

Virtue and Vice

And All Things Nice



**The Angus Library and Archive
Regent's Park College, Pusey St,
Oxford, OX1 2LB**



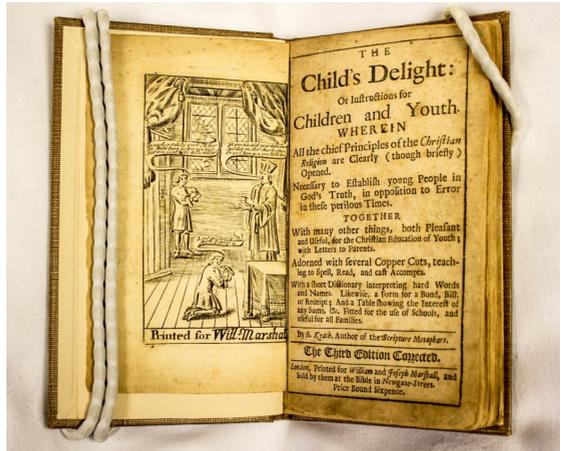
A celebration of the breadth and range of English literature, 'Virtue and Vice and All Things Nice' seeks to unveil some of the extraordinary and exquisite works that can be found filling a non-conformist library.

Looking at early children's literature, poetry, travel writing and the work of Milton, Shakespeare and Bunyan, the exhibition explores the presence of virtue and vice in these publications, highlighting the importance of literature in offering moralising guidance to its readers.

Children's Literature

1. *The Child's Delight: or Instructions for Children and Youth*, the Rev Benjamin Keach, c. 1704

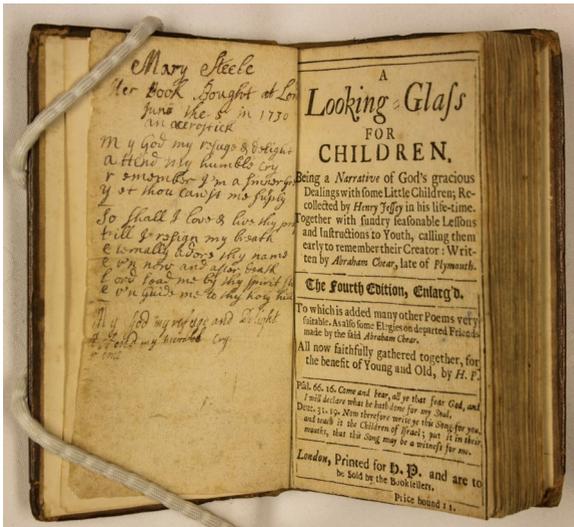
In 1664 Benjamin Keach was arrested, imprisoned and pilloried. This punishment was the result of the publication of *The Child's Instructor* which was accused of being a seditious work that attacked the religious practices of the Church of England, such as infant baptism.



In later years Keach republished the text as *The Child's Delight* which is seen here in its third edition. As

well as a catechism, there are also alphabets and a dictionary for use by parents and schoolmasters to teach reading and spelling.

2. *A Looking Glass for Children*, Henry Jessey, c.1708



A Looking Glass for Children is a collection of moralising stories and poems that were intended to be used as a guide for children whom Jessey believed were naturally drawn towards sin. Included are 'lessons and instructions to youth', written by Pastor Abraham Chear, while he was imprisoned for defying the Conventicle Act that forbade religious assemblies of more than five people outside the auspices of the Church of England. This fact is noted and seems to be viewed as

an example of Chear's virtues rather than vices. The print was so popular that three editions were called for within a year of its initial publication in 1672.

3. Unique copy of a children's book associated with first children's publisher, John Newbery, first half 18th century

This dinky collection of stories is believed to have been written and published by John Newbery.

Newbery is celebrated as the father of children's literature and writer of the first children's novel *The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes*. Unlike a lot of other children's literature of the time, John Newbery believed that books for children should be amusing *and* instructive, and aimed to achieve this through teaching games, poems and illustrations rather than the obviously moralising lessons found in catechisms.



4. *A Sure Guide to Hell by Belzebug*, the Rev Samuel Bourne, 1787

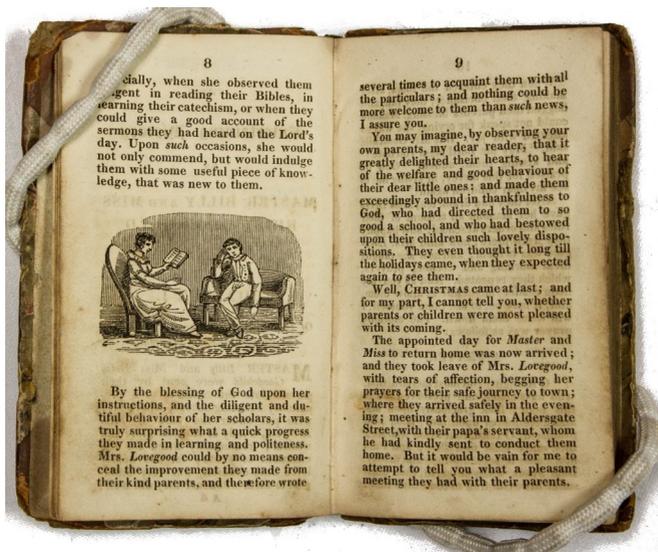


Supposedly written by the devil himself, *A Sure Guide to Hell* is a satirical attack on frivolity and virtue in response to Joseph Alleine's *A Sure Guide to Heaven* (1671). By way of reverse psychology, Belzebug gives advice to children, students, parents, ministers, clergy and even the king on how to ensure an eternity in hell.

“Do thou spend thy evenings jovially ... crack some bottles of wine, and a bowl or two of punch; toast the healths of some noted beauties; get drunk ... and about three or four o'clock in the morning stagger to bed.”

5. *Sacred History, In Familiar Dialogues, for the Instruction of Youth: With Maps; to Which Is Added, The History of the Jews, From the Time of Nehemiah to the Destruction of Jerusalem*, Hannah Neale, 1796

Sacred History is an extensive history of the Old Testament as told through a dialogue between an Aunt and her nieces and nephews. By using language that was simple and accessible to a young audience, Neale hoped to make the stories exciting and show that the bible could both “entertain and instruct.” By giving examples of inquisitive questions that a child might ask, the book was also an aid for parents to answer sometimes very complex religious questions.

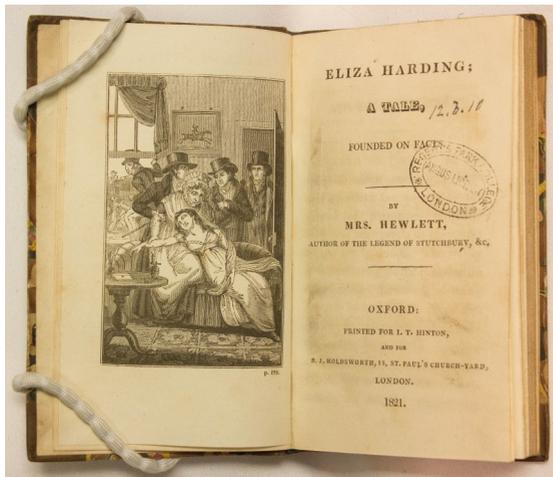


6. *The Child's Reward Book, containing Several Narratives, peculiarly interesting to young persons. Part 1*, Joseph Hughes and James Nisbet, c.1820

Now a rare print, at the time of publication *The Child's Reward Book* was very well received. The first part by the Rev. George Burder, entitled ‘Early Piety,’ gives examples of virtuous behaviour to inspire children to become devout Christians. Burder wrote of ‘Early Piety’:

‘Nov. 13 1776 – I finished and took to the press a little book for children, entitled ‘Early Piety’. The first edition of 1,500 was sold in a very few months. I have much reason to bless God for having given it great success. It was published January 1, 1777; a new edition of 5,000 in May, the same year; and a great number of editions have since been called for.’

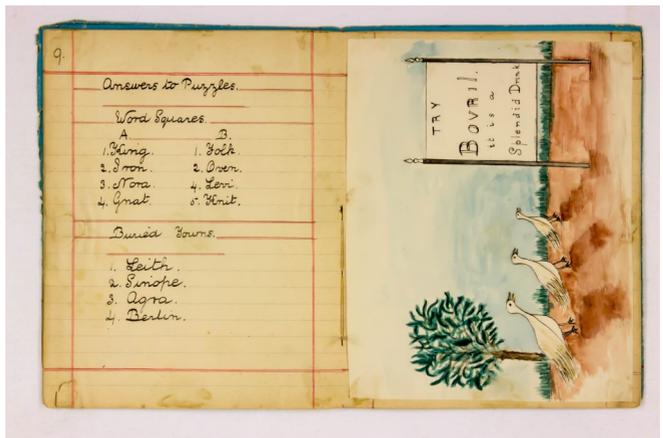
7. *Eliza Harding: A Tale Founded on Facts*, Esther Hewlett, 1821



After being sent to fashionable boarding school where she is exposed to romantic novels and theatre productions, Eliza, the novel's heroine, succumbs to indulgence which leads to her ruin when she elopes and ends up on the stage herself. Parents were encouraged to give this book to their daughters as a warning of what vices, such as recklessness and disobedience, would bring.

8. *The Children's Magazine*, written and distributed by children of Lewes, 1901-1902

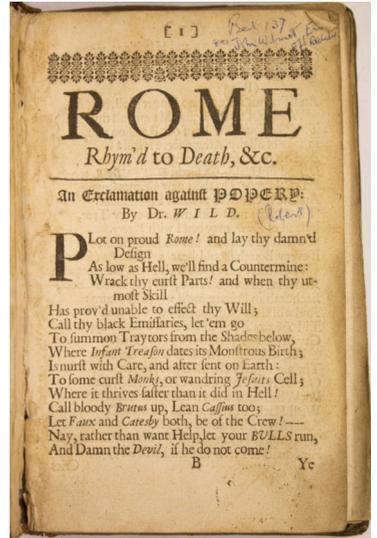
A monthly publication written, compiled and read by children from Lewes at the beginning of the twentieth century, *The Children's Magazine* is a lovely example of children producing their own literature. Including news articles, stories, poetry, puzzles, illustrations and photography, *The Children's Magazine* had a healthy regular readership of over 20 for more than three years and was heralded as 'the best at its price.'



Poetry

9. *Rome Rhym'd to Death, Being a collection of choice poems: in two parts*, John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester, Robert Wild, John How, 1683

This anti-Catholic text is a typical example of English non-conformist poetry of the 1680s, which often rallied for the maintenance of the Protestant religion in the face of the Catholic James II. Religious intolerance is lauded as a virtue in the face of Catholic tyranny and the text can be seen to impart a political, as well as a religious, message concerning Protestant virtue and Catholic vice.

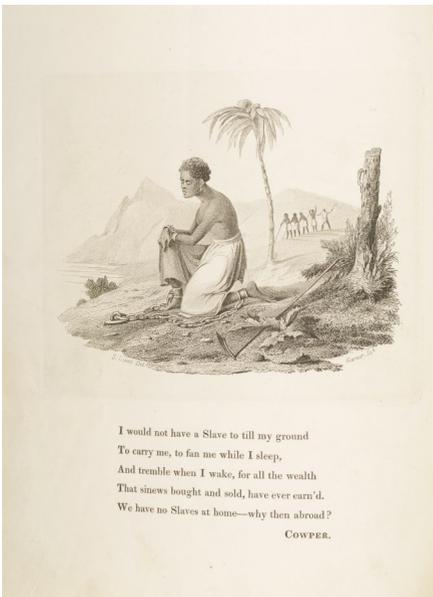


10. *War with the Devil*, the Rev Benjamin Keach, 1795

An example of Keach's later work, this poetical dialogue between youth and conscience is a moral guide which was aimed at all Christians, particularly the corrupted young, and sought to lead them along a virtuous path. The Baptist sentiment of the poetry, and the emphasis on true conversion, highlights the differences between godly virtue and devilish vice and is intended to be used as a spiritual instruction manual.

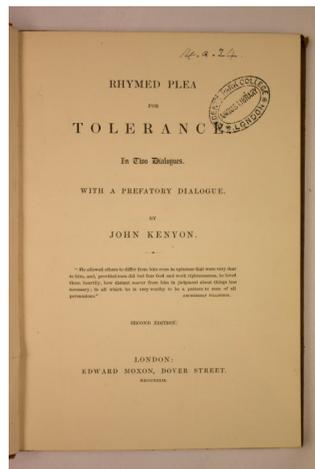
11. *A Commonplace book on Slavery*, early 19th century

Commonplace books were informal scrapbooks used to record knowledge in a single place. This unique anti-slavery example contains poetry by William Cowper, as well as abolitionist literature, and reflects the increasing attitude in the 19th century that slavery was a vice and Christian morality could not support such an institution.



12. *Rhymed Plea for Tolerance*, John Kenyon, 1839

This text, written by a 19th century lawyer and academic, reflects the evolution of the way that virtue is perceived, from the fervently pious intolerance of Wild's poetry in *Rome Rhym'd to Death* (Item 9), to Kenyon's stress on full, formal and internal religious tolerance. The poetry reflects the contemporary political circumstances of the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829 and focuses on Christian inclusivity.

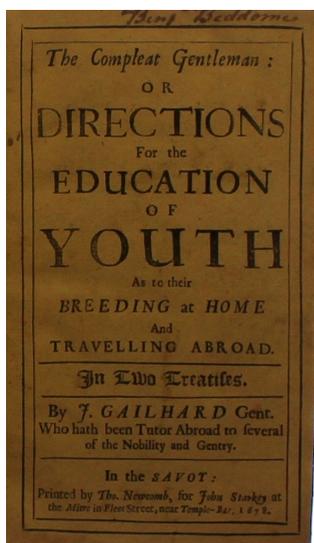


13. *An Alphabet of Virtues*, Samuel Cozens, 1850-1880

This book acts as a 19th century poetical guide to virtuous behaviour, explicitly outlining the expected standards of morality. The poem concerning Solomon's description of a virtuous woman gives insight into gender relations and the differing levels of virtue which were expected in men and women during the period.

Travel Literature

14. *The Compleat Gentleman: or Directions for the Education of Youth as to their Breeding at Home and Travelling Abroad*, F Gailhard, 1678

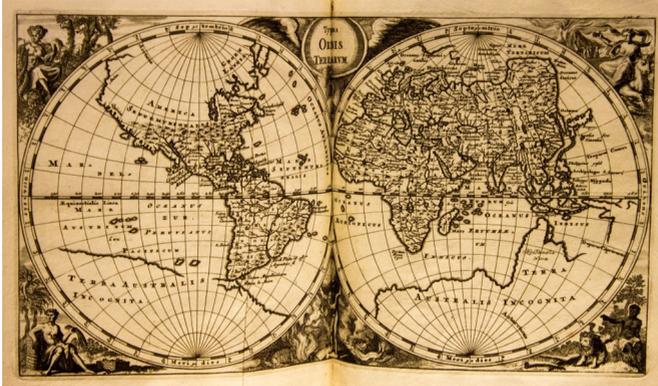


Written to educate the young gentlemen who wished to travel abroad during the 17th century, *The Compleat Gentleman* provides recommendations for travellers similar to a modern tourist guide. Gailhard encouraged the virtuous and upstanding behaviour of British gentlemen abroad and also addressed parents' fears concerning the change of air and climate, the vices of the countries and dangers they might run into; all weighty considerations for those who had only one son.

Interesting warnings are given regarding the natives in different countries: "Only let them know that most mischiefs which in Italy befall strangers, are upon the account of women; as in France, about certain points of honor, and in Germany about drinking."

15. *Introduction to the Universal Geography*, Philippi Cluverii, 1697

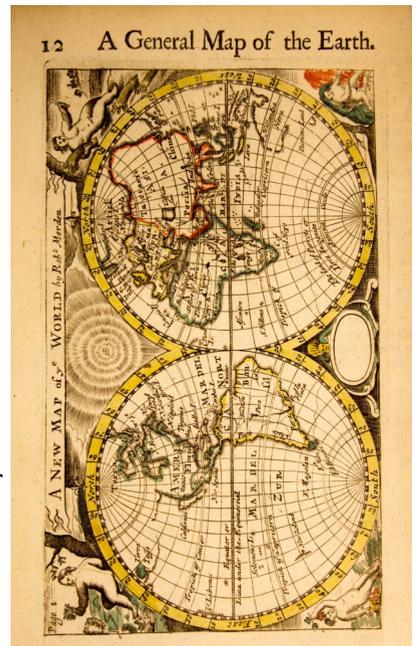
These volumes provide a very detailed introduction to the geography of the world, with maps of Europe, Asia, India, Africa and America. They are remarkable due to their size and the lovely detail seen in the pictures and figures surrounding the maps. The format and value of this publication suggests that it was used by the well educated, privileged classes to provide instruction on the geography of the world.



16. *Geography Rectified: or A description of the World*, Robert Morden, 1693

Geography Rectified demonstrates a notable change in style, detail and purpose from Philippi Cluverii's *Introduction to the Universal Geography*, originally published in 1624. An educational work, addressing "everybody," *Geography Rectified* gives detailed information not only about individual countries but also about their different regions.

Included are a total of 78 hand coloured maps, showing countries from all over the world. An introduction to geography is given with two hypotheses concerning the position and order of our planet in the universe: 1) The Earth is at the centre of universe, immovable, and that all the bodies move around it. 2) The sun is the centre of the Planets and fixed stars which have no daily motion.



17. *A Compleat Collection of Voyages and Travel*, John Harris, 1705

The beginning of this publication hints that its purpose was to entertain her majesty the Queen and the volume describes religions, manners, customs, politics and the presence of natural products in all parts of the world. The great number of extraordinary pictures and descriptions from the Egyptian pyramids, to Ethiopia, as well as pictures of monkeys, make this publication particularly special. There are also some curiosities and rather entertaining interpretations of animals, for example, the hippopotamus with terrifying teeth.



18. *A Voyage to the Pacific Ocean*, James Cook, 1785

James Cook was England's greatest explorer, celebrated for his navigation to New Zealand, Hawaii and Australia. He was a genius with navigation, and his great skill and precision in creating accurate maps meant that these were used until the 1920's. This richly illustrated diary is full of adventure and includes information about the nature and inhabitants of newly discovered lands.



19. *Diary of a Tour in India*, Clara Rebecca Southwell, 1908

A Baptist missionary, Clara Southwell kept a painstaking journal of her travels in India, Japan and Canada, taking photos and exhaustively recording her itinerary. She later typed up the entirety of her diaries from India and presented them in the form of a travel book for public consumption.



20. Scrapbook documenting the plight of the RMS Titanic, 1912

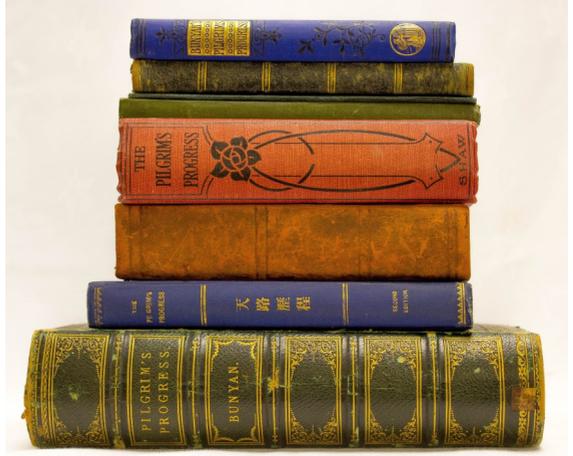
The Rev. John Harper was a Scottish Baptist minister who lost his life when the infamous RMS Titanic sank during her maiden voyage in April 1912. In this scrapbook, the Revd. J.T Chell collates newspapers, letters and telegrams to create a memorial to a well-loved minister, showing outpourings of grief from across England and America.



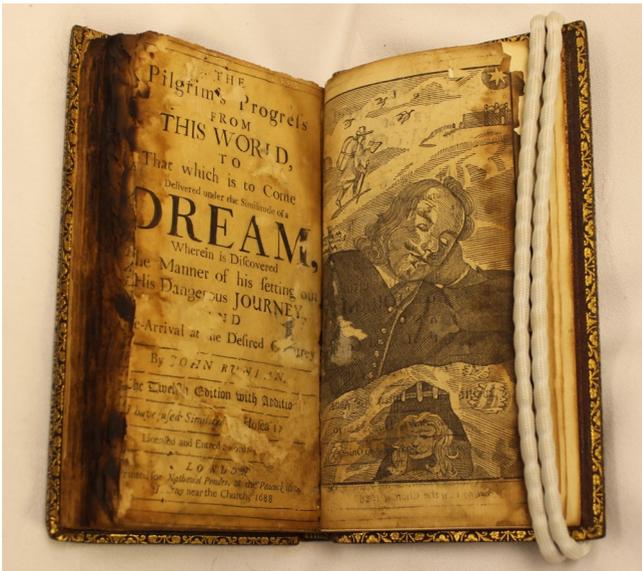
John Bunyan

21. *The Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan, various editions 1870-1916

The Pilgrim's Progress is one of the most well-known and widely-read allegorical novels in western literature. Although Bunyan initially had difficulties finding a publisher for his text, once printed, *Pilgrim's Progress* was an instant success and has been translated into over 200 languages. The journey to spiritual enlightenment as told in *Pilgrim's Progress* holds a significant place in the development of the English-language novel, having influenced the quest narratives of later writers such as Charles Dickens, Charlotte Brönte, Mark Twain, and Kurt Vonnegut.



22. Burnt copy of *The Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan, 1688



This copy of *The Pilgrim's Progress* was saved from a fire at the Sotherby's auction house in 1865. Luckily the shelf it was on was so tightly packed that only the spines were damaged by fire. As a result the book has been rebound on the undamaged right hand side, meaning that the book now reads from back to front.

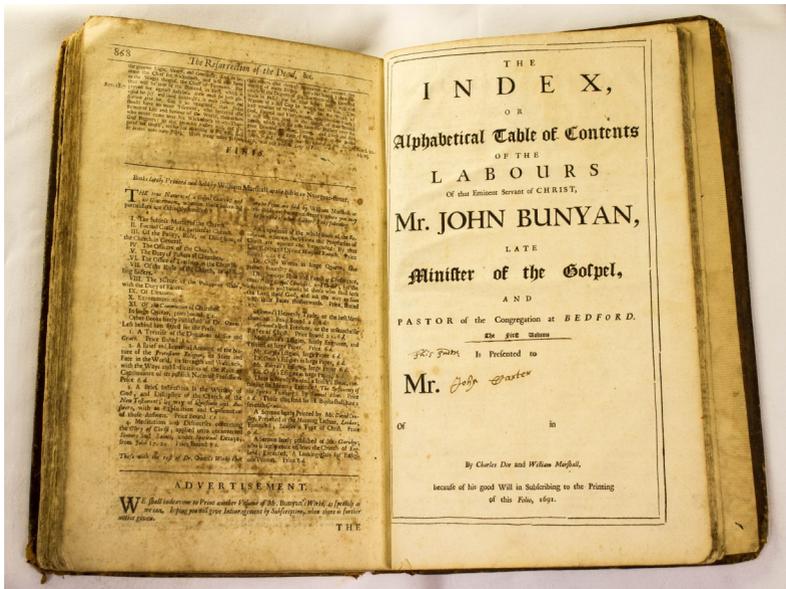


23. *The Pilgrim's Progress, Complete in Three Parts*, John Bunyan, 1768

This 55th edition of *The Pilgrim's Progress* was published in 1768 and contains three parts combined in one volume.

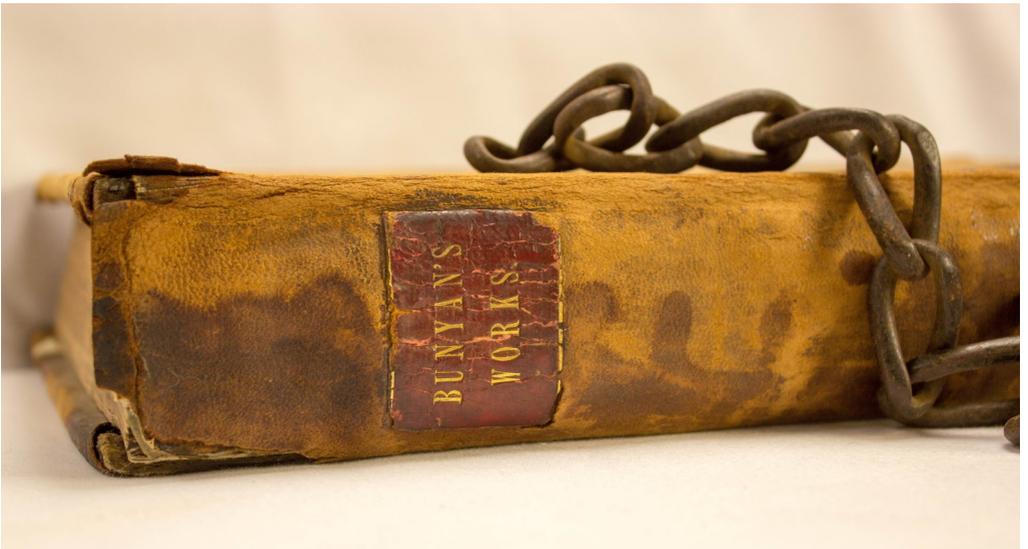
However, the “third part” documenting the pilgrim’s “happy arrival at the Celestial City,” which

first appeared in 1693 has been wrongly attributed to Bunyan. The actual author remains unknown and this “third part” continued to be published as Bunyan’s work for many years.



24. *The Works of that Eminent Servant of Christ, Mr. John Bunyan*, John Bunyan, 1692

Published after Bunyan’s death, *The Works of that Eminent Servant of Christ Mr John Bunyan*, included twelve previously unpublished works. This volume is one of only two copies, both held in The Angus, known to have a dedication page to the books indexer.



25. Chained copy of *The Works of that Eminent Servant of Christ, Mr. John Bunyan*, John Bunyan, 1692

The chain attached to this print of Bunyan's works would have attached the book to the lectern at Farringdon Baptist Church during the seventeenth and eighteenth century. The chain ensured that the book remained safe during a period when printed works were extremely valuable and liable to theft. Usually only seen on bibles, the chain on this volume demonstrates the importance of Bunyan's work for the Baptist Church.

John Milton and William Shakespeare



26. *The Poetical Works of John Milton, with notes of various authors*, John Milton, 1809

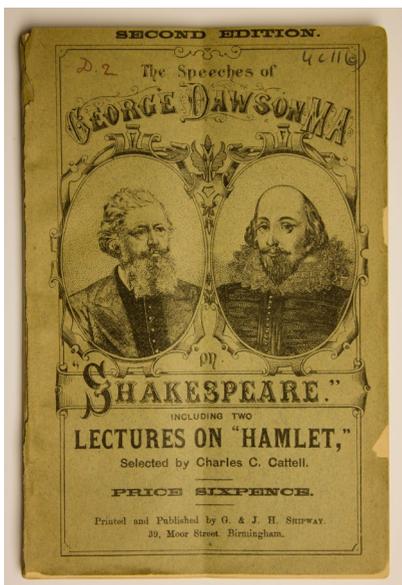
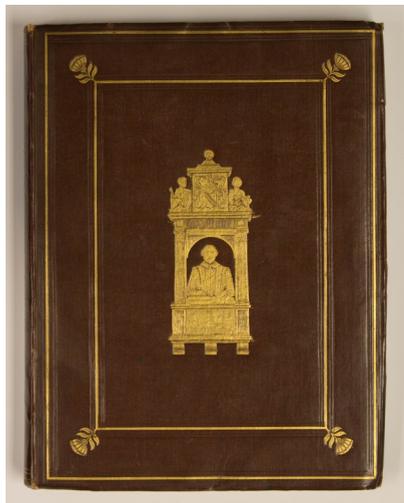
This edition of Milton's collected works with its finely-tooled leather covers dates from 1809. Its editor provides critical commentary on the texts, along with detailed footnoting and indexing that would allow a new study of the works.

27. *The Beauties of Shakespeare*, John Wise, 1857

This pamphlet seems to be part of a 19th century ‘cult of Shakespeare’, praising the virtues of the writer. It is notable for its focus on both beauty and morality in his works, and in its assertion that Shakespeare was somehow omniscient.

28. *Shakespeare: A Reprint of his Collected Works as put forth in 1623, Part I*, William Shakespeare, 1863

Despite dating from 1863, this edition of Shakespeare’s comedies is at pains to reprint the Folio of 1623. From typeface to the actual text (and misspellings) of the plays, this book is a determined reproduction of ‘the true Shakespeare’, fighting for an untainted, unedited version of the Bard.

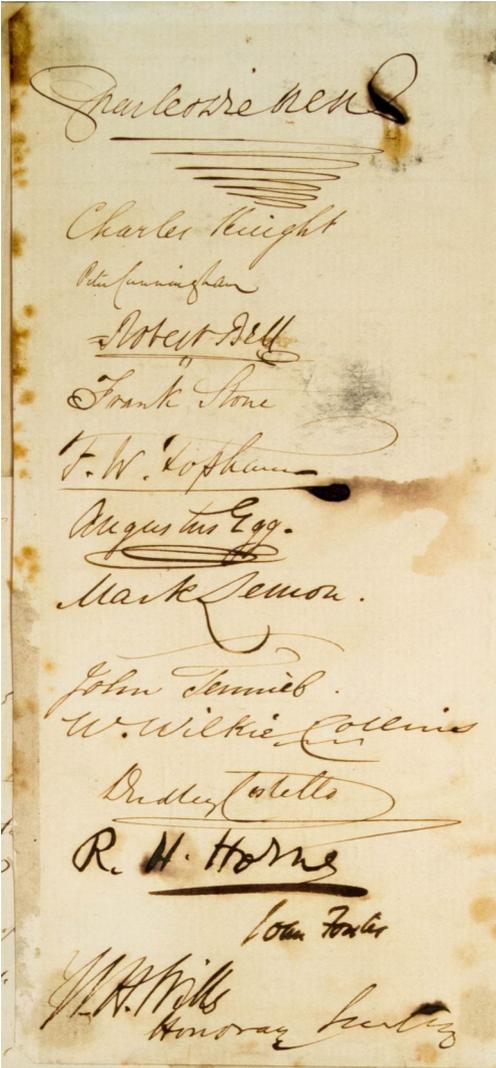


29. *The Speeches of George Dawson, M.A., on Shakespeare*, George Dawson, 1878

George Dawson was a 19th century authority on Shakespeare; these speeches, collated together after his death, operate as both a memorial to his critical position, and to the Bard himself. Dawson’s speeches linger over the figure of the author, and attribute a morality not unlike that of Victorian evangelism to his plays.

30. *The Baconian Mint: Its Claims Examined*, William Willis, 1903

This book, from the turn of the 20th century, is a systematic argument against anti-Stratfordian theories that claimed Shakespeare could not have written his plays, owing to their complex vocabulary. Willis counters this with a thorough linguistic analysis of the words to conclude that most of them were already extant in Shakespeare's day, and not created by Francis Bacon, as claimed by Theobald.



Autographs

31. *The Rev Dr Joseph Angus' Autograph Collection, 18th and 19th century*

This book of autographs, collected by the Rev Dr Joseph Angus, founder of The Angus Library and Archive, demonstrates his strong appreciation of literature, history and science.

On a page of various literary celebrities, one central autograph sheet dominates. The big flourishing autograph which headlines that sheet reads: Charles Dickens.

Charles Dickens (1812 – 1870) was known to have enjoyed signing autographs, but what's remarkable about this particular sheet is that it also collects the autographs of most of Dickens's closest friends, including publisher Charles Knight (1791-1873) and novelist Wilkie Collins (1824–1889).

Online exhibitions, details of upcoming exhibitions held by The Angus and any accompanying talks can be found on our website:

theangus.rpc.ox.ac.uk



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With funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and The Baptist Union Newington Court Fund, we would like to see more people from a wider cross section of society using The Angus. We aim to help people engage with the heritage of the nation and the Baptist denomination, taking advantage of the true value of this wonderful collection.

Curated by Sabrina Smelz, Alex Landucci,

Tim Gao, Lucy Clark and Vikki Hawkins

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Emma Walsh, College Librarian

Anja Clark, Project Administrator

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