

JOHN HOWELL
 *for Books*

Leaf Books
March 24, 2026



John Howell for Books
John Howell, member ABAA, ILAB, IOBA
5205 ½ Village Green, Los Angeles, CA 90016-5207
310 367-9720

www.johnhowellforbooks.com
info@johnhowellforbooks.com

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This list consists of 10 leaf books. A leaf book is a book that contains an original leaf from a manuscript or significant printed volume that has been complemented with an essay or other explanatory material relating to the leaf's origins. The resulting book is often a fine-press publication, with an elaborate binding or case.

1 [Bible Leaf] HALL, Basil (1915-1994). *The Great Polyglot Bibles, Including a Leaf from the Complutensian of Alcalá, 1514-17*. San Francisco, CA: The Book Club of California, 1966. Series: *Publications of the Book Club of California*, No. 124. Folio. 381 x 272 mm (page size). [5], [19], [6] ff. Printed with decorations in black, red, and purple inks, facsimile title-page of the Complutensian Polyglot Bible, and a tipped in leaf from the original Bible of 1514-17, Basil Hall's essay "A Treatise: The Great Polyglot Bibles,"; text clean, un-marked. Sheets laid loose within textured wrappers with printed title on the front cover, all placed within a clam-shell box covered in purple silk with printed top cover and spine labels; some shelf wear to the box, most noticeable at head and tail of the box spine. MR126-001. Very Good.

\$ 750

LIMITED EDITION of 400 copies, printed for the Book Club of California by Lewis and Dorothy Allen at the Allen Press. This was the first book printed for the Club in the de luxe French style, with un-sewn sheets in a hinged box, and produced entirely by hand. For the Allen Press, this book was the first hand-printed book in an edition of more than 150 copies and their first "leaf book." The book is designed to remain within the hinged box; when the box is opened flat, the book can be slid to the left and the pages turned at their fore-edge. The text type face is Italian Old Style with early Spanish Roman types founded on Italian fifteenth-century designs. The paper was printed damp, on all rag paper from France, mold-made Rives for the text and handmade Richard de Bas for the red wrappers. The edition was printed by hand on an 1830 Acorn-Smith hand-press. Decorations principally from the Complutensian Bible, with others from early sixteenth-century Spanish books. REFERENCES: *Allen Press Bibliography*, No. 171; De Hamel and Silver, *Disbound and Dispersed*, No. 144 (catalog number 27); Harlan, *The Two Hundredth Book*, No. 124. 132 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6247>

2 [Newbery Bible Leaf] ADOMEIT, Ruth Elizabeth (1910-1996). *An Original Leaf from the Newbery Bible 1780. With an Essay by Ruth E. Adomeit*. Los Angeles, CA: (Dawson's Book Shop), 1980. Miniature Book. 1 5/8 x 1 5/8 inches. 18, [2] pp. Miniature leaf 1 1/2 x 1 inches from the Newbery Bible, pages 199 and 200, Ephesians Chapter 5, tipped-in; text clean, unmarked. Half dark brown morocco, marbled paper over boards, spine titled in gilt; binding square and tight. GD525-003. Fine.

\$ 400

LIMITED EDITION of 125 copies, printed by William M. Cheney for Dawson's Book Shop. *The Bible in Miniature, or a Concise History of the Old & New Testaments* was printed for E. Newbery in 1780 by John Newbery (1713-1767), "The father of Children's Literature." It is one of the smallest Thumb Bibles ever produced. John Newbery is honored today with the annual Newbery Medal Awards for the best book for children. Ruth Adomeit was educated at Wellesley College. Her interest in miniature books began when her father gave her two miniature books about Abraham Lincoln

and Calvin Coolidge printed by the Kingsport Press. She went on to edit the *Miniature Book Collector* (1960-62) and was a leading member of the Miniature Book Society. Adomeit was also a naturalist with a keen interest in bats and was a founding member of Bat Conservation International. REFERENCES: Bradbury, *20th-Cent. US Miniature Books*, No. 36; De Hamel and Silver, *Disbound and Dispersed*, No. 168.5; Jones, *A Los Angeles Typewriter*, No. 95. 14 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6087>

3 [Kleine Print Bybel Leaf] ADOMEIT, Ruth Elizabeth (1910-1996). *An Original Leaf from the Kleine Print Bybel, c. 1750. With an Essay by Ruth E. Adomeit.* Los Angeles, CA: (Dawson's Book Shop), 1991. Miniature Book. 2 1/2 x 1 7/8 inches. 20, [2] pp. Half title, fleuron on title page, a leaf from an eighteenth-century Bible with a woodcut illustration of the spies returning from Canaan with a large bunch of grapes (Numbers) tipped-in (1 1/2 x 7/8 inches, verso blank), decorative initial; text clean, un-marked. Quarter red leather, patterned paper over boards, spine titled in gilt, decorative end-papers; binding square and tight. SCARCE. GD525-002. Fine.

\$ 500

LIMITED EDITION of 60 copies printed and bound by Pall Bohne. The leaf in this book comes from a Bible printed in two volumes in The Hague by Daniel Langeweg, circa 1750, a very rare Bible. Ruth Adomeit bought a 61-leaf fragment of this Bible during a trip to Europe in 1953. The leaf in this volume contains an illustration of Moses striking a rock to release water for the Israelites from Numbers chapter 20. Ruth Adomeit was a collector of miniature books and author of, among other books, *Three Centuries of Thumb Bibles: A Checklist* (1980). REFERENCES: Bradbury, *20th-Cent. US Miniature Books*, No. 35; De Hamel and Silver, *Disbound and Dispersed*, No. 168.5. 8 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6089>

4 [Chaucer] MUSCATINE, Charles (1920-2010). *The Book of Geoffrey Chaucer. An Account of the Publication of Geoffrey Chaucer's Works From the Fifteenth Century to Modern Times.* (San Francisco, CA): The Book Club of California, 1963. Series: *Book Club of California Publication* No. 113. Folio. 14 1/8 x 10 1/8 inches. [xii], 64, [4 blank] pp. Color frontispiece shows a page from the Ellesmere ms., title page vignette, text printed in red and black inks, 23 figures reproduce pages or illustrations from editions of Chaucer's works from the manuscript era to the nineteenth century, an original leaf from the 1561 edition of Chaucer's Works shows folio CXXIX, which includes 1 2-line and 3 3-line initials, chronological checklist of printed editions of Chaucer, bibliography; text clean, unmarked. Gilt-stamped red cloth; binding square and tight. PROVENANCE: from the private collection of Alastair Johnston without distinguishing marks. Fine. **WITH:** 2 copies of the Prospectus. **WITH: MUSCATINE, Charles** (1920-2010). *Two Chaucer Leaves.* [Cover Title]. Berkeley, CA: Tamalpais Press, 1965. Two early printed leaves of sixteenth-century black-letter folios tipped into a printed bifold Folio. 14

x 10 inches. The leaf from the undated edition (circa 1551) measures 11 3/4 x 7 3/4 inches, has 4 decorative initials (3 6-line and 1 8-line) is Folio CCXXXV, on the subject of Boethius. The second leaf, from the 1561 edition, measures 12 1/4 x 8 1/2 inches and has 3 8-line decorative initials. Bifold printed in black and red with explanatory text; the bifold with minor soiling. PROVENANCE: from the private collection of Alastair Johnston without distinguishing marks. AJ226-001. Very Good.

\$ 500

4 items offered as a lot. Item number 1: LIMITED EDITION of 450 copies, designed and printed by Lawton Kennedy for the Book Club of California. Takes us on a jaunty tour of all the editions of Chaucer's works, from the manuscript era to the nineteenth century. With a leaf from the 1561 edition of Chaucer's Works with additions by John Stow; printed by John Kingston for John Wight and Henry Bradshaw. Harlan writes: "This description and analysis of the several manuscript and printed editions of Chaucer's masterpiece has become something of a classic in its own right. A notice in the *Papers of the Bibliographical Society of America*, in commending the matching of the skill of the printer and the erudition of the author, concluded by raising in general the standards of scholarship and book publication of the Club which it describes as equal to the best in the Americas. Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club)." Items number 2 and 3 are Prospecti for Item number 1. Item number 4: is a LIMITED EDITION of 88 copies, printed as a Keepsake by Duncan H. Olmsted and Roger Levenson at Levenson's Tamalpais Press for presentation to members of the Roxburghe Club of San Francisco and other friends. The text on the bifold, "adapted by Duncan H. Olmsted from Charles Muscatine's *The Book of Geoffrey Chaucer*," explains the sources of the leaves and their typographical and historical significance. Charles Muscatine was an American academic specializing in medieval literature, particularly Chaucer; his work transformed Chaucer studies by turning attention to the French models for Chaucer's poetry. REFERENCES: Item Number 1: De Hamel and Silver, *Disbound and Dispersed*, Checklist No. 140. p. 124; Harlan, *The Two Hundredth Book*, No. 113. Item Number 4: De Hamel and Silver, *Disbound and Dispersed*, Checklist No. 140. OCLC: Item Number 1: 146 copies; Item Number 4: 19 copies.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6244>

5 [Emblem Books] Simius Cælestibus [pseudonym for MILROY, Rollin]. *Labour, Vertue, Glorie. Leaves from the Emblem Books of Gabriel Rollenhagen (1611) and George Wither (1635). Illustrated with Diverse Comments, Historic & Critical, assembled & annotated by Sim. Cælestibus.* Vancouver, BC, Canada: Heavenly Monkey, 2018. Folio. 12 1/8 x 8 1/16 inches. 63, [4] pp. Half-title with large vignette, title page printed in black and brown inks with a small vignette "Non Plus", table of contents printed within a labyrinth printed in brown (curved rules) and black inks, initial letters printed on page 6 as well as at the head of each chapter and as decorations in the text, 2 original leaves tipped-in, portraits of Rollenhagen and Wither with

other illustrations from the original books, tailpieces, 2 volvelles from *A Collection of Emblemes* printed original size, list of references; text clean, unmarked. Parchment paper spine titled in gilt, patterned paper over boards; binding square and tight, lower corners softened. WYTB924-001. Very Good.

\$ 700

LIMITED EDITION of 48 copies which were issued in 3 series: Series 1, copies 1-16; Series 2, copies 17-23; and Series 3, copies 24-48, this is copy number 33, with a leaf from both Rollenhagen and Wither, and cased in paper over boards at the Heavenly Monkey Studio. Milroy's essay is a model for informing the collector about any field of collecting interest; in this case the essay defines an emblem book, shows how the Rollenhagen and Wither editions fit in with the larger tradition of emblem books, gives important biographical information about the authors and publishers, and shows how they fit in with the larger history of early seventeenth-century printing history. In addition, Milroy highlights the unique aspects of Nathaniel Crouch's 1684 edition of Wither's emblems in *Delights for the Ingenious* - a lottery game accompanied by actual size facsimiles of volvelles used in this seventeenth-century game. Food for the mind, and food for the senses, as Heavenly Monkey has produced its typically sensuous publication printed on Arches Wove papers that is a much a delight to hold as to read. 16 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6101>

6 [Janson] BULLEN, Henry Lewis (1857-1938). *Nicolas Jenson, Printer of Venice. His Famous Type Designs and Some Comment Upon the Printing Types of Early Printers*. San Francisco, CA: Printed by John Henry Nash, 1926. Folio. 16 1/2 x 10 5/8 inches. [vi], 10 pp. Limitation page, Jenson leaf, title page, decorative initial, illustration in the text at page 3; text clean, unmarked. Vellum spine, marbled paper over boards, gilt-titled brown leather spine label; binding square and tight, spine label chipped with minor loss, extremities rubbed. PROVENANCE: Heavenly Monkey's Rollin Milroy. MR126-002. Very Good.

\$ 850

LIMITED EDITION of 207 copies this is copy number 16. Printed in black Cloister Lightface type which is a recutting of Jenson's Roman letter by Morris Fuller Benton (1872-1948), on Strathmore paper. The leaf is from Jenson's 1478 edition of Plutarch's *Vitae parallel illustrious variorum*, Vol. 2. "This is a scholarly treatise by the great authority on typography, Henry Lewis Bullen, the man who gathered the magnificent printing collection for the American type Founders Company at Jersey City. (This library, undoubtedly the greatest aggregation of typographic specimens, including hundreds of fine copies of incunabula, was purchased by Columbia University in 1936.) In his 'Notes on Rare Books,' New York Times' reviewer said in part: "This excellent essay, which skillfully consolidates the information relating to Jenson and his types with some valuable collateral matter, is itself paid a tribute by its

method of presentation. It has been printed by John Henry Nash of San Francisco, who has done some of the very finest original and reproductive work issued in America.” O’Day. REFERENCES: O’Day, *A Catalogue of Books Printed by John Henry Nash*, pp. 45-46; de Hamel and Silver, *Disbound and Dispersed*, No, 26. 104 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6246>

7 [Ninja Press] CAMPBELL, Carolee (b. 1936), et al. *Dispatches from the Lizard Brain. A Descriptive Bibliography of Ninja Press*. New York City: Gaspara Stampa, Inc., Russell Maret, 2022. Folio. 15 x 9 3/16 inches. (134) pp. Half-title, color photographic frontispiece of Ms. Campbell, title page printed in 3 colors of ink, the sections of the text are divided by printed text on colored papers, the entire text is illustrated with a variety of samples of work of the press, mounted, tipped-in, bound-in, mounted on stubs, printed in the margins, and so forth, color photographs, list of exhibition catalogs, Ninja Press type collection, index; text clean, unmarked. Blue-green leather spine, boards covered with patterned paper adapted from an ornament designed and punch-cut by Carolee Campbell, spine titled in gilt, the volume is protected by a five-sided chemise covered in cloth and held closed with a magnet, paper lining, paper spine label printed with the title; binding square and tight. SG822-001. Fine.

\$ 4,000

FIRST EDITION of 102 copies, 25 reserved *hors commerce*, and 77 copies to the public, this is copy number 46. Bibliographic descriptions by Nina Schneider; Commentary by Carolee Campbell; Foreword by Harry Reese; Afterword by Russell Maret; Photographer, Annie Schlechter. This volume documents the output more than 38 years of Carolee Campbell’s life as a fine press printer. It is sort of an autobiographical bibliography of the printer and the physical work that will survive her. The last book in the bibliography appears as a tipped-in pre-publication prospectus, as Carolee is not finished yet. In the Foreword to this volume, Harry Reese asks us to “Imagine this movie: A Self-possessed teenager in Los Angeles, brought up by a grandmother because of her mother’s infirmities and her father’s alcoholism, flees to New York City after high school to pursue a dream. Working first as a hatcheck girl in a famous nightclub, and then waiting tables in Mafia restaurants, she reinvents her life from the inside-out in classes taught by elite drama teachers and is offered a bit part on daytime television. Avoiding temptation and putting everything at risk again, she evolves into a television star and eventually a soap opera queen. Meanwhile, she exhibits photographs in New York galleries, practices Japanese martial arts, and competes with her team in Japan. She wins an Emmy for a dramatic role, but abruptly quits acting, returns to California, and takes up whitewater rafting in the Southwest. Nearly fifty, she turns her back on every success she ever knew to start all over again as an entry-level art student in a program she has to explain. Twenty years

later, she gains recognition as one of the most accomplished, distinctive, and influential printer-publishers of her generation.” 22 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/5294>

8 [Sixtus Reissinger] GILBERT, Bennett, editor. *A Leaf from the Letters of St. Jerome, First Printed by Sixtus Reissinger, Rome, c. 1466-1467. With an Historical Essay by Jeremy Duquesnay Adams and a Bibliographical Essay by John L. Sharpe III.* Los Angeles and London: Zeitlin & Ver Brugge - H. M. Fletcher, 1981. Folio. 15 3/8 x 11 1/4 inches. [vi], (36) pp. Pocket with the printed incunable leaf mounted on the first page after the front free endpaper, half-title, title-page with a Jerome-and-the-Lion vignette in red, 2 red initials within typographic borders; text clean, unmarked, the printed leaf has some marginal water-staining. Quarter vellum, marbled paper over boards, spine label titled in gilt; binding square and tight. QG915-001. Very Good.

\$ 600

LIMITED EDITION of 300 copies, this is copy number 28, set in Monotype Janson and printed letterpress on Frankfurt Cream paper by Patrick Reagh and Vance Gerry; this is one of 100 copies bound by Max Adjarian. The leaf in this copy has 3 5-line initials hand colored in blue. This leaf comes from the *Editio Princeps* of the *Letters of St. Jerome* (347-430), which were widely distributed throughout the fourth-century Roman Empire because of his advice for living the Christian life. Sixtus Riessinger (1440-1505) was a German priest and typographer, who is known for introducing the printing press to Rome and Naples. Some believe Riessinger's *Letters of St. Jerome* was the first book printed in Rome, but the exact date remains disputed. REFERENCE: De Hamel and Silver, *Disbound & Dispersed*, No. 170. 87 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/5299>

9 [Sweynheym and Pannartz] HALL, Edwin (b. 1928). *Sweynheym & Pannartz and the Origins of Printing in Italy: German Technology and Italian Humanism in Renaissance Rome.* McMinnville, OR: Bird & Bull Press for Phillip J. Pirages, 1991. Folio box. 15 1/2 x 11 3/4 inches. Book: 8vo. 9 1/4 x 6 1/4 inches. 128, [4] pp. Title-page printed in three colors, 4 initial letters in two colors embellish the text based on the rubricated capitals on eight of the leaves of the original work; text clean, un-marked. Quarter maroon goatskin, marbled paper over boards, printed paper top cover label; binding square and tight. Housed in a large blue cloth folding clamshell box, which contains a matted original leaf of the *editio princeps* of Nicolas of Lyra's *Postilla super totam bibliam*; box with shelf wear and dust soiling, bumped corner, musty odor; no sign of mold. BF915-001. Very Good.

\$ 950

LIMITED EDITION of 275 copies, this is copy Number 215, printed on mould-made Frankfurt paper. The text was composed in Italian Old Style types by M. & H. Type. Bound by Campbell-Logan Co. with marbled papers especially designed for this

edition by Iris Nevins. The folding cloth box was constructed by Nancy Cuthbert. Henry Morris, the proprietor of the Bird and Bull Press stated that this book is “unquestionably the most important work I have printed on the subject of early printing history.” The original Sweynheim and Pannartz leaves that accompany copies of this book constitute the remaining fragments (239 of 452 leaves) of a copy of volume I of the Sweynheim and Pannartz *editio princeps* of Nicolas of Lyra’s *Postilla super totam bibliam* (HC 10363; Goff N-131; BMC IV 14) completed on 18 November 1471 in the Palazzo Massimo in Rome. REFERENCE: *Disbound and Dispersed*, Catalog No. 40, Checklist No. 197. 132 copies OCLC.

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/5850>

10 [Wynkyn de Worde] GRABHORN, Robert (1900-1973), compiler. *A Short Account of the Life and Work of Wynkyn de Worde with a Leaf from the Golden Legend Printed by Him at the Sign of the Sun in Fleet Street, London, the Year 1527*. San Francisco, CA: The Book Club of California, 1949. Series: *Book Club of California Publication*, No. 71. Folio. 13 5/8 x 9 11/16 inches. [iv], [ii], 1-(18) pp. Text printed in red and black inks throughout, title page with Wynkyn de Worde printer’s device, leaf presented on its own page within a red-ruled border, the leaf is signed i.i., with a woodcut illustration of “Saint Poule the first heremyte,” the double-column leaf with contemporary manuscript notations in the top margin and between the columns, 3 decorative initials by Zena Kavin, reproduction of musical notations, 7 reproductions of Wynkyn de Worde’s printer’s devices, Grabhorn Press printer’s device on colophon; Japanese paper hinges holding the leaf have become loose, upper corner of leaf missing. Brick-red cloth spine, patterned paper over boards, illustrated front cover paper label, printed paper spine label; binding square and tight, lightly rubbed. PROVENANCE: From Alastair Johnston’s personal collection without distinguishing marks. AJ226-002. Very Good.

\$ 500

LIMITED EDITION of 375 copies printed by the Grabhorn Press with handset Koch Bible Gotish type on French handmade paper. “A Fitting complement to the Club’s publication of an original leaf from Caxton’s *Polycronicon*, since Wynkyn de Worde was Caxton’s pupil and successor. In less than a month the entire edition was subscribed for. Included in the Exhibition of Western Books (Rounce & Coffin Club).” *Hundredth Book*. The leaf in this book presents the life of Saint Paul of Thebes (c. 227-341), the first hermit considered the first Christian anchorite. REFERENCES: De Hamel and Silver, *Disbound and Dispersed*, Checklist No. 100; Magee, *The Hundredth Book*, No. 71; Magee and Magee, *Bibliography of the Grabhorn Press*, No. 486. 4 copies OCLC (which surprises me; I would expect this book would reflect more institutional holdings).

<https://www.johnhowellforbooks.com/product/6243>