NEW YORK, NEW YORK

A list celebrating the city that – until last month – never sleeps. These 50 selections reflect the city’s important contributions to history, art, music, literature, cuisine, engineering, transportation, architecture, and leisure.

This is an enhanced PDF catalog. If you click on an image or the highlighted headline of any entry, you will be linked to our website where you will find images. We are happy to provide more images or information upon request.

In chronological order


8vo. 360 pages. Hand-colored engraved folding map. Contemporary sheep, gilt decorated on spine. Provenance: contemporary ownership inscription on front free endpaper. Binding worn, occasional pale spotting. Large folding map has a small tear at the attachment else very clean and bright.

$325

FIRST EDITION. Church 1336; Howes H-184. Sabin 30319.
NEW YORK HYDRATED

2.


8vo. 12 pages. Three folding lithographed maps, printed by Imbert. Sewn in original printed wrappers, untrimmed; blue cloth portfolio. Provenance: contemporary signature on front wrapper of D. P. Campbell at 51 Broadway. Wear to wrappers, some light foxing, maps clean and bright.

$1,200

FIRST EDITION of this scarce pamphlet on the development of the New York water supply. Renwick was Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy and Chemistry at Columbia College, and writes at the request of the directors of the New York Hydraulic Manufacturing and Bridge Company who asked him to examine their property at Kingsbridge. The maps comprise: "Plan A. Plan of the Manufacturing Village of Kingsbridge belonging to the New York Hydraulic Company." – "Plan B. Sketch of Ground at Kingsbridge Belonging to the New York Hydraulic Company shewing the Works necessary to bring into use the Waters of Harlaem River." – Untitled map showing Manhattan and The Bronx, and Westchester County, including the Hudson, Harlem, and Yonkers Rivers.
3.  


$125

Presentation copy of this scarce pamphlet, inscribed on the front board: "Dr. Bell from his friend & cousin, The Author." John Adams Dix (1798-1879) was later Secretary of the Treasury, Governor of New York, and Union major general. New Jersey's Fort Dix, and the Adirondack 46er Dix Mountain, are named in his honor. In his history of New York, Dix aimed to present a general view of the resources of the city which, he writes, had seen progress in the previous thirty-five years that "has been almost without example in the history of society." Divided into five chapters and an appendix that cover the I. Commercial origin and character. II. Municipal government and police. III. Population and internal resources; IV. External resources; and V. Future growth estimated. Bradford 1339; Sabin 20340.

4.  

12mo. 348 pages. Engraved frontispiece and three plates. Original red roan-backed printed boards. Binding a bit worn, occasional foxing throughout, otherwise a good to very good copy.  

$150

FIRST EDITION. This is the first in a series of almanacs that Williams published until 1837, providing the general laws and constitution of the state; a list of the towns and congressional districts; population; stage lines; canals; banks; insurance companies; railroads; schools; military establishments; and statistical tables. The plates depict: the capitol building at Albany; the Van Der Heyden Mansion; the Albany Academy; and the Merchants' Exchange in Manhattan. Sabin 53799 and 104200.
IMPORTANT SERIES OF NEW YORK VIEWS

5.

4to (26.5 x 21 cm). Text paginated 1-50 consecutively. Engraved title with vignette, marked "proof," three full-page engravings of St. Paul’s Broadway, Trinity Church, and City Hall, printed by William D. Smith, folding map colored in outline (mounted on linen); and 20 engraved views on ten sheets, all on india paper mounted, plates 3/4 marked "proof" and plates 19/20 and 21/22 unnumbered and presumed proofs. 19th-century English blue half morocco, marbled boards, gilt-decorated and lettered on spine, with binder’s ticket of Kelly, Gower Place. Provenance: Dora H. Hearne(?), contemporary signature on title; John Hearne, armorial bookplate; with Goodspeed's (note at rear dated March 22, 1929). Some foxing.

$5,500

FIRST EDITION. One of the most celebrated series of early view of New York. "The Peabody prints offer fascinating glimpses of New York in the 1830s" and form "a lively document of a city in the making" (Deák). Includes views of Manhattan from Governor’s Island, Broadway, Bowling Green, City Hall, Elysian Fields Hoboken, Coffee-House Slip, Pearl Street, Fulton Market, Blackwell’s Island, publisher’s offices on Broadway, and La Grange Terrace. The series was intended to run to ten parts but never reached completion. Copies are found with varying complements of plates, and in mixed proof and final states, as here. BAL 5686; Deák 399; Howes F64; Sabin 54712 ("There are copies with proofs on India paper", as here); Stokes III:599.
6.
**HUDSON RIVER RAILROAD.** *Hudson River and the Hudson River Railroad: with a complete map and wood cut views of the principal objects of interest upon the line.* New York: Wm. C. Locke & Co., 1851.

8vo. 50 pages. Large folding map on three joined sheets (21 x 1788 cm; 8.25 x 61.75 inches). 11 woodblock illustrations in text (and with 2 more not recorded in the index but always present). Original printed wrappers with woodblock vignette. Wrappers chipped at edges, professionally rebacked, some unobtrusive offsetting on map.

$1,500

SCARCE Hudson River Railroad travel guide published the first year in which the full line was completed. It covers points of interest along the route, with woodblocks illustrating the text. Topics include: the history of the Hudson River, the history of the construction of the Hudson River Railroad, and the cities, towns and villages along the Hudson, from New York City all the way to Troy.

Concerning the West Point Foundry at Cold Spring, the guide states: "the iron foundry [was] established here by Gouverneur Kemble. The works are situated about a mile west of the village, upon a small stream which tumbles rapidly down the mountains, affording considerable water power. It is the largest establishment of its kind in the country, employing nearly five hundred hands constantly."

The building of the Hudson River Railroad is another topic in the guide. The project was considered highly impractical, since much of the route had to be cut through extremely difficult rock and terrain. This section includes a description of the tunnels which had to be constructed.
The railroad was opened in three stages. In September 1849, it allowed passengers to travel from New York to Peekskill. By that December 6, twenty-three additional miles were opened, extending to New Hamburg. By the 31st of the month, it was open the remaining distance of nine miles to Poughkeepsie.

The Hudson River Railroad was an extension of the Troy and Greenbush Railroad, which was chartered in 1845, connecting Troy South to Greenbush (now Rensselaer) on the east side of the Hudson. The Hudson River Railroad was chartered on May 12, 1846 to extend this line south to New York City. The full line opened on October 3, 1851, the same year in which this travel guide was published. WorldCat/OCLC records 25 copies, but it is scarcely found complete with the map, and the map is also excluded from the digitized versions available online.

7.


$1,000

Seventh edition, enlarged. Very scarce with the map, which was not included in the first edition of 1851. Sabin 43545 (under MacLeod) and 30449 (under title).
8.


8vo. Pages [1459]-1488. Colored folding lithographed map of the proposed Central Park (a few separations along folds with some small losses). Large folding table at end showing the excavation and embankment required to grade the streets and avenues in the proposed Central Park. Later red half morocco, original printed wrappers bound in. *Provenance:* Edwin B. Holden (bookplate). Some wear to joints.

$1,250

FIRST OFFPRINT ISSUE, issued separately with its own printed wrapper. Scarce pamphlet with a superb map of Central Park. David Valentine provides a brief introduction noting the receipt of this text and the order for it to be printed. The text, signed in print at end by Daniel Dodge and Joseph Britton of the Special Committee, outlines the background leading to the proposal to establish a park, and details a proposal for doing so.

"Central Park would probably be one of the largest city parks in the world, but not too large for the use of a city destined, in all human probability, to equal, and perhaps to exceed in population every other... the most beautiful feature of a large park, and a most important advantage over a small one, is, that the large park is capable, from its extent, of being laid out into a very great length of serpentine road, which a judicious engineer can so contrive as not only to produce startling effects of the distant landscape, and also to bring the peculiar natural and artificial beauties of the place into the best points of view, but, at the same time, to turn and wind this road through the place, so as to allow a very long drive through constantly varying scenery" (pp. 1465-66).
9.

Long decorative original color map of the Hudson River and adjacent countryside, from Jessop’s Landing to the Atlantic Ocean, with accompanying text. 28 x 14 inches. The towns are described in detail in two columns on either side of the map, including descriptions of cities, villages, etc. on East and West sides of the river; and information on steamboat arrangements and tours, railroad and stage routes. Four woodblock illustrations of steamers appear as head and foot pieces to the columns of text, and under Steamboat arrangements is found, "Usual Fare, with berth from New York to Albany or Troy, $1.00". Small area of repair and stain at top, light wear along folds, but overall a very handsome, fresh example of a rare map.

$750

“West Point ... This is the most beautiful and romantic spot on the banks of the Hudson, and the seat of the most important military school in the Union. The buildings, belonging to the United States government, are well adapted for the purposes intended. There is also an hotel, standing on elevated ground, near the steamboat landing, which is thronged with fashionable visitors during the summer months.”

8vo. 136 pages. Illustrations and map. Original cloth. Spine perished and front board detached [with end paper and two blank pages] and some wear to the extremities else a good copy. The large colored map is clean and bright.

$200

FIRST EDITION. Includes a list of officers and committees; an annual report; a summary of the treasurer’s account; topographical description; map; and report on nomenclature of the gates of the park.


8vo. 33 pages. Original printed wrappers; blue cloth portfolio. Soft vertical fold (from mailing?) and wrappers lightly soiled, pale stain to upper gutter margin.

$125

FIRST EDITION, Bristed writes vehemently against the prospect of a railroad along Fifth Avenue: "the mischiefs which a railroad on the Fifth avenue would inflict on the residents there as householders, are so obvious, and in many respects so analogous to those which a railroad on Brodway [sic] would inflict on the owners and occupiers there, that we may pass them over to save time and space—the more readily because, great as they would be, they would sink into insignificance before the harm done the avenue as a thoroughfare for private vehicles." Sabin 8042.

8vo. 72 pages. 14 illustrations and maps. Contemporary cloth. Several sheets loose in binding, map misfolded, the large map clean and bright, binding lightly worn at extremities. $500

FIRST EDITION. Includes a description of the park and references to the map; a report on the progress of the work; statement on drainage. The illustrations include the bridge for the carriage-drive; the iron bridge over the lake; carious archways; the terrace; and views in the Ramble.


8vo. 32 pages. Large folding map (small tape reinforcement on verso), two plates. Later blue buckram, gilt-lettered on spine. Plates chipped at corners not affecting images. some light browning. $750

The contents comprise: I. Large map of the city of New York, with the general route of the projected railroads indicated. II. Sectional view of the proposed railroads [plate]. III. Perspective View– Crossing Fourteenth Street [plate]. IV. Descriptive circular. V. Engineer’s report of Gen. Sherell describing mode of construction,
character of the routes, facilities for construction, estimated capacity, cost, etc. VI. Letter from land agent Anthony J. Bleecker showing the practicality of the route, costs, benefits, etc. VII. Opinions of the New York Press. Scarce: WorldCat/OCLC locates only four copies (Columbia, NY Historical Society, HCL Technical Services, Onondaga County Public Library, and University of Denver).

14.
BEERS, Frederick W. Map of New York and Vicinity. New York: Beers, Ellis & Soule, [1867].

Hand-colored engraved map by Worley & Bracher, printed by James McGuigan. 30 3/4 x 28 1/2 inches. Mounted on linen. Two small separations along joints, generally a fine and attractive example.

$300

15. CENTRAL PARK – John CROFTON. *Map of the Boulevard as established by Act of Legislature, and Pan of Grand Entrance to Central Park, with Grades along the line of 8th Avenue, from 59th to 110th St.* New York: Willard Felt & Co., 1867.

30 x 220 cm. Colored lithographed map. Folding into original flexible cloth covers with printed title panel on front: "Map of the "Boulevard" from 59th to 155th Streets, As Established by Authority of the Legislature. Also Line of the 8th Avenue, Showing Grades Along the Central Park." Some nicks/tears to edges, some light soiling and wear.

$1,500

The map is oriented with north to the right of the sheet. An inset shows the plan of an entrance to Central Park with a portion of the Boulevard. *Scarce:* WorldCat/OCLC records only one copy, that at NYPL; the only recorded auction sale was in 1911 according to RBH.


$750

Number 96 of 250 copies signed by Dawson, signed by Emmet on the title-page and with his bookplate. The text first appeared in Valentine’s “Manual” for 1855. This limited edition reprints it as the first of a series projected by the author under the collective title “Gleanings from the Harvest Field of American History.”


8vo. 267 pages with 8 mounted albumen photographs, 3 illustrations and 4 folding maps (of which 3 in color). Original cloth. A little wear to the extremities, spine separated at the front hinge but board still attached, and the large map at p 156 is mostly missing. The large colored map at p. 70 has a few spots of foxing on the back else is very clean and bright.

$600

-FIRST EDITION. Includes reports from the heads of departments; correspondence relating to the Bronze Tigress; discussion of the animals living in the park; and a topographical description. The illustrations include the terrace; drinking fountain for horses; boys’ play house; rustic stone arch; children at the lake; and maps.

8vo. 187 pages with 10 tipped in photographs, 3 illustrations and 2 large color folding maps. Contemporary dark brown half calf. Some wear to the extremities, and the large map at p 70 has a tear else a very good copy. The large colored maps are clean and bright.

$1,000

FIRST EDITION. Includes a topographical description of the park; references to the park guide map; reports from various departments; correspondence relating to the Natural History Museum, Columbus Statue, Humboldt Bust and Parade Ground. The illustrations include the Mall; Dairy House; Cascade; Goat Carriage; and maps of the park.


8vo. 427 pages. Numerous maps and plates, including mounted photographs, some folding. Original plum hard-grained morocco. Some wear to extremities, some folding plates with short tears along folds.

$1,000

Includes an annual report of the department; reference to the Central Park guide map; topographical description of Central Park; birds and animals in captivity; species exhibited in the menagerie for the first time; report on the site for the zoo and botanical garden; report of the landscape gardener report on the water
supply of lower Westchester County; and reports from department heads. The illustrations include sculptures by Thomas Crawford; the park Museum, observatory, and menagerie; the American Museum of Natural History; the stables; sheepfold; Shakespeare monument; eagles’ and vultures’ aviary; plan of the reservoir park; and maps of the park and waterways of New York.

20.  

Original stereograph format photograph mounted on card, 9 x 18 cm including mount. In fine condition. $50

21.  


FIRST EDITION, A promotional piece by the Flatbush Trust Company containing histories of Flatbush, its residents and businesses.
22.


8vo. 350 pages. Double-page bird’s-eye view of the five boroughs and illustrations in text, all in duotone. Original decorated cloth, the front cover blocked with a panel centering a silhouette of the Brooklyn Bridge. Early owner’s name on front free endpaper. Some light wear at extremities. $75

FIRST EDITION. The text responded to the call by New York’s Board of Education to increase the study of the governments of the state and city in New York, and became the standard textbook in the eighth grade. But let’s face it, most will want it for the cover.

23.


8vo. 191 pp. Original gilt-lettered blue cloth, titled "Yale Verse 1898-1908" on front cover, largely unopened. A fine copy, the extremities just barely touched. $100

FIRST EDITION. Moses was editor of the Yale Courant and Thurston the editor of the Yale Literary Magazine. The book contains one poem by Moses: "Mona Lisa" (pp.95-6). An early example of the future Power Broker in print.

Of literary note are the poems by Sinclair Lewis, his first appearance in book form. The seven poems appear under his given name Harry S. Lewis.

Portfolio containing five loose folding color maps printed by L. L. Poates Engineering Co., NY:

1. 1609. The Island of Manhattan (Mannahtin) at the Time of Its Discovery. 410 x 132 cm. Based on the early colonial surveys of Ratzer, Montresor, Knyphausen, Bradford, Duyckinck and the 1867 survey by E. L. Viele. (A few small holes and separations along folds.) – 2. 1609 The Hudson River (Cahohatarea) at the Time of Its Discovery by Henry Hudson. 22 x 85 cm. (Upper and lower sections separated along folds.) – 3. 1653-1664 Amsterdam in New Netherland. The City of the Dutch West India Company. 61 x 43 cm. (A few small separations along folds.) – 4. 1730 New York. The English Colonial City. 60.5 x 43.5 cm. (A few small separations along folds.) – 5. 1783 Manhattan Island at the Close of the Revolution. Showing the American City with Its Landmarks and the Revolutionary Fortifications on the Island. 41 x 132.5 cm. (Separations along folds.)

$1,000

The complete set of Townsend’s maps published on the 400th anniversary of Hudson’s discovery of the Hudson River.
25.  
**CHAPIN, Anna Alice.** *Greenwich Village.* New York: Dodd, Mead and Company, 1917 [1920 added to title in type].

8vo. 301 pages. Folding map; frontispiece and 15 plates by Allan Gilbert Cram. Original decorated cloth, the front cover blocked with an image of Washington Square Arch. Hinges cracked, covers a bit dull.  

FIRST EDITION, inscribed by the dedicatee on the dedication leaf: "To Washington Square Church Compliments of Vincent C. Pepe Jan. 30/22" (and with the Church's embossed stamp on front free endpaper). Pepe inspired Chapin to write her history of the Village, an extensive study of the history of its environs, businesses, and people. Given the addition of the 1920 date on the title, this is likely a later issue.  

$75

26.  

8vo. 43 pages. Frontispiece photograph of the Assay Office and ten plates. Original blue cloth, gilt-lettered on front cover and spine. A fine copy.  

This privately printed book provides an illustrated historical sketch of the successive building occupied by the Assay Office and the men of the Verplanck family connected with it. The text is interspersed with some of their family histories.  

$75

27.  

8vo. 53 pages. Frontispiece with original tissue guard, and five plates. Original boards, printed paper title label. Label with chip, first leaf partly loose at top, occasional pale staining near the gutter presumably from binding glue, but it is much more attractive than this autopsy report would imply.  


$100


FIRST EDITION, A copy with an interesting provenance, owned by Melville Cane, American poet and lawyer who represented Sinclair Lewis, Ayn Rand and Thomas Wolfe. He has inscribed his name and addresses twice at front and has made one marginal note in pencil.

$60

THERE’S NO BETTER NEW YORK NOVEL


8vo. Original green cloth, titled-in blind on front, gilt-lettered on spine. Spine gilt somewhat faded, light wear at ends of spine, generally a very fresh copy.

$4,000

“The city seen from the Queensboro Bridge is always the city seen for the first time, in its first wild promise of all the mystery and the beauty in the world.”

FIRST EDITION, first printing, with all first printing points: "chatter" on p. 60, line 16; "northern" on p. 119, line 22; "it’s" on p. 165, line 16; "away" on p. 165, line 29; "sick in tired" on p. 205, lines 9-10; and "Union Street station" on p. 211, lines 7-8. An attractive copy of the first edition. Bruccoli A11.1a.
30.

8vo. Original black cloth-backed orange boards; dust jacket (present but worn, chipped and separated along all joints). Slightly leaned, some wear at extremities and along board edges, small marginal stain in first 12 leaves.

$350

One of 750 copies, INSCRIBED by Ford on the half-title to Jane Dransfield "for Xmas 1927." Dransfield (1875-1957) was a playwright, poet, and lecturer on theater.

31.

Folio (42 x 27 cm). 5 pages text, 24 full-page plates including frontispiece. Original quarter white patterned muslin, blue boards, gilt-lettered on front cover and spine; portions of dust jacket preserved. *Provenance*: Charles R. Lamb (1860-1942), American sculptor and architect (presentation inscription from the author); then to his son and grandson (inscriptions). A very good copy with light toning to boards, occasional pale spotting internally, and several small marginal closed tears.

$600

FIRST EDITION, a fine association copy, inscribed to the architect of New York’s Dewey Arch, Charles R. Lamb, on the front free endpaper: “To Charles R. Lamb Esq. who with inspired vision, first foreseeing the need of set-back architecture, new boulevards, and elevated speed ways, etc. now a reality, devised and advocated plans for them to the great benefit and beautification of the City of New York. Vernon Howe Bailey New York 1930.” Above this inscription is that “To David – Christmas 1946 from Mummy and Daddy”: i.e. from Charles Lamb’s son Joseph Condie Lamb and his wife Elizabeth Neal Lamb, presenting the book to their son David C. Lamb.

The work consists of reproductions of black-and-white line drawings by Bailey of New York buildings and vistas including the Woolworth Building, Hotel Warwick, Park Avenue and the Ritz Tower, New York Telephone Company Building, New York from Brooklyn Heights, Standard Oil Building, and Battery Park. Cass Gilbert, author of the introduction, was a prominent American architect and president of the American Institute of Architects. Among his many achievements, the finest were the Woolworth Building in New York and the Supreme Court Building in Washington, D. C.

Two pages, 4to. On Dreiser’s letterhead. Small stain on verso, otherwise in fine condition. $800

Dreiser writes in to Geoffrey Parsons, the editor of the New York Herald Tribune from 1924-1952, describing a writing submission that he has attached with the letter:

“Your general and varied courtesies to me, but more particularly the general fairness with which you have regarded my views... make me mindful of things which may be entertaining to your readers. The enclosed letter and [...] which [...] well be entitled Fifty Million Frenchmen [...] in my estimation one such bit. If you agree you are welcome to it for your Sunday paper. All I ask is that you hold it for three weeks by which time L’Ordre will have had time to publish or discard it if they see fit.

I am --
Yours truly,
Theodore Dreiser”

In 1931 Dreiser became actively involved in the American Writers’ League as well as the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners. During this year he also published Dawn: An Autobiography of Early Youth and Tragic America. Dreiser described having a complex relationship with news publications during the 1930s. He stated in 1936 that “many newspapers” had “glossed over” his political views. Nonetheless, Dreiser did contribute several interviews, as well as poems and book reviews, to the New York Herald Tribune during Geoffrey Parsons’ term as editor. In an interview given to the Tribune the month before this letter, Dreiser discussed dissatisfaction with the Hollywood film adaptation of Tragic America, retitled An American Tragedy (Frederic E. Rusch and Donald Pizer, eds., Theodore Dreiser: Interviews, pp. 329, 2004).

Dreiser’s use of the title “Fifty Million Frenchmen” is likely a reference to the 1929 Broadway musical of the same name, with music and lyrics by Cole Porter. The piece referred to here as “Fifty Million Frenchmen” was not published as such in either the New York Herald Tribune or in any other newspaper. He published another letter to the editor in the Tribune in February of 1932, replying to a review of Tragic America. (Theodore Dreiser Collection, Schoenberg Center for Electronic Text and Image).
NEW YORK EATS

33.

8vo. 301 pages, with indices. Original red cloth. Early owner’s name on half-title. A fine copy. $250

FIRST EDITION. Providing readers with a different restaurant choice for every day in the year (unless it’s a leap year...) Ross notes in his introduction that there were estimated to be 19,716 eating places in Manhattan at the time: and so his select group of inclusions are those he considered the best, with the finest cuisine, most colorful atmosphere, and the best reliability. "This volume was compiled during the last days of Prohibition and during the first few weeks of Repeal when it was possible to discover which restaurants would obtain wine and liquor licenses and which would not. Ross grouped restaurants thematically, including "For Two Young Things Very Much in Love," "Saturday Night After the Bath is Over," "A Guide to Gluttony," and "Where the Famous Foregather." Yes, he had fun with it.
34.

8vo. 349 pages. Original decorated cloth; dust jacket designed by Maurer. A very good to near-fine copy with light wear to jacket at ends of spine panel.

SOLD

FIRST EDITION, fifth printing. A very handsome example of Maurer's Art Deco jacket.

**A PARADE OF PEOPLE WHO COUNT**

35.

Folio. 62 pages, 3 page index. Original blue cloth, lettered in white on front cover. Slight toning to board edges, some fraying at ends of spine and corners.

$900

This scarce privately printed membership log of legendary nightclub El Morocco documents its many famous members, including Cary Grant, Douglas Fairbanks, Franklin Roosevelt, and other notables. the index is keyed to each page and the captioned portrait photographs. John Perona commissioned and published the book for El Morocco regulars. As Lucius Beebe writes in the introduction, "Anyway, this book is a parade of People Who Count." The book's endpapers pay tribute to the famed zebra-stripe motif designed by Vernon MacFarlane.
NEW YORK GETS MEDIEVAL


8vo. 27pp. Original vellum-backed boards. A fine copy. $60

FIRST EDITION, one of 250 copies. Contains four addresses given at the occasion of the opening of the Cloisters by George Blumenthal, President of the Museum; Fiorello LaGuardia, mayor of New York City; Robert Moses, Commissioner of Parks of the City of New York; and the project’s benefactor John. D. Rockefeller.


Five volumes, royal 8vo. Original grey morocco. A very good set with some light drying to leather, some flaking and slight wear, protected in mylar wrappers, internally clean and bright. $4,500

FIRST EDITION, DELUXE LIMITED ISSUE, one of 500 sets, signed by FDR on the front free endpaper of volume one. The is the complete set as originally published: Eight additional volumes were published in 1950. The ultimate New York Politician, Roosevelt was born in Hyde Park in 1882 and served as the state’s 44th governor from 1929 to 1932 before his ascension to the White House in 1933.

8vo. 340 pages. Original cloth; dust jacket. A fine copy in a very good jacket, with light toning and a chip at the head of the spine panel.

$225

FIRST EDITION of this classic of New York City life, scarcely found with its dust jacket. "The New York that only Gothamites know is here revealed in a different kind of guidebook. An intimate uncovering of the Melting Pot, nothing like it has appeared before. The reader is in for an unforgettable experience, a conducted sight-seeing tour of New York’s most celebrated spectacle—morning rush hour.


8vo. 97 pages. Black-and-white photographic illustrations. Original cloth. A very good copy, the spine slightly toned and with minor wear at ends.

$100

SIGNED BY MOSES in pencil on the front free endpaper. Second edition, sixth printing.
40.  


FIRST EDITION. PRESENTATION COPY, INSCRIBED BY THE MOSESES on the half-title: “To Jack Blum with our affectionate regards Mary and Robert Moses.”

41.  

One page, 8vo. Four lines in Toklas’s fine, miniscule hand. On her stationary. In fine condition. $650
Alice B. Toklas writes to Drue Parsons anticipating her upcoming visit. Parsons was married to Geoffrey Parsons, chief editorial writer of the New York Herald Tribune from 1924 to 1952. Toklas writes:

“Virgil Thomson has just told me that you were kind enough to say that you would come to see me on Thursday afternoon. It will give me the greatest pleasure to meet you and to see Mr. Parsons again. He will not remember but we met briefly in New York in thirty four.
Until next Thursday then,
[...]
Cordially,
A.B. Toklas

Alice B. Toklas was living in Paris in 1952. She went on to publish The Alice B. Toklas Cookbook, the first of her two books, in 1954. Toklas had lived with her partner Gertrude Stein in Paris since 1907; Stein died in 1946. Drue Parsons, born Dorothy Blackman, spent her early career in the 1930s as an actress with the stage name Drue Leyton. Leyton joined the resistance movement in France in the 1930s and 40s. It is likely that Toklas and Leyton met, or at least became familiar with each other, in Paris in 1942, when many American women were threatened with internment by the Vichy government. Drue Leyton was incarcerated in the Bois de Boulogne along with Sylvia Beach, the first publisher of Ulysses and a close friend of Stein and Toklas. (Charles Glass, Americans in Paris: Life and Death Under Nazi Occupation, 2011, pp. 82).

The letter refers to Virgil Thomson, composer and prominent music critic. Thomson was music critic for the New York Herald-Tribune from 1940-1954. He and Geoffrey Parsons worked at the magazine together for six of these years. Thomson also composed the score for “Four Saints in Three Acts,” an opera for which Gertrude Stein wrote the libretto. “Four Saints in Three Acts” premiered in 1934, first in Connecticut and then in New York. The encounter with Geoffrey Parsons that Toklas mentions would likely have occurred around the premiere: both Toklas and Stein traveled to the United States to attend.
42.


4to (14 x 11 cm). 10 pages. Engraved vignette, small color image of the Manhattan skyline mounted on last page; original blue tissue preserved. Stapled in original printed wrappers. A virtually untouched example in a custom folding case. *Provenance*: Sylvia Pedlar (1900-1972), American fashion designer. $15,000

An immaculate copy of Cornell’s scarce artist’s book, printed in an edition of 100 copies, this with an original image Cornell mounted in personalized copies, and accompanied by a letter presenting the pamphlet to American fashion designer Sylvia Pedlar (1902-1982).

*With:*

JOSEPH CORNELL. Typed letter signed (“Joseph Cornell”) to Sylvia Pedlar, 3708 Utopia Parkway, Flushing, NY, 27 May 1956. One page, 4to, on Valley Onion Skin.

Reading: “Long before the egan gallery suspended operation I have thought back to the pleasant occasion of meeting you there with Mr. [Bradley Walker] Tomlin. It is hard to take, – the news of his passing. Enclosed something more nostalgic than the weather prophet [Cornell’s 1954 assemblage], a little private printing of an
aspect of ‘exploration’ which I hope to have more news of one of these days.” Cornell had his first show at the Charles Egan Gallery in 1949.

By 1956, when Cornell presented this book, Sylvia Pedlar was a leading designer of lingerie, having studied at Cooper Union and the Art, Students League. She launched her business, Iris Lingerie, in 1929. Though she hated the term, she is credited with creating the super short “baby doll” nighties – a clever response to the fabric shortage during the Second World War. She is also known for adapting the Roman toga to the American nightgown. Cornell refers to the New York Abstract Expressionist Bradley Walker Tomlin, who had died in May 1953 having had a heart attack after visiting Jackson Pollock in Long Island.

Maria, an appropriated text translated by Cornell from Elise Polko’s original prose-poem, reflects Cornell’s obsession with opera, and with the Spanish mezzo-soprano Maria Malibran in particular. A cache of the pamphlets was found in Cornell’s estate after his death, all lacking the blue tissue guard and the mounted image at end, both of which are present here. This early example is among those Cornell specially personalized for notable friends. Lynda Roscoe Hartigan proposes that Cornell turned to other creative activities such as this book in the 1950s due to his ambivalent attitude towards his constructions. He was periodically expanding his Portrait of Ondine, GC44 from 1951 on, filling it with printed matter, notes, and excerpts in the manner of Duchamp’s Valises. He published Maria and Bel Canto Pet (1955) at his own expense, in the manner of the French feuilletons (see Hartigan, “Joseph Cornell: A Biography” in Joseph Cornell, ed. Kynaston McShine, New York: MoMA, 1980, pp. 108-109).
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