

THE Book Collector

John Murray on
50 Albemarle St.
Lady Chatterley

'HIDDEN IN PLAIN VIEW',
PRIZE BINDINGS

HANCKWITZ The Invention of
Rare Books 

An Eton Librarian

WEATHERUP'S
GREAT FIND 

A Dibdin Rarity

POPPIES

WINTER 2018

CATALOGUES

We're currently reviewing various aspects of our website including the treatment of booksellers' catalogues. We hope to be able to offer a new system by the New Year. Meanwhile we continue to welcome first catalogues and would appreciate receiving details of these, whether on paper or electronically. The latter should be marked 'First catalogue' in the subject line.



Golden rule number 1 for publishers, authors, plaintiffs, revolutionaries and writers of love letters: get the reader to turn the page.

Here are three first catalogues that do so in an exemplary fashion, firstly by someone having taken time over the design and secondly by explaining the ways in which the book has relevance. Condition and edition are of course paramount, but the hook has to be swallowed before they can play their part.

'Science + Medicine' is the title given to twenty items from **TYPE & FORME** (aka Mark James & Anke Timmermann), which 'spans the sciences from Michael Faraday's electrical experiments to Gregory Pincus's pioneering researches into in vitro fertilisation via John Venn (the inventor of the eponymous diagram) and Elie Metchnikoff.' What is rather pleasing in all these catalogues is a decent Table of Contents. From that single page one can see and grasp the purpose of the whole.

In fact, the word 'span' in Type & Forme's description comes in the largest size in the shop for among the books listed are works on midwifery, gerontology and atomic theory among others. With only twenty items it's possible to really think about the position of each idea in our civilisation. The most prescient (and one might say, from an overall point of view, the most original) is no. 15, McFarland, Ross Armstrong: *Keeping Fit for Flying. An Analysis of Important Factors Influencing the Health and the Efficiency of Civil Airmen* [New York] 1943, 325pp, printed typescript, published by Pan American Airways System (£150). Sixty-two pages plus a six-page bibliography are dedicated to nicotine and smoking: 'particularly notable are the sections on the relation of tobacco to cancer, which present very strong evidence for a causality between the two.' It was to be another twenty years before the medical profession could agree on this. The best single-subject catalogues from booksellers contain information not easily found anywhere else. Type & Forme's, with its plurality of subjects, is like an encyclopaedia.