Over fifty years, Ellen Morris and Edward Levin collected more than three thousand volumes representing the first century of commercial book design in Europe and the United States. Morris and Levin curated the historic 2000 Grolier Club exhibition *The Art of Publishers’ Bookbindings, 1815-1915*, and wrote the accompanying print catalogue, now a standard reference.

Honey & Wax Booksellers and Johnson Rare Books & Archives are proud to represent the Morris-Levin collection of publishers’ bindings, issued from the end of the Napoleonic Wars through the beginning of World War I. We are currently offering books to institutions and collectors via a series of capsule collections, representing coherent groups of bindings organized by genre, style, origin, designer, and theme. We’ll be posting some of these collections to the ExLibris list, and quoting others directly.

If you are in search of a particular kind of binding, we will work with you to meet your needs. Morris and Levin were exacting in their condition standards, and the books they collected are in uniformly excellent condition: this is an unusual opportunity to fill gaps and strengthen institutional holdings in an efficient way.

In October 2023, we will offer hundreds of individual bindings from the Morris-Levin collection at Rare Books LA, the Seattle Antiquarian Book Fair, and the Boston Antiquarian Book Fair. We hope to see you there!

RareBooksLA.com - October 7-8, 2023
SeattleBookFair.com - October 14-15, 2023
ABAA.org/BostonBookFair - October 27-29, 2023
This capsule collection features a group of eighteen American publishers’ morocco-gilt bindings from the first half of the nineteenth century. These decorative bindings represented a deluxe alternative to standard cloth bindings, often signaling a volume’s status as a gift book or keepsake. The selections included here provide a rare opportunity to encounter these titles as a nineteenth-century reader would have experienced them, in a condition very close to that in which they were originally offered for sale.

These bindings represent publishers from Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, as expected, but also more regional firms: Baltimore’s Bayley & Burns, Richmond’s Smith, Drinker & Morris, Hartford’s S. Andrus & Son, Worcester’s E.N. Tucker. Of particular interest: *The Baltimore Book* (1838), containing the first appearance of Edgar Allan Poe’s “Siope -- A Fable;” the spectacular gilt-stamped image of George Washington receiving his commission on Lossing’s *Seventeen Hundred and Seventy-Six* (1847); and the first edition of Caroline May’s *American Female Poets* (1848), which would remain in print for decades.

$5000.
[album]. *The Floral Album*

New York: J. C. Riker, [circa 1850].

**issue / series:**
title page bears copyright 1841, but likely issued later on basis of diary entry dated 1855; autograph album with blank leaves, some in blue, violet, green or pink.

**illustrations:**
decorated title page, & 3 full-page floral plates, all hand-colored steel engravings with tissue guards.

**[ms annotations]:** [2 contemporary inscriptions, one dated 1855, inscribed “Miss. L. Hanscom”].

**dimensions:** 197 × 154 × 15 mm.

**binding designer:** unidentified.

**binder:** unidentified.

**printer:** unidentified.

**materials:** red [PANTONE 201] morocco.

**front cover:** blind-stamped borders, and central lyre device; gilt-stamped floral and knotwork spandrels.

**spine:** gilt-stamped pedestal, urn, floral decorations, and figure with floral titling banner ‘Floral Album’.

**rear cover:** repeating front, except lyre executed in gilt-stamp, and spandrels executed in blind-stamp.

**endpapers:** buff paper.

**edges:** all edges gilt.

**variants:** spine identical to [album] *Gems from Flora* [New York: J. C. Riker, circa 1856].
Baltimore : Bayly and Burns, 1838.

issue / series: 'Baltimore Book' annual; first appearance of Edgar Allan Poe's 'Siope – A Fable'.
illustrations: presentation plate, frontispiece, extra title page vignette, & 1 full-page plate, all steel engravings with tissue guards, by A. W. Graham, James W. Steel, after J. Penniman, et al.; 2 full-page plates with tissue guards, mezzotints by E. Wellmore.

[ms annotations]: [presentation inscription, presentation page “Miss C. M. Wonrath Philip Schroeter”].
dimensions: 192 × 118 × 16 mm.
binding designer: unidentified.
binder: Benjamin Bradley : Boston.
printer: Murphy & Spalding : Baltimore.
front cover: blind-stamped arabesque surround (plaque inverted on rear cover); gilt-stamped vignette of Baltimore monument.
spine: gilt-stamped borders, vignettes of monuments, and titling 'Baltimore | Book | 1838'.
rear cover: repeating front.
endpapers: buff coated paper.
edges: all edges gilt.
references: Faxon 66; Thompson p. 111.
Broaddus, Andrew, ed. _The Virginia Selection of Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs; from the most approved authors. : Adapted to the various occasions of public worship and social meetings._ Richmond [Va.] : Smith, Drinker & Morris ; Philadelphia : Thomas, Cowperthwait and Co., 1842 [1839].

issue / series: Third edition.
dimensions: 114 × 71 × 30 mm.
binding designer: unidentified.
binder: unidentified.
spine: shallow raised bands ; gilt-stamped rules, ornamental compartments, and titling 'Virginia | Selection'.
rear cover: repeating front.
endpapers: pale yellow coated paper.
edges: all edges gilt.
The Christian Keepsake : and missionary annual.
[ms annotations]: [inscription "L. Mallory"].
dimensions: 193 × 127 × 28 mm.
binding series: 'The Christian Keepsake'.
binding designer: unidentified.
binder: unidentified.
front cover: blind-stamped borders and floral ornamental surround ; gilt-stamped vignette of angel with lyre.
spine: gilt-stamped floral vine decorations, and titling 'Christian | Keepsake' '1840.'.
rear cover: repeating front.
endpapers: yellow coated paper.
edges: all edges gilt.
references: Faxon 130 ; Thompson p. 114 ; [Wolf 180 for later issues].
Eastern Arts and Antiquities, mentioned in the sacred scriptures, with numerous illustrations.

Hartford: S. Andrus & Son, 1846.


illustrations: decorated extra title page [dated 1847] chromolithograph with tissue guard; frontispiece, 15 full-page plates, and numerous text illustrations, all wood engravings.

[ms annotations]: [stamps, 'Foster Manton Library'].

dimensions: 150 × 119 × 32 mm.

binding designer: unidentified.

binder: unidentified.

printer: unidentified.


front cover: blind-stamped ruled borders; gilt-stamped 'chinoiserie' tabernacle design, repeating extra title page.

spine: gilt-stamped vignette of military devices, decorative titling surround, and titling 'Eastern | Arts | and | Antiquities'.

rear cover: repeating front, except all in blind-stamp.

endpapers: salmon coated paper.

edges: all edges gilt.


issue / series: originally London, 1832.


dimensions: 271 × 172 × 40 mm.

binding designer: unidentified.

binder: unidentified.


front cover: gilt-stamped ruled borders, floral spandrels, full-cover gothic tabernacle with vignette of Shakespeare, and ornamental titling oval with titling '1849. | New York'.

spine: gilt-stamped full-length gothic design, with circular frames for titling 'Characteristics | of | Women' 'Jameson'.

rear cover: repeating front.

endpapers: buff coated paper.

edges: all edges gilt.
The Keepsake of Friendship: a Christmas and New Year's Annual: for 1850.


illustrations: decorated extra title page with tissue guard [lacking presentation plate], chromolithographs; 4 full-page plates, steel engravings with tissue guards, by D. L. Glover, O. Pelton after J. Bostock, G. Barrett, E. T. Parris.

[ms annotations]: [presentation inscription “Mademoiselle Mo--year | the Gift of her friend Elisa | Paris | January 1" 1850”].

dimensions: 193 × 124 × 25 mm.

binding series: ‘The Keepsake of Friendship’.

binding designer: unidentified.

binder: Benjamin Bradley: Boston [embossed stamp, front free endpaper].

printer: unidentified; chromolithograph printer: Sharp & Pierce: Boston.


front cover: gilt-stamped borders, and floral decorative surround; blind-stamped ornamental device.

spine: gilt-stamped floral ornaments, and titling ‘Keepsake of Friendship’ ‘1850’.

rear cover: repeating front.

endpapers: cream coated paper.

edges: all edges gilt.

variants: identical [except color] with others in series.

references: Faxon 423.
Keese, John, ed. The Poets of America: illustrated by one of her painters.
2 volumes. New York: S. Colman, 1840; New York: Samuel Colman, 1842.

illustrations: each volume with frontispiece, decorated title page, and numerous full-page plates & vignettes, wood engravings, some printed in brown or blue.
dimensions: 193 × 118 × 31 [27] mm.
binding designer: unidentified.
binder: unidentified.
materials: very dark brown [PANTONE 7540] morocco.
front cover: gilt-stamped ruled borders and floral arabesque frame.
spine: raised bands; blind and gilt-stamped ruled and ornamental head and tail bands; gilt-stamped floral ornaments on bands, and titles 'Poets of America' 'First [Second] Series'.
rear cover: repeating front.
turn-ins: gilt-stamped ornaments.
endpapers: white coated paper; elaborate borders and central ornamental device, chromolithograph by John H. Colen.
edges: all edges gilt.
Lossing, Benson J. *Seventeen Hundred and Seventy-Six: or the War of Independence; a history of the Anglo-Americans, from the period of the union of the colonies against the French, to the inauguration of Washington, the first President of the United States of America. Illustrated by Numerous Engravings of plans of battle, prominent events, interesting localities, and portraits of distinguished men of the period.* New York: Edward Walker, 1847.

**Issue / Series:** First edition.

**Illustrations:** Frontispiece with tissue guard, wood engraving printed in blue and black; extra title page, wood engraving printed in pale green and black; 16 full-page plates, wood engravings; 4 full-page plates of battle plans, wood block relief prints, printed in gray; 3 full-page facsimiles of signatures [from Declaration of Independence], wood block relief prints; 28 vignettes, wood engravings, all by Lossing & Barritt.

**Page Decorations:** 14 decorated chapter initials & preface page head, wood engravings by Lossing & Barritt.

**Advertisements:** 2 pp. publisher's advertisements at rear.

**Place Marker:** Black silk ribbon.

**Dimensions:** 236 × 149 × 42 mm.

**Binding Designer:** Unidentified.

**Printer:** R. Craighead : New York.

**Materials:** Very dark forest green [Pantone 447] morocco.

**Front Cover:** Gilt-stamped ruled borders with scalloped upper corners, arabesque frame with floral arabesques, figures, foliate decorations, standards with patriotic flags and ornamental framed portrait vignettes, decorative titling '1776', and central vignette [after plate p. 164] with George Washington and figures, with eagle, tabernacle frame, and titling [in reverse] "Washington Receiving his Commission".

**Spine:** 4 shallow raised bands; gilt-stamped ruled bands, ornamental bands with ruled borders, ruled compartments with floral ornaments, and titling "Seventeen [Hundred] and Seventy Six".

**Rear Cover:** Repeating front, except central vignette with capture of Major Andre.

**Turn-ins:** Gilt-stamped floral ornaments.

**Endpapers:** Dark cream coated paper; gold-printed dotted line and ornamental diaper pattern.

**Edges:** All edges gilt.
May, Caroline. *The American Female Poets: with biographical and critical notices,* by Caroline May.
Philadelphia: Lindsay & Blakiston, 1848.

illustrations: portrait frontispiece, and extra title page vignette, all mezzotints by John Sartain after Boddington, S. S. Osgood.
pagination decorations: title page and text pages with ruled borders.
advertisements: 8 pp. publisher's advertisements at rear.
place marker: red silk ribbon.
dimensions: 213 × 133 × 43 mm.
binding designer: unidentified.
binders: unidentified.
printers: Conger Sherman: Philadelphia.
front cover: gilt-stamped ruled borders and full-cover ruled arabesque device.
spine: 4 raised bands; gilt-stamped rules, floral ornamental bands and compartments, and titling 'American | Female | Poets | Miss May'.
rear cover: repeating front.
turn-ins: gilt-stamped floral ornaments.
endpapers: cream coated paper.
edges: all edges gilt.
variants: identical in brown morocco.
The Religious Souvenir : for MDCCCXXXIX. : republished for MDCCCXLV.
Sigourney, (Mrs.) Lydia, ed.
Hartford : S. Andrus and Son, 1845 [1844].

issue / series: 'The Religious Souvenir' annual; re-issues, originally 1838.
dimensions: 169 × 102 × 25 mm.
binding series: 'The Religious Souvenir'.
binders: unidentified.
printers: unidentified.
front cover: gilt-stamped ruled borders, and floral ornaments with curved rules.
spine: raised bands; gilt-stamped rules, ornamental compartments, and titling 'Religious | Souvenir' '1845'.
rear cover: repeating front.
turn-ins: gilt-stamped floral ornaments.
endpapers: buff paper.
edges: all edges gilt.
references: Faxon 690; Thompson p. 150.
Rogers, Samuel. *Italy: A Poem.*
Philadelphia: Thomas T. Ash, [1840].

illustrations: frontispiece, extra title page vignette, & 8 full-page plates, all mezzotints with tissue guards, by John Sartain after Stothard.
place marker: blue silk ribbon.
dimensions: 156 x 99 x 30 mm.
binding designer: unidentified.
front cover: gilt-stamped borders, floral arabesque surround, and vignette of recumbent woman.
spine: gilt-stamped floral vine decorations, and titling 'Italy' 1840.
rear cover: repeating front.
endpapers: light blue coated paper.
edges: all edges gilt.
SMITH, JOHN PYE. The Relation between the Holy Scriptures and some parts of Geological Science.
Philadelphia: Robert E. Peterson, 1850.
advertisements: 7 pp. publisher’s advertisements at rear.
place marker: red, ivory and orange ribbon.
publishing price: $1.50.
[ms annotations]: [inscription “E. Goddard”].
dimensions: 217 × 135 × 26 mm.
binding designer: unidentified.
binder: unidentified.
front cover: gilt-stamped ruled borders, floral ornamental corners, and floral ornamental decorations.
spine: 5 raised bands: gilt-stamped rules, ornamental compartments, and titling ‘Smith’s | Scripture | & Geology’.
rear cover: repeating front.
turn-ins: gilt-stamped ornaments.
endpapers: cream coated paper.
edges: all edges gilt.
The Thousand and One Nights; or, the Arabian Nights' Entertainments: translated and arranged for family reading: with explanatory notes. By E. W. Lane, Esq. from the second London edition.


illustrations: Vol. 1 with illuminated extra title page by Owen Jones, chromolithograph [including gold]; 2 decorated extra title pages, & 598 text vignettes, all wood engravings by Armstrong, J. Bastin, Benneworth, Miss C. Bond, F. Branston, F. W. Branston, Harriet Clarke, Mary Clint, Mary Ann Cook, Juliet E. Dudley, Edmund Evans, Feldwick, Folkard, Thomas Gilks, Gray, Green, J. Jackson, Mason Jackson, Charles Jennings, Kirchner, Alexander Landells, W. J. Linton, A. J. Mason, G. Nicholls, Quartley, Searles & Williams, Slader, Orrin Smith, Eliza Thompson, Thurston Thompson, Vasey, Walmsley, Whimper, E. M. Williams, Mary A. Williams, S. Williams, T. Williams, Williamson, Wright & Folkard, after William Harvey.

[bookplate]: [each volume with bookplate 'Henry W. King. | Chicago.'].

dimensions: 198 x 124 x 33 mm.

binding issue: deluxe.

binding designer: unidentified.

binder: unidentified.

printer: unidentified; chromolithograph printer: Owen Jones: London.


front cover: blind-stamped ruled borders; gilt-stamped floral ornamental surround with geometric and floral device.

spine: raised bands; blind-stamped rules; gilt-stamped ruled bands, compartment rules, ornamental compartments, and titling 'Arabian Nights' Vol. 1 [ii].'

rear cover: repeating front.

turn-ins: gilt-stamped floral ornaments.

dependapers: buff paper; combed marbling in dusty rose, salmon, blue, gray and black.

dges: all edges with combed marbling in dusty rose, salmon, blue, gray and black, matching endpapers.

variants: standard in red cloth.

references: Muir p. 30.
The Token and Atlantic Souvenir, : a Christmas and New Year’s Present.
[ms annotations]: [presentation inscription “Presented to Miss Helena Anna Gibson by her cousin Eliza Clendenen.”].
dimensions: 224 × 130 × 30 mm.
binding series: ‘The Token and Atlantic Souvenir’.
binding designer: unidentified.
binder: unidentified.
front cover: blind-stamped ruled borders and narrow strapwork surround; gilt-stamped vignette of floral urn.
spine: gilt-stamped strapwork, floral ornaments, and titling ‘The | Token | Boston | 1838’.
rear cover: repeating front.
endpapers: yellow coated paper.
edges: all edges gilt.
variants: identical in black.
references: Faxon 799; Thompson pp. 66, 158.
The Token and Atlantic Souvenir, : a Christmas and New Year's Present.
issue / series: 'The Token and Atlantic Souvenir' annual.
[ms annotations]: [inscription “Jane E. Sawyer | Sterling Mass.”].
dimension: 179 × 117 × 29 mm.
binding series: 'The Token and Atlantic Souvenir'.
binding designer: unidentified.
binder: Benjamin Bradley : Boston [blind-stamp, rear pastedown].
front cover: blind-stamped ruled borders ; gilt-stamped floral and figural ornaments, and decorative lyre device.
spine: gilt-stamped floral ornaments, lyre device, vignette of dancing figure, and titling 'The | Token’ ‘1840’.
rear cover: repeating front.
endpapers: buff coated paper.
edges: all edges gilt.
variants: identical in brown ; spine identical to The Token and Atlantic Souvenir 1841, although covers variant.
references: Faxon 801 ; Thompson p. 158.

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New York : Clark & Austin, 1846.

issue / series: Sixth edition ; originally New York : Clark & Austin, 1844.
illustrations: portrait frontispiece, mezzotint with blue tissue guard ; decorated extra title page, steel engraving.
dimensions: $224 \times 140 \times 31$ mm.
binding designer: unidentified.
binder: unidentified.
printer: Hitchcock & Stafford : New Haven, Conn.
front cover: blind-stamped ruled borders ; gilt-stamped bird and floral spandrels, and central ornamental device.
spine: gilt-stamped foliate ornaments, and titling ‘Willis’s | Poems.’
rear cover: repeating front.
endpapers: buff paper ; blue-printed alternating dot and ornament pattern.
edges: all edges gilt.
Wyatt, Thomas, ed. *Gems From the Sacred Mine: or, holy thoughts upon sacred subjects: by clergymen of the Episcopal Church.*

Philadelphia: Lippincott, Grambo and Co., 1851 [1850].


illustrations: frontispiece, & 6 full-page plates, all steel engravings with tissue guards.

[ms annotations]: [presentation inscription "Miss Sarah M Parmeter | A Present from E Talmadge | Dec 25th 1850"].

dimensions: 175 × 113 × 23 mm.

binding designer: unidentified.

binder: unidentified.

printer: unidentified.


front cover: gilt-stamped ruled borders and floral ornaments around central oval panel.

spine: blind-stamped bands; gilt-stamped rules, ornamental compartments, and titling 'Gems from the | Sacred | Mine'.

rear cover: repeating front.

endpapers: yellow coated paper.

edges: all edges gilt.