

Matthew Clarkson

Nov-30	chesterfield Letters	1	Oct.
Jan ^y 15	Modern Times or Gab. outcast		Dec.
Mar. 11			June 16
June 2	deu Le Philosophie		20
9	deu Le Philosophie		25
9	deu Le Philosophie		July 30
16	deu Le Philosophie		Aug 15
107	deu Le Philosophie		Sep. 2
23 36	Voltaire		196
20	deu		22
July 2	Rousseau		24
7	deu		27
11	Philosophy of Fictions		Oct. 5
17	deu		7
20	Ribbon		20
21	deu Rousseau		26
4	deu		26
Aug. 16	Voltaire		205
26	Historie Phi. Pol.		31
Sep. 1	deu Montbr. Voltaire		Nov 01
3	deu Moliere		21
10	deu Voltaire		

THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY
PRESENTS

A CELEBRATION OF THE
FIRST CHARGING LEDGER
(1789-1792)

DECEMBER 1, 2010

Matthew Clarkson

Nov-30	chesterfield Letters	1	Oct.
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THE NEW YORK SOCIETY LIBRARY
FOUNDED IN 1754
53 EAST 79TH STREET, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10075
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WELCOME

WELCOME TO THE FIRST CHARGING LEDGER! It is with a great sense of pride that the Library is now able to share the story and the contents of the first ledger, perhaps the most treasured item in the Library’s archives. When I started working at the Library in 2004, Mark Piel gave me a tour, pointing out the many boxes of archival material we had carried with us up the island since our early years—shares, minute books, correspondence, and ledgers from 1789 to 1909. Since that day, the ledgers have fascinated me the most.

A few facts. The ledger is the earliest one in our collection. This is not to say it was the first ledger we ever used; it is believed that we used ledger books to check out material when we opened in 1754. Unfortunately, we have no evidence, written or oral, that our earlier ledgers survived in any private or institutional collection.

The ledger records the names of over 500 Library members and what could be termed “guest borrowers,” members of the Executive and Legislative branches who were in Federal Hall with us and to whom we extended complimentary borrowing privileges. In 1789 the Library was open only six hours a week: from 12 to 2 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

For example, John R. Livingston (*pictured*), brother of Chancellor Robert R. Livingston and a Library member, lived to the age of 96 and is included in the first ledger. I was amazed last month to find this 1844 daguerrotype in a book in the stacks (Richard M. Ket-chum, *Faces from the Past*, 1970).

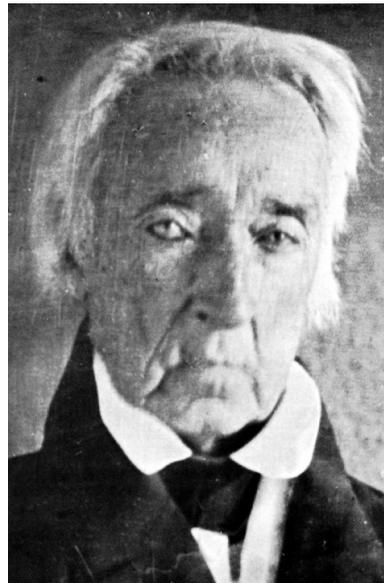
There were two Librarians during the time of the first ledger: George Wright (January 1789 to January 1790) and Isaac Leonard Kip (January 1790 to May 1794). It is Kip’s and Wright’s beautiful handwriting that you see on the pages of the ledger.

Wright was the Reverend George Wright, who resided at 13 Dye Street. A native of Ireland, he was the first Episcopal clergyman in Brooklyn. Wright was paid £10, 16s, and 2p for his year’s service as Librarian. Wright does not have a charging ledger entry page. Isaac Leonard Kip (1767-1837) was a lawyer, later the partner of trustee Brockholst Livingston. He was registrar for the Court of Chancery and served in the state militia. Kip also served as an alderman for the Third Ward of the City of New York, and was both treasurer and director of the Dutch Reformed Church. He was married to Sarah Smith. While serving as the Librarian, he was an active borrower: the ledger shows that he checked out Voltaire, Smollett’s *Travels*, Shakespeare, and William Alexander’s *The history of women, from the earliest antiquity, to the present time*. He borrowed many novels as well.

There are many more stories to tell about the early members of the Society Library. I am so pleased you are with us tonight to celebrate the launch of the ledger.



Mark Bartlett
Head Librarian



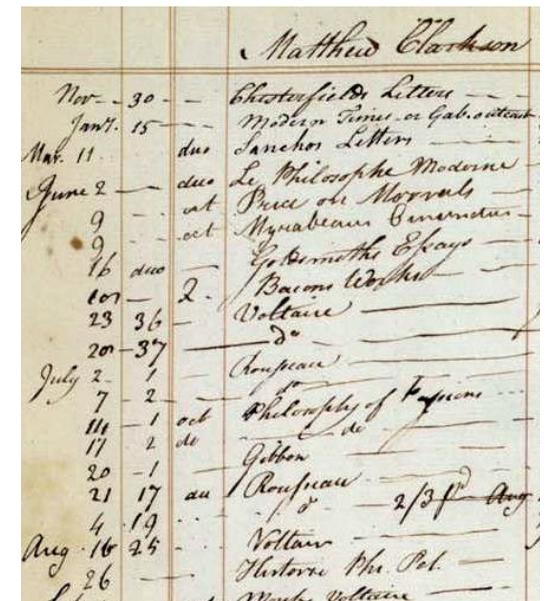
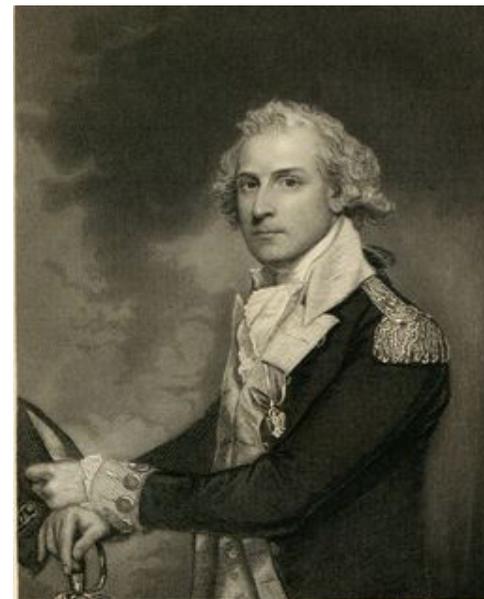
Major John R. Livingston (1755-1851), daguerrotype by Civil War photographer Mathew Brady, 1844

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‘General’ Matthew Clarkson and his ledger page

NAVIGATING THE FIRST LEDGER WEBSITE

BY INGRID RICHTER, HEAD OF SYSTEMS

NAVIGATING THE FIRST LEDGER WEBSITE *CONT.*—2

WWW.NYSOCLIB.ORG/LEDGER

THE MAIN PAGE

To access the main page:

— Go directly to www.nysoclib.org/ledger

OR

— From the top of the main web page at www.nysoclib.org, select “Projects” and “First Charging Ledger” from the drop-down menus

OR

— Search Google for “First Charging Ledger.” Click on the first New York Society Library link.



The main page of the First Charging Ledger site contains

- a brief description of the ledger, seven horizontal links: **About**, **Books**, **Pages**, **People**, **Conservation**, **Citations**, and **Credits**
- a breakdown of all the people mentioned in the ledger, with the notable borrowers at the top
- thumbnail images of the early pages of the ledger and some scraps found in the ledger

Books, **Pages**, and **People** are the main three pages of content about the ledger. **About**, **Conservation**, **Citations**, and **Credits** offer a bit more background and history. If you wish to jump right into the ledger, click the name of a person that interests you (i.e., George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, Aaron Burr, John Jay, etc.) and start browsing.

ABOUT THE LEDGER

www.nysoclib.org/ledger/books/index.html

This page provides additional information about the first charging ledger in six sections:

- **Introduction:** a brief overview of the ledger itself
- **Title:** a description of how titles were recorded, identified and transcribed
- **Dates:** a description of the dates used in the ledger
- **Format or Size:** a description of the size of books (e.g. quarto, folio) mentioned in the ledger
- **Late Fine:** a description of how fines were calculated for overdue books
- **Representative:** a brief rundown of the use of representatives

Format/Size, **Fines** and **Representatives** also have links from each person’s page and each book’s page where they apply, for quick reference.

BOOK INDEX

www.nysoclib.org/ledger/books/index.html

The Book Index link gives an alphabetical list of all books used in the first charging ledger, arranged by the short form used in the ledger itself (e.g. “Adair’s America” for James Adair’s *The history of the American Indians: particularly those nations adjoining to the Mississippi, East and West Florida, Georgia, South and North Carolina, and Virginia...*). There are 1,176 books listed on this page.

Clicking on any of these titles gives a full chronological history of that book’s circulation as recorded in the ledger.

Books in bold are still in the Library’s collection.

A:

- [Abbe Mably](#)
- [Abrige de L'France](#)
- [Adair's America](#)
- [Adam's Defence](#)
- [Adams' Microscope](#)
- [Addison's Evidences](#)
- [Addison's Free-holder](#)
- [Addison's State of the Jews](#)
- [Addison's Works](#)
- [Adelaide & Theodore](#)
- [Adventurer](#)

- 313 [Annual Register](#)
- 264 [Female Stability](#)
- 251 [Fielding's Works](#)
- 244 [Gibbon's Roman Empire](#)
- 236 [King of Prussia](#)
- 234 [Johnson's Poets](#)
- 227 [Encyclopedia Britannica](#)
- 226 [Honoraria Somerville](#)
- 225 [London Magazine](#)
- 218 [Cook's Voyage World](#)
- 203 [Cook's Voyages](#)

POPULAR BOOKS

www.nysoclib.org/ledger/books/index1.html

Click on the “Popular” link underneath the book index for a breakdown of the most popular books circulated during the ledger’s period. This list is sorted from most-popular to least-popular.

BOOK BREAKDOWN:
Sample Book: *Abbe Mably*

www.nysoclib.org/ledger/books/abbe_mably.html

FIRST CHARGING LEDGER:
Abbe Mably
 (1785)

Archives:

[1789 catalog](#) (p.52): Mably's (the Abbe de) remarks on the laws and government of the United States of America, in four letters to Mr. Adams, translated into English. 8vo.

Local Note:

[In Library.](#)

Full Title:

Remarks concerning the government and the laws of the United States of America : in four letters, addressed to Mr. Adams ... / from the French of the Abbè de Mably ; with notes, by the translator.

Circulation History:

DATE OUT	PERSON	VOL	DATE IN
01/11/1790	John G. Leake		01/13/1790
02/08/1790	Robert R. Randall		02/19/1790
06/01/1790	Cornelius Ray		06/04/1790
06/11/1790	Cornelius Van Allan		06/14/1790
07/09/1790	Henry Remsen		07/17/1790
07/27/1790	Isaac L. Kip		08/05/1790

Each book's individual page is divided into four sections:

Archives: This includes a link to one of our early Library catalogs listing this book's full title. The Library catalogs are in PDF form.

Local Note: This indicates whether the book is still in the Library, not in the Library, or unidentified. If the Local Note is in blue, it links to our full cataloging record.

Full Title: This is the official title of the work, not mentioned in the abbreviation used in the ledger or in the early catalog.

Circulation History: This is a table of all the people who checked out this book between 1789 and 1792, arranged by date out. You can sort any column in this table by clicking on the light-blue header section of the table. Click on any name in blue to take you to that person's ledger page.

PAGE INDEX

www.nysoclib.org/ledger/pages/index.html

The **Page Breakdown** link gives a page-by-page view of the first charging ledger. There are 361 pages in the first ledger. You can jump to any page by clicking on the link.

FIRST CHARGING LEDGER:
Page Breakdown

Pages 001-099:

- **001:** *Front Cover*
- **002:** *Front Page*
- **003:** List of the Members of the New York Society Library: May 1, 1790
- **004:** List of the Members of the New York Society Library: May 1, 1790
- **005:** 1789 July 27-29
- **006:** 1789 July 29 to August 3
- **007:** 1789 August 3-10

Front Cover (www.nysoclib.org/ledger/pages/page001.html).

Notice the arrows on either side of the page number. Click on the left arrow to browse backwards through the ledger and the right arrow to browse forward. Clicking on the page image itself will bring up the large, high-quality scan of the page.

FIRST CHARGING LEDGER:

← Page 126 →



[John Jay & Samuel Jones, Jr.](#)

FIRST CHARGING LEDGER:

← Page 001 →



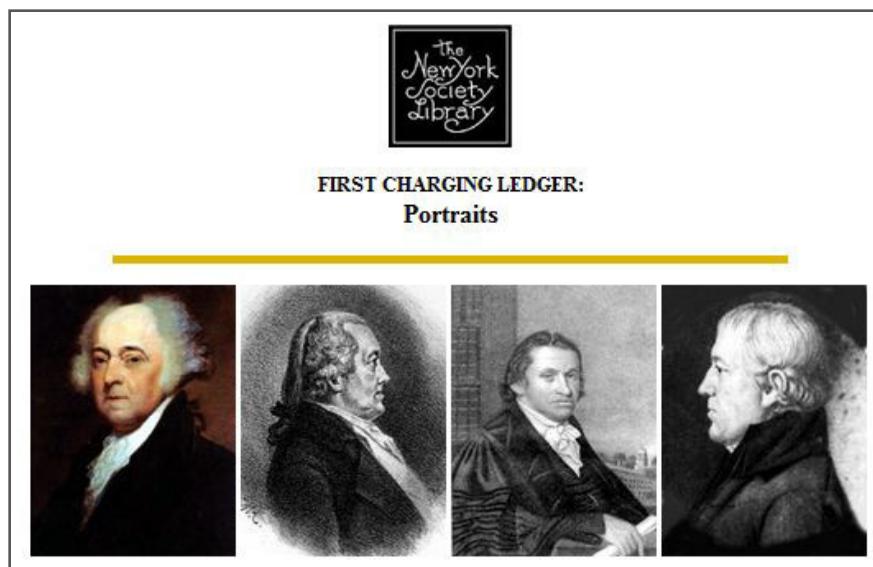
Front Cover

The ledger pages are divided into four major groups:

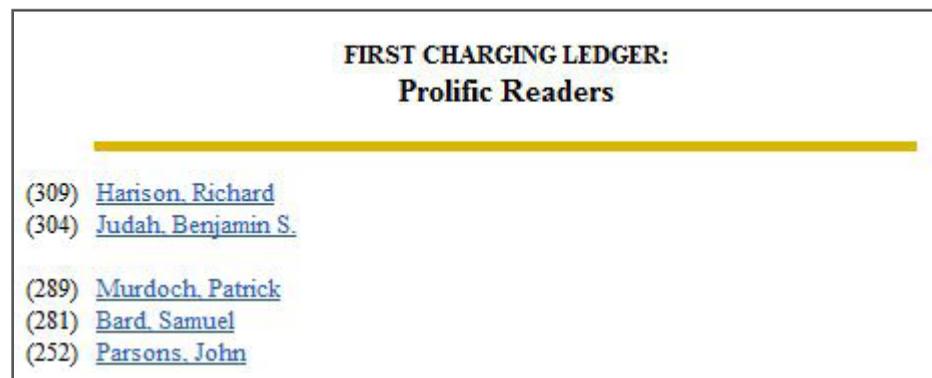
- a list of the New York Society Library members, found on pages 3 and 4
- the early chronological pages, from page 5 through page 36
- the individual member pages, often with two or more people per page
- scraps of material found between the pages

PEOPLE INDEXwww.nysoclib.org/ledger/people/index.html

There are two places in the ledger for the breakdown of people: on the front page, and on the people index page. There are 504 people listed. Both pages contain identical names, but the people index page also includes the option for portraits and prolific readers.



Portraits (www.nysoclib.org/ledger/people/index_paintings.html). Any portrait we have found of a person in the ledger is shown on this page. Each portrait links to that person's full charging history.



Prolific Readers (www.nysoclib.org/ledger/people/index_popular.html). This page lists all of our ledger people from most-prolific reader to least.

PEOPLE BREAKDOWN

Sample Person: Benjamin S. Judah (1760-1831)

www.nysoclib.org/ledger/people/judah_benjamin.html

The top part of each individual's breakdown page contains the pages of the ledger where they were mentioned and a portrait of the person, if available. Below the images is a brief biography of the person.

Biography:

Benjamin S. Judah (1760-1831) was a New York City merchant at 19 Old Slip whose family arrived in the colonies in 1725. He was a founder of the New York Tontine in 1786, and an active member of Congregation Shearith Israel. His son, Samuel B.H. Judah, became a famous dramatist.

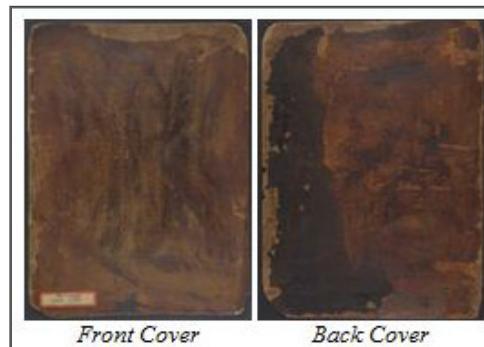
Transcription of Ledger Page: Below the biography and assorted links is the full transcription of the individual's ledger page, broken down in table form by **Date Out**, **Book**, **Volume**, **Size**, **Date In**, **Representative**, **Fines**, and the **Page** where the entry was found. All items in the table may be sorted by clicking on the table header in blue. Any underlined blue link will bring up more information about that entry. Books in bold in the table are still in the Library's collection.

<u>DATE OUT</u>	<u>TEXT</u>	<u>VOL</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>DATE IN</u>	<u>REP</u>	<u>FINES</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
08/28/1789	<u>Zoriada</u>		<u>12mo.</u>	09/02/1789	<u>Self</u>		<u>012</u>
09/02/1789	<u>Emilia</u>		<u>12mo.</u>	09/07/1789	<u>Self</u>		<u>013</u>
09/04/1789	<u>Moore's "</u>	1	<u>12mo.</u>	09/07/1789	<u>Self</u>		<u>014</u>
09/07/1789	<u>Children's Friend</u>	1	<u>8vo.</u>	09/11/1789	<u>Self</u>		<u>014</u>
09/11/1789	<u>Sylph</u>		<u>12mo.</u>	09/18/1789			<u>015</u>
09/25/1789	<u>Sylph</u>		<u>12mo.</u>	09/28/1789			<u>020</u>
09/28/1789	<u>Independent</u>		<u>12mo.</u>	09/28/1789			<u>020</u>
09/28/1789	<u>Carolina</u>	1	<u>12mo.</u>	10/05/1789			<u>020</u>

CONSERVATION

www.nysoclib.org/ledger/conservation.html

The conservation page gives a brief overview of the process for conserving the First Charging Ledger.



CITATIONS

www.nysoclib.org/ledger/citations.html

The citations page lists all sources used to research and write the biographies on the individual People pages.

1. *America's oldest daily newspaper: The New York Globe*. New York: 1918. [Google Books](#). Web. 1 May 2010.
2. *American Academy of the Fine Arts. The national portrait gallery of distinguished Americans*. H. Perkins, 1836. [Google Books](#). Web. 1 May 2010.
3. *American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The Missionary herald*. Boston: Published for the Board by Samuel T. Armstrong, 1836. [Google Books](#). Web. 1 May 2010.
4. *American Jewish Historical Society. Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society*. American Jewish Historical Society., 1915. [Google Books](#). Web. 1 May 2010.
5. *American landscape and genre paintings in the New-York Historical Society: a catalog of the collection, including historical, narrative, and marine art*. New York: Published by the New York Historical Society in association with G.K. Hall, 1982. [Google Books](#). Web. 1 May 2010.
6. *American Publishing and Engraving Co. History and commerce of New York, 1891*. Boston: American Publishing and Engraving Co., 1891. [Google Books](#). Web. 1 May 2010.

CREDITS

www.nysoclib.org/ledger/credits.html

The credits page lists all the contributors to the First Charging Ledger project, including Systems, Cataloging, Conservation, and Administrative staff, and donors.

THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY SOCIETY LIBRARY

BY NINA ROOT

In 1789 New York City was still recovering from the British occupation during the Revolutionary War; the city had sustained explosions and fires. In 1776 a quarter of the city, including Trinity Church and Broadway, was destroyed by a major fire. The British forces and Loyalists finally departed on November 25th, 1783, and the same day General Washington reclaimed New York, addressing his troops in a farewell speech at Fraunces Tavern. The city was described as “a most dirty, desolate, and wretched place,” but returning New Yorkers, then as now, were unbowed and set about rebuilding the physical, commercial, and social city. Washington was inaugurated President on April 30th, 1789 on the porch of Federal Hall (1 Wall Street), the remodeled City Hall. The French-American Major Pierre Charles L’Enfant added a Doric portico to the 1701 building, making it a suitable site for the temporary capital. Slowly the city was reconstructed: a grid system was instituted; banks were established; streets were paved; docks were rebuilt; commerce returned with merchants who had departed; learned and professional societies were organized; and young dandies and belles attended inaugural routs. The city was turning into a thriving metropolis.

The New York Society Library had suspended operation during the years of British occupation, and the collection had been dispersed. Federal Hall again served as the home for the Library, and the entire legislature, as well as the paying subscribers, had use of the collection. Late 18th-century NYSL members were the generation of patriots who declared independence, fought in the Revolutionary War, wrote the Constitution, and rebuilt and revitalized the city. This is the generation that grew up and was educated during the Enlightenment that began in European salons, but whose ideas were fulfilled in the founding of the United States and elegantly expressed in the Declaration of Independence. It is, therefore, fascinating to peruse the charging ledger for 1789-1792 and see what the founding Fathers and the returning veterans were reading and whether patterns can be discerned.

NYSL members were the leading citizens of New York: the lawyers, merchants, physicians, clergy, and socially prominent women. The names are still inscribed in street and place names: Broome, Bowne, Allen, Bleecker, Varick, Kip, Randall, Hamilton, Houston, Jones, Livingston, Clinton, Van Wyck, and Schermerhorn. The Library membership personifies the democratic precepts espoused by the country’s founders: fifteen women and at least three prominent Jewish New Yorkers are included in the first roster of dues payers.



William Houston, DeWitt Clinton

Selected by the Library trustees from catalogs and lists, the collection is a typical 18th-century library including the classics (Aristophanes, Cicero, Cato, Ovid, Virgil, Milton, and Shakespeare), histories (Gibbon) and biographies, encyclopedias (*Encyclopædia Britannica*) and dictionaries (Johnson), with a good smattering of military history, the Revolution, the latest literature, poetry, and plays (Beaumont and Fletcher, Chesterfield, Congreve, Pope), and the latest novels such as Le Sage's *Gil Blas of Santillane* and Samuel Richardson's *Pamela* and *Clarissa*. Sciences, nature, farming, gardening, economics (Adam Smith), and mathematics were included along with Franklin's *Experiments and observations on electricity*. Some texts on religion were also to be found. A sizable number of sentimental, romantic novels were included and borrowed frequently by gentlemen; some sound absolutely lurid, reminiscent of the Barbara Cartland variety. The titles are descriptive: *The Fortunate country maid*; *Love and madness, a story too true*; *History of the fair adulteress*. These stories were the vogue and were read by everyone, including the clergy.

Among the historical material being read were books on the Ottoman Empire, Islam, the life of Muhammad, and North Africa. The young nation was being harassed by Barbary pirates; American ships were being captured and the crew and passengers held for ransom. Congress even appropriated funds to pay the ransoms. When the U.S. was a colony, the British Navy had protected American ships, and the French fleet protected our interests until the United States was formed. Now U.S. shipping was being intercepted by the pirates. Thomas Jefferson, U.S. envoy to Paris, who opposed paying ransom, went to London to negotiate with the Bey of Morocco. The Bey explained to Jefferson that the Koran required that infidels be enslaved, and quoted a passage from the Koran. Jefferson, a Deist, unfamiliar with the precepts of Islam, was taken aback. Jefferson bought a copy of the Koran (now in the Library of Congress), and perhaps sent a copy to John Jay. The young country was concerned and was preparing for its first foreign war. In reporting to Jay, then Foreign Secretary of the Continental Congress, Jefferson sent the Bey's Koranic quote:

"The Ambassador (Ambassador Abdrahaman) answered us that it was founded on the Laws of their Prophet, that it was written in their Koran, that all nations who should not have acknowledged their authority were sinners, that it was their right and duty to make war upon them wherever they could be found, and to make slaves of all they could take as Prisoners, and that every Musselman who should be slain in battle was sure to go to Paradise."

The great age of exploration began in the 18th century, and many elegant, illustrated reports were published. Books on travel and exploration were popular, especially Cook's multi-volume work. Cook's voyages were among the first to be accompanied by a naturalist and an artist. The folios are illustrated with engravings and with detailed description of the inhabitants of distant islands and the flora and fauna. The voyages of Anson, Bruce, Forster, and Sparrman were read with equal interest.

Women members read a lot more than the latest sentimental novels. Notably, Henrietta Maria Colden had very wide reading interests. As an intimate of the Hamiltons and Burrs, she was a welcome addition at dinner parties. Aaron Burr also borrowed books on a wide variety of topics, and

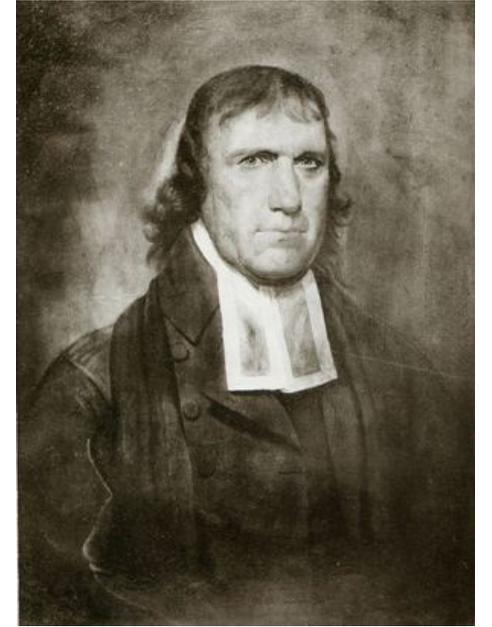
his brilliant daughter, Theodosia, may well have read the same volumes and perhaps discussed them with Mrs. Colden. Abigail Adams, known for her intelligence, was in residence during this period, but neither she nor her husband borrowed the latest literature.

Samuel Judah, one of the Jewish members, borrowed a number of plays, perhaps for his son, Benjamin B.H. Judah, who became a successful playwright until he wrote *Gotham and the Gothamites* (1823), for which he was indicted for libel and imprisoned. Benjamin Seixas, a Revolutionary War veteran and avid reader, was the great grand uncle of Arthur Hays Sulzberger, publisher of *The New York Times* from 1935 to 1961.

A few books are of interest to mention. *The History of Women* by William Alexander (1779, two volumes) was borrowed by a significant number of men, but not by a single woman. The advertisement states: "AS the following Work was composed solely for the amusement and instruction of the Fair Sex; and as their education is in general less extensive than that of the men; in order to render it the more intelligible, we have studied the utmost plainness and simplicity of language; have not only totally excluded almost every word that is not English, but even, as much as possible, avoided every technical term." Enlightenment gentlemen seem to have been as perplexed by the fairer sex as are the men of today. An essay on brewing by Michael Combrune was borrowed a few times by only one NYSL member, Alexander Robertson, a merchant and elder of a church. A little moonshine or sacramental wine? And then there's *Essay on the art of ingeniously tormenting, with proper rules for the exercise of that pleasant art* by Jane Collier, 1757. This was a bestseller read by a goodly number of members, including Reverend William Linn, chaplain to the Congress, and the indomitable Henrietta Maria Colden.

So, here we have a picture of the reading habits of 18th century members. I suspect that a review of today's borrowers would produce a similar portrait.

Library member Nina Root is the Director Emerita of the America Museum of Natural History, Research Library, and a confirmed New Yorker.



Rev. William Linn

A SELECTION OF BOOKS FROM THE FIRST CHARGING LEDGER

BY AREVIG CAPRIELIAN, *RARE BOOK LIBRARIAN*

Bruyn, Cornelis de (1652-1727). *Travels into Muscovy, Persia, and part of the East-Indies: containing, an accurate description of whatever is most remarkable in those countries: and embellished with above 320 copper plates.*

A translation from the French original *Voyages de Corneille Le Brun par la Moscovie, en Perse, et aux Indes Orientales.*

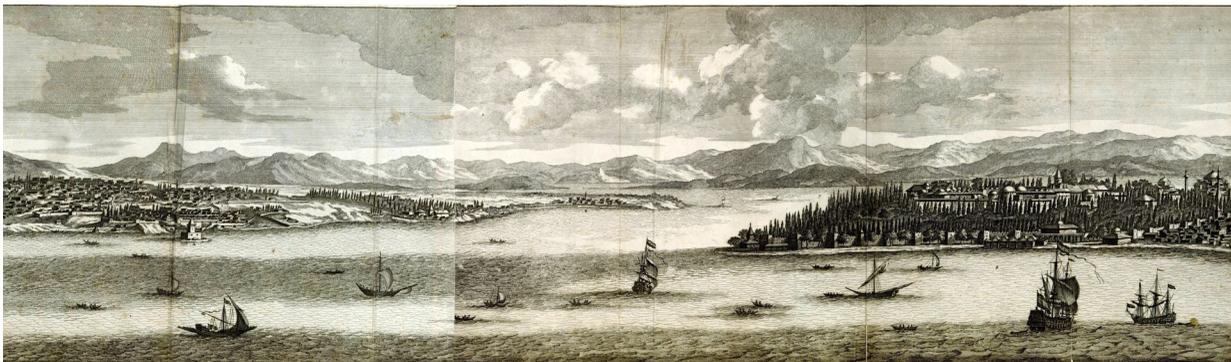
London: Printed for A. Bettesworth, C. Hitch, S. Birt, C. David, J. Clarke, S. Harding, D. Browne, A. Millar, J. Shuckburgh, T. Osborne, 1737. 2 v.: illustrations, maps, portraits; 36 cm. (Fo).

The popularity of this lavishly illustrated book in its day is reflected in the number of enterprising booksellers. Among the 43 borrowers of the Library's set were John Jay, Elizabeth De Peyster, Catharine Bradford, William Beekman, Peter Schermerhorn, and a Samuel Judah, whose autograph appears in both volumes. The identity of the signer is unclear—Samuel Judah (b. 1828) is not among the Library's members at the time, nor is Samuel Benjamin Helbert Judah (ca. 1799-1876), son of member Benjamin S. Judah (1760-1831).

Collier, Jane (1715?-1755). *An essay on the art of ingeniously tormenting: with proper rules for the exercise of that pleasant art: humbly addressed, in the first part, to the master, husband, &c., in the second part, to the wife, friend, &c.: with some general instructions for plaguing all your acquaintance.*

London: Printed for A. Millar in the Strand, 1757. [2], iii, [1], 234 p., [1] leaf of plates; 21 cm. (8°).

To dispel any doubts regarding the importance of this text, it should be mentioned that in 2006 Oxford University Press published a reprint in the venerable *Oxford World Classics* series. True to the contents, this title was listed in the First Ledger as “Art of torments”—inflicting same upon the cataloger who had to identify the work.



Constantinople drawn by author Cornelis de Bruyn

Cook, James (1728-1779). *A voyage towards the South Pole, and round the world.*

London: Printed for W. Strahan and T. Cadell, 1777.

2 v., illustrations, charts, maps, portraits; 30 cm. (4°)

One of the three titles with highest circulation—203—and still here. It was borrowed by luminaries of the time, notably John Jay, Rev. William Linn, and Catharine Bradford. It was taken out precisely 220 years ago, on December 1, 1790, by Richard Harrison (1750-1841), “Harison” in the Ledger. He served as the first United States Attorney for the new York District and was appointed the first auditor by George Washington in 1791. A year later on the same date, this work was borrowed by Nicholas J. Roosevelt (1767-1854), a merchant and inventor whose idea for a paddlewheel steamboat was used by inventor Robert Fulton, and supported by Robert R. Livingston, in 1808. He was the grand-uncle of President Theodore Roosevelt.

Isocrates. *Isokratous logoi kai epistolai = Isocratis orationes et epistola.*

Genevae: Svmptibvs Iacobi Crispini, 1636. [80], 844, [50] p.; 18 cm. (8°).

One of the earliest imprints in the First Ledger, cryptically listed as “Isocrates.” Without the 1789 catalog, the Library's second bookplate, engraved by Peter Rushton Maverick, and the Notice by the Library's Trustees, the identification of this title would be a mere guess. Perhaps because of the languages, it was read only by Robert R. Livingston (1746-1813). An attorney and statesman, Livingston was one of the six founders of the Society Library. He served as New York City Recorder from 1773 to 1775, was a member of the Continental Congress, and was one of the five drafters of the Declaration of Independence, though not a signer. He administered the Oath of Office to George Washington in 1789 while serving as Chancellor of New York State, 1777-1801.

Lyttelton, George Lyttelton, Baron (1709-1773). *Letters from a Persian in England to his friend at Ispahan.*

Dublin: Printed by R. Marchbank for the Company of Booksellers, 1779.

i v, 228 p.; 17 cm (12°).

This unassuming volume is one of three extant copies in the world. The others are held by the National Library of Ireland and the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts.

Moore, Edward (1712-1757). *Fables for the female sex.*

London: Printed for J. Dodsley, in Pall-Mall, 1783. [8], 173 [1] p., [17] leaves of plates; 21 cm (8°).

Curiously, not one of this book's borrowers was of the female sex. As noted on page 53 of the Library's 1789 catalog, this book was a gift of attorney Brockholst Livingston (1757-1823), who served as an aide-de-camp to General Philip Schuyler during the American Revolution. In 1779, he was the private secretary for John Jay, then the new Minister to the Court at Madrid. Brockholst Livingston donated several other books mentioned in this ledger, and doubtless more to be discovered in the Library's later ledgers.

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