Reconstructing Early American Libraries: Concord, Massachusetts, 1795–1850

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INTRODUCTION
On Reconstructing Early American Libraries

If New England in the early Republic belonged to 'the Age of Print,' as a hopeful writer of the region put it back in 1830, then the social library was one of its representative institutions. Founded at a time when 'books by the bale' poured forth from the press, and when 'a rage for authorship' coursed through the land, such subscription libraries played a central part in a long campaign, extending from the 1780s to the 1840s, to remake Americans into 'a reading generation.' This was a high-minded reform, dedicated to 'the diffusion of useful knowledge,' and as perfectionist as any crusade of its day. Indeed, social libraries were embarked with temperance societies in a common cause: where the one aimed to purify the body, the other strove to elevate the mind. In this effort, the custodians of books set forth with enthusiasm, only to encounter the same resistance and indifference as met other reforms, and eventually to give way, in the magnitude of the task, to public, tax-supported institutions. In their wake, they left behind a few memorials of the campaign—bookplates, published catalogues, occasional circulation lists, and annual reports—and an enduring legacy of faith in the positive value of good books.¹

¹ Grenville Mellen, The Age of Print: A Poem, Delivered before the Phi Beta Kappa Society,
Social libraries were thus part of the increasingly elaborate network of institutions that carried books and ideas from authors to readers in the early Republic. But their social and cultural roles have not been thoroughly studied. Within the field of library history, these societies have drawn notice, but chiefly as milestones in the progressive development of the public library. In the larger realm of cultural history, they are hardly known. Yet, the social library demands attention, if we are to recapture the history of books and reading in early America. For a time, the institution was a key mediator between books and readers in an expansive literary marketplace. It helped to form the ‘channels of distribution’ for the infant publishing industry. For the members and nonmembers alike who used its services, the library assumed an authority of its own. It served as a literary ‘gatekeeper,’ approving some books, disdaining others, carefully guarding access to its shelves. Like the Book-of-the-Month Club today, it prescribed for readers, while aiming to serve their desires. Out of this effort to accommodate cultural norms to popular tastes came the choices, recorded for posterity in the printed catalogues and annual reports.

It was out of a desire to recover the norms and tastes of readers in Concord, Massachusetts, during the era of Emerson and Thoreau that I set out to study the social libraries of the town—the Charitable Library Society, 1795–1820, and the Concord Social Library, 1821–51—and to reconstruct the collections of the two institutions over a half-century, down to the establishment of a

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public library in 1851. My research is presented below, in catalogues of each library, separately arranged both by genre and by year of acquisition. These listings will serve both to document the interpretation in my essay 'Much Instruction from Little Reading: Books and Libraries in Thoreau's Concord,' and to provide scholars with a new source for the cultural history of the early Republic. They may also provoke historians to seize upon the intellectual opportunities cast up by the social library movement and undertake similar investigations of their own.  

This reconstruction of Concord's collections is made possible by the remarkable continuity in the library history of the town. Just as the Charitable Library Society passed on its papers and holdings to the Social Library, so that institution, in turn, bequeathed its accumulations to its successor, the Town Public Library, in 1851. Inevitably, many of the books have been lost or deaccessioned in the intervening years. But the manuscript records and printed catalogues of the voluntary libraries survive, in the Special Collections of the Concord Free Public Library. It is from these original sources that I have compiled the catalogues that follow. I have relied primarily on the reports of acquisitions, which the selection committees of the two libraries presented annually to the membership. From these records, one can examine a library in the making, as the officers labored to obtain books year by year.  

Unfortunately, the annual reports became incomplete, at the very moments when the institutions themselves were faltering. I thus turned to printed catalogues to supplement the lists. In 1836, at the very peak of its activity, the Concord Social Library published a complete catalogue of its holdings, identifying works more fully than in the year-by-year records and classifying them by genre. Sixteen years later, the new town public library did the same; then, in 1855 and in 1865, it issued elaborate listings, with rich detail on authorship and titles. But, none of these catalogues

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identified date and place of publication. I was consequently obliged to amplify the entries with details from such standard sources as Evans’s American Bibliography for the period up to 1800, Shaw and Shoemaker for the three and one-half decades thereafter, The National Union Catalog of Pre-1956 Imprints, and the British Museum’s General Catalogue of Printed Books. The results are, I believe, one of the first modern catalogues of an American social library extending from the eighteenth to the mid-nineteenth century, complete with authors, titles, and circumstances of publication, and classified according to subject and year of acquisition.5

All of this is more easily said than done. Lest any unwary scholar be inspired to follow my lead, let me describe just how enticing, how frustrating, how tedious, and, most of all, how obsessive the quest for Concord’s books could become. First of all, there was the simple matter of titles: frequently, the records list books in true Yankee fashion, laconically and opaquely, challenging an outsider to decipher what they mean. ‘Dr. Clarke on Christianity’ is assuredly John Clarke’s An Answer to the Question, ‘Why Are You a Christian?’ But what is ‘Dr. Howard’s Life’: a biography of or by Dr. Howard, and who was he? It took a long while before I learned that the Englishman John Howard was an internationally celebrated prison reformer of the eighteenth century, whose life was memorialized in a 1792 biography by John Aikin. And how does one identify the intriguing ‘Peep at Polynesian Life,’ without knowing that that was the subtitle to Herman Melville’s novel Typee? Luckily, the printed catalogues helped to clarify the mysteries in the annual reports. In the end, I succeeded in identifying well over ninety-five percent of the items noted in the Concord

5. Catalogue of Concord Social Library (Concord: n.p., 1836); Catalogue of the Books Belonging to the Concord Town Library, 1852 (Concord: n.p., 1852); Catalogue of Books Belonging to the Concord Town Library, 1855 (Concord: Benjamin Tolman, 1855); Catalogue of Books Belonging to the Concord Town Library, January, 1865 (Concord: Benjamin Tolman, 1865). Beyond the basic bibliography of the texts, I also gathered information about the nationality of the authors. To this end, I consulted such sources as the Dictionary of American Biography and the British Dictionary of National Biography. For a comparable catalogue of an eighteenth-century library, see Marcus A. McCorison, ed., The 1764 Catalogue of the Redwood Library Company at Newport, Rhode Island (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1965).
records; a mere dozen or so, out of more than 720 works, remain in obscurity.6

Identifying the titles was only the beginning. Reconstructing the circumstances of publication posed the greater difficulty. How to decide, without seeing the physical book, what edition was actually acquired by the libraries in town? I approached this problem by making the following assumptions, which my research proved essentially accurate: (1) Concord obtained recently issued editions, rather than buying old books. If several versions of a work were available, I selected the edition published closest to the year of acquisition, unless it conflicted with my second rule of thumb. (2) Concord acquired books published in Boston or New England rather than works issued at a distance, whether in New York, Philadelphia, or London. If a work had been published simultaneously in Boston and New York, I presumed Concord favored booksellers in the Hub. The early records of the Charitable Library support this assumption. In its first year, the society ordered books directly from two Boston booksellers: the partnership of Isaiah Thomas and Ebenezer Andrews and the firm of Joseph Belknap. For a few years thereafter, its patronage went to Concord suppliers—the bookseller Reuben Bryant and the general merchant Deacon John White, both of whom were members of the library. Given the localistic character of book distribution in the early Republic, I trusted that the Concord merchants got their books from Boston. Inevitably, this assumption serves to exaggerate the parochialism of Concord culture, especially in the era of the Charitable Library. (3) Concord bought American reprints of British books, rather than spend its limited funds on expensive imports.7 Only if no American edition could be found, did I identify a work as published abroad.

7. It is likely that during the colonial period the cost of printing lengthy works in America exceeded that of imports, but by the early Republic printing was flourishing, and publishers
These three assumptions are all debatable. They bias my study in favor of what I expected to find: parochialism in the early era, cosmopolitanism in the later. In defense, I could plead no alternative. Few of the books now exist in the Concord Free Public Library. Besides, the actual number of disputed cases, where I had to choose, say, between a Boston and a Philadelphia edition, was small—unable to affect the large, dramatic patterns I was to discern in the data. But in fact, these excuses proved unnecessary. Near the end of my research, I learned that Concord does offer an equivalent to physical identification of the imprints. In 1873, the public library catalogued all the books it had inherited from the past and had accumulated in its own twenty years of existence. In a single, folio ledger, enumerating over 6,200 items at hand on May 1, 1873, lie the necessary data to test my study: author, title, number of volumes, place and date of publication. Unfortunately, nobody listed the publisher; worse, the holdings were organized, implicitly, by genre, but within a given category lacked any alphabetical order. Despite these obstacles, I have compared my bibliographic reconstruction of the Charitable and Social libraries with the entries in the accessions catalogue and made appropriate...
corrections. As it turned out, my guesses proved remarkably accurate.

Every library must contend with missing and lost books, and certainly, the Charitable and the Social library reports are filled with laments about works that went astray. Even so, in the course of time, about 60 percent of the books accumulated by the two institutions—one a product of the impassioned Federalist era, the other a Whiggish reform in a Jacksonian America—survived to pass on to the public library of the Gilded Age. Of these, the great majority, as described in the accessions catalogue, match up exactly with the facts as I found them in twentieth-century bibliographies. Nearly seven out of ten Charitable Library books (68 percent) and fully three-quarters of Social Library books (77 percent) fit my descriptions. In all, I discovered 39 errors in identifying Charitable items, out of a total 130 in the accessions catalogue; for the Social Library, the comparable rate of error was much lower, 26 out of 219. What were the chief sources of error? In the case of the Charitable Library, more than half involved the incorrect place and date of publication; I was wrong, entirely. Concord did not always buy editions issued close to home. I presumed it had obtained Thomas Raffles's *Memoirs of the Life and Ministry of the Late Rev. Thomas Spencer* in an 1813 Boston imprint from Williams and Armstrong, when it had, in fact, acquired an edition issued two years later by the Hartford publisher Sheldon R. Goodwin. And it did not invariably forego the luxury of imports. In eight instances, it bought British editions, where I had assumed local issue. As for the Social Library, the results were happier. Only a single import turned up. Other entries were off, in such a way as to confirm my analysis: for example, in 1825, instead of a Boston edition of Segur's *History of the Expedition to Russia, Undertaken by the Emperor Napoleon* the library obtained a Philadelphia one; similarly, it acquired a New York imprint of the Indian Brahmin-Unitarian, Rammohan Roy rather than a Boston one. My errors, consequently, had understated the growing cosmopolitanism of book publishing and distribution.
The catalogues that follow represent, then, my best attempts to use all available sources in Concord to reconstruct the holdings of the Charitable Library Society and the Social Library. For each library, I have provided two listings, both of which are designed to facilitate the study of reading norms and tastes. The first arranges the titles by genre, adopting, for the most part, the categories employed by the Social Library catalogue of 1836 and its successors. However, I have classified under ‘Conduct of Life’ writings that historians now call ‘prescriptive literature’: that is, didactic texts meant to set forth rules of manners and behavior or models of self-improvement. Such works could readily have belonged under ‘Moral Philosophy’ or ‘Religion.’ No doubt, ‘Religion’ could easily have encompassed all. I distinguished some works under ‘Moral Philosophy’ in order to highlight their aim of promoting general moral ends or exploring philosophical issues as an intellectual enterprise, separate, at least in theory, from religious preaching. Still, they, too, could easily have been classified under ‘Religion,’ thereby inflating still more the predispositions of the Charitable Library to works of divinity.

Other categories involved parallel decisions. ‘Natural History and Science’ includes a range of works aimed at empirical discovery of the laws of nature and their practical application to human purposes. I could have distinguished these works differently, classifying some under ‘Science,’ others under ‘Practical Arts,’ and subsuming the titles under ‘Agriculture’ as well. Finally, ‘Politics and Contemporary Comment’ includes satire and social observation, as well as books on law, government, current politics, and political economy.

The second arrangement of the catalogues lists books by year of purchase. In this way, the libraries unfold before one’s eyes; no

9. It omits several categories of items found in the printed catalogues: pamphlets; works on deposit from the Concord Lyceum; and loans from the school committee (notably, textbooks), none of which were specified clearly in the annual reports.

longer a completed collection of books, they become a sequence
of works, accumulated year by year, depending upon the supplies,
standards, and tastes of the day. By contrast, previous studies of
early American libraries have focused upon collections as a whole,
offering up quantitative analyses of entire catalogues; they furnish
snapshots of the past, preserved for posterity at a single moment
in time. This method makes sense, if we want to know what works
were available to a borrower around a given date. However, it
misses the fact that many social libraries extended over a good
number of years and, as in the case of Concord, inherited numer-
ous volumes from their predecessors. In consequence, a catalogue,
as a record of accumulated purchases, can be misleading as to
current tastes. The Social Library catalogue of 1836 overrepre-
sents works of religion, morals, and philosophy: these amounted
to 17 percent of its entire holdings of books, in contrast to around
6 to 9 percent of acquisitions during the 1830s. The spiritual
preferences and the theological controversies of the 1790s lingered
on in the catalogue of the 1830s, though, as we know, they went
unread in practice, and Emerson was campaigning, unsuccessfully,
to rid them from the shelves.

Once we dissolve the static view from the published catalogue,
and restore the chronological record of library acquisitions, we
can explore the shifting currents of intellectual tastes. Consider,
for example, the popularity of natural history and science in Con-
cord. Over the course of its thirty years, the Social Library dis-
played slight curiosity about the latest scientific discoveries. Such
works amounted to a mere 3.9 percent of its entire acquisitions.
But that figure, which was itself three times the proportion of
science in the Charitable Library, is misleading. Over the 1840s,
the standing committees of the Concord Social Library were quick
to buy up both practical works of science, especially treatises on
agricultural chemistry, and general studies of astronomy; these
constituted fully an eighth of the decade’s acquisitions. Even as
Henry Thoreau was closely following debates in natural history,
and other townsmen were experimenting with telescopes in their
own backyards, the Social Library shared in the scientific enthusiasms of the day.\textsuperscript{11}

If the catalogues enable us to chart reading norms and tastes in fine detail, they also offer a select view of American publishing in the early Republic. Concord was, of course, a minor player in the literary marketplace of the new nation, a small shipping point in a far-flung system of distribution that was imperfectly organized throughout most of the antebellum era. Even so, from the bibliographic details of the libraries' acquisitions, we can identify the principal printers and publishers, upon whom the town relied for its books, and thereby trace the rise of the metropolis—Boston, Philadelphia, and especially, New York—to dominance over American publishing by 1850.\textsuperscript{12} More than this: the Concord collections are a guide to the changing circumstances of authorship, as well as publishing, in the early nineteenth century. Many of the books in the libraries were issued anonymously, in keeping with the long, gentlemanly tradition of the Anglo-American world. A 'man of letters,' it was commonly felt, did not attach his name to his book, lest he be accused of publishing merely for the sake of fame or gain. So long as that social prejudice held sway, the growth of 'professionalism' in English and American writing was checked. But, as the catalogues indicate, genteel biases did not operate everywhere in the world of print. Even in the late eighteenth century, authors of works on agriculture, biography, history, politics, and religion were regularly named on the title page. Perhaps in these areas, readers demanded to know the qualifications—whether expertise or ideology—of the writers. By contrast, the realm of belles lettres, and especially of fiction, was the last fortress of gentility to fall. In the Social Library, some three-quarters of the novels acquired (80 out of 124) were issued anonymously. To

\textsuperscript{11} See Table 1, 'Much Instruction from Little Reading,' p. 142; Robert D. Richardson, \textit{Jr.}, \textit{Henry Thoreau: A Life of the Mind} (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1986), pp. 184, 270–72, 280.

\textsuperscript{12} See 'Much Instruction from Little Reading,' p. 179; Ronald J. Zboray, 'The Transportation Revolution and Antebellum Book Distribution Reconsidered,' \textit{American Quarterly} 38 (1986): 53–71.
be sure, it was no secret that the great Sir Walter Scott was the prolific 'Author of Waverley.' And it was probably public knowledge that Washington Irving composed *The Crayon Miscellany* and James Fenimore Cooper the Leatherstocking Tales. Even so, genteel decorum held in Anglo-American publishing until the mid-1840s. Then, to judge from the Concord library, the tradition came apart all at once. Whereas over half the titles obtained in 1840-41 were published anonymously, hardly any were after 1845. Assuming the new role of professional writer, Nathaniel Hawthorne and Herman Melville openly identified themselves with their works. So, too, did Henry Thoreau, who had 'chosen letters for my profession,' upon the publication of *A Week on the Concord and Merrimack Rivers* in 1849. Interestingly, it was not men but women who paved the way to professionalism. Though Catherine Sedgwick concealed her authorship throughout her successful career, the majority of female novelists in the Social Library did not. Sixty percent of them disclosed their identity on the title page, in contrast to only a quarter of the men.13

Yet, the view from Concord is, ultimately, too limited. It is essential to move beyond the catalogues and explore the interplay between the town and the wider world. How representative, we may ask, were the acquisitions of the Concord libraries? How did the select committees of the institutions choose among the wide, ever-growing supply of works made available by American publishers from the 1790s through the 1840s? What institutions, what critics influenced the acquisitions of the numerous social libraries of the era? To answer these questions will require a full-scale reconstruction of the American publishing world, of which Con-

cord was but one small part. We will need to uncover the patterns of authorship and publication from the entire publishing industry, the collective output of which is reported in the vast bibliographic projects of Evans, Shaw and Shoemaker, and their successors. We will have to survey the many ‘gatekeepers’ in the literary marketplace—reviews, magazines, newspapers, even almanacs—and explore the records of publishers and booksellers to discover how dispersed, local libraries came to decide among the numerous books available for their purchase.

In the meantime, through the study of the social libraries in towns like Concord, we can start to write the history of books ‘from the bottom up.’ There is an enormous fascination in poring over old lists of titles, long since forgotten in the passage of time, and wondering about the literary tastes of the past. Such scholarship provides occasion for philosophy as well. With Samuel Johnson, we may reflect that ‘no place affords a more striking conviction of the variety of human hopes than a public library.’

In the following listings of each of the two library collections, arranged first by genre, then by year of purchase, an asterisk marks entries identified in the 1873 accessions catalogue of the Concord Free Public Library that survived from the earlier two libraries to become part of the holdings of the Concord Free Public Library. Those items that were acquired as gifts are followed by the sign [G]. Brackets around an author’s name indicate items that were published anonymously or pseudonymously.

Charitable Library Society of Concord, 1795–1820:
Holdings Arranged by Genre

AGRICULTURE


Massachusetts Agricultural Society. *Papers on Agriculture, Consisting of Communications Made to the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, with Extracts from Various Publications; by the Trustees of the Society.* Boston: Young and Minns, 1801. [G]


BELLES LETTRES


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The Hive; or a Collection of Thoughts on Civil, Moral, Sentimental & Religious Subjects: Selected from the Writings of Near One Hundred of the Best and Most Approved Authors of Different Nations; But Chiefly from the Most Celebrated English Writers. Intended as a Repository of Sententious, Ingenious, and Pertinent Sayings, in Verse and Prose.... Worcester: Isaiah Thomas, 1796. Orig. pub., London, 1791.


BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY


Caldwell, Charles. Memoirs of the Life and Campaigns of the Hon. Nathaniel Greene, Major General in the Army of the United States, and Comman-
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Order of the Southern Department in the War of the Revolution. Philadelphia: DeSilver, 1819.*


Coustos, John. Free Masonry. The Unparalleled Suffering of John Coustos, Who Nine Times Underwent the Most Cruel Tortures Invented by Man, and Was Sentenced to the Galley Four Years, By Command of the Inquisition at Lisbon, in Order to Extort from Him the Secrets of Free Masonry; From Which He Was Released by the Gracious Interposition of His Late Majesty King George II. To This Edition Is Added, A Selection of Masonic Songs, and a Complete List of Lodges, Foreign and Domestic. New York: Jacob S. Mott, for C. Smith, 1797.


Franklin, Benjamin. Works of the Late Dr. Benjamin Franklin, Consisting of His Life Written by Himself, Together with Essays, Humorous, Moral and Literary, Chiefly in the Manner of The Spectator. New York: S. Campbell, 1794.*


Holmes, Abiel. The Life of Ezra Stiles. A Fellow of the American Philosophical Society; of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; a Corresponding Member of the Massachusetts Historical Society; and President of Yale College. Boston: Thomas and Andrews, 1798.*


**CHILDREN’S LITERATURE**


Dana, Joseph. *A New American Selection of Lessons in Reading and Speaking. Consisting of Sacred, Moral and Historical Extracts; Humorous, Entertaining and Descriptive Pieces, Select Sentences and Maxims; Poetry, Dialogues etc. To Which Are Added, Elements of Gesture Illustrated with Copperplate Engravings. Designed for the Use of Schools.* Boston: I. Thomas and E. T. Andrews, 1798.


**CONDUCT OF LIFE**


Clarke, John. *Discourses to Young Persons.* Boston: Munroe and Francis, 1804. [G]


*Parental Legacies, Consisting of Advice from a Lady of Quality to Her Children. Delivered in the Last Stages of a Lingering Illness. Tr. from the French by S. Glasse . . . And A Father's Legacy to His Daughters. By the late Dr. Gregory of Edinburgh. Also a Number of Interesting and Valuable*
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FICTION


Hitchcock, Enos. *The Farmer’s Friend; or, The History of Mr. Charles Worthy. Who from Being a Poor Orphan, Rose, Through Various Scenes*


GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY


Stretch, L. M. *The Beauties of History; or, Pictures of Virtue and Vice Drawn from Real Life; Designed for the Instruction and Entertainment of Youth. 2 vols.* Springfield, Mass.: E. Gray, 1794. Orig. pub., London, 1777.*


**MORAL PHILOSOPHY**


Concord Libraries, 1795–1850


**NATURAL HISTORY**


Harris, Thaddeus Mason. *The Natural History of the Bible; or A Description of All the Beasts, Birds, Fishes, Insects, Reptiles, Trees, Precious Stones, etc., Mentioned in the Sacred Scriptures. Collected from the Best Authorities, and Alphabetically Arranged.* Boston: Thomas and Andrews, 1793.* [G]

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PERIODICALS

New York: T. and J. Swords, 1801–2.*

POETRY

To Which Is Added, The Art of Preserving Health; A Poem in Three
pub., London, 1744.

Campbell, Thomas. The Pleasures of Hope, with Other Poems. Boston:
Joshua Belcher, 1811. Orig. pub., Edinburgh, 1799. [G]

The Trial. The Retrospect. Futurity. Public Punishment. To Which Are
Added, His Last Prayer, Written in the Night before His Death, and
1777.*

Fitch, Elijah. The Beauties of Religion. A Poem, Addressed to Youth. In Five

Homerus. The Iliad . . . Translated by Alexander Pope. Esq. 2 vols. Boston:

Klopstock, Friedrich Gottlieb. The Messiah. Attempted from the German
of Mr. Klopstock, by Joseph Collyer. New York: Printed by G. Forman

and Regained, and Poems on Several Occasions, from the Text of Dr.
Newton. With the Life of the Author. Boston: Joseph Bumstead for
E. Larkin, 1796. Orig. pub., London, 1695.*

Rowe, Mrs. Elizabeth (Singer). The Works of Mrs. Elizabeth Rowe. . . . 4

Shakespeare, William. The Works of William Shakespeare . . . With the
Corrections and Illustrations of Dr. Johnson, G. Steevens, and Others,
Revised by Isaac Reed. 9 vols. Boston: Munroe, Francis and Parker,

Thomson, James. The Seasons. Philadelphia: Jacob Johnson and Co.,


*Young, Edward.*] *The Complaint; or Night Thoughts on Life, Death and Immortality. To Which Is Prefixed, the Life of the Author.* Philadelphia: W. W. Woodward for Stafford, 1798. Orig. pub., London, 1742.

**POLITICS**

Ames, Fisher. *An Oration on the Sublime Virtues of General George Washington, Pronounced at the Old South Meeting House in Boston, before His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor, the Council, and the Two Branches of the Legislature of Massachusetts, At Their Request, on Saturday the 8th of February, 1800.* Boston: Young and Minns, 1800.


Morse, Jedidiah. *A Sermon, Preached at Charlestown, November 19, 1798, on the Anniversary Thanksgiving in Massachusetts. With an Appendix, Designed to Illustrate Some Parts of the Discourse, Exhibiting Proof of*

Payson, Seth. Proofs of the Real Existence, and Dangerous Tendency, of Illuminism. Containing an Abstract of the Most Interesting Parts of What Dr. Robison and Abbe Barruel Have Published on This Subject; with Collateral Proofs and General Observations. Charlestown, Mass.: Printed by Samuel Etheridge, for the Author, 1802.

Proteus the Younger, pseud. The Herod; in a Series of Original Satires. London: T. Hughes, 1810.


A Selection of the Patriotic Addresses to the President of the United States. Together with the President's Answers. Presented in the Year One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-Eight, and the 22nd of the Independence of America. Boston: John Folsom, 1798.*


Walsh, Robert. An Appeal from the Judgments of Great Britain Respecting the United States of America. Part First, Containing an Historical Outline of Their Merits and Wrongs as Colonies; and Strictures Upon the Calumnies of the British Writers. Philadelphia: Mitchell Ames, and White, 1819.*

[Webster, Noah.] The Prompter; or A Commentary on Common Sayings and Subjects, Which Are Full of Common Sense, the Best Sense in the World. Boston: Thomas and Andrews, 1797. Orig. pub., Hartford, 1791.

REFERENCE


RELIGION


Burgh, James. *The Dignity of Human Nature; or, A Brief Account of the Certain and Established Means for Attaining the True End of Our
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Davies, Samuel. Sermons on Important Subjects, by the Late Reverend and Pious Samuel Davies. In Three Vols. To Which Are Prefixed Three Occasional Sermons, Not Included in the Former Editions, Memoirs, and


Doddridge, Philip. The Rise and Progress of Religion; Illustrated in a Course of Serious and Practical Addresses, Suited to Persons of Every Character and Circumstance; with a Devout Meditation of Prayer Added to Each Chapter. Boston: Greenough, 1795. Orig. pub., London, 1745.


Fleetwood, John. The Life of Our Blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ; Containing a Full, Accurate, and Instructive History of the Various

Fleming, Robert. The Fulfilling of the Scripture. Or An Essay Shewing the Exact Accomplishment of the Word of God in His Works, Performed and to be Performed. For Confirming of Believers, and Convincing Atheists of the Present Time: Containing Some Rare Histories of the Words and the Servants of God in the Church of Scotland. Charlestown, Mass.: S. Etheridge, 1806. Orig. pub., Rotterdam, 1669.* [G]


Horne, George. *A Commentary on the Book of Psalms, in Which Their Literal or Historical Sense, as They Relate to King David and the People of Israel, Is Illustrated: and Their Application to Messiah, to the Church, and to Individuals as Members Thereof, Is Pointed Out. With a View to Render the Use of the Psalter Pleasing and Profitable to All Orders and Degrees of Christians.* New York: Griffin and Rudd, 1813. Orig. pub., London, 1776. [G]


Lathrop, Joseph. *Sermons on the Mode and Subjects of Christian Baptism. Or, An Attempt to Shew that Pouring or Sprinkling Is a Scriptural Mode;


Meikle, James. The Traveller; or Meditations on Various Subjects Written on Board a Man of War. To Which is Added, Converse with the World Unseen. To Which Is Prefixed, the Life of the Author. Albany, N.Y.: E.
& E. Hosford, for E. Torrey and W. Seaver, 1812. Orig. pub., Edinburgh, 1805. [G]


Sampson, Ezra. * Beauties of the Bible. Being a Selection from the Old and New Testaments, with Various Remarks and Brief Dissertations; Designed for the Use of Christians in General; and Particularly for the Use of Schools, and for the Improvement of Youth.* Boston: Thomas and Andrews, 1802. [G]


Smith, Samuel Stanhope. *Sermons by Samuel Stanhope Smith, D.C., President of the College of New-Jersey. Corrected and Revised by the Author.* Newark, N.J.: Jacob Halsey, 1799.* [G]

Stillman, Samuel. *Select Sermons on Doctrinal and Practical Subjects Comprising Several Sermons Never Before Published. To Which Is Prefixed a Biographical Sketch of the Author's Life.* Boston: Manning and Loring, 1808.* [G]

Tappan, David. *Sermons on Important Subjects . . . To Which Are Prefixed a Biographical Sketch of the Author; and A Sermon Preached at His Funeral by Dr. Holmes.* Cambridge, Mass.: W. Hilliard, 1807.* [G]


**TRAVELS**


Campbell, Donald. *A Journey over Land to India, Partly by a Route Never Gone Before by Any European, by Donald Campbell, of Barbreck, in a Series of Letters to His Son. Comprehending His Shipwreck and Imprisonment with Hyder Alli, and His Subsequent Negotiations and Transactions in the East.* London, 1801. Orig. pub., London, 1795.*


Moore, John. *A View of Society and Manners in France, Switzerland, and Germany: With Anecdotes Relative to Some Eminent Characters.* Bos-
Riley, James. *An Authentic Narrative of the Loss of the American Brig Commerce Wrecked on the Western Coast of Africa, in the Month of August, 1815, with an Account of the Sufferings of Her Surviving Officers and Crew, Who Were Enslaved by the Wandering Arabs on the Great African Desert, or Zahabrah; and Observations Historical, Geographical, etc. Made During the Travels of the Author, While a Slave to the Arabs, and in the Empire of Morocco.* New York: For the Author, 1813.


*UNCLASSIFIED*

Charitable Library Society of Concord, 1795–1820: 
Holdings Arranged by Year of Acquisition

1795


1796


1797


*The Lady's Pocket Library*. Philadelphia: Carey, 1792.


1798


Morse, Jedidiah. *A Sermon, Preached at Charlestown, November 19, 1798, on the Anniversary Thanksgiving in Massachusetts*. Boston: Samuel Hall, 1798.


A Selection of the Patriotic Addresses to the President of the United States. Boston: John Folsom, 1798.


1800


1801


Moore, John. *A View of Society and Manners in France, Switzerland, and Germany*. Boston: Printed at the Apollo Press by Belknap and Young, for D. West and Ebenezer Larkin, Jr., 1792. [G]


1802


1803


Concord Libraries, 1795–1850


Payson, Seth. Proofs of the Real Existence, and Dangerous Tendency, of Illuminism. Charlestown, Mass.: Printed by Samuel Etheridge, for the Author, 1802.

1804


1806


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1813


Family Sermons. New Haven: Howe and Deforest, 1813. [G]


Homerus. The Iliad... Translated by Alexander Pope. Boston: Edward Cottom, 1806. [G]


1815


1816


MacKnight, James. *A New Literal Translation, from the Original Greek of All the Apostolical Epistles*. Boston: W. Wells, 1810. [G]


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1817


1818


1819


1820


UNDATED


Campbell, Donald. *A Journey over Land to India*. London: n.p., 1801.


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*Concord Social Library, 1821–50:*

Holdings Arranged by Genre

**AGRICULTURE AND HORTICULTURE**


Buel, Jesse. *The Farmer’s Companion; or, Essays on the Principles and Practice of American Husbandry.* With the Address, Prepared to be Delivered before the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies of New Haven


Much Instruction from Little Reading; or Extracts from Some of the Most Approved Authors, Ancient and Modern. To Which are Added Some Biographical Sketches from the Earliest Ages of the World to Nearly the Present Time. Also Extensive Scripture Lessons, being the Result of Twenty-two Years' Application. By a Friend to General Improvement. 5 vols. New York: M. Day, 1827.*


**BIOGRAPHY AND AUTOBIOGRAPHY**


Boutelle, Ann L. *Biographical Sketch.* Boston: Benjamin H. Greene, 1836. [G]


Holt, Edward. The Public and Domestic Life of His Late . . . Majesty, George the Third; Comprising the Most Eventful and Important Period in the Annals of British History: Compiled from Authentic Sources, and Interspersed with Numerous Anecdotes. 2 vols. London: Sherwood, Neely and Jones, 1820.*


Jackson, James. *A Memoir of James Jackson, Jr., M.D., with Extracts from His Letters to His Father; and Medical Cases, Collected by Him.* Boston: I. R. Butts, 1835. [G]


Johnson, William. *Sketches of the Life and Correspondence of Nathanael Greene, Major General of the Armies of the United States, in the War
Charleston, S.C.: For the Author by A. E. Miller, 1822.


Quincy, Josiah. *Memoir of the Life of Josiah Quincy, Junior, of Massachusetts, by His Son Josiah Quincy.* Boston: Cummings, Hilliard and Co., 1825.*


Sparks, Jared. *The Life of John Ledyard, the American; Comprising Selections from His Journals and Correspondence*. Cambridge, Mass.: Hilliard and Brown, 1828.*


Thatcher, Benjamin Bussey. *Traits of the Tea Party, Being a Memoir of George R. T. Heues, One of the Last of Its Survivors: with a History of That Transaction; Reminiscences of the Massacre, and the Siege, and
Concord Libraries, 1795–1850


Tudor, William. The Life of James Otis, of Massachusetts. Containing also Notices of Some Contemporary Characters and Events, from the Year 1760 to 1775. Boston: Wells and Lilly, 1823.*


CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Anecdotes of Animals: Selected by a Lady for the Amusement of Her Children. London: Harvey and Darton, 1832.

CONDUCT OF LIFE


[Farrar, Eliza Ware (Rotch).] The Young Lady's Friend. Boston: American Stationers Co., 1837.*


**EDUCATION**


Hall, Samuel Read. *Lectures on School-Keeping.* Boston: Richardson, Lord and Holbrook, 1829. [G]


**FICTION**


**Choice Tales: Consisting of an Elegant Collection of Delightful Little Pieces for the Instruction and Amusement of Young Persons.** Philadelphia: M. Carey, 1800.


[Cooper, James Fenimore.] *The Pathfinder; or, the Inland Sea.* 2 vols. Philadelphia: Lea and Blanchard, 1840.


[Grierson, Miss.] *Lily Douglas; A Simple Story; Humbly Intended as a Premium and a Pattern, for Sabbath Schools*. Boston: Crocker and Brewster, 1827. Orig. pub., Leith, Eng., 1821.


[Harris, Thaddeus Mason.] *Sephora; or Hebrew Tale, Descriptive of the Country of Palestine, and of the Manners and Customs of the Ancient Israelites. Abridged and Corrected from the London Edition by Rev. Thad-
Concord Libraries, 1795-1850


[Kirkland, Caroline Matilda (Stansbury).] *A New Home—Who’ll Follow? or, Glimpses of Western Life. By Mrs. Mary Clavers (pseud.).* New York: C. S. Francis, 1839.


[Lee, Mrs. Hannah Farnham (Sawyer).] *Three Experiments of Living: Living Within the Means; Living Up to the Means; Living Beyond the Means.* Boston: William S. Damrell and Samuel Colman, 1837.


*Peace and War; or, A Blessing and a Curse*. London: Darton and Co., 18—.


[Sedgwick, Catherine Maria.] Clarence; or, A Tale of Our Own Times. Philadelphia: Carey and Lea, 1830.


[Sedgwick, Catherine Maria.] Redwood; A Tale. 2 vols. New York: E. Bliss and E. White. 1824.

[Sedgwick, Catherine Maria.] The Linwoods; or, 'Sixty Years Since' in America. 2 vols. New York: Harper and Bros., 1835.


Wilson, Mrs. Caroline (Fry). *A Word to Women; The Love of the World, and Other Gatherings; Being a Collection of Short Pieces.* Philadelphia: Carey and Hart, 1840.*

**GEOGRAPHY AND HISTORY**


[Church, Benjamin.] *The History of Philip’s War, Commonly Called the Great Indian War of 1675 and 1676. Also, of the French and Indian Wars at the Eastward, in 1689, 1690, 1692, 1696, and 1704. With Numerous Notes to Explain the Situation of the Places of Battles, the Particular Geography of the Ravaged Country, and the Lives of the Principal Persons Engaged in Those Wars. Also, an Appendix Containing an Account of the Treatment of the Natives by the Early Voyagers, the Settlement of
New England by the Forefathers, the Pequot War, Narratives of Persons Carried into Captivity, Anecdotes of the Indians, and the Most Important Late Indian Wars to the Time of the Creek War. Boston: Milo Mower and Co., 1829. Orig. pub., Boston, 1716.


Drake, Samuel Gardner. Indian Biography, Containing the Lives of More Than Two Hundred Indian Chiefs: Also Such Others of That Race as Have Rendered Their Names Conspicuous in the History of North America . . . Giving Their Most Celebrated Speeches, Memorable Sayings, Numerous Anecdotes; and a History of Their Wars. Much of Which Is Taken from Manuscripts Never Before Published. Boston: J. Drake, 1832.*


Shattuck, Lemuel. A History of the Town of Concord; Middlesex County, Massachusetts, from Its Earliest Settlement to 1832; and of the Adjoining Towns, Bedford, Acton, Lincoln, and Carlisle. Concord, Mass.: J. Stacy, 1835.* [G]


Thacher, James. *History of the Town of Plymouth; from Its First Settlement in 1620, to the Year 1832.* Boston: Marsh, Capen & Lyon, 1832.*[G]

Thacher, James. *Military Journal during the American Revolutionary War, from 1775 to 1783, Describing Interesting Events and Transactions of This Period; with Numerous Historical Facts and Anecdotes, from the Original Manuscript. To Which Is Added an Appendix, Containing Biographical Sketches of Several General Officers.* Boston: Richardson and Lord, 1823.*


[Wemms, William, defendant.] *The Trial of the British Soldiers, of the 29th Regiment of Foot, for the Murder of Crispus Attucks, Samuel Gray, Samuel Maverick, James Caldwell, and Patrick Carr, on Monday Evening, March 5, 1770, before the Honorable Benjamin Lynde, John Cushing, Peter Oliver, and Edmund Trowbridge, Esq., Justices of the Superior Court of Judicature, Court of Assize, and General Goal Delivery, Held at Boston, by Adjournment, Nov. 27, 1770.* Boston: W. Emmons, 1824. Orig. pub., Boston, 1770.* [G]


**MORAL PHILOSOPHY**

Bowen, Francis. *Critical Essays, on a Few Subjects Connected with the History and Present Condition of Speculative Philosophy.* Boston: Williams, 1842.*


*The Foreign Visitor: Containing Interesting Observations and Remarks, Made by an Inhabitant of Terra Incognita, on the . . . Inhabitants of This Earth; Particularly in Relation to the Lord’s Day.* Boston: T. B. Wait and Sons, 1814.


**PERIODICALS AND GIFT BOOKS**


*American Journal of Science.* 1845.


*The Juvenile Sketch Book, or, Token for a New Year.* 1826.

*The Ladies' Companion, and Literary Expositor; A Monthly Magazine Embracing Every Department of Literature.* 1834.
Youth's Companion, and Weekly Family Visitor. 1834.

POETRY


POLITICS AND CONTEMPORARY COMMENT

[Everett, Alexander Hill.] America; or, A General Survey of the Political Situation of the Several Powers of the Western Continent, with Conjec-
Concord Libraries, 1795–1850


Junius (pseud.). *Junius: Including Letters by the Same Writer, under Other Signatures (Now First Collected). To Which Are Added His Confidential Correspondence with Mr. Wilkes, and His Private Letters Addressed to Mr. H. S. Woodfall.* London: n.p., 1770. [G]


*Speeches on the Passage of the Bill for the Removal of the Indians, Delivered in the Congress of the United States, April and May 1830.* Boston: Perkins and Marvin, 1830.*

REFERENCE


Emerson, William. *An Historical Sketch of the First Church in Boston, from Its Formation to the Present Period. To Which Are Added Two Sermons, One on Leaving the Old, and the Other on Entering the New House of Worship. By the Late Rev. William Emerson.* Boston: Munroe and Francis, 1812.* [G]


Neal, Daniel. *The History of the Puritans, or Protestant Non-Conformists, from the Reformation under King Henry VIII to the Act of Toleration*


Ware, Henry, Jr.. *Discourses on the Offices and Character of Jesus Christ.* Boston: Office of the Christian Register, 1825.*

Abbot, Abiel. *Letters Written in the Interior of Cuba, between the Mountains of Arcana, to the East, and of Cusco, to the West, in the Months of February, March, April, and May, 1828.* Boston: Bowles and Dearborn, 1829.*


[Dana, Richard Henry.] *Two Years Before the Mast, A Personal Narrative of Life at Sea.* New York: Harper and Bros., 1840.*

Delano, Amasa. *A Narrative of Voyages and Travels in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres; Comprising Three Voyages Round the World*. Boston: By E. G. House for the author, 1817. *G*


Flint, Timothy. *Recollections of the Last Ten Years Passed; Occasional Residences and Journeyings in the Valley of the Mississippi: from Pittsburgh and the Missouri to the Gulf of Mexico, and from Florida to the Spanish Frontier; in a Series of Letters to the Rev. James Flint*. Boston: Cummings, Hilliard and Co., 1826.
American Antiquarian Society

[Fracker, George.] *A Voyage to South America, with an Account of a Shipwreck in the River La Plata, in the Year 1817. By the Sole Survivor.* Boston: Ingraham and Hewes, 1826.


Jameson, Robert, James Wilson, and Hugh Murray. *Narrative of Discovery and Adventure in Africa from the Earliest Ages to the Present Time;
Concord Libraries, 1795–1850


Kendall, George Wilkins. Narrative of the Texan Santa Fe Expedition, Comprising a Description of a Tour Through Texas and Across the Great Southwestern Prairies, the Camanche and Caygwa Hunting Grounds, with an Account of the Sufferings from Want of Food, Losses from Hostile Indians, and Final Capture of the Texans, and Their March, as Prisoners, to the City of Mexico. 2 vols. New York: Harper and Bros., 1844.


Robbins, Archibald. *A Journal, Comprising an Account of the Loss of the Brig Commerce, of Hartford (Con.) James Riley Master, Upon the Western Coast of Africa, August 28th, 1815; also, of the Slavery and Sufferings of the Author and the Rest of the Crew upon the Desert of Zabara, in the Years 1815, 1816, 1817; with Accounts of the Manners, Customs, and Habits of the Wandering Arabs; also, a Brief Historical and Geographical View of the Continent of Africa.* Hartford: F. D. Bolles, 1817.* [G]

Scenes in China, Exhibiting the Manners, Customs, Diversions, and Singular Peculiarities of the Chinese, Together, with the Mode of Travelling, Navigation, etc. in that Vast Empire. Taken from the Latest Authorities, and Including the Most Interesting Particulars in Lord Amherst’s Recent Embassy. New York: S. Wood and Sons, 1819. Orig. pub., London, 18—.


Stewart, Charles Samuel. A Visit to the South Seas, in the United States Ship Vincennes, During the Years 1829 and 1830; Including Notices of Brazil, Peru, Manilla, the Cape of Good Hope, and St. Helena. 2 vols. New York: J. P. Haven, 1833. Orig. pub., New York, 1831.


Tyerman, Daniel, and George Bennet. *Journal of Voyages and Travels by the Rev. Daniel Tyerman and George Bennet, Esq., Departed from the London Missionary Society, to Visit Their Various Stations in the South Sea Islands, China, India, etc. Between the Years 1821 and 1829.* Boston: Crocker and Brewster, 1832. Orig. pub., London, 1831.*


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*Concord Social Library, 1821–50:*

*Holdings Arranged by Year of Acquisition*

1821


[Scott, Sir Walter.] *Guy Mannering*. Boston: West and Richardson, 1815.


1822


1823


English, George Bethune. *A Narrative of the Expedition to Dongola and Sennaar*. Boston: Wells and Lilly, 1823.


**1824**


[Cheney, Mrs. Harriet Vaughan (Foster).] *A Peep at the Pilgrims in Sixteen Hundred Thirty Six*. Boston: Wells and Lilly, 1824.


Edgeworth, Maria. *Frank*. Boston: Ezra Read, 1817. [G]


[Sedgwick, Catherine Maria.] *Redwood.* New York: E. Bliss and E. White, 1824.


1825


[Hofland, Barbara (Wreaks) Hoole.] *Theodore.* Boston: Munroe and Francis, 1824.


Head, Sir Francis Bond. *Rough Notes Taken During Some Rapid Journeys across the Pampas and among the Andes.* Boston: Wells and Lilly, 1827.


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1828


1829


[Church, Benjamin.] *The History of Philip’s War.* Boston: Milo Mower and Co., 1829.


*History of the Bible.* Albany: S. Shaw, 1829.


*Much Instruction from Little Reading.* New York: M. Day, 1827.


[Sherer, Moyle.] *Notes and Reflections during a Ramble in Germany.* Boston: Wells and Lilly, 1827.


1830


[Sedgwick, Catherine Maria.] *Clarence.* Philadelphia: Carey and Lea, 1830.


Ware, Henry, Jr. *Discourses on the Offices and Character of Jesus Christ.* Boston: Office of the Christian Register, 1825.


**1831**


1832


1833


1834


Concord Libraries, 1795–1850


[Grierson, Miss.] The Student’s Walk. Boston: Crocker and Brewster, 1826.


American Antiquarian Society


Pilkington, Mary (Hopkins). Goldsmith’s Natural History, Abridged for the Use of Schools. Philadelphia: Desilver, Jr., and Thomas, 1833.

Peace and War. London: Darton and Co., 18—.

The Polite Present. Boston: Munroe and Francis, 1834.


A Visit to Texas. New York: Goodrich and Wily, 1834.


1835

Austin, Samuel. Dissertations upon Several Fundamental Articles of Christian Theology. Worcester: W. Manning, 1826. [G]


Emerson, William. An Historical Sketch of the First Church in Boston. Boston: Munroe and Francis, 1812. [G]


Hall, Samuel Read. Lectures on School-Keeping. Boston: Richardson, Lord and Holbrook, 1829. [G]
American Antiquarian Society

[Harris, Thaddeus Mason.] Sephora; or Hebrew Tale. Worcester: Clarendon Harris, 1835.


Thoughts on Domestic Education. Boston: Carter and Hendee, 1829. [G]


1836


American Antiquarian Society


1837


[Lee, Mrs. Hannah Farnam (Sawyer).] *Three Experiments of Living: Living Within the Means; Living Up to the Means; Living Beyond the Means.* Boston: William S. Damrell and Samuel Colman, 1837.


1838


1839


1840


[Ware, William.] *Probus.* New York: C. S. Francis, 1838.


Wilson, Mrs. Caroline (Fry). *A Word to Women.* Philadelphia: Carey and Hart, 1840.

1841

[Arnim, Bettina (Brentano) von.] *Goethe's Correspondence with a Child.* Lowell, Mass.: D. Bixby, 1841.


[Kirkland, Caroline Matilda (Stansbury).] *A New Home—Who'll Follow?* New York: C. S. Francis, 1839.


1842


[Kirkland, Caroline Matilda (Stansbury).] *Forest Life*. Boston: J. H. Francis, 1842.
American Antiquarian Society


1843


[Lee, Mrs. Hannah Farnham (Sawyer).] *The Huguenots in France and America*. Cambridge, Mass.: J. Owen, 1843.


1844


1845


1846


**1847**


1848


Corrigenda

In Table 3, “Distribution of Titles by Date of First Publication,” on p. 159 of “Much Instruction from Little Reading: Books and Libraries in Thoreau’s Concord,” by Robert A. Gross, which appeared in the previous issue of these Proceedings (volume 97, part 1), the percentages given (in the right-hand column) for the Concord Social Library were incorrect. The correct figures are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE OF FIRST PUBLICATION</th>
<th>Pct.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before 1800</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1800-20</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary (1821-50)</td>
<td>87.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>