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Fine, Antiquarian, and Used Books Bought and Sold

JOHN HENRY NASH

**A short list of broadside and bifolium announcements, ephemera, and
uncommon books printed by one of the
finest American printers.**

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Prohibition

Milton, John

AREOPAGITICA [and] TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

San Francisco: John Henry Nash, 1925.

Bifolium. 12" x 8.5". [4] pp. Minor toning to the edges, only. Extract of Milton's *Areopagitica: A Speech for the Liberty of Unlicensed Printing, to the Parliament of England* (1644) is printed on the recto of the first leaf; on the recto of the other leaf is a letter "To the President of the United States" in which Nash uses Milton's argument related to freedom of the press to Prohibition. Milton writes: "For those actions which enter into a man, rather than issue out of him, and therefore defile not, God uses not to captivate under a perpetual childhood of prescription, but trusts him with the gift of reason to be his own chooser; there were but little work left for preaching, if law & compulsion should grow so fast upon those things which heretofore were governed only by exhortation." Nash concludes his letter: "Do you not agree with me that John Milton would have blotted no single line of this paragraph in *Areopagitica* had he been told that his argument would be applied to that strange experiment that we call Prohibition?" Scarce in the trade. Only three located in institutional holdings (OCLC: 11181983).

7531

\$125

Broadside

O'Day, Edward F.

JAPANESE MEMORIES [Caption title:] "This double-spread is put forth by Mr. Arthur Fay of the Trade Pressroom of San Francisco to accompany the four-color reproduction of an oil painting by Maurice Logan."

[San Francisco]: John Henry Nash, c. 1924.

Bifolium. 15.25" x 11.25" (15.25" x 22.5" opened). [4] pp. (French fold). Bold page-spread printed in black stylized font with borders and decorative title spanning the spread in black and bronze. Light soiling to the exterior. It was issued with a reproduction of a painting by Maurice Logan. Sadly, not present. O'Day offers a nostalgic and overly romanticized view of quaint times when "the Japanese woman in her native dress was a familiar figure." Though undated, contextually O'Day is referencing a time prior to the Immigration Act of 1924. O'Day writes: "By stern mandate of Federal law the Japanese are prohibited from coming to us, and those already domiciled here have put on many customs, and notably the apparel, of their adopted land." An uncommon piece of ephemera with only a half a dozen institutional holdings (OCLC: 16166928).

7532

\$125

Broadside

Nash, John Henry

SAN FRANCISCO: WHERE TYPE GLORIFIES LETTERS

[San Francisco]: John Henry Nash, [1927].

Bifolium. 15" x 10" (opening to 15" x 20"). [4] pp. (French fold). Title and woodcut on the front page; two pages of text with title running across the page spread; back page is blank. Light crinkling to the paper; rear cover is just a trifle soiled.

A beautifully printed appreciatory note by Nash for having received first honors in the Graphic Arts Leaders of America Exhibition in both 1926 and 1927 for El Toison de Oro and for Rime of the Ancient Mariner respectively. A very nice address in which he praises Pacific Coast printers for there increasing distinction: "Printing prizes and honors keep coming West." A beautifully printed piece and quite uncommon in the trade and not very common in institutional holdings. We have located only 8 copies in OCLC. (OCLC: 32063159)

7528

\$125

Broadside

Nash, John Henry

SUMMER-TIME

San Francisco: John Henry Nash, c.1929.

Bifolium. 8.5" x 6". [4] pp. Printing on the recto of the first leaf, only. Fore-edge margin of both leaves are a bit worn, otherwise, very nice. A charming announcement of what had become an annual tradition of summer vacation. This undated, but either 1929 or 1935 based on the dates and their correlation to the days of the week; contextually, probably 1929. A charming rail vignette across the top of the announcement. A delight piece of Nash ephemera and remarkably scarce. We've found only two copies in institutional holdings. OCLC: 476200784.

7536

\$75

Broadside

Nash, John Henry

THE GHOST THAT WALKED AMID THE CASES HAS HIED HIM TO MORE GHOSTLY PLACES

San Francisco: John Henry Nash, (1927).

Bifolium. 15.5" x 11". Printing on the recto of the first leaf, only. Top edge trimmed; bottom and fore-edge are deckled. Printed in black with decorative opening initial in red and back. A very nice copy of a playful announcement for the summer closing of the print shop. The announcement does not indicate the year, but the date and day of the week align with 1927. It is tempting to correlate this to Nash's printing of "Dibdin's Ghost" (1926) given the epigraph, the subject of the announcement, and the fact that this like Dibdin's Ghost is printed on Pannekoek paper. Uncommon. Only one institutional holding found in OCLC (62385376)

7529

\$75

Broadside

Bible

THE NINETEENTH PSALM OF ISRAEL'S GREAT POET DAVID

San Francisco: John Henry Nash, 1930.

Bifolium. 18.75" x 11.5 (opening to 18.75" x 23"). [4] pp. Title on the front page; two pages of text in black within intricate strap-work border in purple and title header in red; short note by Nash on the rear page indicating this "folded broadside [is] an offering to the cause of the Jewish Community Center." Light soiling to the front. A beautifully printed piece. Scarce in the trade and fewer than a dozen copies in institutional holding according to OCLC (8245198) and majority of those are in California.

7530

\$125

Broadside

Nash, John Henry

THE WAY TO RESUME IS TO RESUME

San Francisco: John Henry Nash, c. 1933.

Bifolium. 11" x 9". [4] pp. Printing on the recto of the first leaf only. Printed in black on laid paper. A nice copy with only a bit of toning. In Nash's typical fashion, he announces the resumption of "the summer vacation habit of other years. It's a New Deal, and we're going back to some of the good old ways that the New Deal encourages." Scarce broadside announcement with only two copies found in institutional holdings. OCLC: 82374196.

7535

\$75

Broadside

Nash, John Henry

WE ARE CLOSING THIS PRINTING SHOP. . . . SO THAT EVERYBODY HERE MAY GO VACATIONING.

San Francisco: John Henry Nash, n/d.

Bifolium. 14" x 9.25". [4] pp. Printing on the recto of the first leaf only. Printed in black with brick red border and ornamentation. No date, but the Van Gelder laid paper is watermarked 1927, so printed after that. A bright copy with a bit of toning to the back leaf.

A charming announcement of two-week vacation in June. Nash, in more elegant and playful prose, captures the modern sentiment: "Work hard; play hard." More than the contents, an announcement like this captures something of the printer's dedication to the craft--a beautifully composed broadside where a postcard would have delivered the same information. OCLC: 22525442.

7533

\$75

Charming Engraving by Wilke

Hibernia Bank | engraving by William Wilke

CHRISTMAS AND THE TURNING OF THE YEAR . . .

San Francisco: John Henry Nash, 1931.

Bifolium. 14.75" x 10". [4] pp. A striking color engraving by Wilke fills the recto of the front leaf. Wilke captures a beautiful Christmas tree in the grand opening of the Hibernia Bank Building in San Francisco. Moderate foxing, otherwise in very nice condition. A nice piece of San Francisco printing (and banking) history.

7537

\$65

Bold Kelmscott Homage

[William Morris] O'Day, Edward F. | portrait by Henry Raschen

A MORRIS KEEPSAKE

San Francisco: John Henry Nash, 1927.

Bifolium. 16.5" x 11". [4] pp. French fold. Tipped on reproduction of Henry Raschen's painting of Morris. The bifolium opening showcases a beautiful woodcut border reproduced from the trial pages for the unfinished Kelmscott Press Froissart. This borders O'Day's appreciation which is printed from a recutting of Morris Chaucer and Troy types. The description of the keepsake on the cover is printed in a recutting of Morris Golden type. A very striking keepsake with only minor wear; covers with trivial soiling.

7534

\$200

"What a perfectly beautiful book you have made" T. J. Cobden-Sanderson

Cobden-Sanderson, Thomas James | decorations by Ray F. Coyle

THE IDEAL BOOK, OR BOOK BEAUTIFUL, A Tract on Calligraphy, Printing & Illustrations and on the Book Beautiful as a Whole

San Francisco: John Henry Nash, 1916.

Quarto. [6], 13, [1], [4] pp. First edition, thus; number 152 of 165 copies. As issued, in buff paper over boards with a printed paper title label on front and rear board; text in black, title and shoulder notes in red. Binding is a trifle soiled including some staining to fore-edge of the front board at the bottom corner; contemporary gift inscription on the first blank; contents are clean.

Stunningly reprinted, perhaps no other printer at the time had such a similar aesthetic Cobden-Sanderson's Dove Press--clean and elegant in type and page design. Nash really does capture the spirit of the original. Cobden-Sanderson thought so as well and wrote Nash: "What a perfectly beautiful book you have made of The Book Beautiful! I am enchanted with it! Paper, type, arrangement, all combined under your clever hands to a while which is at once a thing of beauty and a symbol of that great order touched with delight which I am never tired of finding to be the supreme characteristic of the universe itself" (quoted in O'Day *Catalogue* p.1-2). The praise goes on. . . . Uncommon. This copy with November 1918 gift inscription from Sylvia Loeb to Ruth Eddy. We are uncertain, but the presenter is perhaps Sylvia Loeb Weil who co-authored with Rosetta Goldsmith several children's puzzle books.

7551

\$650

One of Only 35 Copies Printed for Clark

Clark, Charles W.

THE LIBRARY OF CHARLES W. CLARK (7 Volumes)

San Francisco: Taylor, Nash & Taylor | John Henry Nash, 1914-1922.

Folio. Vol I: [2], 137; Vol II: [2], 101; Vol III: [2], 78; Vol IV: [2], 105; Vol V: [2], 107; Vol VI: [2], 73; Vol VII: [2], 130 pp. Limited edition, one of 35 copies. Printed in black Calson with red title on Kelmscott paper. Volume I is bound in plain wrappers on machine-made paper and appears to be a page proof; Volumes II through VII are as issued in blue-gray paper over boards backed in linen; some volumes are unopened. Bindings are generally soiled and edgeworn with fraying at the corners; some minor toning and chipping to the spine labels; nevertheless bindings are fairly solid and present well; several of the volumes have pencil markings in the margins throughout, as though someone were checking a library against this catalog, otherwise these are clean but for a few leaves with some minor toning; the wrappers to Volume I are quite chipped and there is an modern but no recent repair reattaching the covers. Despite the wear, this remains a presentable set.

Charles W. Clark was the son of Senator William Andrews Clark, Sr. and like his father notable book collector, though as Harlan writes in his biography of Nash, "Wealthy, educated, and informed, Clark was a competent book collector. His approach to book collecting was less encompassing than that of several of his contemporaries; it was also much more scholarly and discriminating. . . . His collection of incunabula and the English classics was to become outstanding during the 1920's" (p. 26). Taylor, Nash & Taylor printed the first volume of this catalogue of his private library, largely done under Nash's careful eye. Having been very pleased with Nash's work on the first volume, when Clark discovered he had set up his own firm a couple years later he met with Nash and commissioned him to finish the project. The second volume became Nash's first commission; he would finish the seventh volume six years later in 1922. Harlan writes of that meeting, "Whether he knew it or not, Nash had achieved success at that moment" (p. 27). O'Day corroborates Harlan's note about Clark's collection, he write: "Clark's library was especially rich in incunabula and these catalogues are valuable for the detailed descriptions and collations. They are also extremely rare on account of the very limited number of copies issued." A remarkably uncommon set, all the more because according to OCLC more than two dozen of the 35 copies are in institutional hands making it extremely rare in commerce. Harlan, Robert D. *John Henry Nash: The Biography of a Career* (1970); O'Day, *Catalogue*, p. 1; OCLC: 2028770.

"Fine Printing At Its Best"

Bonfils, Winifred Black | frontispiece and head-pieces by William Wilke

THE LIFE AND PERSONALITY OF PHOEBE APPERON HEARST (with Original Fleece Bag)

San Francisco: printed for William Randolph Hearst by John Henry Nash, 1928.

Folio. [6], 155 pp., frontis, illus. errata. Limited edition, numbered 779 of 1000 copies. As issued if vellum over boards with small yapp edges; top edge gilt; title in gold on the spine and single gold fillet bordering the covers, this copy in the fleece bag purpose-made for this edition almost always often missing. An exceptionally bright copy with very little mellowing to vellum; boards are splaying a bit as is often the case; contents clean and binding sound; fleece bag is in very good condition. 1956 presentation letter from Robert C. Bassett, on Milwaukee Sentinel letterhead describing the gifted book which appears to have originated from "Hearst's vaults." The recipient's name has been clipped; additionally something else has been clipped above Bassett's signature.

In his biography of Nash, Harlan describes a book in which no expense was spared: custom made paper, beautifully printed by arguably America's preeminent printer, full bound in unbleached vellum by Hubel und Denck, one of Europe's finest binderies. Harlan writes, "The result of this great enterprise--the most technically perfect book that American and European skill could produce--was kind of superproduct that Hearst was able to appreciate. It was worthy of being collected" (p. 68-69). O'Day, in his *Catalogue* corroborates this. In addition to nice sketch of Mrs. Hearst's philanthropy, O'Day writes, "This book is an example of fine printing at its best. The paper was specially fabricated under Mr. Nash's direction at the Van Gelder mill at Appeldoorn, near Amsterdam, Holland. The books were bound in Leipzig, Germany, by Bugel & Denck, whose treatment of vellum is unexcelled" (p. 58-59). Humorously, Bassett, in his letter, touts the qualities and production history of this volume and is mistaken on nearly every point except one, that it is a remarkable book. It is extremely uncommon to find this with the fleece bag. Harlan, Robert D. *John Henry Nash: The Biography of a Career* (1970); O'Day, *Catalogue*.

7549

\$300

Announcing John Henry Nash's *Magnum Opus*

Dante, Alighieri

[John Henry Nash] THIS BOOK ANNOUNCES THE PUBLICATION IN FOUR FOLIO VOLUMES OF THE COMEDY OF DANTE ALIGHIERI OF FLORENCE, COMMONLY CALLED THE DIVINE COMEDY. . . . (Prospectus)

San Francisco: John Henry Nash, 1929.

Folio. [16] pp. Prospectus. As issued, in marbled cloth over thin boards; printed paper label on the spine. Quite a nice copy of this prospectus with sample page openings of each of the four volumes. This copy with publisher issued subscriber information and copy number on a slip pasted to the front pastedown. This announcement was issued in two forms, marbled cloth over thin boards and marbled paper over heavier boards.

O'Day writes of Nash's Dante, "This is the *magnum opus* of John Henry Nash. Started in 1923, it was six years in the making. Entirely handset, and printed two pages at a time, it was a great undertaking brought to a brilliant conclusion in 1929. It is a work that takes its place with the finest examples of modern printing, such as the Kilmessy Chaucer and the Doves Press Bible" (O'Day *Catalogue* p. 65). Even the announcement in book form is uncommon.

7598

\$200