SHORTHAND:

A collection of books, pamphlets, broadsides and manuscripts from the 17th to the 19th centuries, arranged chronologically.

We offer here a collection of mostly English and American books from three centuries on shorthand, speed writing, spelling reform and universal language. The pursuit of such goals has engaged the philosopher, the merchant, the eccentric, the utopian, and legal mind since Roman times. The published works of the countless authors on the subject exhibit their particular zeal and the exotic and derivative forms they devised, as well as the intrinsic typographical attraction that such works possess, and, particularly in the 19th century, massive libraries were formed by enthusiastic collectors, now placed in a dozen or so institutions on both sides of the Atlantic. In the United States, the major collection is in the New York Public Library, and their catalogue, published in 1935, and cited extensively in our catalogue, is a staggering monument to exhaustive bibliography. Two other bibliographies have proven valuable: John Westby-Gibson’s pioneering *The Bibliography of Shorthand*, London: 1887, and William J. Carlton’s *Bibliotheca Pepysiana... Part IV. Shorthand Books*, London: Sidgwick & Jackson, 1940.

1. SHELTON, Thomas. *Zeiglographia or a new art of Short-Writing*. London: Printed by M. S. And are to be sold at the Author’s house in Bore’s Head Court by Cripple-Gate,1659. 12mo, contemp. ruled calf. Pp. [iv], [56]. Engraved title. A worn & soiled copy, rear board nearly detached, margins of title chipped, some marginal worming and internal staining, lacking endpapers. Complete. $325.

   “A re-issue of the 1654 edition with the same title page except for the alteration of the date to 1659.” – *Bib. Pepysiana* IV, p. 41. Shelton’s work first appeared in 1650, ”an entirely original system” - Westby-Gibson, p. 201-202 (5286)

2. METCALFE, Theophilus. *Short-Writing, the most Easie, Exact, Lineal, and Speedy Method that hath ever been Obtained or Taught. The Last Edition. With a new table for shortening words*. London for John Hancock, 1674. 12mo, later 3/4 calf, marbled boards. Erratic pagination; 20 plates. Without the engraved title and portrait noted in some copies (see below.) Soiling, cropped close; final leaf torn at corner, loss of 3 letters. Lib. blind stamp on title. A good, textually complete copy. $225.

   An early English work, guessed to have first appeared in 1635, and oft reprinted throughout the 17th century, and into the 18th (see No. 7). “The editions, as they were called, were only small numbers

3. STRINGER, Nathaniel. Rich Redivivus or Mr. Jeremiah Rich's Short-Hand Improved. London: PRINTED and are to be sold by Richard Northcott next St. Peeters Alley in Cornhill and att the Marriners and Anchor on fish street hill [1677]. 8vo, contemp, marbled wrappers. 10 (of 12) leaves, unstitched, incl. title and frontis. port., engraved, printed one side only. Some staining from residue of adhesives on blank versos, otherwise very good and full-margined. Lacking two leaves; extremely rare. $ 675.

The first edition, of which there are but three other copies located in ESTC: the British Library and Oxford, All Souls in the UK, and UCLA in the US. See Carlton, Bib. Pepysiana, IV, p. 96, “The only copy known is in the British Library.”; also NYPL, p. 192, speculating on the existence of this ed., but unknown to them. A handsome piece of engraving, with an elaborate architectural title page and fine portrait of Rich. Carleton notes that the plates in later editions are considerably deteriorated. Also notable for including among the prefatory encomia an original poem by Izaak Walton, here first printed. Westby-Gibson, p. 213.; Wing S5796, BL only. (5288)

THE FIRST COMPLETE SHORTHAND BIBLE

4. (Bible.) ADDY, William. [title in shorthand:] The Holy Bible...in Shorthand Written by William Addy. The Bible, engraved by John Sturt. London: printed for the author, and sold by Dorman Newmann, 1687. 12mo, contemporary full crimson polished calf, tooled panel at center, fleurons at corners, with tooled semi-circles at sides, with in narrow ruled border, spine with raised bands, richly gilt compartments, tooled edges, inner gilt dentelles, marbled endpapers, a.e.g. Engraved frontis. port. of William Addy, 3 pictorial engraved titles. Text bordered in red rules throughout. Binding moderately rubbed at extremities, neat early repair to bottom of spine; a very good copy. $ 1,200.

The first complete Bible printed in shorthand; according to Bib. Pepysiana, the second edition. NYPL, p. 417, their Variety B, of three issues. A superior copy in a pretty Restoration binding. With several pages of early ms. shorthand addenda. Bib. Pepysiana IV, p. 107. The Pepysian copy is “in the original red morocco binding, with gilt tooling on the back and sides,” similar to the present copy. (9696)

5. ADDY, William. Stenographia or The Art of Short-writing compleated in a far more Compendious method than any yet extant. London: Printed for ye author. Printed for Aaron Ward at the Kings Arms in Little Britain, where may be had a great variety of other short-hand books, n.d. [After 1724.]. 12mo, stitched, in marbled wrappers. Pictorial title + 15 (of 16?) leaves, entirely engraved. Wrappers worn, moderately soiled; possibly lacking final leaf. $ 575.

Rare edition of Addy’s work, first published in 1684. Not in Wing, NYPL, Westby-Gibson, ESTC or OCLC. The unsigned engraved title leaf shows four putti with plumes in hand writing short hand, while two cherubs above hold the Ten Commandments on drapery. Addy was a follower of Rich, and his work was reprinted a number of times. Includes two encomia in verse by N. H. and C. N. Bib. Pepysiana IV, p. 104: “The only known copy is in P.L.L. (O’Donnell coll.) Aaron Ward published
books from this address between 1724 and 1747.” (9697)


Fifth edition, first published 1707. According to DNB, Mason’s “third and best system.” NYPL, p. 189-190. (5289)


While some earlier editions claim to be the “last” edition, this indeed may be it. But as Lowndes points out “This essay, which is said to have passed through fifty-five editions, had never, in reality, more than one. The editions as they were called, were only small numbers taken from the same plates at different times.” This edition not in NYPL, which lists only four from the book’s long run and has no edition earlier than the eighth. ESTC locates copies at BL and NLS, no copies in US. (9698)

8. WESTON, James. [*First to sixth lesson. Prepositions and terminations, that begin and end long words perplexedly mixt... Observations and explications on the foregoing lessons.*] London, 172?. 8vo, plain blue wrappers. 10 leaves entirely engraved, with some lessons accomplished by a student’s hand. Titled in early manuscript “Weston’s Method of Shorthand.” A little dusty and age-darkened, edges worn but all narrow marginal titles legible. $ 525.

First edition of the earliest surviving of Weston’s work, a bibliographically complex gathering of engraved lesson leaves, issued as here without title. It is thought to have been first offered for sale and circulated by shorthand instructors (including Weston himself), and later included in Weston’s *Stenography Completed,* published in 1727. This copy conforms exactly to the one in NYPL, pp. 194-195; this format not in Westby-Gibson. A reasonable, complete copy of a notable rarity. (5292)


The second edition of Weston’s major work; this copy, as sometimes found, with the author’s autograph note on front free endpaper: “This Book is not to be lent out of your own house, it being sold to you on that condition, by me James Weston. The last leaf shows you how to learn by this work.” The work contains three further sections, each with separate engraved title and fine frontispiece: Directions for Writing Short-Hand; A Dictionary; Observations, and Explications. This was a popular and influential work. Goodspeed’s once catalogued a copy belonging to Nathan Hale. Westby-Gibson, p. 232. (9699)

in gilt with fleurons at corners, central filligree diamond with crowns, raised bands, gilt compartments, tooled edges, inner gilt dentelles; a.e.g. Entirely engraved. Frontis. port. Tips of spine worn, very good. 

$ 500.

First edition, in a pretty binding. NYPL, p. 450; Westby-Gibson, p. 234. (9700)

11. MACAULEY, Auley. *Polygraphy or Short-Hand Made Easy To the Meanest Capacity: Being an Universal Character Fitted to All Languages: Which may be learnt by this Book, without the help of a Master.* London: Printed for the author... November the 30th, 1747. 12mo, contemp. calf, rebacked. vii, 119, entirely engraved. Near fine. 

$ 350.

First edition. Signed by the author for authentication on verso of title. NYPL, p. 96, with a note quoting Lewis that “this system is a gross plagiarism from the manuscript of Dr. John Byrom.” The NYPL entry notes their copy as “Imperfect: coat of arms wanting.” This may be in error, as this copy has no such leaf, nor does the following edition, similarly catalogued. (9701)


$ 350.

“Second edition,” same year as first, although the only alteration seems to be the statement of edition on the title page. Signed by the author for authentication. NYPL, p.196, collating with a coat-of-arms leaf called for, possibly in error, as it is not in any of their copies and not here as well. (See above.) (9702)


$ 475.

A neat and attractive little manuscript. Text in three columns, ruled and numbered in red ink, all within engraved ornamental borders. Watts’ *Psalms and Hymns* was a popular subject for shorthand transcription and the NYPL collection has several comparable examples. (9703)


$ 350.

Second edition, first issue. With a preface attributed to Samuel Johnson, but doubtful. This issue not in NYPL, see pp. 200-201. Courtney & Smith (for Johnson), p.85. (5290)

First ed. NYPL, p. 204; Westby-Gibson, p.147. The inserted leaf, separately printed, is located in ESTC by two copies, at Cambridge and Nat. Lib. Wales. (9704)

16. (BYROM, John.) *The Universal Short-Hand, by which any person, from a few weeks practice, may become able to keep pace with any Public Speaker*. Edinburgh: Printed for Ch. Elliot, 1776. 8vo, contemp. reverse calf, red morocco label. Pp. iv, 76. 20 engraved plates. Hinges cracked, calf worn; marginal tear to title, otherwise very good. $ 325.

First edition of an anonymous adaption of Byrom’s work of the same name. A scarce book. OCLC locates 3 copies, at Leeds and Edinburgh, and Harvard only in U.S. NYPL, p. 204: “Based on Byrom.” (5291)


First edition of Hervey’s substantial revision of Peter Annet’s *Shorthand* (1750.) Westby-Gibson, p. 93; NYPL, p. 204. (9588)


First edition. The subscriber’s list includes James Boswell and Granville Sharp. NYPL, p. 205. (9705)


First edition, first issue; with Taylor’s guarantee signature at the end of the subscriber’s list. The list consists of mostly attorneys, politicians, and educators, but also includes such literary figures as James Beattie and Richard Brinsley Sheridan. A handsome production, printed on thick paper. NYPL, p. 206; Westby-Gibson, p.215. (5293)
THE FIRST AMERICAN SHORTHAND BOOK


First edition of the first American shorthand book. Sargeant was an instructor, and according to his introduction, he published the work to counter “the difficulty with furnishing pupils with manuscript copies”. His contributions to Gurney’s system, including the plates, are substantial enough for the book to be considered an original work. See NYPL, pp. 207-208. Evans 21869; NYPL, p. 209; Rink 1977. (9706)


First edition and very rare. The *Rapport* is unrecorded in the standard catalogues. Coulon’s treatise, published in subsequent editions into the 1820s, is recorded on OCLC by only two copies. It is not in the NYPL catalogue, although the collection has since acquired a copy. (5294)

First edition of this introduction to Mamieux' system of universal writing by a code of twelve characters inspired by the Chinese, which when arranged in groups of not more than five, express thoughts and concepts. "Although several other schemes of universal language were to appear in the course of the 1790s, none aroused more than a fraction of the interest that greeted the Pasigraphie of Joseph de Mamieux." - Knowlson, *Universal Language Schemes*, pp 153-155. See also Nye, *Literary and Linguistic Theories in Eighteenth Century France*, pp.194-198 and Umberto Eco, *The Search for the Perfect Language*, pp. 293 ff. (9780)


This volume was at one time owned by Michael Papantonio, noted bookseller and collector of American bindings. It bears a pencilled attribution to Rev. Phineas Bailey of Vermont (1787-1861), inventor of a phonetic system of stenography, but judging by the binding it would seem unlikely, as Bailey would have been too young; though perhaps it was once owned by him. The binding bears stylistic similarities to those in the Papantonio Catalogue dated from 1786-1792, particularly that attributed to NY binder Charles Cleland, No. 22. (5295)


Second edition of the first American shorthand book, originally published in 1789 (see No. 20). Sergeant was an instructor, and according to his introduction, he published the work to counter “the difficulty with furnishing pupils with manuscript copies”. His contributions to Gurney’s system, including the plates, are substantial enough for the book to be considered an original work. See NYPL, pp. 207-208. Evans 35578. (5296)


Fourth ed., first published 1792. NYPL, p. 371. (5297)

26. MOLINEAUX, Thomas. *An Introduction to Mr. Byrom’s Universal English Short Hand, or The way of writing English in the most easy, concise, regular & beautiful manner. In a series of letters addressed to a young friend*. London: Printed for the editor, 1804. 8vo, orig. marbled boards, red roan spine, printed front label. Pp. iv, 104; engr’d title + 20 plates. Title foxed; a very good copy. $ 225

Stated “Third edition,” but actually the second edition of Molineaux’ abridgement of Byrom, first published in 1802. NYPL, p. 211. (9707)

An attractive little manuscript volume, nicely bound, with ornamental title page. A prefatory note, signed “F.J.”(?), states “This book is written accord’g to Mr. Taylor’s System of Stenography...” (9708)


Third Am. edition, the first to bear Mangan’s name. A reduction of Taylor’s system. A nice copy, in wrappers that promote the publisher and commission bookseller Bliss and his agents. Imprints 20637, NYPL. (5298)


First American edition, with a publisher’s preface. NYPL, p. 207; Imprints 21466. (5299)


31. Short Hand, or, The Flying Pen; Being a new and simplified system of Short-Hand Writing, by means of which any person may acquire a perfect knowledge of this useful art. London: Printed for S. Burton, 1812. 12mo, orig. illustrated aqua-blue wrappers, stitched. Pp. 7 + 9 engraved leaves with ms. additions; frontis. $ 250.

Rare, not in the standard bibliographies. OCLC shows a scattering of a few copies dated 1803-1814, but the present edition is not there. The frontispiece and front wrapper bear a charming engraving of Hermes, pen in hand, bearing a scroll with motto “Expedition the Life & Soul of Business.” Wrappers rubbed, worn at spine, but an acceptable copy of an elusive work. (9715)

First edition. A modification of Taylor’s system. NYPL, p. 372 (9716)

33. GURNEY, Thomas and Joseph. *Brachygraphy or an Easy and Compendious System of Short-Hand, adapted to the various arts, sciences and professions...and brought still nearer to perfection upon the present method by Joseph Gurney.* London: Printed for W. B. Gurney, 1817. 12mo, contemp. calf. Pp. 76. Engraved frontis., title, and 12 plates on 6 leaves. Covers detached, very good within. $85.

Stated 14th edition. Signed at end, and with ms. character insertions by William Brodie Gurney. NYPL, p. 199. (5301)


*Imprints 48574, MWA only; NYPL, p. p.208. (5302)*

**WITH MANUSCRIPT SHORTHAND EXERCISES AND POETRY**

**COPYED BY A YOUNG WOMAN**

35. (Massachusetts.) *Manuscript copy book and friendship album of original and other verse, executed by Kezia Holmes of Massachusetts, with many of the poems copied in shorthand, and leaves ornamented with folk watercolor embellishments.* Worcester Co., Mass. ca. 1820s. Folio, stitched. 44 leaves, wove paper watermarked "E. Burbank." $675.00

An attractive album of copied verse by a young woman, with a dozen or so leaves modestly embellished with colored garlands, festoons, and flowers. The most unusual aspect of the album, however, are the 20 or so leaves devoted to shorthand instruction, together with poetical texts and their neatly executed shorthand translations. That a school girl would have learned shorthand at such an age is highly unusual in our experience. Bidwell's *American Paper Mills 1690-1832* records one wove paper watermarked "E. Burbank" on a ms. from Sutton, Ma. at AAS dated 1821. (9678)
36. HUNTINGTON, Eleazar. *An Introduction to the Art of Penmanship: Or, a new and improved system of Round and Running Hands*. Hartford: [Oliver D. Cooke, 1821.] Oblong 12mo, printed wrapper (titled *Penmanship and Short Hand. Huntington’s Art of Penmanship.*). Title + 11 leaves, engraved + 2 leaves. Shorthand on final engraved leaf and letterpress instructions. Wear and stains. $ 95.

A combined guide to conventional penmanship with shorthand. The two final leaves contain Thomas Rees’ New System of Stenography, or Short Hand, pp. 2, with an accompanying leaf of engraved examples. NYPL, p. 210, under Rees; imprints 5664; not in Westby-Gibson. (9717)

**INSCRIBED TO ISAAC PITMAN**

37. ROE, Rev. Richard. *Radiography, or a System of Easy Writing. Comprised in a set of the most simple and expeditious characters; being selected parts of those in common writing, and effective of greater brevity and swiftness when applied to the purposes of short-hand*. London: Harvey and Darton, 1821. 12mo, later 3/4 morocco, marble boards. Pp. 32; engraved title + 6 plates. Errata slip. A very good copy, with the 19th c. bookplate of The Phonetic Institute Shorthand Library. $ 400.

Inscribed “To Mr. Isaac Pitman the Inventor of Phonograph, with the sincere regards of his admirer Edward Lansdown. Novr. 1844.” Roe’s cursive system was a new departure, and found favor in Germany where it was further developed. See DNB. (9718)

**UNPUBLISHED**


Apparently unpublished and unrecorded system by an author who is not found in the standard shorthand bibliographies. The system includes a shorthand alphabet, followed by seven rules of stenography, a sample text, tables of propositions and terminations, and a chart of arbitrary symbols. (5303)


First ed. An attractive American guide, based on Taylor’s system. NYPL p. 220; Imprints 12388. (5304)


First published in 1796. This ed. not in NYPL. (9719)

41. FINN, Matthew D. *The Flying Pen: Or a new treatise on short-hand writing. Delivered in lectures after the Lancastrian mode of Instruction*. Brooklyn: George L. Birch, printer, [1824]. 12mo,
Sole edition of a rare American work and interesting for its connection with Lancastrian education. OCLC locates copies at NYPL, Brooklyn Hist Soc, and St. Johns Univ only. NYPL p. 222. (5305)

42. STETSON, Isaac. *The Universal Writer; or Short-Hand Shortened, being the most correct, easy, speedy and legible method yet ever discovered. Compiled and improved from the latest London and American publications.* New York: Printed by Dood and Manter, 1824. 12mo, orig. marbled boards. Pp. xii, [14]-49. 4 plates. Spine worn away; very good. $ 200.

Second edition, printed the same year as the first, with an added afterword. Stetson was a teacher “in thirteen of the United States.” Includes two poems on stenography, including one which is perhaps the only example of a quintuple acrostic, up, down, across, and double diagonal. NYPL, p. 222; *Imprints* 18092. (5306)


Fifth ed., corrected and enlarged. NYPL, p. 219. (5307)

44. (Workbook - American.) Manuscript title: “This Book Commenced on M. T. C. Gould’s System of Stenography the Tenth day of Sept. 1826 by F. Roberts, Jr. Boston, Massachusetts.” 4to. Title + 1 leaf, stitched. Very good. $ 50.

Given the promise of this elaborate calligraphic title page, the mere half-page of stenographic exercises is disappointing. Roberts evidently gave up as soon as he started. Still an attractive period fragment. (9720)


A later edition of a popular American system, first published as *The Analytic Guide...*, 1823. NYPL, p.220; *Imprints* 12702. (5309)

A 4 ½ inch column, beginning “T. Towndrow, Professor and teacher of Stenography, would respectfully inform the Public of his arrival in Portland, where he proposes teaching for a limited period, his own peculiar and highly approved system of writing Short Hand…” Includes an ad for Towndrow’s Complete Guide to The Art of Writing Shorthand, published the year before. (5310)


A printed exercise book with instructions, published for Towndrow’s pupils. The advertisement which serves for a title promotes Towndrow’s Stenographic Academy in Boston. With the ownership signature of Polly Pease, New Bedford, and her occasional manuscript additions. Not in NYPL. (9721)


First. ed. This copy privately bound and expanded with interleaved blanks, on which some of the shorthand literary selections are translated in manuscript, dated 1838-1840. Includes a prefatory endorsement of Towndrow’s methods by students at Bowdoin College. _Imprints_ 21538; NYPL, p. 450. (9791)

50. BARTON, Michael H. _Something New, Comprising a New and Perfect Alphabet, containing 40 distinct characters, calculated to illustrate all the various sounds of the human voice...To which is added, Stenography Made Easy._ Boston: Marsh, Capen & Lyon, 1833. 8vo, contemp. Marbled boards, calf spine. Pp [188], with errors in pagination. Minor rubbing, a fine copy. $350.

First edition. Comprising Vol. I, Nos. 1-12, 1830-32 (2 issues designated No. 7, same for No. 10, for a total of 14), all published of Barton’s serial publication “Something New,” with a general title page. The first four numbers were published at Boston, the remainder in Harvard, Mass. The whole promotes Barton’s original system of universal orthography, and includes various texts written thus, along with extensive correspondence with businessmen, politicians, educators and fellow reformers, and testimonials by the same, including a letter from New Lebanon Shaker Seth Wells. Very scarce. OCLC locates 3 copies, _Imprints_ 17680, 5 copies, with only DLC outside Massachusetts institutions. NYPL, p. 534; Westby-Gibson, p. 19. (5311)

51. COOPER, R. _An Improved System of Short-Hand, which elegant art may be acquired in a few lessons._ Montreal: Printed and published by A. H. Armour, for the author, 1834. 8vo, orig. green wrappers, stitched. Pp. 8, uncut. 4 litho. plates, signed ‘Bourne.’ A fine copy. With the ownership signature of Eliza R. Johnson. $150.

Sole edition, by a Montreal solicitor and stenographic instructor. Rare. Not in NYPL. (5312)

xxlii, [29]-111, (1) errata. Illus. Lacks 2 leaves of the preface.

Unrecorded. All four numbers of an extremely rare and short-lived juvenile periodical published by the radical Universalist preacher (1744-1844). As proposed in the preface, unsold sheets of the individual numbers were bound up as here with a title page. Illustrated with cuts of animals. Not in OCLC, AAS, NYPL. (9789)


First American edition. “This edition of 1,000 copies was taken to America [from England] in sheets by the author, and issued with a new introduction.” Westby-Gibson, quoted NYPL, p. 225. *Imprints* 47115. (5313)


Sole edition. A perfect, as issued copy. *Imprints* 51993; Westby-Gibson, p. 141, NYPL, p.300. (9723)

55. BAILEY, Phinehas. *A Pronouncing Stenography. Containing a Complete System of Short Hand Writing; governed by the analogy of sounds, and adapted to every language*. Burlington [Vt.]: Chauncey Goodrich, 1839. 12mo, printed wrappers, stitched. A little dusty; about fine. $ 125.

Third edition; first published 1831. A Vermont minister’s completely original phonographic system which predated those of Pitman and Towndrow. A nice copy. NYPL p.218; *Imprints* 54101. (5314)


Second American ed., enlarged, with the two plates added. NYPL, p. 225; *Imprints* 5181. (5315)


Sole edition of this brief introduction. At the end, Shorter offers his tutoring services at 12 guineas for 12 lessons. Scarce. NYPL, p. 200; not in Westby-Gibson. (9800)

59. (Birmingham Phonographic Festival.) [caption title:] *Report of the Proceedings at the Birmingham Phonographic Festival, held in the Assembly Room of Dee’s Royal Hotel, July 18, 1843. [Reported verbatim in Phonography, and set up by Compositors from Phonographic copy.]*
A crowd of 300 attended, with speeches by the Pittmans and other lights of the movement. Not in NYPL. (9725)

60. PITMAN, Isaac, 1813-1897. Carte-de-visite photo portrait, 2 x 1 1/2 inches, mounted on gold-printed ornamental coated stock, 3 1/4 x 2 1/4; mounting trimmed. $ 85.

A rare and early image, more youthful than typically encountered. (9726)


The second of three Donlevy New York editions of 1844, which marked the advent of Pitman’s manual in America. The first two are rare, the second particularly so. Not in NYPL. (5316)


Third American ed., with additions. (5317)

63. ________. _______. *Third American Edition, with additions.* New York: Printed and Published by John Dunlevy, 1844. 16mo, marbled boards, cloth spine. Pp. 32 + leaf of ads; 7 folding litho plates. Foxed, one plate torn, no loss; a very good copy. $ 165.

A variant issue of the third American edition, with the leaf of ads, and the seven plates on 7 leaves, two of which are reverse printed on blue grounds, and are not found in the other variant. (5319)


First ed., by the radical reformer and philosopher (see DAB). Andrews became interested in Pitman’s system while visiting England for the abolition cause, and was instrumental in introducing Pitman shorthand to America. A slighter version of this work by Andrews alone, published the year before, is
noted by NYPL as “the first appearance of Isaac Pitman shorthand in America.” NYPL, p. 229;

Imprints 241. (5318)


Rare ephemeron from Andrews and Boyle’s partnership. Comprises a concise version of Pitman’s system, with characters illustrated above explanatory text, and an advertisement for the business below, within ornamental border. NYPL, p. 229. (5320)


First edition. NYPL, 337. (9727)


“Revised stereotype edition, with new engravings.” NYPL, p. 221. (5321)

68. (Handbill.) Mr. Hornsby, Practical Phonographist, and Verbatim reporter, intends to form a class for teaching the pleasing, easy and useful Art of Writing according to sound... Boston, April 15, 1846. 7 x 4 inches, printed both sides. $35

Promotional handbill, with phonographic alphabet on verso. With a list of endorsers, including W. H. Channing, Theodore Parker, Stephen Pearl Andrews, Wm. Lloyd Garrison, and Elizur Wright. Hornsby is not mentioned in the standard sources. (5322)

69. (Periodical.) The Fonografic Star, for the year 1847. London: 1847. 12mo, gilt cloth; pp 192; very good. $45

A monthly, established 1844. NYPL, p. 497. (9728)


71. BAILEY, Keyes A. A Practical Exposition of Phonography, or writing By Sound: Being a compleate system of short-hand, containing a perfect analysis of the English Language, with a new alphabet and philosophical illustrations of the human voice. New York: KA. Bailey, 1848. 12 mo, orig printed wrappers. Pp. vi, [7]-98; illus. Lightly foxed; about fine. $75.

An enlarged edition, first published in 1831 as “A Pronouncing Stenography,” and in 1845 as “The Reporter’s Guide.” Includes a substantial physiological analysis of speech. NYPL, p.231, does not record this self-published edition, but only that bearing the imprint of Burgess, Stringer & Co. (5323)


Stated eighth ed., first published in 1846 (see No. 64) NYPL, p. 417; Westby-Gibson, p. 7. (5324)


Tenth ed. NYPL p. 417. (9730)

75. (Bible - N.T.) (PITMAN, F.) The Nu Testament ov ur Lord and Savyur Jezus Crist: In Fonetic Shorthand. [with] The Buc ov Samz. London: Fred Pitman, Paternoster Row, 1849. 2 vols in 1, as issued. 32mo, straight grained morocco, ruled in gilt, gilt cross on front; marbled endpapers; a.e.g. Pp. 286; 64. Rubbed at edges, front hinge starting to split at bottom, a little soiled; a very good copy. $ 175.


Sole ed. In the system of James H. Lewis. NYPL, p. 425. (9805)


First edition. Westby-Gibson, p. 22; NYPL, p. 335. (9732)

First edition, a fine copy in wrappers, with a printed leaf inserted before the title addressed “To Phonographers,” and no ad leaf at end. (9735)


Complete volume of Isaac Pitman’s scarce periodical, attractively illustrate with picturesque views of English abbeys and other subjects. NYPL, p 497. (9796)


A complete run of this short-lived and very rare New York periodical, published by John Trow. The last number has a biographical sketch of Noah Webster, with portrait. NYPL p. 484; OCLC locates the NYPL set only; the ULS also notes NYPL as having the only complete run, with single issues at Harvard and Indiana. (5325)


The final edition of Bailey’s “Pronouncing Stenography”, the only to appear with this title, with text altered. NYPL p. 218. (5326)


Stated fourth edition. With a small broadside “The English Phonetic Alphabet” mounted on the front pastedown. (9734)


Revised ed. of Webster’s *Phonographic Teacher*. NYPL, p. 265. (9736)
85. (Periodical.) WEBSTER, Epinetus, ed., The Universal Phonographer: A Monthly Journal...

Fine copy of the first number, published under this title for only two years. Includes a prospectus on the rear wrapper. Not in NYPL. (9792)


NYPL, p. 435.(9737)


First ed., scarce. NYPL, p. 324; not in Westby-Gibson. (9738)

88. (Broadside.) (GRAHAM, Andrew Jackson.) Long-Hand Contractions, selected with some modifications from the word-signs of the Second or Author’s Style of Graham’s Brief Long-hand. American, np, nd (ca. 1857.) 9 ½ x 6 3/4 inches. Text in two columns, within ornamental borders. Marginal tears and some browning. $ 75.

Graham’s Brief Longhand: a System of Contractions was published in 1857. The verso of our broadside is filled with early manuscript addenda of further contractions. (9739)


NYPL p. 186. (9740)


First published 1853. NYPL p. 286. (9741)


Scarce first American edition of Alexander Ellis’ phonetic setting, first published by Pitman in London, 1849. OCLC locates only the NYPL and Columbia copies. (9742)


First ed. Rare. A juvenile primer in classic form, with the phonetic alphabet illustrated with woodcuts.
OCLC locates the NYPL copy only. (5327)


First ed. An early American shorthand history “engraved [i.e. lithographed] in the Reporting Style.” NYPL, p.11. (9788)


First ed., a variant in leather binding. A presentation copy inscribed “Geo. B. Bradley, with Benn Pitman’s kind regards. Cincinnati, O.” (9795)


First ed. Shorthand text printed withing ornamental borders. A variety of short essays on health, mathematics, success and practical hints, as well as verse. Laid into this copy is a small handbill promoting Pitman’s “American System of Shorthand” publications. NYPL, p. 431. (9785)

96. _______ _______. Cincinnati: Phonographic Institute, [1856?] 12mo, pale green wrappers. Title + pp. [30]. $ 75.

Variant issue with some variant text, without catalogue. (9790)


An early mid-Western periodical. NYPL, p. 484. (9819)


Sole edition. Scarce phonetic mathematical tutor. (9743)


First ed. Scarce. NYPL, p. 294. (9744)

100. (Periodical.) PITMAN, Benn, ed. (The Phonographic Magazine.) [caption title:] Supplement to

Title in standard alphabet, shorthand text below in two columns, surrounded by ornamental ivy border, with eagle and crossed flags at top. This has the look of Pitman lithography. Not in NYPL, not on OCLC. (9746)

102. (Broadside.) [?CRARY.] *Stenography Acquired in Fifteen Minutes! The Importance and great value of Stenography in expanding the powers of the mind...* Np, nd. [?1860.] Broadside, 19 ½ x 12 inches, untrimmed. Text in a variety of wood block types, within ornamental border. A few tears along folds repaired, light browning, several small holes; overall very good $650.

Striking display broadside, showing alphabet, rules, and sample text, an excerpt from the Declaration of Independence, in shorthand and gothic type. This may be a variant of a broadside in NYPL, p. 247, “Crary’s Stenographic Chart. Stenography acquired in fifteen minutes!,” cop. 1859. Our broadside has a small stamp on the verso, “18 April 1860.” Unrecorded. (5329)

103. GRAHAM, Andrew J. *Phonographic Odds and Ends, or the Phonographic Intelligencer.* New York: Andrew J. Graham, [1861]. 12mo, stamped cloth. Pp. [v]-203. Spine worn at extremities; owner’s stamps on title; very good and sound. $65.

104. LEVY, Matthias. *The History of Short-Hand Writing; to which is prefixed the system used by the author.* London: Trübner & Co., 1862. 8vo, blue blind-stamped cloth. Pp. viii, 194; frontis. table. Inner hinge cracked, old library bookplate; very good. $ 85.  


NYPL, p. 519, noting gaps in issue. (9825)


First edition. NYPL, p. 434. (9750)


First ed. Two of the plates compare Pitman’s system with Thompson’s. NYPL, p. 365. (9799)

First edition. Sumner arrived in San Francisco in 1856 became a journalist and editor, and was a pioneer of shorthand in California who introduced shorthand reporting in the state courts. With an appendix in part on Charles Dickens and phonography, and endorsing A. Graham’s system. NYPL, p. 264. (9753)

111. (Periodical.) The Takigrafer. Vols. I and II. [Chicago: 1874-1876.] 12mo, orig. cloth gilt. Pp. 60; 48. Some fading to cloth, a few leaves with light tide mark; very good. $ 95.

Rare quarterly; Pp. 1-36 printed in lithographic facsimile, remainder in white on black. OCLC partial run, incomplete entry. NYPL, p.543 (9754)


2 vols. in 1 NYPL, p. 509; p. 517. (9801)


A rare edition of the oft-printed Guide to Phonetic Shorthand, which was first published in 1873. Eliza Burnz (sometimes spelled Burns (1823-1903) has been called "The first woman stenographer," and articles naming her such appeared in 1892 - (see NYPL, p. 90) This edition was issued as No. 9 of Hurst's "Magnet Hand Books" series (see front wrapper.) This edition not in NYPL; OCLC, Yale only. (9755)

Very scarce. Revised and enlarged edition of two “hastily prepared and imperfect pamphlets,” published in 1877. (9756)


Sole edition of an obscure system; scarce. NYPL, p. 356. (9757)


The first four volumes of this illustrated monthly, complete. Includes a number of biographies with portraits. NYPL, p.488. (9816)


Unrecorded. Kimball’s *Short-Hand in a Nutshell* 30 pp. pamphlet was self-published in 1880-81. (9758)


First ed. A phonetically spelled guide for those who aspire to a literary life of authorship, editing and publishing. Not in NYPL cat., but a copy is held there. (9809)


Cancel title. “Sekond edishon” at top of p. [1]. (9759)


Comprises Nos. 1-16, 1877-1881, + index. (9760)

121. GRAHAM, Andrew J. *The Little Teacher of Standard Phonography.* New York: [1882]. 24mo, blue printed cloth. 16, 16, 16, 21 vi; with individual section titles. $ 95.
“New Improved Edition” of a scarce little guide, first published in 1871. (9761)


Third edition, first published 1879. NYPL, p 287. (9762)


NYPL, p. 295. (9763)

124. ARMITAGE, M. *Syllabic Writing; or Shorthand Made Easy. A New System of Shorthand, in which The Vowels are Implied*. Batley: M. Armitage and Son, 1884. 12mo, stiff printed wrappers, cloth spine. Pp.44, (1, index), ad leaf; illus. Spine worn; very good. $ 50.

Sole edition, scarce. A handbill advertising the work as ‘now ready’ is laid in. NYPL, p. 230. (9794)


First edition. NYPL, p.473. (9765)


“I have not time to look minutely into list ov subjects & compare it with other lists, so az to sujust additions & modifications... I think it is nesessary I shud see a Revize, that I may be assured the kompozer understands my directions for the shorthand signs. Farewel.” (9766)


This precise title not in NYPL, but see p. 436, where the above imprint is pasted over another of 1885. (9808)

NYPL, p. 287. (9813)

130. PERNIN, Helen M. *Pernin’s Universal Phonography... Complete in Ten Easy Lessons*. Detroit: [ca. 1885] 12mo, title wrappers. Pp. 16. Wrappers faded, very good, with post-card sized trade card for Pernin’s Shorthand Institute laid in. (9768)

131. MORAN, Selby. *One Hundred Valuable Suggestions to Shorthand Students*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: Published by the author, 1886. 8vo, cloth gilt. 48 leaves. Top of spine chipped, very good.

First ed. NYPL, p. 466. (9769)


NYPL, p. 434. (9814)


A useful work. This edition not in NYPL cat. (9812)


NYPL, p. 438. (9770)


Second edition, enlarged. NYPL, p. 314. (9771)


First ed. thus of a popular Victorian juvenile fiction. NYPL, p. 429.

NYPL, p. 428. (9807)


$ 75.

2 vols. of this erratic publication “published as often as circumstances will permit.” and in various formats. NYPL, p. 484. (9798)


Near fine. NYPL, p. 285. (9772)


Sole edition; rare. Religious verse in phonetic spelling. Not in NYPL; OCLC, Indiana State Lib. only. (9786)

141. PITMAN, Isaac. Autograph Note signed. 1 page, April 3, 1890. To Messrs. Sonnenschein & Co., publishers. Enclosing two Fonetik Institut tracts, see below. $ 125.

“Pleaz adrs & post tghe enclozed letr [not present] & akzept the enclozed trakts. Eizak Pitman” The two tracts forwarded are, with caption titles, “Jeams Martinz vust vizit tu the Churchman’z Klub. Related to himself in the Zummerzetsheer Dialect,” in verse, pp. 4; and “Autografs”, Pitman’s essay on the nuisance of granting autograph requests, pp. 4. Neither of these are noted in NYPL cat. (9773)

142. PITMAN. Benn. Autograph note signed, on Phonographic Institute stationery. Undated, Cincinnati, 189-. With envelope. $ 75.

“I have been too busy to read much of late, but I have been accustomed to the Educational, Agricultural & Gardening, Odd literary Mags that Mr. Howard (i.e. Jerome B. Howard, Pitman’s partner) throws out of his mail. Please put them aside for me. Very resp’y, Benn Pitman.” (9817)

143. (Phonographic Institute, Cincinnati, O.) Early decorative mailing envelope 3 1/8 x 5 1/4 “. Address area framed with elaborate lithographed architectural compartments, titled “Phonography” at top. Unused, fine. (9818) $ 15.

8vo, maroon cloth gilt. Pp. 148, xii. Very good. $ 75.

NYPL, p. 571. (9774)


First edition, one of several later issues. NYPL, 258 (9777)


NYPL, p.258. (9775)

147. INNES, Hugh W. and and George Carl Mares. Manuscript title: *A Critical and Historical Account of the Art of Shorthand.* 3 vols, quarto, approx. 525 leaves, one side only, including plates; written, with corrections, in a generous legible hand. Ca 1894. Gatherings crudely stitched and home-bound into cloth backed boards, broken and disbound, and in need of restoration. $1,800.

An extensive and learned account, fully illustrated with numerous hand-executed plates of various systems. This is the original manuscript for a work never published separately, but which appeared in monthly installments in The National Stenographer (Chicago, 1892); for a copy of that see NYPL, p. 8. Hugh Innes was involved in The Shorthand Society and wrote several works on shorthand history. Carl Mares "had an inventive turn of mind and during his lifetime produced several systems..... He also turned his attention to journalism and edited one or two minor periodicals." - E. H. Butler. *The Story of British Shorthand* (1951); he later became an early published historian of the typewriter.

The manuscript is in three volumes titled: "Introductory", 77 leaves, giving a history of classical systems and those leading up to 1602, illustrated with plates, and dated 1894; "One Slope System", 223 leaves, beginning with Chapter 3, an analysis of various contributors to that style (including Mares in several published works), illustrated with plates, and incorporating several typescript pages of text; and "History of Phonography in U.S.", 208 leaves, beginning with Steven Pearl Andrews' promotion of phonography in 1843 and ending with the Eureka system in 1888. (9776)
148. (Bible.) Manuscript, “The Church Services”, so titled, meticulously executed in shorthand. Thick 8vo, full black morocco, raised, spine titled “Church Services” in gilt. 250 leaves, edged in gilt. In fine condition. English, late 19th - early 20th c.? $ 375.

In three sections, titled in red gothic calligraphy: The Order for the Morning Prayer, Proper Lessons, and New Testament. The text is executed in double columns, framed with red rules. A remarkable and, sadly, anonymous manuscript, purchased in the UK by a collector in 1976. (9802)


NYPL. p. 305. (9811)


Sole ed. thus, entirely in shorthand. NYPL, p. 433. (9804)


First edition of the Gregg shorthand version of Alice in Wonderland. “Shorthand plates written by Georgie Gregg,”- verso of title. "This is the first Gregg Shorthand edition, identifiable by the code D83 on the verso of the title page (see Weaver, Warren. 'The shorthand editions of Alice.' Jabberwocky, 4 [Winter 1975], 5-6)." With reduced illustrations by Tenniel, Maybank and others. NYPL, p. 423. (9803)


“Shorthand plates written by Alice Rinné Hagar.” on verso of title. (9820)


Sole edition. (9787)

Sole edition, scarce. A collection of essays on the subject, in conventional spelling. Not in NYPL Cat., but held there. (9810)


Portrait of Nathaniel Stringer. See item #3.