Americana Bibliography and Reference

From the Library of Ian Jackson, Part Two

The Idiolect of Ian Jackson


From an edition of 250 copies, designed by Neil Crawford and seen through publication by Ian Jackson's widow, Ann Arnold. Ian's genius was manifest in numerous ways, one of which was the "idiolects" that he compiled. He published three such works, gathering together the particular sayings of the British classicist, Edmund Morshead; the Berkeley linguist, Yakov Malkiel; and his own father, the physicist John David Jackson. Ian himself compiled the final two of those idiolects, and copies of the study of his father's language, called MATHEIN PATHEIN, are also available for sale (please inquire). Never one to shy from self-examination, Ian compiled the present collection of his own distinctive speech ("Cosinkan" refers to Ian's anagrammatic pseudonym, Jan Cosinka), and the result is a pleasure on many levels. The frontispiece portrait reproduces a drypoint by Ann Arnold showing Ian aged twenty-two. The rear wrapper reproduces a photographic portrait by Elvira Piedra of Ian at age sixty-six. $22


A pioneering bibliography when it was first published in 1928, and still fundamentally important today. This is the 1965 Argosy reprint. Monroe Work, whose parents had been slaves, was born in North Carolina in 1866 and was Director of Records and Research at the Tuskegee Institute when he finished this work. His bibliography covers just about every aspect of the African-American experience, and is divided into sections and subsections, with an extensive index of names. $30


Still one of the basic Alaska bibliographies, with more than 10,000 listings "containing the titles of all histories, travels, voyages, newspapers, periodicals, public documents, etc., printed in English, Russian, German, French, Spanish, etc., relating to, descriptive of, or published in Russian America or Alaska, from 1724 to and including 1924." Wickersham's introductory "Outlines of the History of Alaskan Literature" is a useful source of information. Also from the reference library of John Howell-Books, with their bookplate on the front pastedown. TANSELLE A6.1. $60

A facsimile reprint of the original 1914 edition of this classic reference on books relating to California, the standard in the field, and a necessary work for any Americana reference collection. This edition adds additional notes by Robert G. Cowan, and an introduction by Henry R. Wagner. Printed in an edition of 1000 copies. ZAMORANO 80, 23. TANSELLE A9.01 (both for the 1914 edition). AXE, PUBLISHED WRITINGS OF HENRY R. WAGNER 58. WEBER 62 (note). $60


The best Americana bibliography of the past two decades, giving excellent descriptions of hundreds of books describing the early years of the Gold Rush. Kurutz gives accurate collations, includes later editions, and provides outstanding summaries of the contents and significance of the books he describes. An essential Americana reference book. $125


Catalogue of an outstanding exhibition mounted by the New-York Historical Society to mark the centennial of the California Gold Rush, featuring a remarkable collection of books, manuscripts, maps, prints, and more. TANSELLE E3.724. $20


"There is hardly a work of importance written about California during the period [through World War One] that Dr. Walker does not comment upon and give his qualitative analysis" (Gregg Layne, quoted in Weber). A volume in the "Chronicles of California" series. WEBER 255. $15

From the foreword: "Our emphasis has been on distinguished books, not on books of great rarity. No doubt, some of the books listed are of great rarity, but nearly all of them are within the means of the average collector...We have kept in mind in our selection those books which we believe should be cornerstones of any real collection of Californiana." "Indispensable [sic] to the serious student of California's historical literary heritage" - Howell. While this guide to significant California books may not have launched a thousand collections, it's probably come close. WEBER 146. TANSELLE A9.05. HOWELL 50:1446. ROCQ 4553.


A monumental catalogue of a magnificent collection of Americana, describing in great detail books relating to the history of the Americas from 1482 (Pomponius Mela) to 1884. The emphasis of the collection was on early travel and exploration and colonial history, and in fact the fourth volumes ends in 1752 (the books are listed chronologically). The breadth of the collection is a wonder, and the outstanding collations and descriptions by G.W. Cole have maintained the sanity of many a bookseller. Try collating a set of De Bry (grand or petit) without Cole's help - it's hard to do. Originally published in a lovely edition in 1907, this 1951 Peter Smith facsimile is a much more utilitarian (and affordable) edition. TANSELLE E4.21.


Signed by Harwell on the half title. Harwell selects books from the 1860s to the 1970s on all aspects of the Confederacy and his aim is not just to list the most "collectible" titles but also the most descriptive, informative and useful. His is a list that not only makes you want to collect, but to read as well. From the series "Contributions to Bibliography," edited by John H. Jenkins and William S. Reese, and with an introduction by Merton Coulter. $225


The sixth printing, "revised and enlarged in both knowledge and wisdom," following the first printing of 1942. Dobie famously insisted on not copyrighting this, one of his most famous works, asserting that "anybody is welcome to help himself to any of it in any way." Organized by topic, it is fun to read and useful in its information. With a brief pencil note in Ian Jackson’s hand on the rear pastedown. $15

Antiquarian, 1965. Four volumes. Original red cloth, spines gilt. Some spotting on the top edge of the textblock of each volume, else near fine.

An essential reference. The Eberstadts were the leading Western Americana dealers of their era, and these volumes bring together thirty of their most significant catalogues, with a useful index. Catalogues 108-109 and 116-118 are not included, and the third volume concludes with an unnumbered catalogue of an exhibition of Texana displayed at the Dallas Public Library in 1958. Yale librarian Archie Hanna wrote the introduction. With three lines of pencil notes in Ian Jackson’s hand on the rear pastedown of the first volume. TANSELLE E2.352.

$375


Everett Graff was one of the major Western Americana collectors of the twentieth century and he assembled a highly significant collection, now at the Newberry Library. This catalogue of his collection contains very useful notes on contents and collations for nearly 5000 titles, and includes further references and notes on the physical dimensions of any particular title. A basic reference source. The accompanying map index, a useful supplement, was compiled by Brenda Berkman and Robert W. Karrow. TANSELLE E4.34.

$20


Bernice Judd began this project - a bibliography of "all known titles published in the Hawaiian language anywhere in the world between 1822 and the end of the century" - in 1938, and it was not published for forty years. Bell and Murdoch completed the bibliography, searching the holdings of libraries beyond the Hawaiian islands, including the United States, Australia, New Zealand, and Europe. Includes useful notes on subsequent editions of the works listed, library holdings, and contents.

$20


Offers a remarkable assemblage of early newspapers of California and the West, including lengthy runs, carrier's addresses, extras, prices current, illustrated magazines, an early Chinese newspaper, the ANTI-COOLIE AGITATOR, etc. The introduction is a precis on San Francisco journalism to 1906 by Paul Jordan Smith. WEBER 153. TANSELLE E2.502.

$15

An outstanding multi-part catalogue by the venerable Howell firm, offering a remarkable collection on California and the West, and a very useful reference. The majority of the titles offered here were collected by Jennie Crocker Henderson, granddaughter of the railroad magnate Charles Crocker (one of the "Big Four"), and represent all aspects of California history from the Spanish explorations to the twentieth century, including literature and fine printing. "From the earliest European voyages of exploration to the emergence of the Golden State as an integral component of the modern American political and economic system, virtually every subject area of importance is covered."

$45


Number 52 from an edition of 250 copies, signed by Dary, and with a typed postcard, signed, from Dary, to Ohio bookseller Robert Hayman laid in. A list of 275 important Kansas books, pamphlets, and ephemera, each entry with an illustration and helpful commentary. From the series "Contributions to Bibliography," edited by John H. Jenkins and William S. Reese.

$60


A reference work that can be relied on, and one that makes for engaging reading. This is a revised and expanded edition of the reference first published by Howard Lamar in 1977. With more than 2400 entries by more than 300 contributors, including Richard White, Donald Worster, Carlos Schwantes, Martha Sandweiss, Jeff Dykes, George Miles, William Cronon, and Bill Reese (on collectors and collections). Many of the entries have recommendations for further reading.

$30


An authoritative study of Swedish travel and exploration in the Arctic, by an expert in the field. Covers the period from the eighteenth century to the second half of the twentieth, and examines the political, economic, and scientific motivations and ramifications of Swedish expeditions.

$125

Inscribed by David Magee on the front free endpaper of the first volume (the inscription is misdated 1949 - errors in Magee's inscriptions seem to occur with some regularity). Laid into the first volume is a printed notice the likes of which any bookseller would hope to produce at some point in their career, announcing that the entire collection had been purchased "in toto", in this case by Brigham Young University. With prefaces by Gordon Ray, Robert Lee Wolff, and Robert F. Metzdorf. Ray lauds Magee's offering as "the most substantial and important collection of Victorian literature assembled by a bookdealer in many years," and rightly applauds him for printing the prices asked for each title instead of removing them or substituting them with "sold." Printed in an edition of 625 copies by Robert Grabhorn & Andrew Hoyem, of which 125 were bound in cloth and boards, as here. HARLAN, GRABHORN/HOYEM 30. $175


The two volumes together contain 4838 entries relating to all aspects of the history, development, and condition of Baja California. Ms. Barrett erred on the side of inclusion, listing books, maps, and articles on the subject. It remains the indispensable work on the subject. Both volumes printed in editions of 550 copies, of which 500 were for sale. $125


Henry Wagner's study of sixteenth-century Mexican imprints, supplementing the work of Icazbalceta, Medina, and Leon. Wagner researched this work in the early to mid-1930s, and though the titlepage is dated 1940 it was not published until 1946. The project grew out of Wagner's admiration for Icazbalceta and his own personal interest in sixteenth-century Mexican printing (he at one time owned thirty-five such imprints). The result is an engaging and useful study, examining more than 250 imprints, and also giving information on printers and collectors. Translated by Joaquin Pimentel and Federico Gomez de Orozco and printed in an edition of 1000 copies. AXE, PUBLISHED WRITINGS OF HENRY R. WAGNER 135. $175


Originally published in 1933 by The New York Public Library, this reprint (in an edition of 750 copies) includes a supplement by Samuel J. Marino adding another sixty-seven titles. Monaghan's travellers discuss a wide range of issues, from politics and economics to the development of the United States and westward expansion. With two lines of pencil notes on the rear pastedown in Ian Jackson’s hand. $25

Along with the work of J.C. Pilling, this checklist of the Ayer collection is an important reference work for Native American linguistics. In fact, Ayer acquired Pilling's collection in 1903 and added to it. This checklist includes works in 328 separate dialects or sub-dialects. TANSELLE E4.069. $75


With 1708 entries, almost all of which are from Field's collection of books on the subject. Those titles which Field did not own, but which he felt were important for inclusion in this work, are marked with an asterisk. Field's annotations sometimes suffer from the racism/paternalism of his time, but they are more often quite useful. They can also be hilarious, as in his assessment of the narrative of the voyage and shipwreck of John Vandelour on the Northwest Coast: "There is little in the course of literary pursuits more vexatious, than to chronicle the existence of a wretched performance like this, unless it be that of having paid an extravagant price for it, only to find it utterly worthless in every view, except its extreme rarity." Laid in at the rear is a review of Field's book from an 1873 issue of THE NATION. TANSELLE E4.325. $85


The catalogue is arranged by subject, mostly relating to Native American tribes in the West. It is especially valuable for the many obscure titles and imprints, and for the numerous entries relating to tribal governance, missionary activity, and diplomacy. $25


This is the third edition, "revised and extended by Isabel Mayhew." An extensive checklist of books and pamphlets on a wide-ranging geographic area, encompassing Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, British Columbia, the Yukon, and Alaska. Despite the very brief information included on the more than 11,000 entries this is often the only reference in which one will find certain titles listed. It also contains my favorite reasoning for any errors contained herein: "In such a compilation as this union Check List
some errors are inevitable. This is due to the fact that it was prepared with the collaboration of many busy librarians and not by electronic robots” (from the foreword). $15


Collection catalogues are, by their nature, limited, but the Kroepelien collection of Polynesiana was remarkable indeed. Included are works of travel and exploration, imprints, linguistics, missionary accounts, and more. A necessary reference on the subject. From an edition of 800 copies, of which 500 were for sale. $95


Revised edition, following the first of 1983. A best books list of many quirks and virtues, not least of which are Jenkins's annotations and the lists of later editions and issues. $25


Early reprint of the first bibliography of Texas (originally published in 1896), and one of the first state bibliographies. Still valuable for its annotations. TANSELLE A48.1. $75


The fourth, final, and most complete edition of a trailblazing and towering work in Americana bibliography. Includes detailed collations, descriptions of contents, references to other works, and much more. Revised by Robert Becker. $30