

Richard Neylon  Rare books in the arts and sciences

List 84, Part 1.

1. BROWN, Ernest W. **An Introductory Treatise on the Lunar Theory.** Cambridge Univ Press 1896. large octavo, very good in publisher's cloth (a touch worn at the tips); xvi,292pp and errata slip. \$1,250

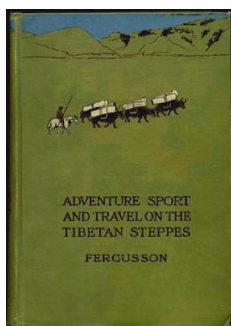
First edition and quite scarce. It's a bit off the point but this extract from a letter on teaching by Professor W. Edwards Deming of New York University caught my attention: "No luster of personality can atone for teaching error instead of truth. One of the finest teachers that I ever knew could hold 300 students spellbound, teaching what is wrong. The two poorest teachers that I ever had ... were Professor Ernest Brown in mathematics at Yale and Sir Ronald Fisher at University College in London. Sir Ernest will be known for centuries for his work in lunar theory ... People came from all over the world to listen to their impossible teaching, and to learn from them, and learn they did".

2. [BOURNE, F.S.A.] **Report on the Trade of Central and Southern China.** London, HMSO 1898. octavo publisher's printed wrapper; 99pp, two folding maps and a folding chart. \$300

Not, as you might expect, a dry compilation of facts and figures (though there are plenty there), but the report of a commercial mission undertaken in 1896 and 97, and so full of first hand observation and anecdote, and not without adventure. The descriptions of trade, industries and manufactures are of interest and include, naturally, silk and opium but the underlying concern is domination, English domination of the China trade, and the means to achieve it.

3. Nguyen Van Huyen. **Introduction a l'Etude de l'Habitation sur Pilotis dans l'Asie du Sud-Est.** Paris, Geuthner 1934. largish octavo publisher's printed wrapper; xxiv,222pp, photo ills on 16 plates, ills and plans through the text, folding map and folding chart. *Austro-Asiatica IV.* \$200

The fundamental book for the study of stilt houses in South East Asia and unlikely to be superseded, recording as it does so much that has now vanished. Nguyen Van Huyen is considered the founder of ethnology and cultural studies in Vietnam and in this book, which came from his Sorbonne doctoral thesis, he gives voice to a new anti-colonial approach to cultural studies.



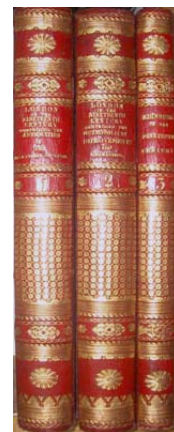
4. FERGUSSON, W.N. **Adventure, Sport and Travel on the Tibetan Steppes.** London, Constable 1911. large octavo publisher's illustrated cloth; numerous photo ills and two folding maps. A couple of minor blemishes to the cloth; a touch of spotting or browning on endpapers and edges; a rather good copy. \$800

The journey of Lt. John "Jock" Brooke who was "cruelly murdered" in August 1908 on his second journey into Tibet. The task of editing his journal should have fallen to his travelling companion C.H. Meares but Meares had just signed up for the Scott Antarctic expedition and had left for Siberia to buy sled dogs - doubly lucky Mr Meares to survive Lolo tribesmen and Scott. Fergusson, amateur explorer and traveller in bibles, had travelled much of the way with Brooke and Meares and their paths crossed fairly often (as did Aurel Stein who was, one day, in the same village as Brooke without each other knowing) so, being called to duty as author, he mixes Brooke's diary with his own account of the journey, places and people. An odd book to read, near unintelligible in places, it nonetheless received a glowing review in *The Geographical Journal*.

Brooke was the epitome of the arrogant and foolhardy British adventurer and, however well he "met his fate with the traditional pluck of his race" my sympathies are with the Lolo chief who whacked him with a sword.

5. SHEPHERD, Thomas H.; James Elmes &c. **London and its Environs in the Nineteenth Century; [with]. Metropolitan Improvements: or London in the Nineteenth Century .. the new and most interesting objects in .. the Metropolis; [with] Modern Athens .. or Edinburgh in the Nineteenth Century ... new buildings, modern improvements ...** ; London, Jones & Co 1829 [ie 1827-31]. three volumes quarto contemporary or early quarter straight grain red morocco (most likely a Scandinavian binding), spines elaborately gilded, patterned paper sides (blue on the London volumes, red on the Edinburgh; edges of the paper a bit rubbed or chipped); engraved titles in all, 353 engravings in the London volumes, 100 engravings in the Edinburgh volume. A few light spots; an excellent, complete and handsome set. \$2,000

It is uncommon to find the three volumes together. Issued in parts between 1827 and 1831, this set is bound from the parts in a particularly satisfying binding. John Britton wrote the text for Edinburgh and Elmes the text for the London volumes. He finishes his personal tour of the wonders of modern London at the home of his publishers - The Temple of the Muses (named by the publisher Lackington, the former owner) - with an unashamed plug for the publications of Jones & Co.



6. DYE, Daniel Sheets. **A Grammar of Chinese Lattice.** Harvard Univ Press 1937. two volumes quarto publisher's cloth; illustrated with some 2500 patterns. An insignificant mark on one cover; a very good set. *Harvard-Yenching Institute Monograph Series V.* \$500

Prices are in Australian dollars, post extra. All books are guaranteed against any disappointment

First and best edition. A practical copybook and one of the great efforts of collection and classification; the first on Chinese lattice the author thinks since 1631. The result of twenty years collecting, Dye called an end to his work with the death of his draughtsman Mr Yang Chi-shang in January 1936. He does comment that though there must be more examples he hasn't found, some three hundred patterns collected since 1933 but not included in this book contain no basic variants.

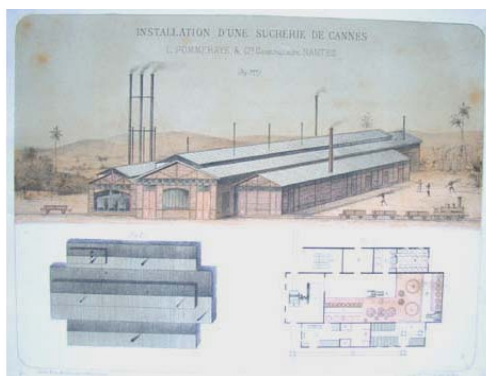
7. RUSKIN, John. **The Elements of Drawing; in three letters to beginners.** London, Smith Elder 1857. Octavo publisher's blindstamped green cloth; xxiv,350pp and publisher's list; illustrations through the text. A few spots but an excellent, bright copy. \$150

First edition of Ruskin's lessons for youth (not young children - Ruskin's complete art course for kids is given in the first three or four pages of the preface); it went into a second edition in the same year and was enthusiastically printed and reprinted in America. It is as much polemic, naturally enough, as practical advice and finishes with a strict lecture ("Things to be Studied") on what to look at and read, what not to look at, and inherent dangers: "if ... you begin to like Rembrandt or Leonardo especially, you are losing your feeling for colour".

8. [Catalogue - Sugar Machinery]. Pommeraye & Cie., Nantes. **Lis. Pommeraye & Cie. Constructeurs - Mecaniciens. Section de Sucrierie Coloniale.** Nantes, the company [1870's?]. Oblong folio publisher's cloth; 18 chromolitho plates, accompanying leaves of printed description. Some marks, spots and signs of use but a very decent copy. \$950

Very handsome; the plates (of which 17 are of machinery and one a view and plan of a colonial sugar refinery) are exquisitely rendered and printed - most were printed by Lermancier or Dupuy in Paris; those printed by Grinsard in Nantes do not suffer much by comparison.

This came from the outstanding McInnes' Queensland collection and while I've been unable to discover a direct connection between the Queensland sugar industry and Pommeraye it makes sense - it is absolutely contemporary with the first establishment of central sugar mills by CSR, beginning in 1870. This copy does have an unquestionable contemporary or early Australian connection - the inscription of A. Terry of Carlton Brewery, a sugar dependent industry.



9. [Bridges]. New South Wales. **Railway Bridges Inquiry Commission. Report to the Royal Commission .. to inquire into the stability of certain iron bridges ... together with minutes of evidence, diagrams and appendices.** Sydney, Govt. Printer 1886. foolscap folio half calf (rebacked); 74,[2],144pp, 51 plates, including four original photos of locomotives, diagrams &c (many folding); extra illustrated with 18 original photos of bridges (one double page and three quite long panoramas). Some spots and a minor defect in the gutter of one leaf. \$3,750

A good report, rare enough in any shape, this is obviously one of few special copies made up for those close to the commission - this was M.B.

Halligan's, the draftsman to the commission, presented to him by the President, G.A. Morell. These extra photographs are mounted on light card with printed descriptions, one (folded to double page) is a large and much earlier photo of the Menangle Bridge under construction in 1863 (the first large railway bridge constructed in New South Wales). This is paired with a contemporary panoramic view of the bridge.

The Commission was sparked by a vitriolic exchange between the engineer in charge of the lines, George Cowdery who was repairing bridges he regarded as defective, and the Engineer-in-Chief John Whitton, who not only considered the bridges safe but claimed that Cowdery's riveting was "injurious" to the stability of the bridges. With public safety and confidence at stake four of the country's most expert engineers were called in - Morell, Kernot, Courtney and Warren - who then embarked upon extensive inspections and testing of bridges throughout the state. Their findings were reasonably comforting: the public could feel confident that the bridges weren't going to collapse - the defects were relatively minor - and in a series of specific reports they deal with each bridge and gave general instructions for administration and maintenance. Neither Cowdery nor Whitton emerged completely in the right; they both had their knuckles gently rapped and were more or less told to grow up and work together more responsibly.

10. FIELD, George. **Chromatography; or, a treatise on colours and pigments, and of their powers in painting, &c.** London, Tilt 1835. Quarto, uncut in publishers's(?) green moire cloth (neatly rebacked with the original spine retained; the original leather title label on the spine mostly chipped away revealing the same titling in gilt underneath - seemingly lettered twice then, a process that puzzled the binder who repaired the spine); xviii,276pp, two engraved plates (the frontispiece with handcolouring of the colour chart). A few spots, rather a good copy. \$1,250

First edition; subsequent editions and revisions appeared throughout the century. Field revived (or perhaps created) the English colourmaking industry, the Napoleonic wars having cut off European supplies of basic ingredients, with an invention that distilled pure madder from his own locally grown crops. He went on to become colourist to the stars (so to speak) - the subscriber's list in this book testifies to his position: Constable, Turner, Stothard, Lawrence, Etty, Eastlake, Landseer, Richmond, Martin, Severn and Wilkie were subscribers (though Stothard and Lawrence died before they received their copies).

11. TYTLER, Sarah. [i.e. Henrietta Keddie]. **A Bubble Fortune.** London, Hutchinson 1893. Octavo publisher's decorated cloth; four plates. Inner hinges opened but holding; a reasonably bright copy. \$60

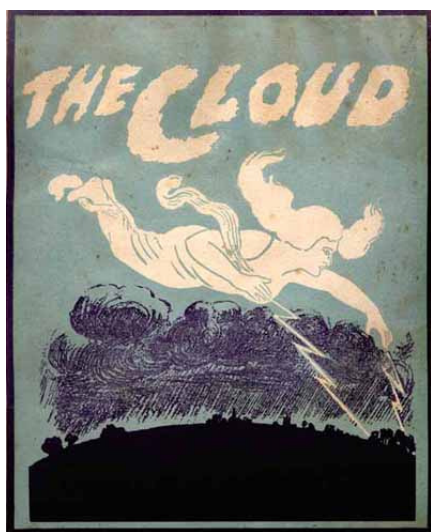
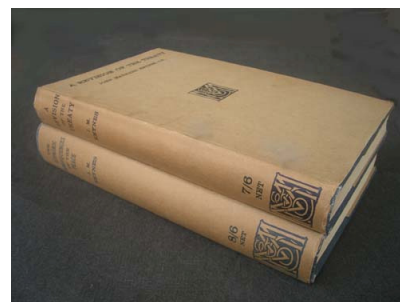
Only edition no doubt. Ms Keddie lived a long time and wrote a lot of books (an average of about two a year for 50 years). *A Bubble Fortune* is a stock novel of wealth found and lost and wouldn't have much claim to our interest except that it charts the life of an Australian in England - the son of a (briefly) wealthy squatter sent to Oxford who then fell on hard times, good times, hard times ... luckily he had antipodean stoicism and two lovely daughters.

12. KEYNES, John Maynard. **A Revision of the Treaty, being a sequel to The Economic Consequences of the Peace.** London, Macmillan 1922. Octavo publisher's cloth. A little offsetting of the endpapers but an outstanding copy in dustwrapper; as good a copy as you are likely to see. \$900

First edition. Included with this is a 1924 reprint but equally outstanding copy in dustwrapper of its companion piece *The Economic Consequences of the Peace*.

13. WITTGENSTEIN, Ludwig. **Remarks on the Foundations of Mathematics.** Oxford, Blackwell 1956. Octavo publisher's cloth; very good in minimally frayed dustwrapper. Parallel German and English text. \$265

First edition. Philosopher John Passmore's copy, with his bookplate.



14. PHILLIPS, H. [Harry]. **The Cloud. Percy Byshee Shelley's Poem [sic] Illustrated by Photographs guaranteed absolutely free from double photographic printing or faking in any manner, and engraved and printed by - H. Phillips Katoomba Street, Katoomba, Blue Mountains, N.S.W. Grouped and illuminated by Phil Blake & Co. Artists ..** Katoomba, Phillips [c1915?]. quarto publisher's illustrated wrappers (a bit tatty) opening vertically; [32]pp, photo illustrations throughout. \$250

Now celebrated in novel, film and a licenced restaurant for his dedicated pursuit of clouds with his camera; the busy and prolific Harry Phillips was also, it should be known, a loopy millenarian. After Shelley's *Cloud*, which occupies five pages and provides a showcase for few dozen thumbnail views, are some full page cumulic studies of some interest but the best is still to come. The real craziness starts with Phillips' 'War Clouds' photographed in 1909 which, when marked up for identification foretells all the horror of the war (and incidentally women's suffrage). The British Lion (as drawn by Petty) which seems to protrude from the backside of the kilted figure which is Scotland (in which case his kilt has blown up or he is flashing), faces the German Eagle clutching what Phillips first took to be a Japanese woman but later proved to be Belgian, between the Russian bear and an unexplained chicken. Turning the picture around reveals the Czar, Queen Victoria, a Jew, some exploding shells, Satan is there somewhere, the war

spirit .. but why spoil it? Phillips says that he sent marked up copies of this photo to Kitchener, Reid, the King, Lord Roberts but they didn't pay attention. This book is his I-told-you-so. After this comes "Is There a God? Clouds in My Life and How They Were Dispelled" which, given the usual revelatory nature of such accounts, gives some interesting autobiography. Then there is some more millenarian stuff. All this can be ignored if needed and the whole just seen as an uncommon book of views of the Blue Mountains but this really is, in a way, his magnum opus.

15. ROS, Amanda M. **Fumes of Formation.** Belfast, Carswell 1933. Octavo, very good in publisher's orange cloth with design and lettering in black, matching dustwrapper (this with pieces missing from the spine). The neat inscription "Chatto & Windus" on the front fly suggests that this was their file copy. They republished her second novel *Delina Delaney* in 1935 and it makes sense that they would have a proprietorial interest in her books. \$350

Mercer's bibliography of Ros (appended to Jack Loudan's biography of her) tells us that copies exist in two original bindings, in quantities of about 100 and 60 copies respectively. This copy is in the first binding. The remaining unbound sheets were supposedly destroyed but a few unbound copies have recently appeared. In any case this is not a common book, particularly with dustwrapper - even one that is defective. Verse, and the last thing Mrs Ros published (a few things appeared posthumously), it includes what must be her most famous poem, *On Visiting Westminster Abbey*:

*Holy Moses! Have a look!  
Flesh decayed in every nook!  
Some rare bits of brain lie here  
Mortal loads of beef and beer,*

16. [Catalogue - Shop Fronts and Fittings]. Bray & Holliday Ltd. Sydney. **Portals of Business [cover title; inside: Products of Bray & Holliday Ltd.]** Sydney, the company [c1925]. quarto publisher's printed boards with onlaid colour illustration (spine top knocked but not tragically); [52]pp, 23 photo ills of store fronts, interiors and a few views in their own works; smaller illustrations through the text. \$300  
Bray & Holliday were Sydney's largest firm of shopfitters by 1925 and this illustrates some of their work and provides a list of examples of the "highest quality", few of which, if any, survive.



17. **New-York As It Is, in 1835; containing a general description of the city and environs ... with correct maps of the city, and its vicinity. Also the Hudson River Guide, accompanied by a map.** NY, Disturnell 1835. small octavo publisher's straight grain calf or roan (rubbed and a little worn); 240pp, frontispiece and three folding maps with added colouring. Some browning and a few minor flaws but quite a good copy. \$1,350

The frontispiece is a view of the penitentiary on Blackwell's Island, a now puzzling subject to introduce a guide book; the maps are by David Burr. This series of guides seems to have run from 1833 to 1840, with various innovations added along the way; the Hudson River Guide is new to this edition.

18. DREDGE, James. **The Works of Messrs. Schneider and Co. Partly reproduced from "Engineering"**. London, printed at the Bedford Press 1900. Folio half morocco (neatly rebacked preserving the original spine); xx,360pp and 174 plates (many double page), both photo plates and measured drawings; hundreds more illustrations through the text. \$1,000 Very uncommon. A massive monograph on the French company Schneider et Cie which dominated the engineering of France and much of Europe from the 1830's onward. Schneider manufactured and built just about everything that could be made from iron and steel - bridges, ships, artillery, trains, factories, railway stations. In his prefatory note Dredge remarks that such a complete and detailed history of an industry had never before appeared; this work made possible by Schneider's help with "every information".



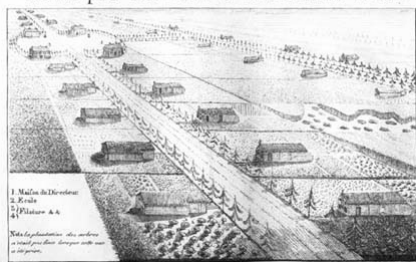
19. FARMER, John S. **"Twixt Two Worlds: a narrative of the life and work of William Eglinton.** London, Psychological Press 1886. 4to publisher's green cloth blocked in red & black (recased and rebacked with the original spine preserved, this rubbed and with a little loss at the tips); [4],196pp, etched portrait by Tissot & 8 colour litho plates, ills through the text. Some browning and scattered spotting, mostly at the ends but a thoroughly decent copy. \$900

Some of the colour plates, which are by the bird painter Keulemans, are as astonishing and beautiful as any exercise in lithography ever done and make one wonder whether Barnett Freedman owned a copy of this. Wentworth (84 & 76 note) wrongly attributes the plates and many of the text illustrations as well as the portrait to Tissot (as did I until my attention was drawn to chapter 18).

Eglinton was one of the most successful and polished mediums of the day, specialising in spirit writing but not adverse to the odd materialization. Tissot apparently became involved after the death of his mistress Mrs Newton and we are given an account of the seance where she appeared, kissed him and shook hands.

20. SLADEN, Douglas. **The First Duke of Cornwall.** n.p. Reprinted from "The West of England Magazine" [c1888]. One sheet folded to form four pages quarto (the last blank); smallish pieces torn from three corners (probably rudely disinterred from an album); old folds. Inscribed to "Miss Ruth A Smith, Chicago with compts from Douglas Sladen". \$125 Rare of course, I can't find a record of it anywhere. The *First Duke* occupies two pages and relates to his play *Edward the Black Prince*; the third page advertises his works (ten copies left of his first book *Frithjof and Ingebjorg*) and prints press opinions of *Edward*. The most recent work mentioned is his anthology *Australian Ballads and Rhyme*.

Vue d'une partie de la Colonie de FREDERIKS OORD.



21. [Johannes van den Bosch]. de KEVERBERG, [Charles Joseph], Baron. **De la Colonie de Frederiks-Oord, et des Moyns ... traduction d'un manuscrit u General-Major van den Bosch ... avec une preface.** Gand, Houdin 1821.

Octavo, uncut and unopened in the remains of original plain wrappers (stitching loose); lxxii,110pp and two plates. \$950

It has been argued that van den Bosch's Benevolent Society and this first paupers' agricultural colony at Frederiksoord (begun in 1818) are less an experiment in utopian idealism than the model for the modern prison farm. Certainly from the two plates (one is a plan and view of a colonist's house, the other a birds-eye view of part of the colony) it looks, from this distance, less than utopian - bleak is the word I'd use. Still, being a

Lowlands pauper just after the Napoleonic wars can't have been much of a picnic. Federiksoord was, to be fair, less punitive than the younger colonies at Veenhuizen where inmates were walled in to prevent escape but, looking at the dreary wastelands of Drente stretching out in every direction, it is hard to imagine where to escape to other than the bottle.

Van den Bosch's record in introducing forced agriculture to the Dutch East Indies has won him few accolades from post-colonial historians but there is no doubt that his intentions here, while hardly charitable, do share some attributes of social reform with contemporaries like Robert Owen.

Baron de Keverberg (Charles Louis Joseph I believe - his younger brother, also Baron, seems to have been named Charles Frederick Joseph; they were both administrators and active social reformers at the same time but our Baron has the more distinguished history) has added a lengthy preface and notes to his translation of Bosch's manuscript, roughly doubling the work.

22. DORRINGTON, Albert. **Stories to the Master.** London, Mills & Boon 1926. Octavo publisher's brown cloth blocked in black. A touch second hand but a very decent copy. \$125

First edition; one of Dorrington's later books and quite uncommon. Thrilling stories of subterfuge and death set around South East Asia, New Guinea and the fringes of north Australia in which, as Morris Miller points out, the "leading characters ... are also chiefly Chinese and Pacific Islanders, the infiltration of Asiatics into the South Seas being a frequent theme". This is an overstatement but there are several culture clashes, and an apparent superabundance of threatened young women, all of whom seen to be slender and eighteen, whatever their race. The Master to whom the book is dedicated is Kipling.