

Book Traces

When is a marked copy
preferable to a clean copy?



age and passion-gone
ed wife and home-sure;
big victor-breath
afraid of death;

he two daughters of gray dawn,
and mother's and peer-drink's loves,
ova and high glory-loves
dower and every-loves,

or all that God and man
sure make of plea,
on for spiky love
on and apple green;

ds and the whole were round
a large life composed,
e God and God's love with
e Magdon and Ruth,

our eyes and men complete
ly-ovous and earthly-ovous,
but God made you mine,
e-ovous; 'tis then ye shine!
, 1874.

THE SYMPHONY

O Trade! would thou wert dead
sals heart—his tired of lead;
low," the violin said,
all the rigorous tale
in and box for beds?



LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA



FROM THE BOOKS OF THE
FAMILY OF 'BULLFIELD',
COUNTY, AND THE UNIV
OF VIRGINIA.

Reasons for Collaboration

- EAST exists to preserve print monographs in support of scholarship, research, and teaching

Reasons for Collaboration

- EAST exists to preserve print monographs in support of scholarship, research, and teaching
- **As a shared print consortium, EAST has an interest in determining which copy of a particular title should be retained**

Reasons for Collaboration

- EAST exists to preserve print monographs in support of scholarship, research, and teaching
- As a shared print consortium, EAST has an interest in determining which copy of a particular title should be retained
- **Traditionally, clean copies are preferred as the retained copy of record**

Reasons for Collaboration

- EAST exists to preserve print monographs in support of scholarship, research, and teaching
- As a shared print consortium, EAST has an interest in determining which copy of a particular title should be retained
- Traditionally, clean copies are preferred as the retained copy of record
- **However, that assumption could lead to the discarding of copies with unique artifactual qualities**

Reasons for Collaboration

- EAST exists to preserve print monographs in support of scholarship, research, and teaching
- As a shared print consortium, EAST has an interest in determining which copy of a particular title should be retained
- Traditionally, clean copies are preferred as the retained copy of record.
- However, that assumption could lead to the discarding of copies in the circulating collections with unique artifactual qualities
- **The Book Traces project focuses on discovering, describing, and preserving marked copies with historical and scholarly value**

Scope of the project

Our focus has been on owner marks in pre-1923 monographs in open-stack, circulating collections

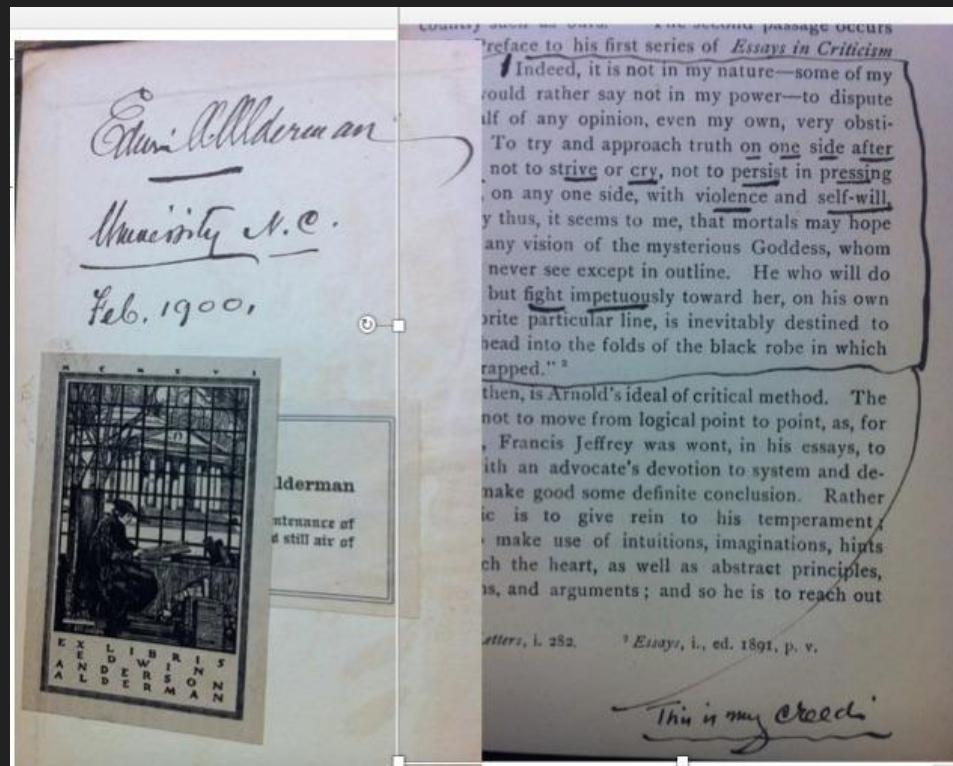
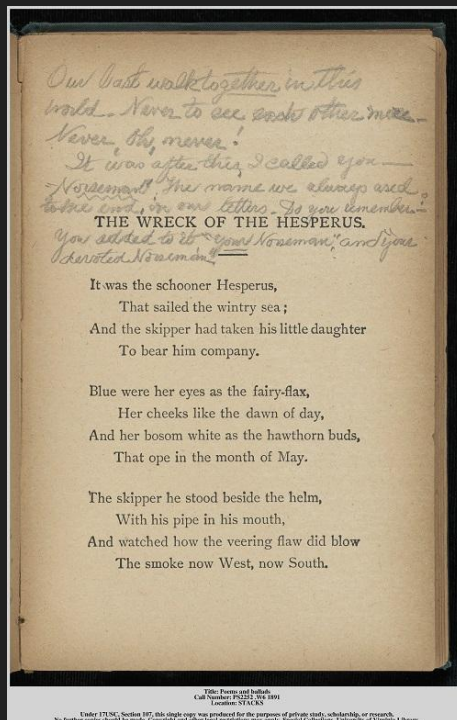
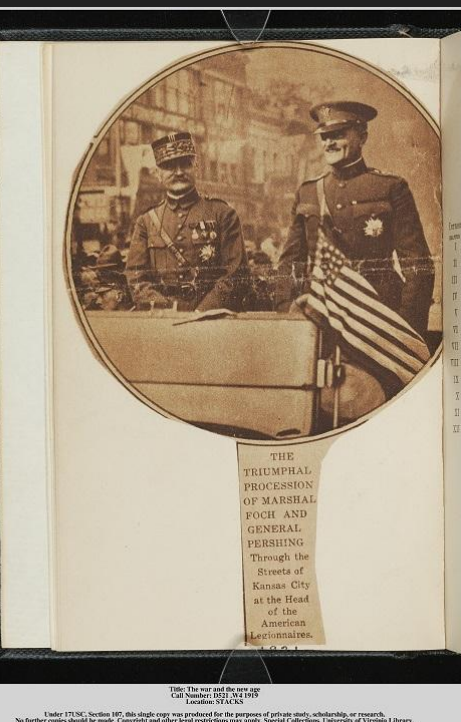
- Most of these books came to libraries as donations (before WWII)
- They are likely to have digital surrogates (out of copyright)

Not every mark is equally valuable, and institutions need to set their own criteria

Goals of the Book Traces project

- **Identification and preservation of unique artifacts and historical evidence**

Unique artifacts and historical evidence



Unique artifacts and historical evidence



Unique artifacts and historical evidence



MX 000 027 697

106

BURNS'S POEMS.

Then all I want, (O, do thou grant
This one request of mine!)
Since to enjoy thou dost deny,
Assist me to resign.

September 26th 1853: On the departure
of Mother — *quite a prop*
DESPONDENCY. — *quite a prop*
AN ODE.

I.

OPPRESS'd with grief, oppress'd with care,
A burden more than I can bear,
I sit me down and sigh;
O life, thou art a galling load,
A long, a rough, a weary road,
To wretches such as I!
Dim, backward as I cast my view,
What sick'ning scenes appear!
What sorrows yet may pierce me thro',
Too justly I may fear!
Still caring, despairing,
Must be my bitter doom;
My woes here shall close never

Goals of the Book Traces project

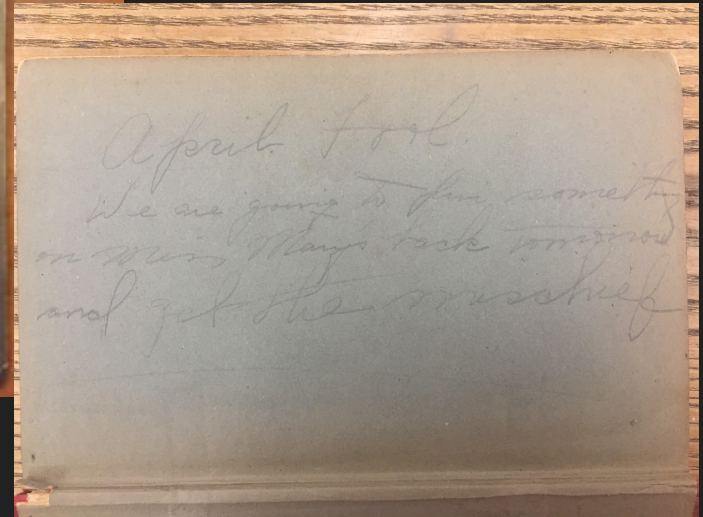
- Identification and preservation of unique artifacts and historical evidence
- **Recovery of local and institutional history**

Local and institutional history

- Donated books contain a “shadow archive” of the institution and of local history
- Marginalia can be reunited with archives to form a more complete picture



Davis sisters (faculty children) and the April Fool's note they wrote in a shared textbook



Goals of the Book Traces project

- Identification and preservation of unique artifacts and historical evidence
- Recovery of local and institutional history
- **Window onto print collection condition**

Goals of the Book Traces project

- Identification and preservation of unique artifacts and historical evidence
- Recovery of local and institutional history
- Window onto print collection condition
- **Involvement of students and faculty with the print collections**

Pedagogical engagement



- **Students love the “treasure hunt” and contributing to original research**

A Texas A&M student says it all . . .



Book Traces “archaeology in the stacks” host institutions:

Columbia University
University of Miami
Lehigh University
University of Nebraska
University of Iowa
College of the Holy Cross
University of Nevada-Las Vegas
Millsaps College
University of Louisville
University of South Carolina
University of Georgia
University of Victoria
Texas A&M
Arizona State University

Pedagogical engagement



- Students love the “treasure hunt” and contributing to original research
- **Some have written deep-dive blog posts on books that caught their interest, drawing historical context from Special Collections**

One of many blog posts by students

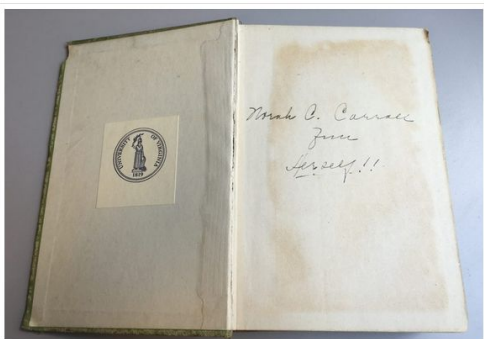
Posted on [March 31, 2017](#) by [ivs6bt](#)

[← Previous](#) [Next →](#)

Book Find: To Norah C. Carroll, From Herself!!

While assessing the latest delivery of books from the Ivy Stacks Storage Facility, I very nearly missed the first Book Find that made me laugh out loud. On the flyleaf of a 1919 copy of *Burned Bridges* by Bertrand W. Sinclair was what appeared, at first glance, to be a classic early twentieth century gift inscription but ended up being much more humorous.

The book's apparent owner wrote her name, "Norah C. Carroll," in neat cursive centered on the page, with a predictable "from" underneath. But then, at a jaunty angle with a quickly scrawled underline and two exclamation points, the gift giver is revealed to be "Herself!!!"



Go to

<http://booktraces.library.virginia.edu>

and choose “Book Finds” category to see more

Pedagogical engagement



- Students love the “treasure hunt” and contributing to original research
- Some have written deep-dive blog posts on books that caught their interest, drawing archival context from Special Collections
- **Book Traces surveying can be a class project or a highly-desirable student job**

Book Traces student workers

Hiring for Book Traces project assistantships has been highly competitive



Pedagogical engagement

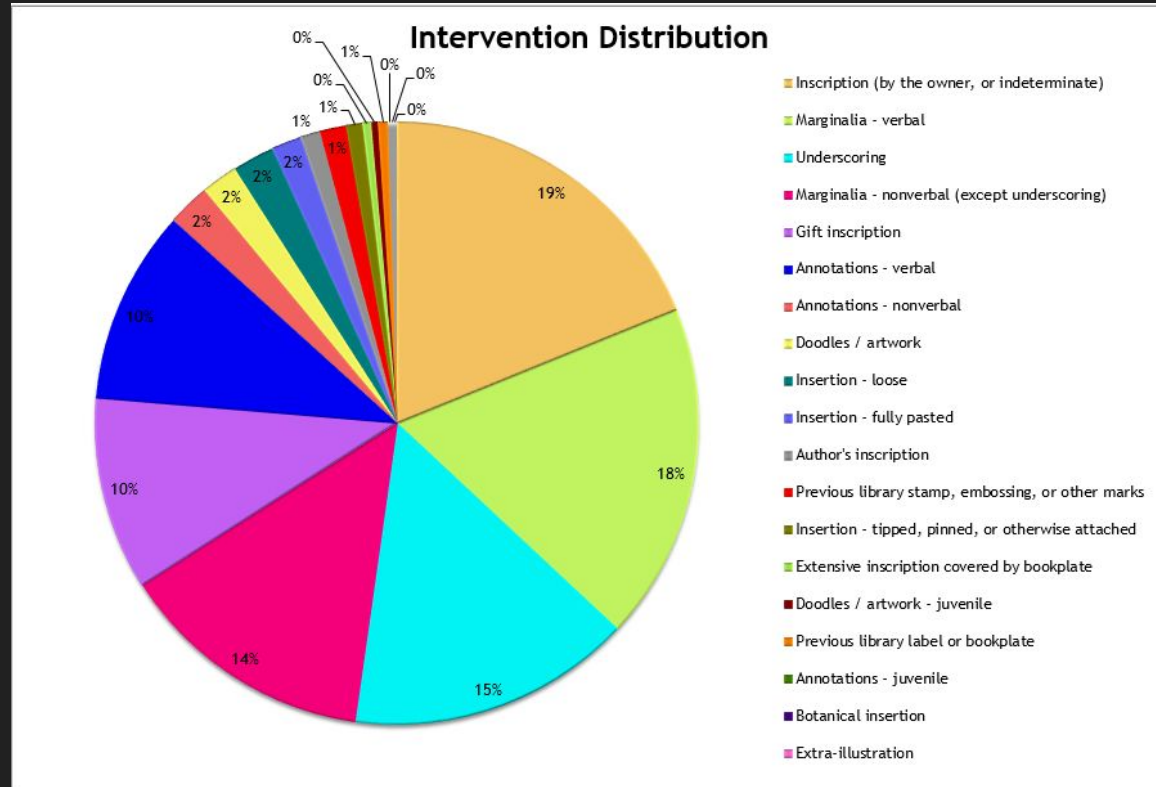


- Students love the “treasure hunt” and contributing to original research
- Some wrote deep-dive blog posts on books that caught their interest, drawing archival context from Special Collections
- Book Traces surveying can be a class project or a highly desirable student job
- **We have launched student workers into library school, LitHub, and research projects**

Findings at UVA: CLIR grant project (2015-2017)

- **One in eight** pre-1923 books (12.5%) **in the circulating collection** contain marginalia meeting our threshold for description (~115,000 books examined)

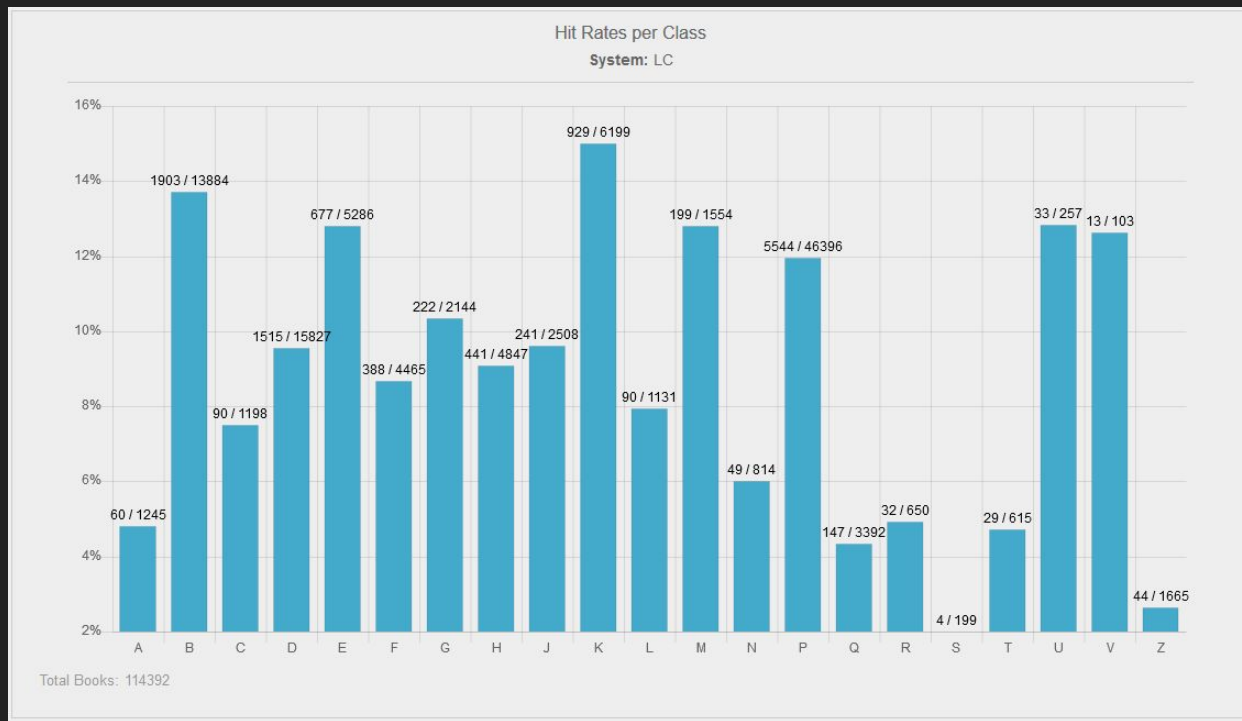
Marginalia and other interventions found at UVA



Findings at UVA: CLIR grant project (2015-2017)

- **One in eight** pre-1923 books (12.5%) **in the circulating collection** contain marginalia meeting our threshold for description (~115,000 books examined)
- The rate is higher in some subject areas than others

Hit rates by Library of Congress class at UVA



Findings at UVA: CLIR grant project (2015-2017)

- **One in eight** pre-1923 books (12.5%) **in the circulating collection** contain marginalia meeting our threshold for description (~115,000 books examined)
- The rate is higher in some subject areas than others
- High hit rates found in these Library of Congress classes:
 - B (Philosophy. Psychology. Religion)
 - E (History of the Americas)
 - P (Language and Literature)

That's where you come in

- EAST libraries operate within a shared-print collective

That's where you come in

- EAST libraries operate within a shared-print collective
- Sara Amato has identified EAST Libraries with high populations of pre-1923 imprints in the B, E, and P call number ranges

That's where you come in

- EAST libraries operate within a shared-print collective
- Sara Amato has identified EAST Libraries with high populations of pre-1923 imprints in the B, E, and P call number ranges
- EAST Libraries have strong interests in student engagement

That's where you come in

- EAST libraries operate within a shared-print collective
- Sara Amato has identified EAST Libraries with high populations of pre-1923 imprints in the B, E, and P call number ranges
- EAST Libraries have strong interests in student engagement
- The Mellon Foundation has encouraged a proposal from Book Traces to address its goals in a collaborative, multi-institutional framework

Possibilities for EAST Libraries partnership

- Take samples from collections for comparison with data from UVA
 - Collections in **open stacks, on site**, are easiest to work with

Possibilities for EAST Libraries partnership

- Take samples from collections for comparison with data from UVA
 - Collections in **open stacks, on site**, are easiest to work with
- Invite Book Traces to your campus for an engagement event, involving students, faculty, and librarians in the search for unique artifacts

Possibilities for EAST Libraries partnership

- Take samples from collections for comparison with data from UVA
 - Collections in **open stacks, on site**, are easiest to work with
- Invite Book Traces to your campus for an engagement event, involving students, faculty, and librarians in the search for unique artifacts
- Collaborate on a shared descriptive protocol and copy-level data model

Possibilities for EAST Libraries partnership

- Take samples from collections for comparison with data from UVA
 - Collections in **open stacks, on site**, are easiest to work with
- Invite Book Traces to your campus for an engagement event, involving students, faculty, and librarians in the search for unique artifacts
- Collaborate on a shared descriptive protocol and copy-level data model
- Help us take this initiative to a national level (via Mellon grant collaboration)

Questions and comments?

Andrew Stauffer, Department of English, Univ. of Virginia

ams4k@virginia.edu

Kara McClurken, Director of Preservation Services, Univ. of Virginia Library

kmm6ef@virginia.edu

Kristin Jensen, Project Manager, Book Traces, Univ. of Virginia Library

khj5c@virginia.edu

<http://booktraces.org> and <http://booktraces.library.virginia.edu>

