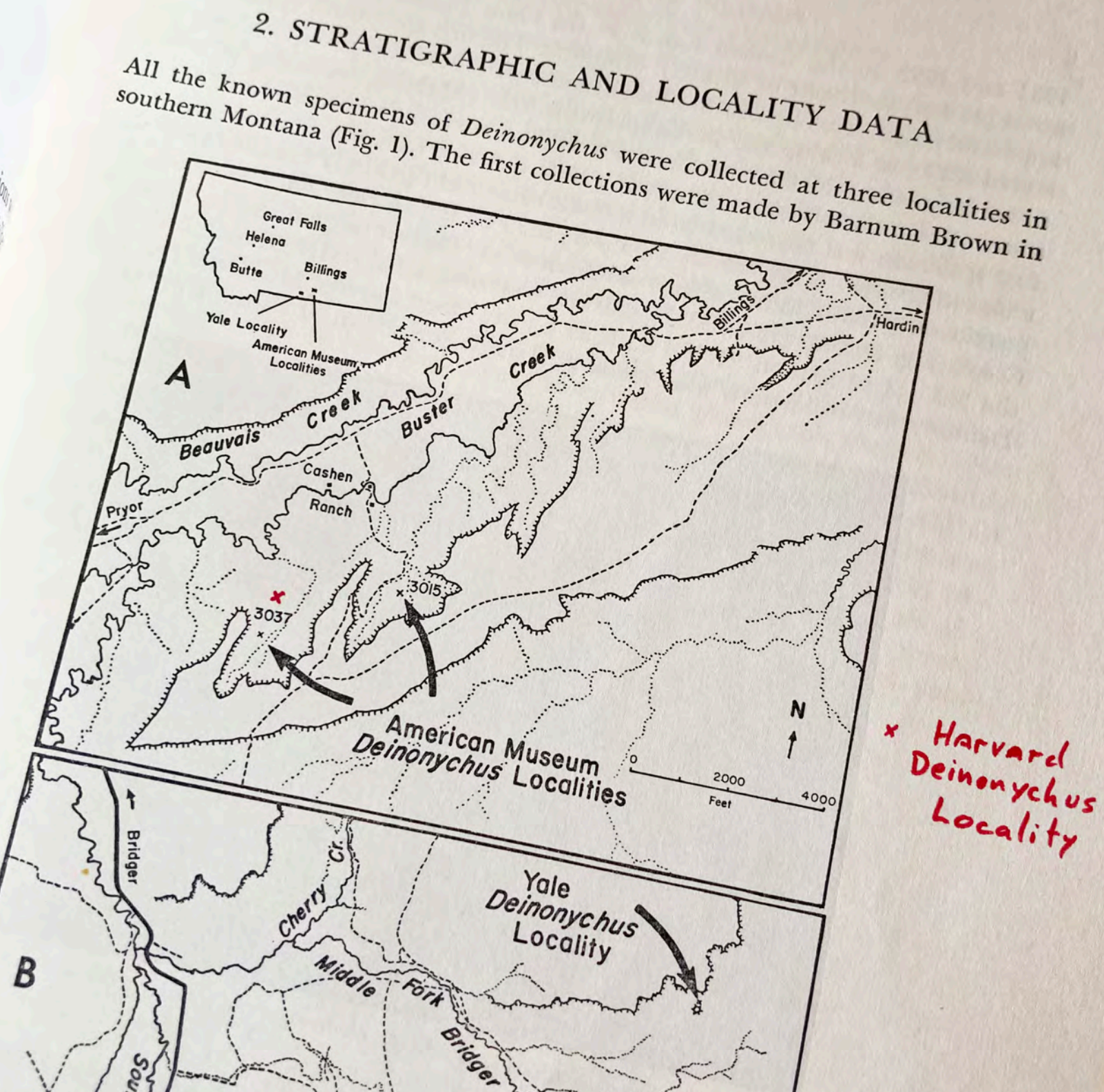


THE DINOSAUR RENAISSANCE: AUTHOR'S COPY

THE AUTHOR'S OWN WORKING COPY of this foundational text in the 'Dinosaur Renaissance', which transformed dinosaurs in scientific and popular understanding from plodding swamp-dwelling beasts into agile, possibly warm-blooded predators. *Deinonychus*, specifically, created an evolutionary 'link' between land-dwelling dinosaurs, *Archaeopteryx*, and birds, and is in fact the dinosaur presented as the 'Velociraptor' in Michael Crichton's *Jurassic Park*. Ostrom's discovery of *Deinonychus* has been described as 'the single most important discovery – perhaps in the recent history of all dinosaurs' (Fastovsky and Weishampel, *The Evolution and Extinction of the Dinosaurs*).

This copy contains Ostrom's notes on subsequent specimens of *Deinonychus*, particularly the Harvard University specimen discovered by Steven Orzack in 1974 (MCZ 4371), which caused Ostrom to revise his description of the genus. Ostrom has added the location of the find to the map at the beginning of the volume, and interpolated MCZ 4371's measurements throughout. The volume also contains many minor textual corrections (particularly significant, as this volume was never reissued). Other attractive annotations include a speculative addition to the cladistic diagram near the end of the volume, adding *Saurornitholestes* to the evolutionary tree of *Dromaeosauridae*; also a note of the name and contact details of the 'current rancher at the site' – the latter dated 1995, three years after Ostrom's retirement, showing his continued interest in *Deinonychus*.

John H. Ostrom (1928–2005) is considered one of the most important palaeontologists of the twentieth century. He spent his entire career at Yale University, and focused on field sites in Wyoming and Montana. His earliest studies of the craniometry of the *Hadrosaur* prefigured his later work, as he speculated that the *Hadrosaur's* environment was dry conifer forests, rather than swampy ground. The discovery of *Deinonychus* in 1964 transformed his career, leading to a large number of technical and popular publications, and further research into the evolution of birds, culminating in his classic 1976 paper '*Archaeopteryx* and the evolution of birds', seen as the definitive statement of an idea that goes all the way back to T.H. Huxley's speculative work in the 1860s.



QUIN, Edward (1794–1828)

An Historical Atlas; In a Series of Maps of the World as Known at Different Periods [...]

London: Printed for R.B. Seeley and W. Burnside, 1830

Folio (415 x 340mm); pp. [3, interpolated leaves including the title-page, contents and first letterpress page], 93, [2], 21 maps (6 folding)

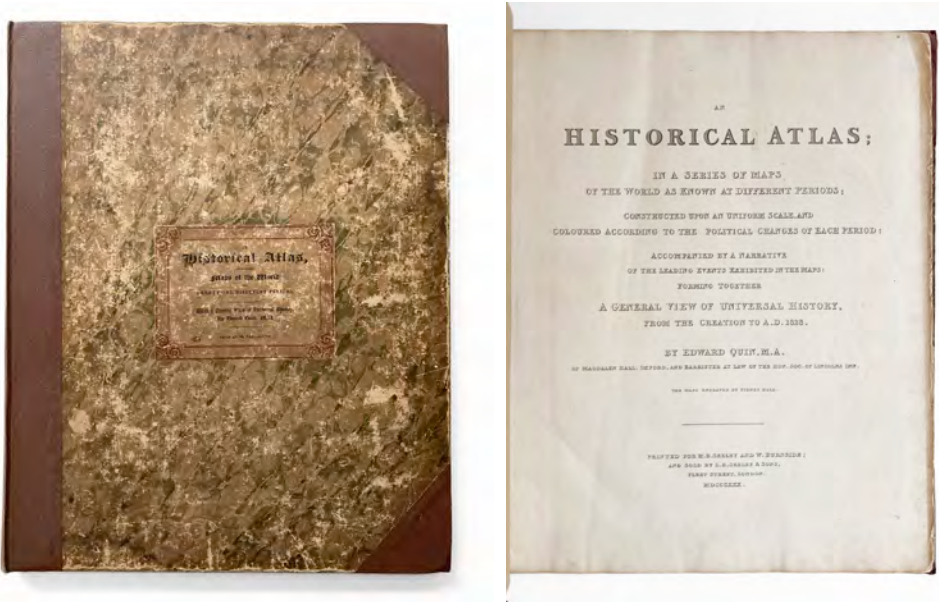
Very good condition: all maps in excellent condition; a few small marks to aquatinting introduced during the printing process to the first map; rebacked in brown cloth, matching the original half-leather binding, and retaining the original marbled boards and paper cover title (worn); new endpapers. Some edge-wear and chipping to page edges as always

References: Goffart, *Historical Atlases The First Three Hundred Years, 1570–1870*; Rumsey No. 2839

THE WORLD REVEALED IN HISTORICAL SEQUENCE. Quin’s *Historical Atlas* is justly famous as a masterpiece of atlas conception and printing. The unusual format of the maps is to use extensive black aquatint to show the ‘parting clouds’ of historical discovery, with exquisite hand-colouring of the landmasses themselves.

The sequence is unashamedly Western-centric and Christian apologist. The first map, ‘The Deluge’, shows only Eden – a tiny yellow hand-coloured area in a sea of black (see the rear cover of this catalogue). subsequent maps show the Exodus of the Israelites (Assyria, Syria, Canaan, Egypt), the Foundation of Rome, the Empires of Cyrus and Alexander, the Rise of the Roman Empire, and so on, up to the spectacular ‘Discovery of America’ – the first double-size folding map (detail shown overleaf).

Owing to the practice of splitting this atlas, complete bound copies in good condition are increasingly rare.



RAMANUJAN, Srinivasa
(1887–1920)

**On Certain Arithmetical
Functions** [TOGETHER WITH:]
**On certain trigonometrical
sums and their applications
in the theory of numbers**

[COMPRISING:] *Transactions of
the Cambridge Philosophical
Society*, Vol. XXII, Nos 9 and
13

Cambridge: Cambridge
University Press, 1916 and
1918

Two vols, quarto (293 x
225mm), pp. [4], 159–184
[2], and [4], 259–276 [2]

Two single issues in original
printed wrappers; fine
condition, (2)

Provenance: Cambridge
Philosophical Society, retained
from the time of publication
until 2024

TWO CLASSIC PAPERS by the legendary Indian mathematician Srinivasa Ramanujan, the self taught savant who was brought to Cambridge by G.H. Hardy in one of the most extraordinary careers in the history of mathematics.

Ramanujan's attempts to interest others in his work led, in 1913, to a correspondence with Hardy in Cambridge, with the older mathematician quickly realising that he was in touch with a highly unusual 'student'. Some of Ramanujan's results were so stunning that Hardy wrote later that they 'defeated me completely; I had never seen anything in the least like them before'. Hardy began arrangements to bring Ramanujan to Cambridge before he had even sent his reply, and in 1914, once Ramanujan had secured his parents' blessing, he travelled to England. In Cambridge Hardy tutored him Ramanujan in modern mathematical techniques, while attempting not to 'break the spell of his inspiration' (Hardy, *rs obit. notice*). The result was an unquestioned triumph: Ramanujan published more than 20 papers in European journals, alongside many in the *Journal of the Indian Mathematical Society*.

Hardy considered the present two papers among Ramanujan's finest, and wrote that they 'should be read together'. 'They contain,' he wrote, 'very beautiful contributions to the theory of the representation of numbers by sums of squares.' Yet even this praise underplays the importance of the papers:

Ramanujan's innocently titled paper 'On Certain Arithmetical Functions' is arguably his most important work. The results in this paper include 'congruences', which would later play a role in developing ideas that were critical to the proof of Fermat's last theorem, and it contained a conjecture that would later be proved by Deligne in his 1974 paper for which he was awarded the Fields Medal. (Ono and Aczel, *My Search for Ramanujan*)

The second paper is no less important, introducing 'Ramanujan's sums', which play a key role in analytic number theory and multiplicative function analysis. They connect analytic number theory, Fourier analysis, and even engineering applications, showing the remarkable reach of Ramanujan's intuition.

XIII. *On certain Trigonometrical Sums and their Applications in the Theory of Numbers.*

By S. RAMANUJAN, B.A., F.R.S., Trinity College.

[Received and read 4 February 1918.]

1. The trigonometrical sums with which this paper is concerned are of the type

$$c_s(n) = \sum_{\lambda} \cos \frac{2\pi \lambda n}{s},$$

where λ is prime to s and not greater than s . It is plain that

$$c_s(n) = \sum \alpha^n,$$

where α is a primitive root of the equation

$$x^s - 1 = 0.$$

These sums are obviously of very great interest, and a few of their properties have been discussed already*. But, so far as I know, they have never been considered from the point of view which I adopt in this paper; and I believe that all the results which it contains are new.

My principal object is to obtain expressions for a variety of well-known arithmetical functions of n in the form of a series

$$\sum_s a_s c_s(n).$$

A typical formula is

$$\sigma(n) = \frac{\pi^2 n}{6} \left\{ \frac{c_1(n)}{1^2} + \frac{c_2(n)}{2^2} + \frac{c_3(n)}{3^2} + \dots \right\},$$

where $\sigma(n)$ is the sum of the divisors of n . I give two distinct methods for the proof of this and a large variety of similar formulae. The majority of my formulae are 'elementary' in the technical sense of the word—they can (that is to say) be proved by a combination of processes involving only finite algebra and simple general theorems concerning infinite series. There are however some which are of a 'deeper' character, and can only be proved by means of theorems which seem to depend essentially on the theory of analytic functions. A typical

[ROYAL SOCIETY]

The Philosophical Transactions and Collections, to the End of the Year MDCC, Abridged and Disposed under General Heads

London: Printed for W. Innys [et al.], 1734–1749

Quarto (232 x 180mm); 8 vols, various paginations, numerous plates, many folding, (8)

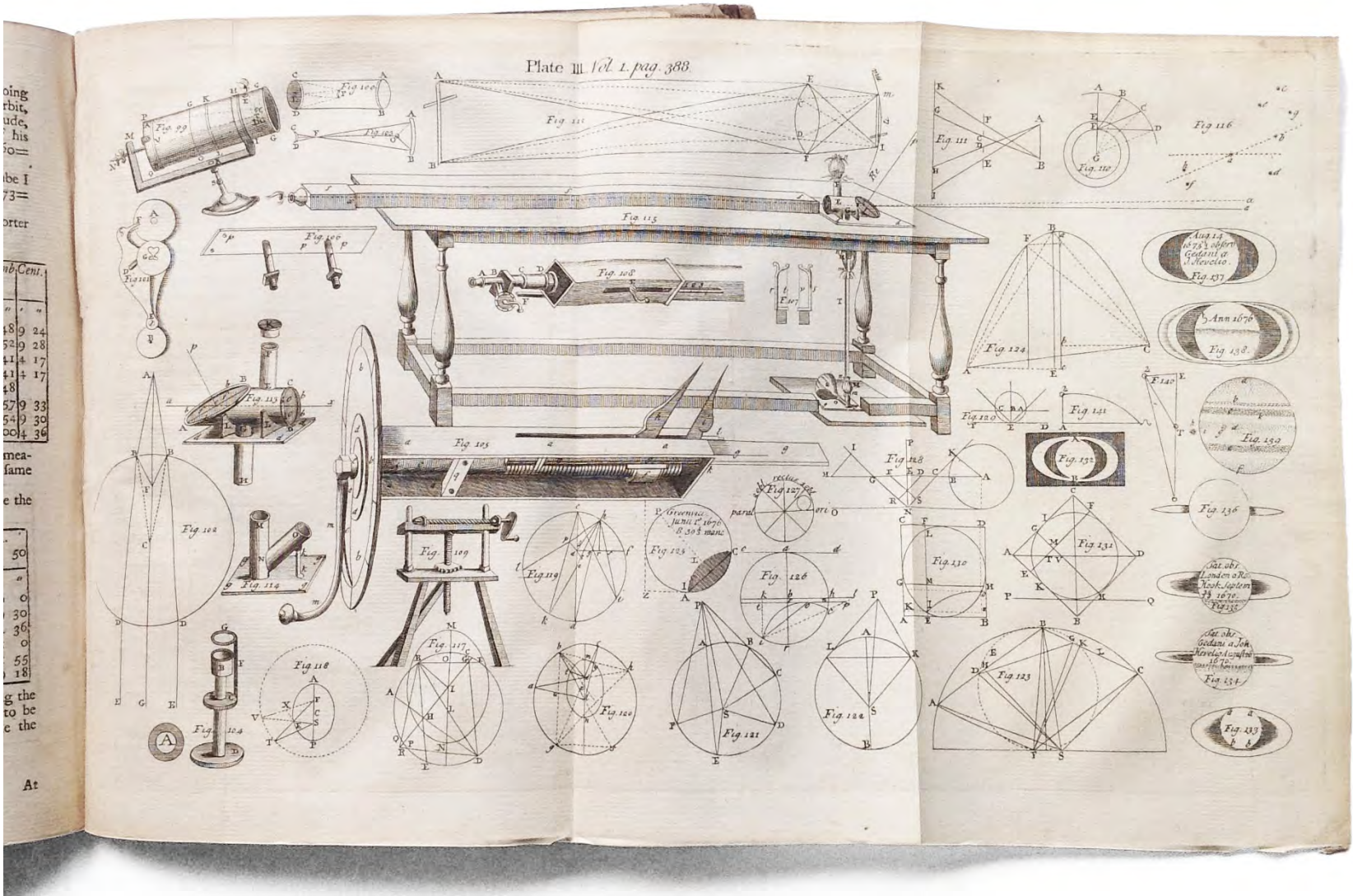
Very good condition: internally the collection is clean and bright throughout, occasional very light foxing; plates in excellent condition, very fine impressions. All figures run consecutively (though one plate is bound a few pages after its intended location) and the pagination is complete throughout. The bindings have been expertly restored (full leather restoration, retaining gilt spine decoration and adding new endpapers)

AN OUTSTANDING COMPLETE SET of the *Phil Trans* abridgements, in original uniform leather bindings. 7 volumes in 8, with a total of 168 plates containing some 1,600 figures.

Edited by John Lowthorp, Henry Jones, John Eames and John Martyn. This set of abridgements contains many of the most important works of the scientific revolution, including microscopic discoveries, Newton's work on optics, astronomical observations by Hevelius, Halley, Cassini, Flamsteed and others, Boyle's researches into the nature of air, and countless other subjects.

Many volumes bear the imprimatur of Isaac Newton, who oversaw the project of abridgement. There are also copiously illustrated archaeological, geographic, botanical, physiological and geological papers. The plates show the instruments and inventions characteristic of the era, notably including Newton's reflecting telescope and Wilson's pocket microscope. Vol. v contains Father Kino's famous map showing a land route to California, which ended the myth that the peninsula was an island.

This is a uniform set assembled in the eighteenth century from the following editions: Vols I–III, covering 1665–1700: fifth edition (1749); vols IV–V, covering 1700–1720: third edition (1749); VI–VII, covering 1719–1733: first edition (1734). Sensitive restoration results in an attractive and easy to handle set.



SABINE, Edward (1788–1883)

‘Magnetic observations’

[OFFPRINT FROM:] *Narrative of the Surveying Voyages of His Majesty’s Ships Adventure and Beagle [...]* Vol. 1. *Proceedings of the first expedition, 1826–30, under the command of Captain P. Parker King, R.N., F.R.S.*

London: Henry Colburn, c.1837–1839

Octavo (210 x 130mm); A-B8, pp. 32

Modern green wrappers (author and title inscribed on upper wrapper in ballpoint pen; tiny ballpoint ink mark at head of upper wrapper). A fine, clean copy with only some very faint insignificant spotting on pp. 9–10 and pp. 13–14 with fore-edge just slightly irregularly trimmed

References: cf. Freeman 10

OFFPRINT FROM *THE VOYAGE OF THE BEAGLE*

AN OFFPRINT OF ABSOLUTE RARITY by Edward Sabine, analysing magnetic variation and dip readings taken by Fitzroy on board the *Beagle*.

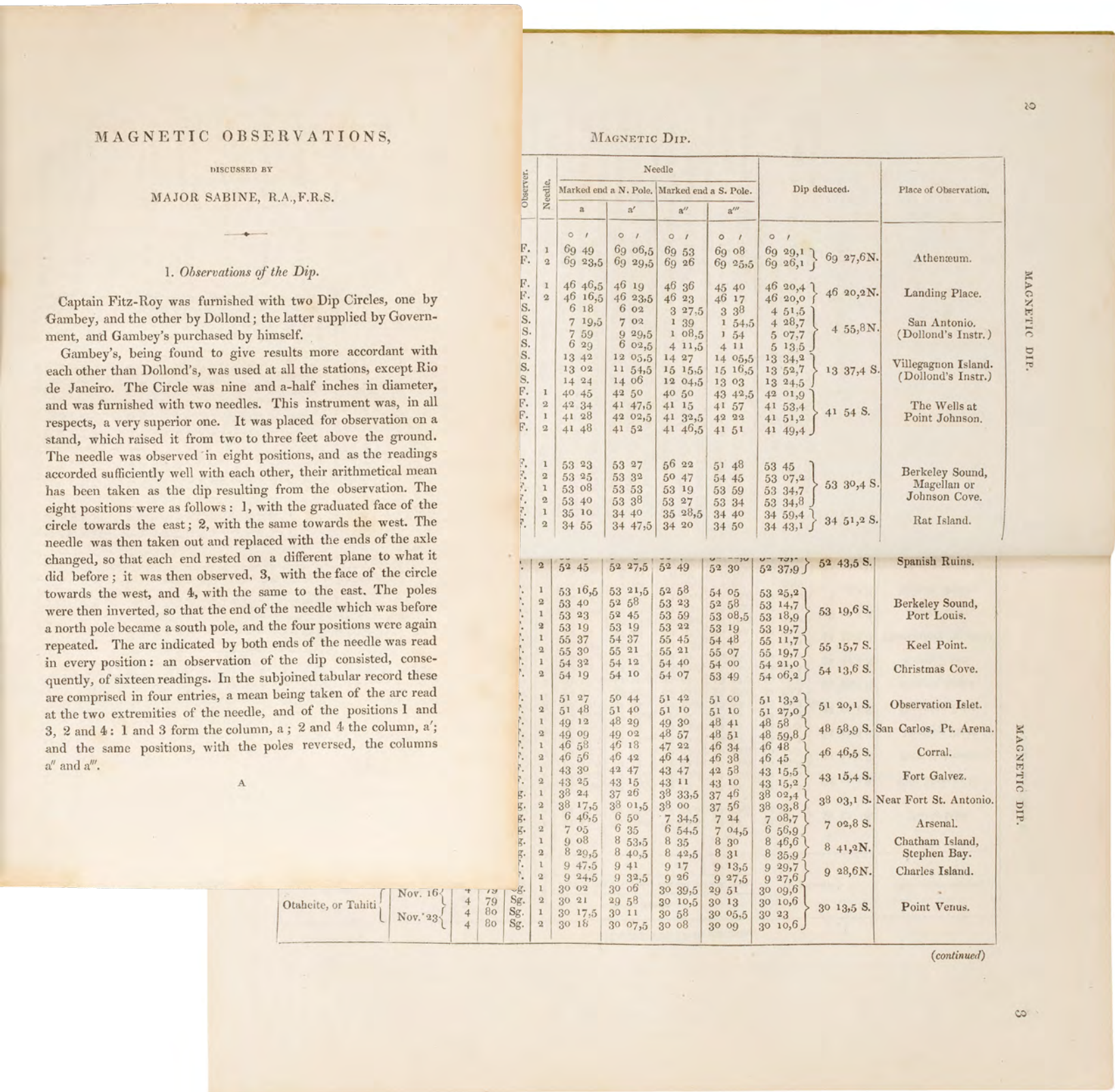
It is for his work on the Earth’s magnetism that Sabine is best known. In 1818, he joined John Ross on the North-West Passage expedition as an astronomer and scientific officer. In 1819, Sabine returned to the Arctic with William Parry, conducting a magnetic survey on their expedition to Melville Island. Sabine’s became a central figure in what became known as the ‘magnetic crusade,’ a global effort to study Earth’s magnetic field. It is therefore no surprise that Sabine was asked to analyse the magnetic observations made by Captains Fitzroy and King. Sabine notes on p.27:

Captain Fitz-Roy’s observations are so well distributed over the southern hemisphere, that a good view of the changes which the variation is undergoing throughout its meridians may be obtained by comparing his determinations with those of earlier observers at the same stations.

In other words, the volume and geographical spread of Fitzroy’s magnetic observations have enabled Sabine to build an accurate picture of how the Earth’s magnetic field was changing over time.

The *Beagle* returned to Britain in 1836, although the publication of the *Narrative of the Surveying Voyages of His Majesty’s Ships Adventure and Beagle* was delayed until 1839. Sabine had completed his analysis of the magnetic readings from the circumnavigation well before that date, since he reported the results in his 1837 paper ‘Report on the variations of the magnetic intensity observed at different points of the earth’s surface’. It therefore seems extremely likely that this offprint appeared in either 1837 or 1838, prior to the appearance of the volumes in 1839.

The offprint is composed of two gatherings each of eight leaves signed A-B8 and paginated [1]–32, whereas the article in the whole volume is printed on two gatherings each of eight leaves signed 2K–2L8 paginating 497–512; additionally, the offprint omits ‘VOL.I.’ at the foot of the first page. For such a cornerstone document in the history of geomagnetism, it is intriguing that no other such offprints can be traced either in institutions or on the market.



THARP, Marie (1920–2006),
and HEEZEN, Bruce C.
(1924–1977)

The Floor of the Oceans

Paris: Éditions Charon, 1977

Lithographic world
map printed in colours;
1150 x 662mm; scale of
1:40,000,000

Very good condition:
laminated as issued, with
some minor wear to the
lamination at the edges

References: Felt, *Sounding:
The Story of the Remarkable
Woman Who Mapped the
Ocean Floor*



A CRUCIAL AND VISUALLY STRIKING contribution to the theory of Plate Tectonics. Marie Tharp and Bruce Heezen collaborated for more than three decades, producing a series of regional ocean floor maps, with this world map marking the conclusion of this remarkable partnership. Tharp and Heezen used data from echo soundings collected by research ships, in order to plot the ocean floor’s topography. The first startling finding was a vast, continuous ridge running down the middle of the Atlantic. Most striking was the discovery of a central rift valley within the ridge – a geologic feature that indicated seafloor spreading and supported the then-controversial theory of continental drift. This visualization played a pivotal role in validating the emerging theory of plate tectonics, which transformed our understanding of Earth’s dynamic crust.

Marie Tharp, a geologist and oceanographic cartographer, was the intellectual force behind the mapping project, although she initially faced skepticism in a male-dominated field. At a time when women were largely excluded from shipboard research, Tharp worked from the lab, analysing thousands of sonar readings by hand and turning raw data into groundbreaking insights. When she first proposed the existence of the rift valley, Heezen initially dismissed her findings as ‘girl talk’. But as more data confirmed her interpretation, her analysis proved unassailable. Tharp’s work not only demonstrated her exceptional scientific ability but also highlighted the importance of persistence and precision in scientific discovery. Her maps remain iconic not just for their scientific significance, but also for their elegance and clarity in visualizing the unseen world beneath the sea.

Together, Tharp and Heezen’s efforts culminated in the present map, titled *The Floor of the Oceans*. This map brought to life the vast, rugged terrain of the ocean basins and helped shift scientific consensus toward accepting plate tectonics as the unifying theory of geology. It provided the missing piece linking continental drift, seafloor spreading, and the movement of tectonic plates. This work was instrumental in bridging observation with theory, making visible the hidden architecture of our planet and enabling a new era of Earth science.



TURING, Alan Mathison
(1912–1954)

‘The Word problem in Semi-groups with Cancellation’

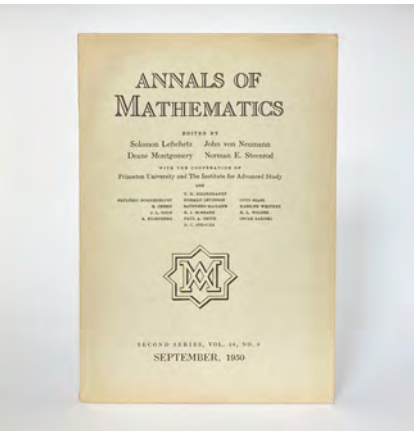
[IN:] *Annals of Mathematics*
Vol. 2, No. 52

Princeton NJ: Princeton University
Press, September 1950

Octavo (254 x 175mm); pp. 245–
508, Turing at pp. 491–505

Single issue in original wraps;
near fine condition; spine
slightly wrinkled as often

References: *The Turing
Guide*, pp. 394–397; *Alan
Turing: His Work and Impact*,
343–357; Martin Davis, ‘What
is a Computation?’



THE ‘TURING MACHINE’: PERFECTED

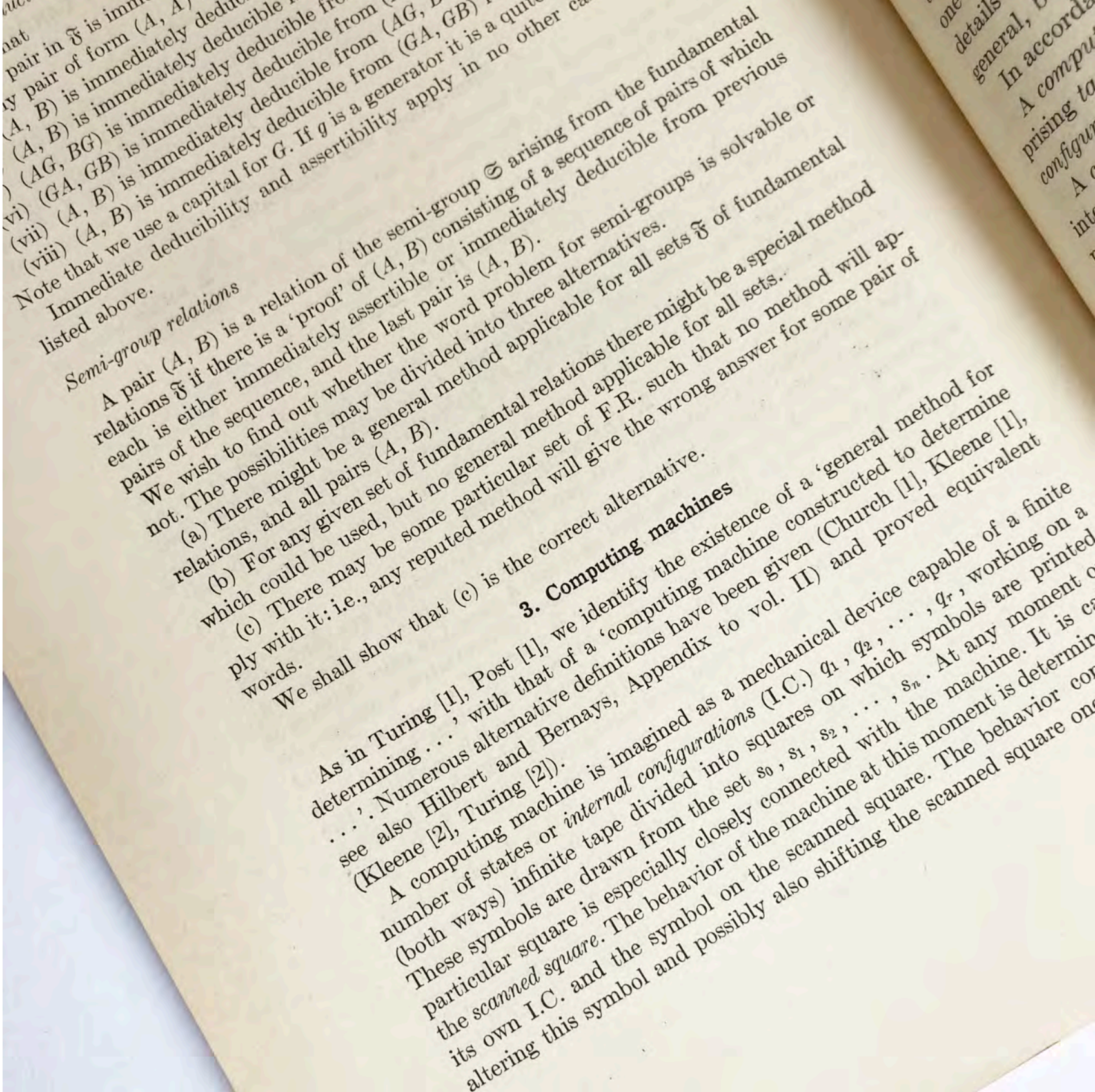
TURING’S LAST STATEMENT on the eponymous ‘Turing Machine’ – the 1936 thought experiment that launched the entire field of computing machinery.

In his 1936 paper Alan Turing famously proposed an imaginary device which would manipulate symbols on an infinite strip of tape. With the simple set of rules by which this device operated, Turing was able not only to show that the ‘Entscheidungsproblem’ (decision problem) set by David Hilbert was unsolvable, but also to give a formal definition of computability, and to construct a ‘machine’ that could carry out any possible computation. This was a landmark in the history of mathematics – and also stands as the founding moment in the history of modern computing.

But it was far from the last word on what came to be called ‘Turing Machines’. The search for more problems that could be analysed in this way led, in 1947, to the publication of Emil Post’s ‘Recursive Unsolvability of a Problem of Thue’, which proposed several improvements on Turing’s original concept and applied it to what is known as the ‘word problem’ in algebraic Group Theory, showing that for a special case the so-called ‘word problem’ is unsolvable.* This was an area of mathematics in which Turing had published his first ever paper, in 1935. Post’s 1947 contribution was therefore of the greatest interest to Turing, who at this time was back at Cambridge and looking for new problems, following his departure from the project to build the ‘Pilot ACE’ computer. With typical bravado Turing quickly believed he had shown that the word problem in general is unsolvable. In fact, Turing’s proof was incomplete, and so he published only this partial result – now more notable for its presentation of an updated ‘Turing Machine’ on pp. 493–495.

In spite of the monumental contributions still to come from Turing – in artificial intelligence, computer programming and morphogenesis – he remained committed to work in pure mathematics, and particular to the refinement of his theory of computing machines.

*The word problem is a specific instance of a general type of problem that can be quite simply explained with an example: take a string of letters (a ‘word’), and apply rules about how different words relate (abc=ca, b=cba and so on). The problem is this: can an algorithm be found that will show whether any given word can be transformed into another word?



WILES, Andrew (b.1952)
**‘Modular elliptic curves and
Fermat’s Last Theorem’**

[IN:] *Annals of Mathematics*,
Vol. 141, No. 3

Princeton NJ: Princeton
University Press, May 1995

Octavo (254 x 178mm); pp.
245–508, Wu *et al.* at pp.
491–505

Single issue in original wraps;
fine condition

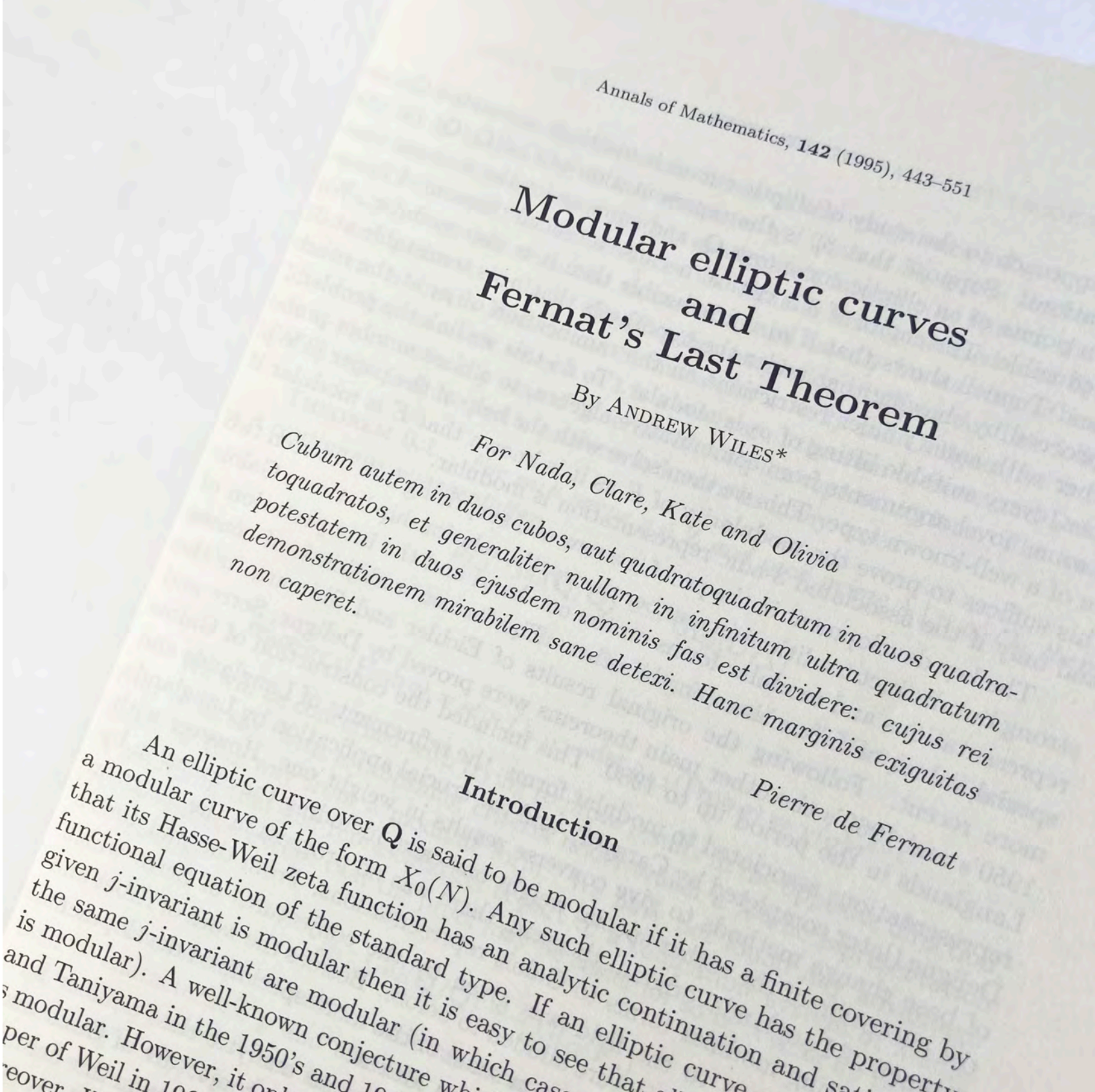
References: Singh, *Fermat’s
Last Theorem*



ONE OF THE MOST ROMANTIC STORIES in the history of mathematics. On offer is the famous May 1995 issue of *Annals of Mathematics*, given over entirely to Wiles’ proof (with a supplementary paper by Wiles with Richard Taylor) of the famous conjecture, written by Pierre de Fermat in 1637 into the margin of his copy of the *Arithmetica* of Diophantus: if $n > 2$, then $a^n + b^n = c^n$ has no solutions in nonzero integers a , b , and c . This is such an extraordinary statement because it is related to the Pythagorean theorem: $a^2 + b^2 = c^2$, which is true of all right triangles, and which has many whole-number solutions – in fact infinitely many.

Fermat tantalisingly wrote ‘I have a truly marvellous demonstration of this proposition which this margin is too narrow to contain.’ But in fact the apparatus necessarily to prove ‘Fermat’s Last Theorem’ took more than three centuries to create, and required Wiles’ brilliance and seven years of his own tireless work. As Simon Singh recounts in his classic popular book on the topic, a host of world-class mathematicians (Euler, Gauss, Galois, Kummer, Germain, Abel...) contributed partial solutions and mathematical tricks that would play a part in Wiles’ masterpiece. The personal tale of Wiles’ own journey to the proof is if anything more remarkable than the long history of the Theorem and those who have grappled with it.

Wiles worked for many years to complete this work, first prematurely announcing his success in a lecture series in Cambridge in 1993. A mistake in this proof nearly proved fatal to the entire enterprise, but a little over a year later inspiration struck, Wiles proved the so-called ‘Taniyama-Shimura Conjecture’, and Fermat’s Last Theorem in turn fell. This, as the great John Conway put it, was ‘the proof of the century’. Singh goes further and calls it ‘the world’s most important proof’. Wiles list of honours is truly impressive, including prizes specifically for solving Fermat’s Last Theorem, a knighthood, the Abel Prize, and the Copley Medal.



WU, Chien-Shiung (1912–1997), *et al.*

‘Experimental Test of Parity Conservation in Beta Decay’

[IN:] *Physical Review*, Vol. 105, No. 4

Lancaster PA and New York NY: American Institute of Physics, 15 February 1957

Octavo (267 x 201mm); pp. 245–508, Wu *et al.* at pp. 491–505

Single issue in original wraps; near fine condition

References: *The Biographical Dictionary of Women in Science*, Vol. 2, pp. 1409–1410; Jiang, *Madame Wu Chien-Shiung: The First Lady of Physics Research*

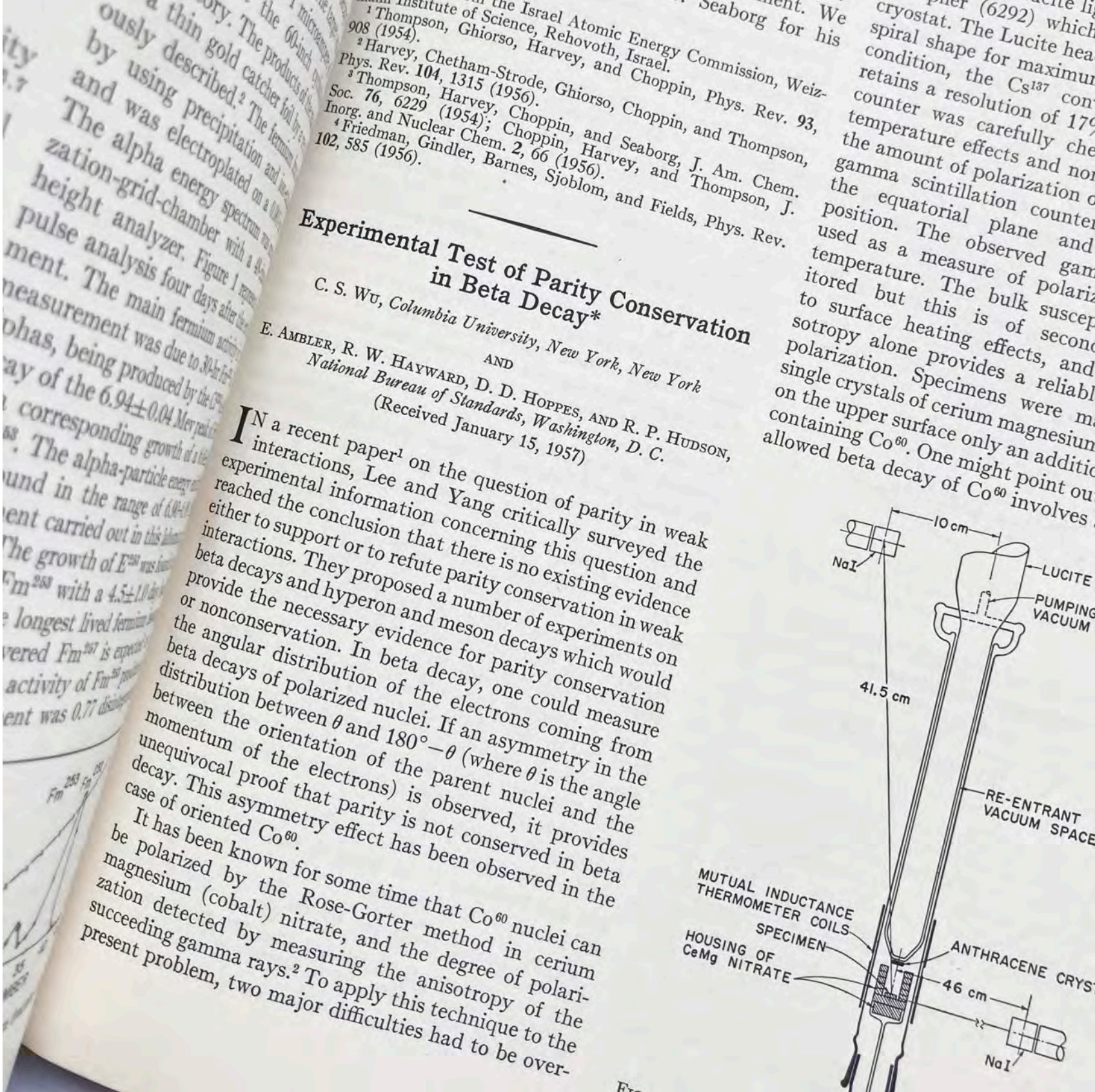


PARITY IS NOT CONSERVED

ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT EXPERIMENTS in the history of science. The Wu Parity Experiment, conducted in 1956 by physicist Chien-Shiung Wu and her collaborators, fundamentally changed our understanding of the laws of physics. At the time, it was widely believed that the laws of nature were symmetrical under spatial inversion – a concept known as parity conservation. This assumption implied that the laws governing physical processes should remain unchanged if all spatial coordinates were flipped, like viewing the process in a mirror. However, theoretical work by Tsung-Dao Lee and Chen-Ning Yang questioned this assumption for weak nuclear interactions, suggesting parity might not be conserved in such cases.

To test this, Wu designed a meticulous experiment using the beta decay of cobalt-60 atoms at extremely low temperatures and in the presence of a strong magnetic field to align their nuclear spins. Her team observed that the emitted electrons were preferentially emitted in a direction opposite to the nuclear spin – a clear violation of mirror symmetry. This provided direct, experimental evidence that parity is not conserved in weak interactions, overturning a long-standing principle in physics. The results were so profound that they shook the foundations of quantum mechanics and required revisions to theoretical models of particle interactions.

Chien-Shiung Wu was a trailblazing physicist whose contributions to nuclear and particle physics not only advanced science but also broke significant gender and cultural barriers in the scientific community. Often referred to as the ‘First Lady of Physics’, Wu’s precision, rigour, and ingenuity in experimental design earned her a reputation as one of the most accomplished experimental physicists of the 20th century. Her neglect by the Nobel Prize committee is considered one of the greatest injustices in the history of the prize. In 1978 Wu was awarded the inaugural Wolf Prize, finally granting her recognition for this extraordinary experimental breakthrough.



YOUMANS, Edward L.
(1821–1887)

**Chemical Atlas; or, the
Chemistry of Familiar
Objects: Exhibiting the
General Principles of
the Science in a Series
of Beautifully Colored
Diagrams**

New York: D. Appleton, 1856
Quarto (304 x 258mm); 13
colour plates

Good condition: endpapers
chipped with three discreet
repairs; a few pages with
some flattened creases; faded
ink splashes to two pages
of text; rebacked, with some
scattered fading to the upper
right corner of the front cover

References: Reese,
*Nineteenth Century American
Color Plate Books* 82

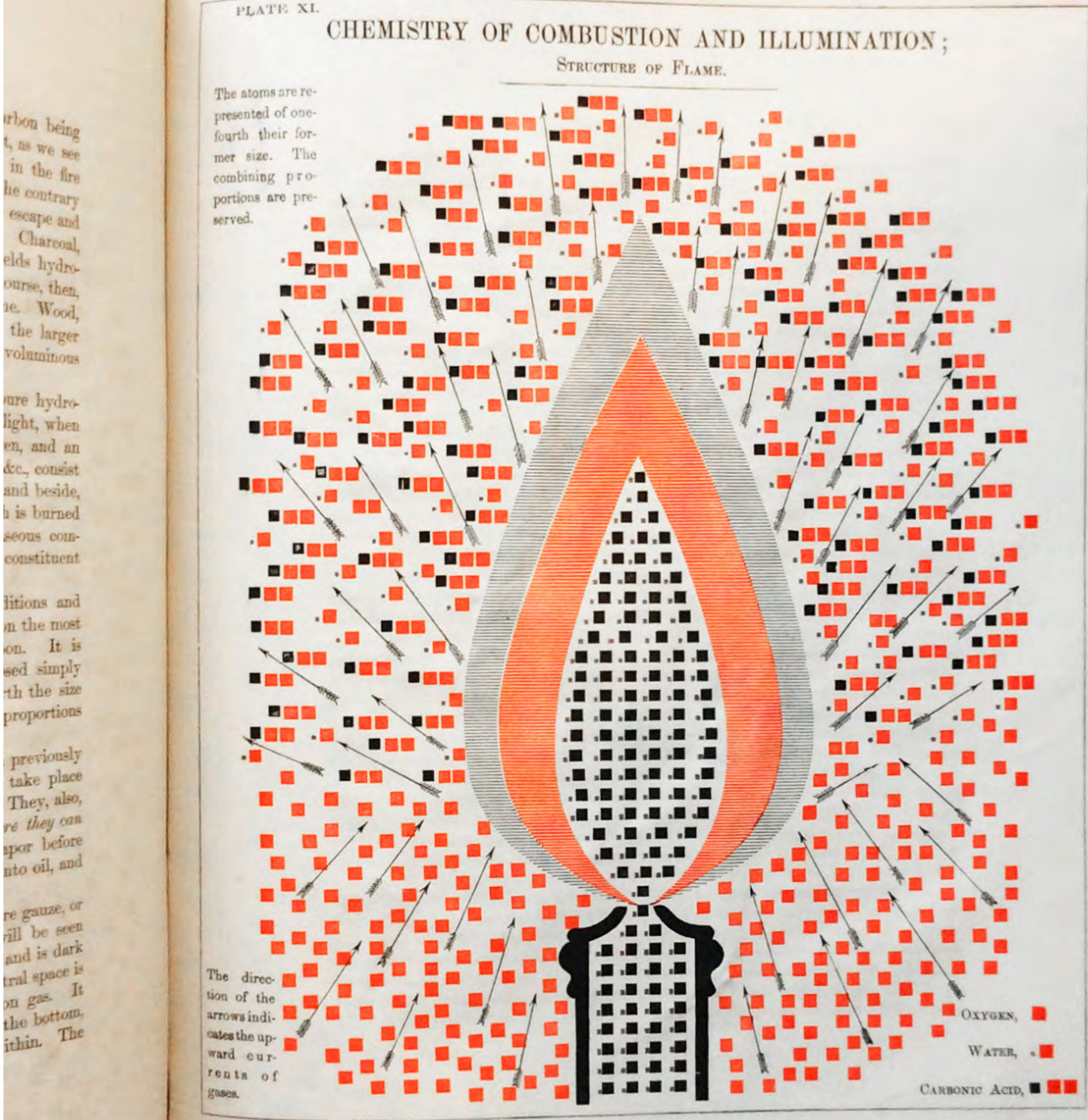
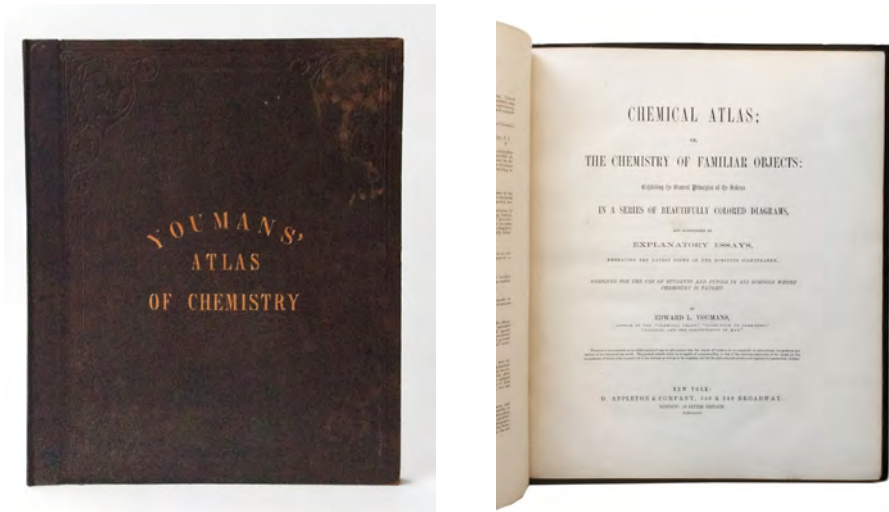
A PIONEERING WORK OF VISUAL SCIENCE. Like Byrne’s Euclid (see Cat. No. 10), Youmans’ *Chemical Atlas* was highly innovative in its use of colour printing to convey information, particularly the use of specific colours to denote different elements (red for oxygen, blue for nitrogen).

Youmans was a remarkable character: he was largely self-taught, and also only partially sighted, perhaps accounting for the bold visualizations in this book. While barely making a living as a writer, he began creating chemical wall-charts, which form the basis of the *Chemical Atlas* – though no original wall charts are known to have survived.

Illustrations in the *Chemical Atlas* show a wide range of phenomena, from the carbon cycle to the variety of theories of chemical reaction in use in this period before the Karlsruhe Congress of 1860.

Most famously, and recalling Faraday’s *Chemical History of a Candle*, the process of combustion is shown in a glorious full page illustration.

The book was entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1854, but we can only locate early printings dated 1855, 1856 (present volume), and 1857. All editions are rare.



YOUNG, Thomas (1773–1829)

A Syllabus of a Course of Lectures on Natural and Experimental Philosophy

London: Press of the Royal Institution, 1802

Octavo (235 x 197mm); pp. [vi], 162, 32; 4 parts in one volume, woodcut text diagrams

Nineteenth-century half calf with cloth sides, green speckled edges, and gilt spine titles. Very good condition: light abrasion to the spine; upper rear corner bumped; top edge age-darkened; minor offsetting to endpapers, but otherwise internally fine

Provenance: Northern Lighthouse Board gilt stamp at head of spine

References: cf. PMM 259; Einstein, foreword to Newton's *Opticks*, 4th edition; Hudson Gurney, *Memoir of the life of Thomas Young*; J. D. Mollon, 'The Origins of the Concept of Interference'

THE WAVE THEORY OF LIGHT

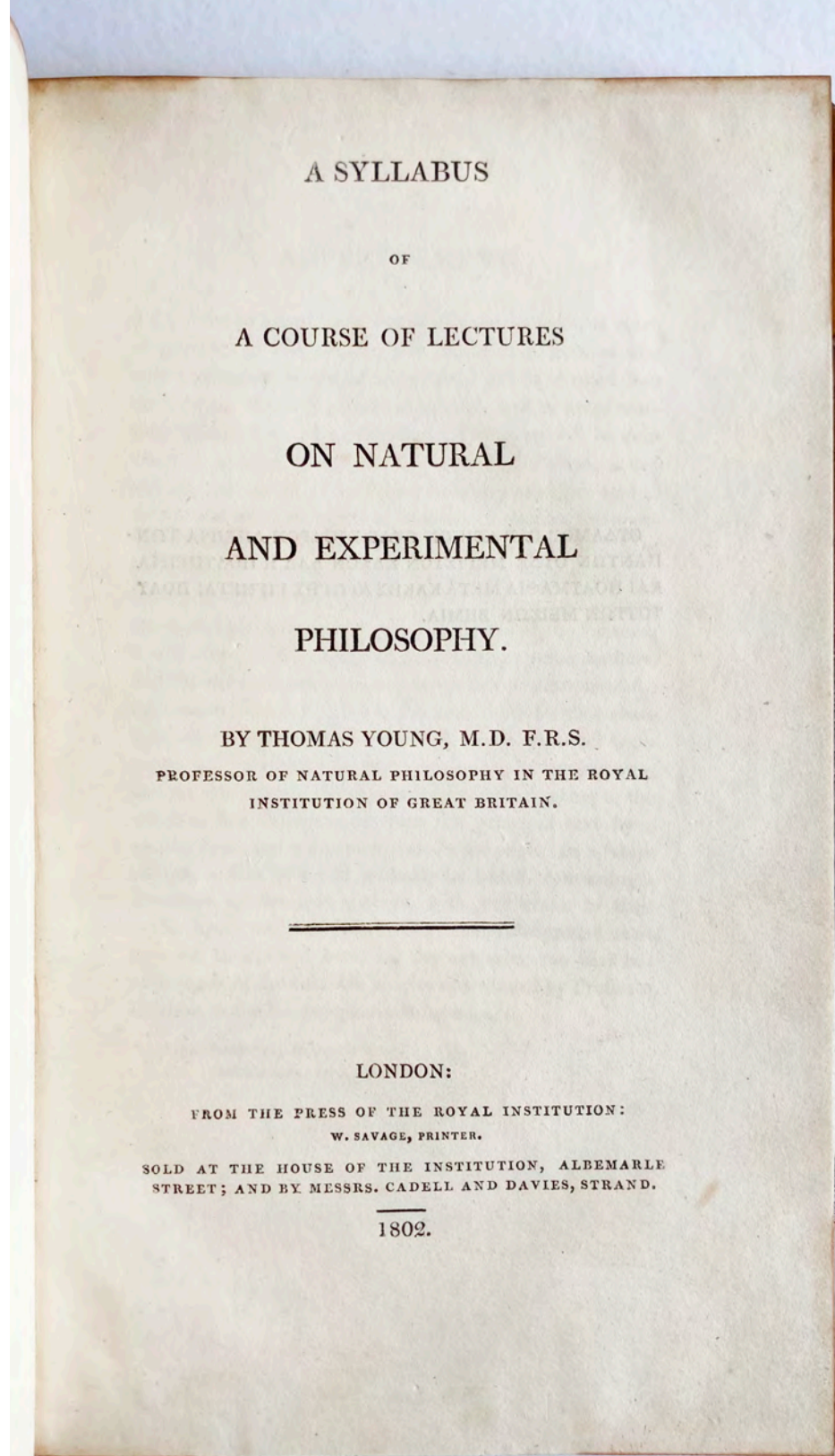
THE FIRST PRINTING of Thomas Young's 'general law' of interference: the modern form of the wave theory of light. Contained in Young's remarkable *Course of Lectures*, delivered at the Royal Institution, covering the entire field of natural philosophy:

the general law, by which all these appearances are governed, may be very easily deduced from the interference of two coincident undulations, which either cooperate, or destroy each other, in the same manner as two musical notes produce an alternate intension and remission, in the beating of an imperfect unison (p. 117)

Einstein called this 'the next great theoretical advance' in our understanding of the nature of light after Newton's *Opticks*. At a single stroke, Young had transformed the wave theory from a controversial alternative to the Newtonian 'corpuscular' theory to an experimentally verified reality. An idea as old as the work of Christian Huyghens and Robert Hooke was now set on firm empirical foundations, to be carried on in the coming decades by Fresnel, Poisson, Maxwell and, ultimately, Einstein himself.

Young's *experimentum crucis* was his famous double-slit experiment of 1801: a disarmingly simple way of showing the amplification or cancelling of light 'waves' – an analogy Young and others had taken from the motion of water and the scientific study of sound. At the end of 1801 Young gave his celebrated Bakerian Lecture 'On the Theory of Light and Colours' to the Royal Society, and at the same time prepared the text of his *Course of Lectures* to the Royal Institution. The *Course of Lectures* (January 1802) precedes the publication of the 'On the Theory of Light and Colours' (spring 1802) and is therefore the debut of Young's theory.

Young (1773–1829) was a celebrated polymath: 'the last of the natural philosophers who could know all that was to be known' (PMM 259, note). He studied medicine at London, Edinburgh, Göttingen and Cambridge, before becoming a colleague of Humphry Davy's at the Royal Institution. In addition to his work on optics, Young made major contributions to physiology and medicine, the theory of music, linguistics and the study of Egyptian hieroglyphs. Notably he was the first to give a full translation of the Rosetta Stone.



BORIS JARDINE RARE BOOKS

BORIS JARDINE RARE BOOKS was founded in January 2024. Boris has particular expertise in scientific instruments, and the history of technology – especially computing. He is also Director of the antique science and technology marketplace Fleaglass.com.



Boris Jardine Rare Books specialises in science and technology – but also offers fine first editions, archives and ephemera, and documents of avant-garde art and poetry.

EXHIBITING AT

PBFA London Rare & Antiquarian Book Fair 2025

Saturday 17th May – 1.00 pm to 7.00pm
Sunday 18th May – 10.00 am to 4.00pm

ILEC Conference Centre
IBIS London Earls Court
47 Lillie Road
London SW6 1UD

Printed by Blue Chip Printing® Limited
bluechipprinting.co.uk

Designed by Boris Jardine, set in Akzidenz Grotesk
and Adobe Caslon Pro

Photography by Boris Jardine
Additional Photography: antiquarianphotographer.com

JULIAN WILSON RARE BOOKS

JULIAN WILSON began his career in the book trade at Maggs Bros Ltd in 1997. In 2008, Julian joined Christie’s as a Specialist, rising to Associate Director and Senior Specialist, where he catalogued and sold significant works in natural history, science, and travel, and helped pioneer markets for technological artefacts like Apple-1 computers and Enigma machines. In January 2025, Julian left the auction world to establish his own independent dealership.



EXHIBITING AT

London Map Fair 2025

Saturday 7th June – 12.00 pm to 7.00 pm
Sunday 8th June – 10.00 am to 6.00 pm

Royal Geographical Society
1 Kensington Gore
(Entrance Exhibition Road)
London SW7 2AR

