

American Antiquarian Society

Manuscript Collections

NAME OF COLLECTION:

Houghton, Eliza, "Practical Arithmetic . . .," [1810?]

LOCATION:

Folio vols "H"

SIZE OF COLLECTION:

1 folio volume (88 p.)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON COLLECTION:

Brandt, Ellen B. Susanna Haswell Rowson, America's First Best-Selling Novelist. (Chicago: Serbra Press, 1975).

SOURCE OF COLLECTION:

Gift of Ross Beales, 1985

COLLECTION DESCRIPTION:

Susanna Haswell Rowson (1762-1824), novelist, actress, playwright, and educator, conducted a school for young ladies in or near Boston, Mass., from 1797 until 1822. The academy was located, from 1797 to 1800, at Federal Street, Boston, from 1800 to 1802 in Medford, Mass., from 1803 to 1807 in Newton, Mass., from 1807 to 1811 at Washington Street, Boston, and from 1811 to 1822 at Hollis Street, Boston. The academy was considered to be one of the most famous girls' schools in the country with the student body "... consisting of the daughters of some of the wealthiest and most famous families in the Boston area, as well as many from other states, Canada, and the West Indies."

Eliza Houghton (-) was one of the academy's students ca. 1810.

This folio volume is entitled (in manuscript) "Practical Arithmetic Comprising all the rules for Transacting business Executed at Mrs Rowson's Academy by Eliza Houghton Boston. Rhonda Mitchel assistant & teacher of writing arithmetic and grammar." The entire text is in a variety of elegant calligraphic scripts, and follows the standard plan of the arithmetic textbooks of the day.

As is usual for such exercises (for the "textbook" layout of this volume is more an exercise than an actually useful book of instruction), the book contains instructions in the usual procedures of addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division, along with section on weights (troy, avoirdupois, and apothecaries) and measures (cloth, long, square, solid, wine, ale or beer, dry, and time), the "Single Rule of Three," the "Double Rule of Three," Rules of Exchange, "Reduction of Coins Rules," "Single Fellowship," "Double Fellowship," "Simple Interest," "Compound Interest," "Loss and Gain," Tare and Tret, "Barter," "Commission and Brokerage," "Insurance," "Discount," "Equation of Payments," "Alligation Medial," "Buying & Selling Stock," "Bills of Parcels," "Book Keeping," "Forms of Notes," and "Orders." There is a two-page index at the end of the volume.

See also the Society's collection: Pollock, Sarah B., "Practical Arithmetic . . .," 1810.