

The World Incribed: A Collection of Travel Books and Guides, 1788-2006

Essay

Thy Book's an Ark which all the World contains.

--from Edward Heylyn, "To my
Brother the Author," in Peter
Heylyn, *Cosmographia* (1652)

I am not a former sea captain, nor is anyone in my family a former sea captain. I do not cling to the romanticized vestiges of an empire eclipsed and gone. I am not an independently wealthy book buyer seeking deluxe engravings, nor do I yearn for the prestige of owning a five-figure anthology of voyage narratives. I am not even that well traveled a traveler. But there is something about travel books, something perhaps inexplicable, which draws me in and urges me to collect. I find them interesting as books that have physically traveled themselves; as texts composed beyond the comforts of home and the convenience of the writing desk; as records of fleeting impressions and mobile experiences half-gathered and imperfectly recalled from memory. I find them interesting as exacting collections of information frozen in time; as curious guides to admission fees, transportation schedules, and dining options over a hundred years obsolete; as physical repositories of ephemera gathered by chance and surviving intact between pages left long unturned. I find travel books interesting, above all, as windows into the rich social fabric of human history on the move, as the textual detritus of people crossing and re-crossing global spaces over the millennia.

I really love early travel narratives, the texts written in the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries before the "travelogue" became codified as a genre, before travel became institutionalized and commodified as the rather banal "tour" and "vacation." Yet without

access to ample stores of money, as I found out, collecting early travel books is nearly impossible. For one, these books do not survive in great numbers. *The Book of Sir John Mandeville*, that mendacious and largely plagiarized account of Acephali, Cynocephali, and other far-flung monsters, was printed seventeen times between 1496 and 1696. This was one of the most popular and well-known travel accounts of its day, and yet *only forty total* copies survive of those seventeen editions. It would be rare for more copies to appear on the market ever again. Even the genre's more obscure early specimens are prohibitively expensive. To cite just one example, the fifth most expensive book purchased on AbeBooks in January 2011 was *The Voyages and Travels of John Struys* (1684), which sold for \$8,000. Some of the most high-end book sales of the last twenty years, in fact, have been complete sets of Hakluyt, Purchas, and Captain James Cook.

So I decided to devote my main collecting energies to more affordable time periods. The majority of the books in my collection were published (or handwritten) between 1850 and 1960, a significant period for the history of travel that saw the rise of imperialism and luxury tourism, a marked increase in global mobility, and the inception of the U.S. interstate highway system. These books belong to several interrelated genres and media, which include the guidebook, the prose relation/journal, the pocket atlas, the literary travel narrative, and the geographical description. Of my guidebooks, several were printed in the 1920s and 30s and targeted a readership of luxury and well-to-do travelers, containing ads for hotels, booksellers, and a variety of fine goods attractive to the *Titanic*-era first-class traveler. These volumes also represent some of the earliest and most famous examples of the genre, namely the Blue Guides, Red Guides, and Baedekers.

I have also managed to collect many early travel texts in modern editions, most notably in my MacLehose and Sons reprints of William Lithgow and Fynes Moryson and my Hakluyt Society editions of Richard Madox's diary and Peter Mundy's manuscript journal. These two publishers issued many of the books on my "wish list," such as the two-volume *Crudities* of Thomas Coryate (first published 1611; MacLehose, 1905) and the five-volume *Travels of Ibn Battuta* (Hakluyt Society, 1958-1994). My ultimate dream books, however, would have to be the 1611 *Coryate's Crudities* (or the 1776 reprint) and one of the seventeenth-century editions of George Sandys, *A Relation of a Journey* (first pub. 1615), which, next to Mandeville, was the most popular travel book in seventeenth-century England. I also have a soft spot for books containing manuscript notes, especially those volumes that, like my copies of *Cook's Handbook to London* and the "Thorough Guide" to *The Peak District*, bear the inscribed evidence of readers long dead, and travelers long passed.

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Annotated Bibliography

1. Adams, Rev. John. *The Flowers of Modern Travels; Being Elegant, Entertaining, and Instructive Extracts Selected from the Works of the Most Celebrated Travellers*. Volume Two only. London: Printed for G. Kearsley, 1788.

Contemporary blind-tooled calf binding. Title page inscription of Richard Wilson, dated September 22, 1798. Half-title lists a price of “six shillings sewed.” As with many eighteenth-century anthologies of voyages and travels, this volume presents only the “flowers” (i.e. the best and “sweetest” passages) from the original narratives, meaning the texts are heavily abridged. Includes work by Samuel Johnson, Joseph Addison, Algernon Charles Swinburne, Lady Mary Wortley Montagu, and others.

2. Anonymous. Manuscript journal of travels in the American South and Midwest (1876, 1880-81), written in three copies of *Pierce’s Memorandum and Account Book* (1872 and 1875) and one copy of *Kiefer’s Memorandum Book* (1880), bound together.

R.V. Pierce, M.D. (Buffalo, NY) and the “wholesale druggist” A. Kiefer (Indianapolis) marketed these memoranda books to “farmers, mechanics, and all people,” primarily as a way to convey large amounts of medical advertising to potential customers. Just about every other page in these books of blank paper contains lengthy medical/pharmaceutical advertisements and testimonials: “20 years a sufferer—cured by the golden medical discovery”; “A Drop of Joy in Every Word”; “Dr. Pierce’s compound extract of smart-weed or water pepper.” Someone traveling through Arkansas, Kentucky, and Illinois in the 1870s and 80s penciled a basic road itinerary on the book’s blank pages. A typical entry: “Saturday June 3rd 1876 high water started at noon passed Libertyville traveled long ridge camped after night in low bottom.”

3. Anonymous. *Motoring Log*. United States, ca. 1950s-60s, with manuscript itinerary of a roundtrip automobile journey from Southbridge, MA to Seattle, WA (July 28-September 2).

Oblong book with wire-ring binding. Left-hand page divided into columns for date, (place) from, (place) to, time (start and finish), miles on speedometer (start and finish); right-hand page similarly divided into route numbers, gasoline (gallons and cost), expenses, and comments. The anonymous traveler kept careful manuscript records under each of these categories. Expenses include details of tolls, fuel, food (“lousy” dinner in McCook, NE, but a “swanky” one in Denver), and accommodation (the \$10 motel in Cambridge, OH deemed “o.k.—slightly noisy”). The “comments” usually contain notes about the weather, records of meals, and brief descriptions of activities. A few examples follow. July 31: “met man from Mass. on way to Las Vegas!!! Took pictures of Miss.[issippi River]. Time change—thank goodness!”; August 4: “Indian ceremonial dance—colorful”; August 30 [in Chicago]: “Planetarium & Chinatown, Midnight Ice Show.”

4. *Appleton's Standard Elementary Geography*. New York: American Book Company, 1896.

Standard late nineteenth-century geography textbook for American elementary school students. The book has seen heavy use by children and bears the stamp of the Hatboro School District of Hatboro, PA. Lydia Wheatland has inscribed her name on the upper cover, and she may have been the primary owner of the book. The pastedowns and title page bear several layers of inscriptions and scribbling, including the names Morris Leope and Howard Carver. The book is divided geographically by Continent and/or region, and each division contains various “lessons,” full-color maps, plentiful illustrative engravings, and a range of questions and exercises. A title-page epigraph seems to convey the book’s pedagogical philosophy: “perceptive knowledge should be made the basis of primary instruction. Objects should precede names.”

5. Baddeley, M.J.B. *The Peak District of Derbyshire and Neighbouring Counties*. Sixth Edition. Thorough Guide Series. London: Dulau & Co., 1894.

Red cloth binding, title in gilt on upper cover and spine. Colored maps, several folding. The guidebook’s “Introduction,” which offers the reader a “definition of the Peak District,” is rather curious:

“Can you tell me which is the Peak?” asked a gentleman whom we once found surveying with an unsatisfied expression of countenance the prospect from the Ordnance cairn on Axe Edge. “With pleasure....” we began. [Baddeley proceeds to differentiate “the Peak” from “the Cop,” “hills,” and “the little pimple which forms the summit of Win Hill”] ... The above remarks will, we hope, prevent tourists from sharing the perplexity of the gentleman whom we met on Axe Edge.

A former owner cut out several of the advertisements at the back of the volume and, using the clipped pages as stubs, pasted in blank leaves for annotation; these leaves are filled with manuscript notes detailing several “excursions” conducted in 1896. A flower, fully preserved and presumably collected during one of these excursions, is laid in between two pages of advertisements. An amusing (yet helpful) “nota bene” accompanies the “Map Index”: “All the country public-houses on these maps are marked as ‘Inns’, but the tourist should consult the body of the book before jumping at the conclusion that anything more than road-side refreshment can be obtained at them.”

6. Baedeker, Karl. *Baedeker's Great Britain*. London: T. Fisher Unwin, 1910.

Red cloth binding, title in gilt on upper cover and spine, marbled edges. Colored maps, several folding. Written by James F. Muirhead (co-author/editor of the famous “Blue Guides”/ “Guides Bleu” and also a translator of Baedeker handbooks into English), this volume from the classic series of travel guidebooks is packed with information about the British Isles. The guide begins in London and covers the rest of Britain via itineraries to or from the metropolis. Evidently these guidebooks were so popular that the editors saw a perceived need to warn readers against imposter booksellers: “Hotel Keepers are also warned against persons representing themselves as agents for Baedeker’s Handbooks.”

7. *Boston Illustrated*. Boston: James R. Osgood & Co, 1872.

Electrotyped and printed in Cambridge, MA by Welch, Bigelow & Co. Not intended as a traditional guidebook, *Boston Illustrated* purports “to describe permanent objects of interest only,” i.e. buildings, monuments, and the like. Almost every page of this small magazine bears an engraved illustration, and there are several maps. Includes a forty-page section of ads, marketing everything from watches and silks to sewing machines and “fancy goods.” There are several ads for booksellers, printers, engravers, and stationers, including one for the publisher of *Boston Illustrated*, James Osgood & Company; the ad showcases the works of Dickens, Scott, Tennyson, and Longfellow.

8. Boyd, James. *Wonders in the Two Americas; Around the Ice-Bound Poles; Over the Lands of the Midnight Sun*. Philadelphia: H.L. Warren, 1886.

Salesman’s sample copy. Green cloth binding with plain spine, decorated covers depicting famous landmarks from different regions of the world. Affixed to front pastedown are two binding samples, one goatskin leather with gilt designs, the other decorated maroon cloth. Contains less than half of the complete text of the book advertised for sale. The rear of the volume contains a ledger and large-print advertisement, probably intended for the salesman to read aloud. The ledger’s entries list names of (presumable) customers and a preference for “plain” or “gilt edge[s].” The text presents “thrilling adventures” of “travelers, pioneers, and explorers” such as Burton, Livingstone, and Stanley, and is divided into three sections—“The Ice Bound Pole,” “Lands of the Midnight Sun,” and “The Dark Continent.”

9. Bryson, Bill. *Notes from a Small Island: An Affectionate Portrait of Britain*. New York: William Morrow, 1996.

First American edition, signed by the author. One of Bryson’s first and best known travelogues, chronicling the experiences of an American in Britain. Filled with amusing relations of social practices, personal anecdotes, and cultural perspectives. Bryson lived in London for twenty years before moving back to the United States in the 1990s. He has since moved back to England and now lives in Norfolk. I’m a fan of his travel writing, and also own *A Walk in the Woods*, *In the Sunburnt Country*, *I’m a Stranger Here Myself*, and *Neither Here nor There*.

10. Cobbett, William. *Rural Rides*. Two volumes. London: Reeves and Turner, 1908.

Decorated green-cloth binding, with beautiful gilt tree branches extending from spine to upper cover. First published in 1830, these journals chronicle a rural journey through the Midland and Southeastern counties of England, and supplement the author’s research into the problems facing its workers and farmers. *Rural Rides* is one of the most extensive and well-known accounts of English domestic travel. It was first published in serial form.

11. Cook, Thomas. *Cook's Handbook to London*. London: Thomas Cook and Son, 1923.

Early twentieth-century London guidebook, published by Thomas Cook (1808-1892), a travel agent who began his career touring the South Midlands as a missionary. Contains photographs and maps, several folding. Manuscript underlining and annotations (presumably by a tourist) mark the “Wolsey Kitchens” and Haunted Gallery at Hampton Court, dozens of paintings in the National Gallery, a “bust of Marcus Aurelius” in the Wallace Collection, the monuments of American presidents, and service times at St. Paul’s. Pen-marked items in the index probably identify sights visited. Wonderful advertisements.

12. Crockett, Albert S. *Ocean Records: A Pocket Handbook for Travelers*. Second Edition. New York: World Traveler Publishing, 1921.

This pamphlet offers practical advice to people traveling from New York to Europe via transatlantic steamship. As a post-*Titanic* guidebook, *Ocean Records* takes special care to include a reassuring treatment of icebergs, and even omits mention of the 1912 disaster in a section devoted to “Historical Steamships.” Associated with *World Traveler* magazine, which an advertisement at the end of the pamphlet describes as “a live, ‘human interest’, travel magazine with a mission ... its aims are educational and patriotic and in the direction of international understandings and worldwide peace.” Contains a blank journal for records and notes, left unused.

13. Duguid, Julian. *Green Hell: Adventures in the World's Largest Forest*. London: Pan Books, 1956.

First published London: Jonathan Cape, 1931. Paperback, with cover image of a man spear-hunting a jaguar. Pan Books, a mass-market publisher of paperbacks in Britain founded in 1944, issued a “true adventure” series, which included *Green Hell* and titles such as Harrer’s *Seven Years in Tibet*, Diolé’s *The Undersea Adventure*, and several war memoirs. Pan was one of Penguin’s major competitors in the mid-twentieth-century British paperback trade. In the foreword Duguid describes the “two roads of equal peril lie [that] open to the chronicler of travel. He may describe with tedious detail each moment of his trip and quote long passages from his diary in support of his contentions. Or, artistically, he may select this incident and that, seeking to weld his experiences into a harmonious whole. In either case he is doomed, for if he adopt the former he will send his audience to sleep; if the latter, he will do himself an injustice ...”

14. Fiennes, Celia. *The Journeys of Celia Fiennes*. Ed. Christopher Morris. London: Cresset Press, 1947.

Standard edition of Fiennes’s manuscript travelogue, recounting her journeys through England from 1685-1703. In the preface Fiennes identifies her family as the primary audience for her narratives, although Morris suspects she may have had a larger readership in mind. Her motivations for travel were medicinal, and she spent a significant amount of time at English countryside spas. Her journals are written from the perspective of the leisured tourist, and as such shine a sidelight on the development of English domestic tourism in the

late seventeenth century. The dust jacket advertises books from “The Cresset Library,” including *Moby Dick*, *The Life of George Crabbe*, *The Marvellous Travels of Baron Münchhausen*, and *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*.

15. *H.M. Stanley's Wonderful Adventures in Africa*. Washington D.C.: Excelsior Publishing, 1890.

Decorated cloth binding. Large pencil inscription scrawled on front endpaper, “To Carol from Grandma.” “Richly Illustrated” with engraved plates (some colored) of Stanley’s experiences in the African interior. Also includes a full-color folding map of Equatorial Africa, showing his “discovered” territory. Published in the same year that Joseph Conrad set out for the Congo River, this book is one of many late nineteenth-century editions and versions of Stanley’s travels in Africa intended for British and American readers. Most of these editions feature extensive illustrations and decorated cloth bindings. This particular copy was likely given as a holiday or birthday present.

16. Hakluyt, Richard. *The Principal Navigations, Voyages, Traffiques & Discoveries of the English Nation*. Ten Volumes [missing v. 5]. London and Toronto: J.M. Dent, 1927.

Green cloth binding, gilt design on upper cover. Ex-library, with canceled bookplate of the Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario Public Library. Reproduces the ten-volume edition published in Edinburgh by MacLehose and Sons, 1904. *The Principal Navigations* is the earliest printed anthology of English voyage writing and has been called “England’s great prose epic.” It was compiled, edited, and published by the geographer Richard Hakluyt, who issued impressive folio editions of the work in 1589 and 1600. The book contains accounts (some censored, abridged, or reworked from manuscript sources) written by English overseas travelers from the early Middle Ages to the late sixteenth century. The Dent edition features dozens of illustrations and figures (not present in the original version), most of which depict images and maps from contemporary sources.

17. Hartwig, Georg. *The Polar and Tropical Worlds*. Philadelphia: H.C. Johnson, 1873.

Decorated green cloth binding, with gilt design on upper cover. Originally issued separately as *The Polar World* and *The Tropical World*, this extensively illustrated book of over 700 pages presents “a description of man and nature in the polar and equatorial regions of the globe.” The book comprises topographic and natural historic description, and contains numerous accounts and engravings of exotic or dangerous animals. Hartwig also describes the human inhabitants of these lands, and sometimes paraphrases the work of travelers and explorers. As the author of books entitled *The Sea and its Living Wonders* and *The Harmonies of Nature*, Hartwig’s interests lie primarily in the natural world; relevant sections include “Fascination by Snakes,” “The Sloth: Pitiful Description given of Him,” and “Monkeys: Good Climbers, but bad Walkers.”

18. Kinglake, Alexander William. *Eōthen; or, Traces of Travel Brought Home from the East*. London: Adam, Stevenson and Company, 1871.

Decorated blue-cloth binding. Gift inscription: "Presented to Alta McCormick Second in the Junior third class. S.S. No 3 Percy Dec 21st 1877." Signed "Wm: Beattie Teacher." An amusing (but thoroughly Orientalist) relation of the author's travels through Turkey and the Middle East in 1834-35, *Eōthen* comprises largely impressionistic personal observations, much in the style of Sterne's *Sentimental Journey*. Kinglake is better known for his multi-volume history *The Invasion of Crimea* (1863-1887), but *Eōthen* (first published 1844) was a popular work in its own right. As the book opens the author straddles a geographical threshold between Europe and the Middle East: "At Semlin I still was encompassed by the scenes, and the sounds of familiar life; the din of a busy world still vexed and cheered me; the unveiled faces of women still shone in the light of day. Yet, whenever I chose to look southward, I saw the Ottoman's fortress—austere, and darkly impending over the vale of the Danube—historic Belgrade. I had come, as it were, to the end of this wheel-going Europe, and now my eyes would see the Splendor and Havoc of the East."

19. Lepsius, Karl Richard. *Letters from Egypt, Ethiopia, and the Peninsula of Sinai*. London: Henry G. Bohn, 1853.

Decorated cloth binding. Two folding maps, of Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula. Book label of Byron Gracy, Tufts College on front pastedown. Karl Richard Lepsius (1810-1884) led a scientific expedition to Egypt from 1842-45, resulting in his twelve-volume *Denkmäler aus Aegypten und Aethiopien* ("Monuments from Egypt and Ethiopia"); the book would launch his distinguished career in Egyptology. He also wrote a book of letters, printed here, that includes a more general account of his expedition and travels. An 1853 review in *The Gentleman's Magazine* describes the letters as "replete with life and spirit." The volume forms part of "Bohn's Antiquarian Library," the catalog of which is listed on the rear pastedown (all books sold for 5s).

20. Lithgow, William. *The Totall Discourse of the Rare Adventures & Painefull Peregrinations of Long Nineteene Yeares Travayles from Scotland to the Most Famous Kingdomes in Europe, Asia, and Affrica*. Glasgow: James MacLehose and Sons, 1906.

Red cloth binding, gilt design on upper cover. Illustrated. Lithgow's fiery personality is on full display in his writing, especially in passages excoriating Catholics and Spaniards; in fact, he revised the book (printed in three editions) to become increasingly anti-Catholic over his lifetime. The prose relation is descriptive and anecdotal, while frequently shifting into bouts of impassioned doggerel verse. Almost all of the book's illustrations (typical English woodcuts of the period) depict the author in various costumes and/or states of undress, the latter when Lithgow was a prisoner in a Spanish prison at Malaga.

21. Madox, Richard. *An Elizabethan in 1582: The Diary of Richard Madox Fellow of All Souls*. Ed. Elizabeth Story Donno. London: Hakluyt Society, 1976.

Far and away my favorite early modern travel journal. Richard Madox served as chaplain on the ill-fated expedition of Captain Edward Fenton (1582-83), and kept the official record of the voyage for the English government. He also wrote a strikingly candid private diary (edited here) critical of the voyage's problems and its incompetent captain. Resorting to extreme secrecy once it became apparent Fenton was reading this private diary, Madox began disguising his frank and sardonic criticism of the voyage by writing in Latin, Greek, and a clever cipher—languages only he could read. Perhaps as an outlet for his unvented disaffection, Madox devised an elaborate “plot” for a fake Roman comedy, the characters' names being satiric references to the company's principal members.

22. Map of *Vacationlands of the United States and Southern Canada*. Washington, DC: National Geographic Society, 1966.

“Sunny skies and the open road beckon more and more millions each year to vacationlands all across the North American Continent.” Thus begins the introduction to this mid-1960s tourist map, originally an insert in an issue of *National Geographic Magazine*. The description continues with an imaginative journey across the map: “whether you join this army of travelers in fact or only in fancy, you will welcome the unique guide now in your hands ... Unfold it and your imagination takes wing, whisking you to the Grand Canyon at sunrise ... Let your gaze wander across the map from Walt Disney's land of make-believe to stately Mount Vernon on the Potomac.” Includes a comprehensive index and a guide to recreational camping. Part of a lot of *National Geographic* maps I bought a few years ago.

23. McCarthy, Cormac. *The Road*. New York: Alfred Knopf, 2006.

First edition. The recent Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is the haunting tale of a post-apocalyptic American road-trip. It follows characters known only as the “man” and “boy” as they travel through a world of cannibal road-agents and unrelenting hunger. Bears the Chip Kidd-designed original dust jacket—minimalist and creepy. An important text in the long tradition of American “road” novels.

24. Montaigne, Michel de. *The Diary of Montaigne's Journey to Italy in 1580 and 1581*. Trans. E.J. Trechmann. London: by Leonard and Virginia Woolf at the Hogarth Press, 1929.

Green cloth binding. Montaigne journeyed to Italy in 1580 with his brother, brother-and-law, and ten other travelers, chiefly to view the antiquities of Ancient Rome. Written in both French and Italian, the account was partially penned by Montaigne's secretary, and survives in a manuscript accidentally discovered around the end of the eighteenth century. The narrative records detailed descriptions of the religion, people, and politics of early modern Europe, while also offering a rich social history of late sixteenth-century travel. Of obvious interest for the Hogarth Press connection as well.

25. Morley, Frank. *The Great North Road: A Journey in History*. New York: Macmillan, 1961.

Red cloth binding, no dust-jacket. First Edition. Morley begins his “journey in history” in post-WWII London, where he describes a city irrevocably transformed by war. Moving northwards in space and backwards in time, the narrative proceeds to offer an engaging history of England’s “Great North Road” (now the A1) stretching from London to Scotland. Although not the most important transportation route for the Romans or the English, the “Great North Road” as envisioned by Morley becomes a fascinating historical artifact and embodiment of England’s rich social life and culture.

26. Moryson, Fynes. *An Itinerary Containing his Ten Yeeres Travell through the Twelve Dominions of Germany, Bohmerland, Sweitzerland, Netherland, Denmarke, Poland, Italy, Turky, France, England, Scotland & Ireland*. Four volumes. Glasgow: James MacLehose and Sons, 1907.

Red cloth binding, gilt design on upper cover. Woodcut maps of European cities, folding plates depicting original half-title and title pages. Moryson’s prose is descriptive and detailed, providing specific data about his European tour including prices paid for food, lodging, and transport. Moryson occasionally relates a personal anecdote: He describes a dream about the death of his father, for instance, that he incidentally dreamt on the actual day of his father’s death. Moryson secured a royal patent for the publication of his book, the seal of which is prominently displayed at the front of the volume.

27. Muirhead, Findlay. *Muirhead’s London and its Environs*. Second edition. London: Macmillan, 1922.

Blue cloth binding. Colored maps, several folding. After acquiring rights to the long-running series of “Murray’s Guidebooks” (begun in 1836) in 1915, the Muirhead brothers James and Findlay began their own set of pocket-sized “Blue Guides” for travelers. A deal struck in 1917 with Hachette Publishing in Paris established the parallel series of “Guides Bleu” for the French-speaking market. Contains a separate “Appendix” on “cars, omnibuses, tramways, and underground railways” at the rear of the volume, with instructions on how to detach it from the main book by cutting a “coloured connecting thread.” Contemporary advertising bookmark for “Eagle Star & British Dominions Insurance Company,” with details about their comprehensive “All-In Policy,” laid in.

28. Mundy, Peter. *The Travels of Peter Mundy in Europe and Asia, 1608-1667*. Ed. Richard Carnac Temple. Five volumes. Nendeln, Liechtenstein: Kraus Reprint, 1967 (orig. pub. London: Hakluyt Society, 1907-1936)

Only modern edition of a massive manuscript travel journal, entitled *Itinerarium Mundii*, kept by the Cornish merchant Peter Mundy from 1608-67. The book is at once a record of travel experiences and the detailed account of a life. During his long career Mundy traveled extensively in India, Southeast Asia, China, Russia, Western Europe, and the Middle East. He adorned his book with hundreds of hand-drawn illustrations, primarily depicting social life and natural history, and addressed it to his family and friends, who were possibly meant

to read the book in close consultation with his private library. It contains important early accounts of English trade in the Far East and details early English encounters with China. The original manuscript in the Bodleian Library includes tipped-in printed maps hand-rubricated to show Mundy's accomplished and intended itineraries.

29. Philip, George. *Handy Volume Atlas of the World*. Eighteenth edition. London: George Philip & Son, 1932.

Red cloth binding decorated with vine work in black. Book stamp decorated by an ornamental border enclosing a white space, with inscription of Gregory Roscow. Contains dozens of full-color maps, the world maps emphasizing British colonial possessions. Preface claims the book "has long enjoyed a large measure of popularity as the most complete and accurate Compendium of Geographical information of its size published." Although the volume reflects the latest census figures, Philip opted not to include global economic data from 1930-31; since those years "cover[ed] a period of world-wide economic depression, [the data] did not represent normal conditions of international trade."

30. Stedman, Edmund C. and Thomas L. *The Complete Pocket Guide to Europe*. New York: William R. Jenkins, 1903.

Pencil inscription of J.H. Sheets on front free endpaper. Several maps, some folding. Described in an editorial note as "a real Pocket Guide, so compact as to be carried in a man's coat or hip pocket, or in a woman's dress-pocket or muff." The editors also "believe that the Pocket Guide is as near what it claims to be as editorial diligence can make it." "Chapter on travel" at the beginning of the book offers details about the social history of travel in this period. Lower cover in poor condition, affected by what looks to be a bite mark of some kind.

31. Steinbeck, John. *Travels with Charley: In Search of America*. New York: Viking, 1962.

Third printing of Steinbeck's non-fiction travelogue, recounting a journey he took in 1960 with his poodle Charley. They traveled in "Rocinante," a small truck with a camper-top named after Don Quixote's pitiable horse. Their nearly 10,000-mile itinerary cut across the Northern U.S. from Long Island to Washington, down through California, and back across the country through the South. The author and his dog traveled, as the title suggests, "in search of America." Steinbeck's musings on travel at the beginning of the book are rich and poignant, and deserve to be quoted at length: "When the virus of restlessness begins to take possession of a wayward man, and the road away from Here seems broad and straight and sweet, the victim must first find himself a good and sufficient reason for going. This to the practical bum is not difficult. He has a built-in garden of reasons to choose from ... A trip, a safari, an exploration, is an entity, different from all other journeys. It has personality, temperament, individuality, uniqueness. A journey is a person in itself; no two are alike. And all plans, safeguards, policing, and coercion are fruitless ... we do not take a trip; a trip takes us."

32. Stitt, J. Carlton. *What to Say: A Handbook of Travellers' Phrases in English & French*. Liverpool: Tuner and Dunnnett, n.d. [ca. 1895-1905].

Pocket-sized phrase book intended for English travelers at the turn of the twentieth century. Issued in dozens of editions. Unlike the long line of foreign language phrase books (going back to the Renaissance) that presented readers with hypothetical travel conversations, this book has made “no attempt ... to describe imaginary dialogues.” The section devoted to experiences “in a crowd” offers phrases such as, “Say what you please, but I advise you not to touch me” and “a little air, please, this lady is fainting.”

33. Webbe, Edward. *His Trauailles*. Ed. Edward Arber. Westminster: A. Constable, 1895.

Part of Edward Arber's “English Garner” series, this slim volume reprints an exceedingly rare travel pamphlet first published in 1590: *The Rare and most wonderfull thinges which Edward Webbe an Englishman borne, hath seene and passed in his troublesome travailes*. Having spent over ten years in forced “travaile” as a galley slave and prisoner, Webbe eventually returned to England and wrote this short account, which he dedicated to Queen Elizabeth I with an acrostic. Like several other contemporary travel narratives, this book begins not with the author's travels, but with his birth. While Webbe insists on his book's veracity, the tale strains belief in a section on Prester John's court, where he recounts chained carnivorous “wilde men” and “a Beast ... called Arians, having 4 heades ... in shape like a wilde Cat, and of the height of a great mastie [mastiff] Dog.”

34. Ward, Ebenezer and Lock, George. *A Pictorial and Descriptive Guide to Stratford-upon-Avon*. Sixth Edition. London: Ward, Lock & Co., [1925].

Inscription of Dr. E.E. Anderson on upper cover of red cloth binding. Ticket to the “Inaugural Ceremony of the Interstate Postgraduate Assembly” (a medical conference held in London that year), dated June 2, 1925, laid in. Part of the Ward and Lock series of “red guides” (first published in 1892), one of the more prominent sets of guidebooks designed for British domestic travel. Contains numerous photographs and maps. The guide to “Shakespeare's country” has an advertisement on its lower cover for “The Shakespeare Cafe,” offering “quick dainty service in delightful Old World surroundings.” Filled with wonderful 1920s advertisements.