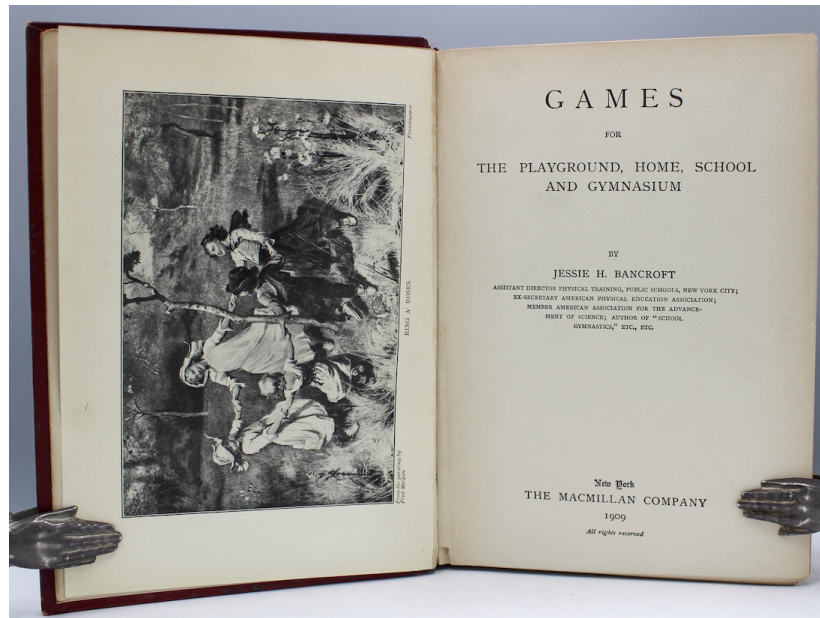

Learning Through Play

Toys, Games, Interactive Books, and the Study of Play

Michael R. Thompson Rare Books, ABAA/ILAB
8242 W. 3rd Street, Suite 230
Los Angeles, CA 90048

mrtbksla@pacbell.net ♦ mrtbooksla.com ♦ (323) 658 - 1901



*Comprehensive Guide to Learning Through Play by a Pioneer of Physical Education,
Association Copy Inscribed from the Author to Her Friend*

1. BANCROFT, Jessie H. *Games for the Playground, Home, School and Gymnasium*. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1909.

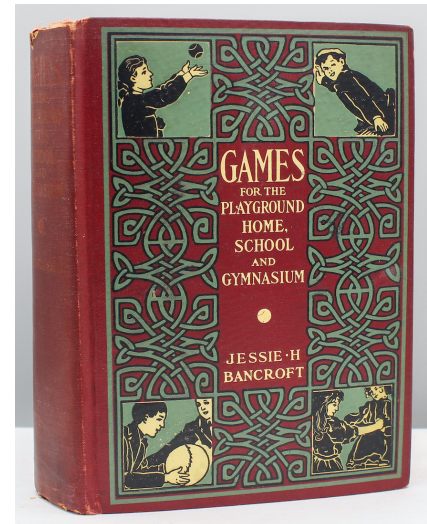
Octavo. 456, [4, ads] pp. With two dozen photo plates (including frontispiece), more than sixty text figures, and sheet music on sixteen pages.

Original red pictorial cloth decorated in cream and green. Spine somewhat faded and some rubbing to extremities. Association copy inscribed by the author, dated November 1909, "For Mrs. Marie Talbot Coustant, with appreciative acknowledgement of much valuable assistance, and most cordial regards from the author." A very good, clean, and tight copy.

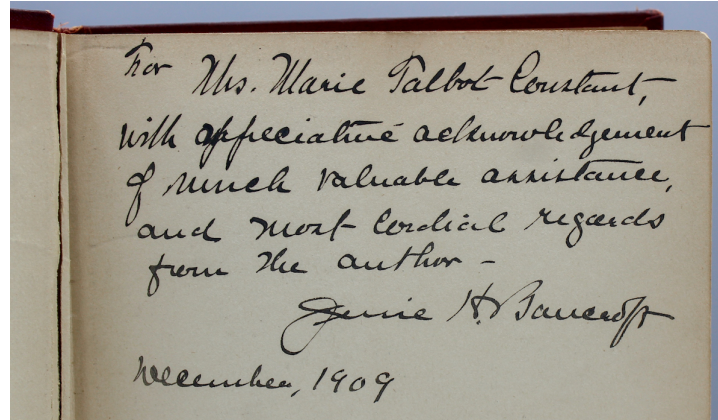
First edition.

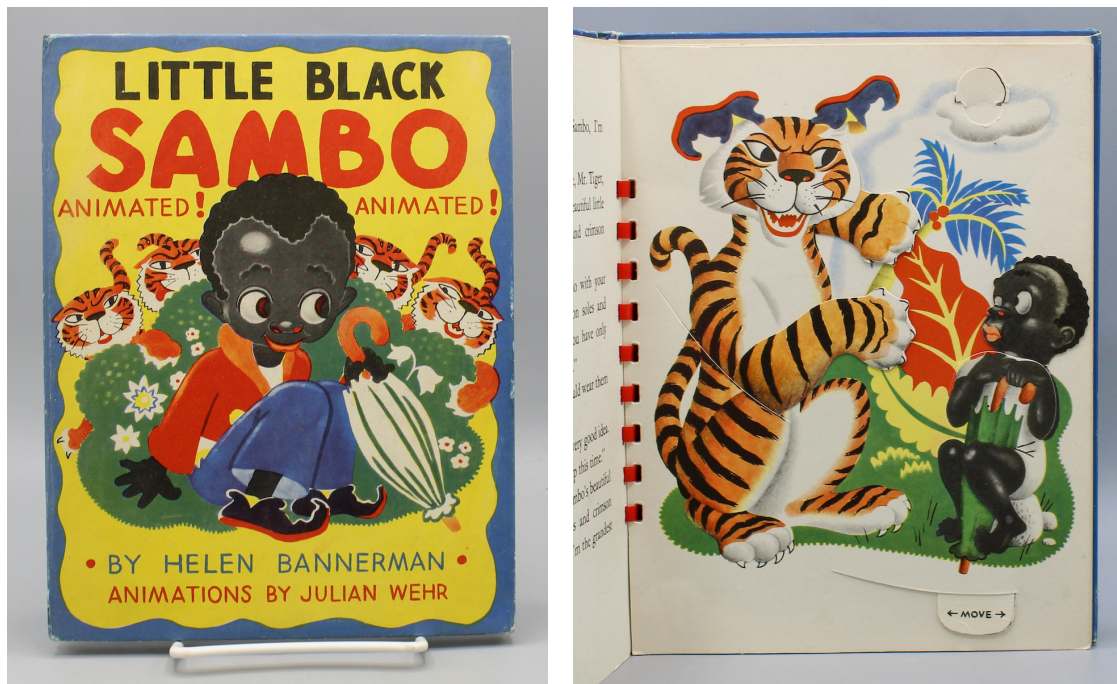
\$500

A comprehensive guide to physical education and teaching through play. Bancroft writes, "A wide variety of conditions have been considered, including schools, playgrounds, gymnasiums, boys' and girls' summer camps, adult house parties and country clubs, settlement work, children's parties, and the environment of indoors or outdoors...The games have been collected from many countries and sources, with a view to securing novel and interesting as well as thoroughly tried and popular material, ranging from traditional to modern gymnasium and athletic games...The description, classification, and arrangement of the games have been made with the steadfast purpose of putting them into the most workable form, easily understood, with suggestions for getting the most sport and playing value out of them," (p. 3).



Jessie Hubbell Bancroft (1867 – 1952) was an educator, author, fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a pioneer of physical education. She worked as the Director of Physical Training of the Brooklyn Schools, the Assistant Director of Physical Education of the Schools of Greater New York City, and in other positions as a physical education teacher. She was a founder of the American Association for the Advancement of Physical Education and the first woman to serve as its secretary. In 1924, Bancroft became the first living person to receive the Luther Halsey Gulick Award for advances in physical education.





*“Animated” Edition with Illustrations by Julian Wehr,
Scarce in This Condition*

2. BANNERMAN, Helen. [WEHR, Julian, illustrator.] *Little Black Sambo*. [“Animated” movable picture book.] New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc., [1943].

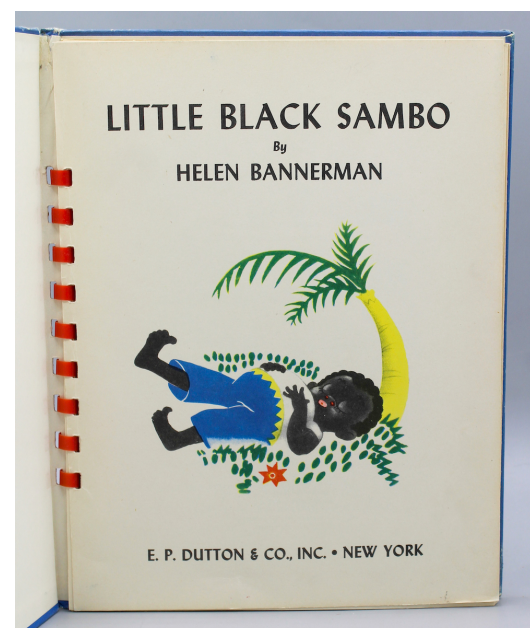
6¾ x 8¾ in. [24] pp. With seven full-page color illustrations by Wehr, each with movable, tab-activated elements. This copy has all seven movables (in contrast to later editions with fewer).

Spiral-bound pages in original color-illustrated pictorial boards. A fine copy with all seven movables, scarce in this condition.

\$500

First edition with the Julian Wehr illustrations. *The Story of Little Black Sambo* was first published in 1899 as part of the Dumpy Books for Children from the publisher Grant Richards.

Helen Bannerman (1862 – 1946) wrote *The Story of Little Black Sambo* in 1898 to entertain her daughters while traveling in India, where the family lived for thirty years while Bannerman’s husband worked in the Indian Medical Service. The original *Sambo* story portrayed its protagonist as a South Indian boy, and Bannerman’s follow-up books (including *Little Black Mingo*) also reference the landscape of the Indian subcontinent (Jeyathurai). Controversy surrounding the depiction of



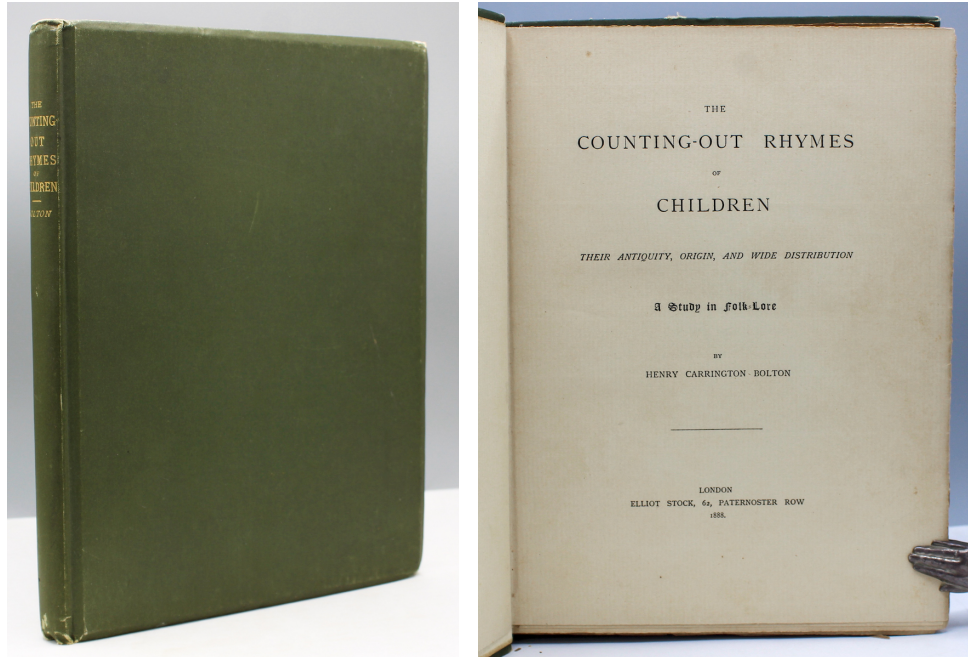
Sambo grew in the 1930s as American editions of the book proliferated: “In various editions of the book, Sambo is depicted as having very dark skin that is juxtaposed against the whites of his eyes and teeth, a broad nose, and a wide smile. While set in India and about an Indian protagonist, the illustrations matched what African Americans such as Langston Hughes recognized immediately to be the ‘pickaninny’” racist caricature (Jeyathurai). Some critics saw Sambo as a relatively positive depiction of a dark-skinned protagonist, however, and the character has appeared in modern editions like *The Story of Little Babaji* (1996) and *The Boy and the Tigers* (2004).



Julian Wehr (1898 – 1970) patented his own style of “animated” children’s books in the early 1940s. While previous designs utilized a tab at the bottom edge of the page that could only be pulled up and down, Wehr’s designs were more flexible, sometimes featuring multiple tabs that could be moved both back-and-forth and up-and-down. Wehr created over forty animated books, including versions of classic children’s stories like *Alice in Wonderland* and *Cinderella* (both 1945). Wehr, who was also a sculptor, was trained at the Art Students League in New York City, where he studied under John French Sloan (1871 – 1951).

Jeyathurai, Dashini. “The complicated racial politics of *Little Black Sambo*.” *Tides Magazine*, April 4, 2012 (accessed on the South Asian American Digital Archive).





On the Philology of “Eeny, Meeny, Miney, Mo”
And Over Eight Hundred Other Examples of Nonsense Verse

3. BOLTON, Henry Carrington. *The Counting-Out Rhymes of Children: Their Antiquity, Origin, and Wide Distribution. A Study in Folk-Lore*. London: Elliot Stock, 1888.

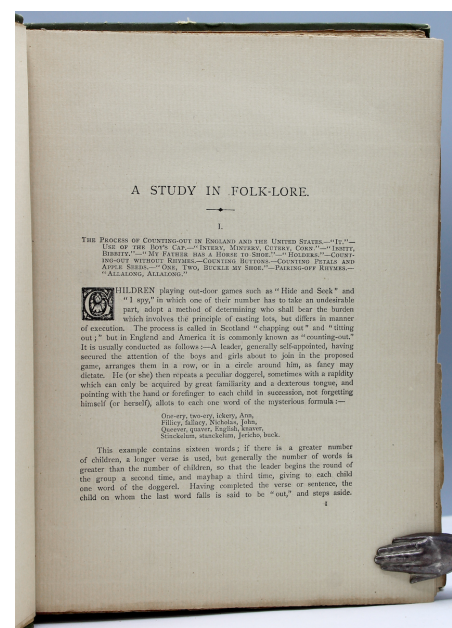
ix, [3], 121, [2] pp.

Publisher's olive-green cloth titled in gilt on spine. Some rubbing to extremities. Uniform toning due to paper quality. A very good copy of this scholarly approach to the folklore and philology of children's nonsense verse.

\$400

First edition.

The present work focuses on “counting-out” rhymes (e.g., “eeny, meeny, miney, mo” and “Miss Mary Mack”) and their development in diverse cultures all over the world. Henry Carrington Bolton (1843 – 1903) collected 877 examples, many of collected directly from children, of nonsense rhymes and their associated games. Most examples are in either English or German, but Bolton also examines rhymes in Arabic, Japanese, Armenian, Bulgarian, Spanish, Italian, and more. Bolton uses these widespread examples to trace the evolution of nonsense words throughout history, different regional interpretations of the same basic rhymes, and the importance of the rhymes in play. The present work also includes a lengthy list of titles Bolton consulted in his research.



Bolton was a chemist, historian, and esteemed bibliographer of scientific works. One of his most important bibliographies was the *Catalogue of Scientific and Technical Periodicals, 1665–1882* (1885). The second edition (1897) includes the full titles of 8,603 journals in twenty languages, together with chronological tables showing the year of issue for each volume of 500 of the publications and a check list of libraries holding them. In 1893 Bolton published *A Select Bibliography of Chemistry, 1492–1892*, which included over twelve thousand titles in the first edition and an additional three thousand titles in a later edition (1901). His interests ranged from the history of women in medicine to divination to Chinese alchemy, which accounts for his interest in the topic of children's play.

American National Biography.



Rare Crafting Kit for Assembling a Christmastime Scene
With Detailed Directions in Papercutting and Folding, Painting, and More

4. CHANCE, Lulu Maud, designer. *Bradley's Straight Line Picture Cut-Outs: Santa Claus [and the Community Christmas Tree]*. Springfield, Massachusetts: Milton Bradley Co., [1924].

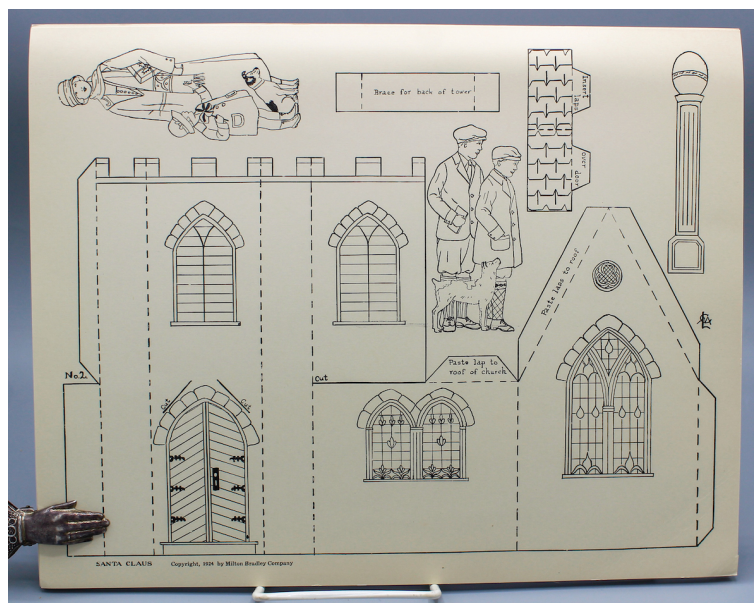
Eight sheets (11" x 13"). Seven of the sheets printed with paper dolls, buildings, and other models to be cut out and assembled into a neighborhood scene. One sheet of directions, including a detailed coloring guide, with an illustration of the fully assembled scene.

Enclosed in the original buff paper envelope printed in green and red with a Christmastime scene. Envelope somewhat dust-soiled. A near-fine set of this rare children's activity kit in the very good original envelope.

\$450

Second edition, preceded by a 1922 edition. OCLC records one copy of the first edition (University of Southern Mississippi) and no copies of any other editions.

This kit can be assembled into a scene with houses, a church, trees, and a festive group of people with Santa Claus in the background. The directions for assembly and coloring are quite elaborate, with detailed directions for painting each article of clothing and each aspect of the buildings, as well as the recommendation that crafters use glue, corn starch, sand, and salt for snow.



Lulu Maud Chance was also the designer of many other Milton Bradley cut-out model kits, including their popular village series. Between 1920 and 1932, Chance designed kits for village scenes in the Philippines, Mexico, Hawaii, India, China, Japan, and more. These kits were popular both for their aesthetics and for their educational value, as children and their families could catch a glimpse into cultures in other parts of the world while assembling the paper models.

Given the commitment of the Milton Bradley Company to Froebel's teaching tools, these cut-paper models seem to be a natural progression from the company's pioneering distribution of Froebel gifts. Much like the Froebel gifts, these models would have encouraged children to practice hand-eye coordination and to learn about color theory and aesthetics through creativity and play.

We could not locate much more information on Chance. She also designed Milton Bradley cut-out kits of paper dolls, animals, a scene from Abraham Lincoln's childhood, and more.





Unique Educational Board Game Prototype
Teaching Letters, Numbers, Pattern Matching, and Quick Reflexes

5. [CONNOLLY, Kathryn.] *Musical Alphabet*. [Board game prototype.] [Beverly, Massachusetts: Kathryn Connolly, 1958.]

Paper-covered box (10¾ x 15½") enclosing two game boards, two smaller decorated boxes containing game pieces, an instruction sheet, and a metal bell. Plus, a typewritten instruction sheet. All other text in manuscript.

Paper-covered box with color illustrated onlays and the title spelled out on cardboard discs. Foxing and toning to box. Materials inside are quite clean and well-preserved. Very good.

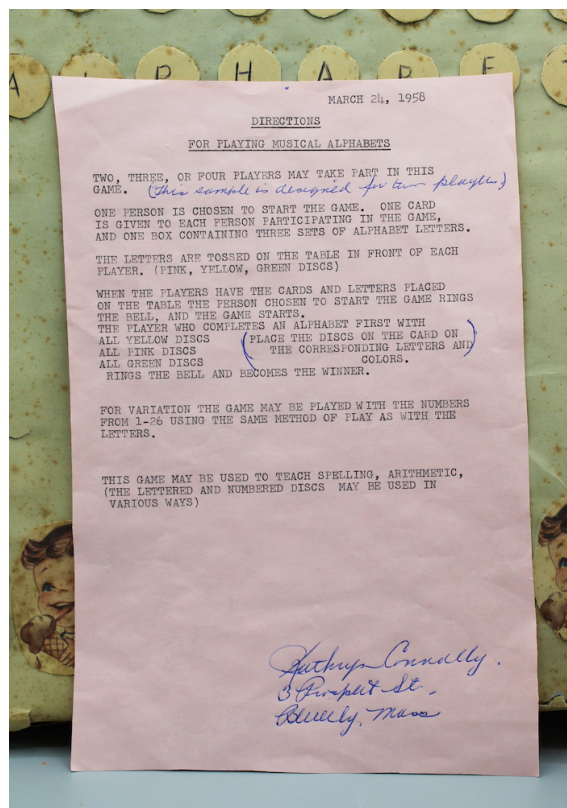
\$600

A unique prototype for a board game that uses quick matching to teach children letters, numbers, and colors. The title might refer to the fast-moving party game musical chairs, as the game does not appear to have a musical component aside from a couple lines of verse written in manuscript on the game boards ("now I know my ABCs / I'm as happy as can be").

According to the dealer who originally sold this item, Kathryn Connolly was a Milton Bradley employee, though the *Musical Alphabet* game was never produced by the company. Nevertheless, Kathryn Connolly has a place in the storied tradition of women game developers, the most notable of



whom is probably Lizzie Magie, who originally patented the game that would become Monopoly. Magie, a leftist and feminist, developed the "Landlord's Game" as a microcosm and satire of capitalism. She filed a patent for the game in 1903 and published it two years later through the Economic Game Company that she co-owned. It was Charles Darrow and Parker Brothers that would take the credit for the game, though, buying up the rights to Magie's successful Landlord's Game in the 1930s and reissuing it as Monopoly.



The full instructions for the Musical Alphabet game are as follows: "Two, three, or four players may take part in this game. (This sample is assigned for two players). One person is chosen to start the game. One card is given to each person participating in the game, and one box containing three sets of alphabet letters. The letters are tossed on the table in front of each player. (Pink, yellow, green discs.) When the players have the cards and letters placed on the table, the person chosen to start the game rings the bell, and the game starts. Place the discs on the card on the corresponding letters and colors. The player who completes an alphabet first all yellow disks/all pink discs/all green discs rings the bell and becomes the winner."





Rare Paper Dollhouse Kit
Emblematic of 1920s Craftsman Design

6. [DOLLS.] *Doll Furniture with Beautiful Rugs. One Room with Rug...Paper Furniture.* Chicago: Cut Craft Cut Outs, American Colortype Co., [ca. 1920].

Envelope (16 ½ x 13") enclosing three leaves (one 16¼ x 12½", two 12½ x 9"). All richly printed in color. The larger leaf is a rug and the two smaller leaves are printed with furniture pieces to be cut out and assembled into a living room scene. The rug and some of the furniture items are designed in a pseudo-"oriental" style.

Buff paper envelope printed in color with an illustration advertising the four possible "One Room" model home scenes. Wear and toning to edges of envelope, creases fragile. The leaves within are clean and bright. A very good copy of a rare and fragile item.

\$600

First edition. This is one in a series of four "One Room" kits (the other rooms shown on the envelope are a dining room, bedroom, and kitchen).

Activity kits like the present item were popular educational tools because they inspired children's creativity and helped them practice fine motor skills and techniques that transferred to art lessons (like cutting with scissors and folding paper). The present kit is additionally interesting for its distinctly Arts and Crafts era design. The kit includes a model of a Stickley-style settee, Tiffany-style lamps, and a porcelain vase emblematic of "oriental" interior design trend of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries.





Rare Set of Paper Dolls

7. [DOLLS.] *Dollies to Paint, Cutout and Dress*. Akron, Ohio: The Saalfeld Publishing Co., [n.d., ca. 1930s?]

8½ in. x 12½ in. [8] ff., printed on one side only. Four pages printed in color with illustrations of paper dolls and clothing, and four pages printed in black with outlines to color in.

Publisher's cream-colored paper wrappers printed in color with an illustration of four girls dressed to travel. Some toning to wrappers. Spine split halfway, resulting in a few loose leaves (laid in at original position). A few of the outlines have been partially colored in a child's hand. A good copy of a rare and fragile set of paper dolls.

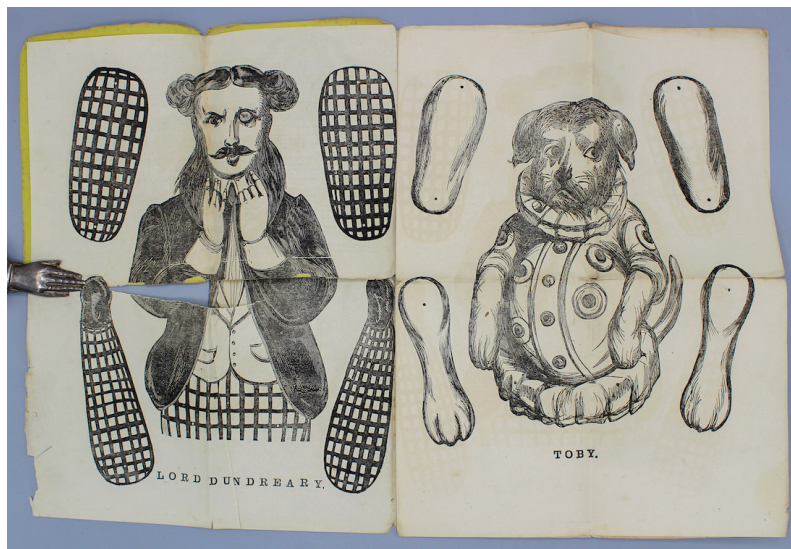
\$100

First edition.

Four different paper dolls (matching the girls illustrated on the wrappers) with their own sets of charming 1930s dresses, hats, overalls, and coats. The blank paper dolls encourage children to copy the colors from the printed designs (or invent their own color schemes) and play with their own creations along with the pre-colored dolls.

OCLC records no copies.





Rare Cut-Out Paper Puppets for Children,
A Remarkable Survival of a Fragile Item

8. [DOLLS.] *The Magic Toymaker*. The Little Modeller, No. 49. [London:] G. Clarke & Co., [ca. 1867].

Single sheet (35" x 11¼") folded in wrappers (4½" x 6"). Sheet printed with twenty large woodcuts meant to be cut out of the sheet and assembled into two paper puppets (a character named Lord Dundreary and his dog). The puppets, if cut out and assembled, would be about fourteen inches tall.

Original yellow printed paper wrappers illustrated with a woodcut of children at play. Large sheet with a tear along one fold (approx. 6"), affecting one piece of the paper puppet of Lord Dundreary. Some chipping to edges of sheet. A remarkable survival given that this item was meant to be cut apart for play. A very good copy of a fragile and rare item.

\$650

First edition.

The Little Modeller series from G. Clarke & Co., of which this is number forty-nine, introduced a line of jointed paper puppets. The puppets of Lord Dundreary and the dog Toby include jointed legs and arms to create a dancing effect. These puppets were meant to be cut out of the paper sheets, pasted onto cardboard, colored, and tied with strings. Then children could tie the opposite ends of the strings to their fingers and make the puppets "dance" like marionettes.

OCLC records one copy (University of London).





Developing Social Skills and Creativity Through Educational Roleplay

9. [DOLLS.] *My Home and Family*. [Instructo Activity Kit.] Philadelphia: Instructo Products Co., 1966.

Box (9 x 11½ x 3 in.) enclosing forty-nine (of fifty-two) die-cut, color-printed board figures. With a 2-pp. teacher's instruction sheet on color-printed Instructo Products Co. letterhead and plastic stands for the figures. The figures include backgrounds of home interiors, family members, pets, and furniture.

Enclosed in a light green plastic box with a hinged clasp lid. Titled on color-printed labels (one on box lid and one on side of box). Some wear to hinges and labels and some chipping to edges of instruction sheet. The board figures are bright and clean. Despite a few lacking pieces, a very good, attractive example of this rare educational tool that teaches creativity, social skills, organization, and sharing through roleplay.

\$600

First edition.

The teacher information sheet reads, "This kit contains illustrations which fit into various groupings, improving organizing and classifying skills. Picture interpretation and creative thinking are fostered as children identify each illustration and create various scenes. Further, the kit extends their backgrounds of experience and enlarges their previous understandings of possible home and family relationships. Social skills, learning to share ideas and materials, and communicating thoughts and feelings, develop as children work together using the activity kit and share the product of their work with their classmates."



The theory behind this kit stems from the Open Education movement of the mid-twentieth century, which focused on creativity and learning through play, especially through roleplaying and group storytelling among children. Friedrich Froebel pioneered methods of educating through play, which influenced the Open Education movement and continue to undergird early childhood education in the western world. Elements of psychoanalysis and child therapy techniques are also apparent in the theory behind this kit — roleplaying, processing home life and family relationships through abstract methods (e.g., telling stories and playing with toys), and developing social skills through cooperative play with other children.

OCLC records no copies. We could not locate any other copies in commerce at this time.





One of a Hundred Copies Signed by the Illustrators,
Including Paul Landacre and Millard Sheets

10. [DOLLS.] MORRISON, Lucile Philips [editor]. *Doll Dreams*. Hollywood: Printed by the Hollycrofters, Ltd., [1932].

Large octavo. 124 pp. Decorative title-page border and vignettes. Frontispiece and six full-page illustrations, numerous decorative initials, and decorative tail-pieces.

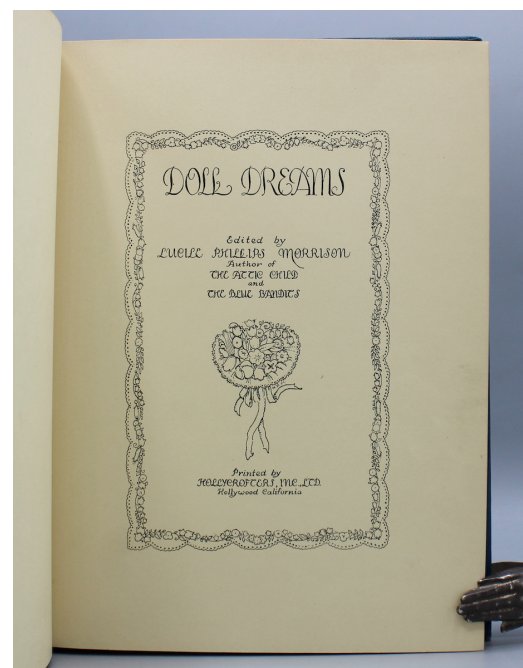
Blue cloth with illustrated paper label to front cover. Minor shelfwear. Near fine.

\$600

One of 150 copies. Signed by the editor and the illustrators: Paul Landacre, Millard Sheets, Ralph Holmes, Jessie Arms Botke, Franz Geritz, and Helen Candler Miller.

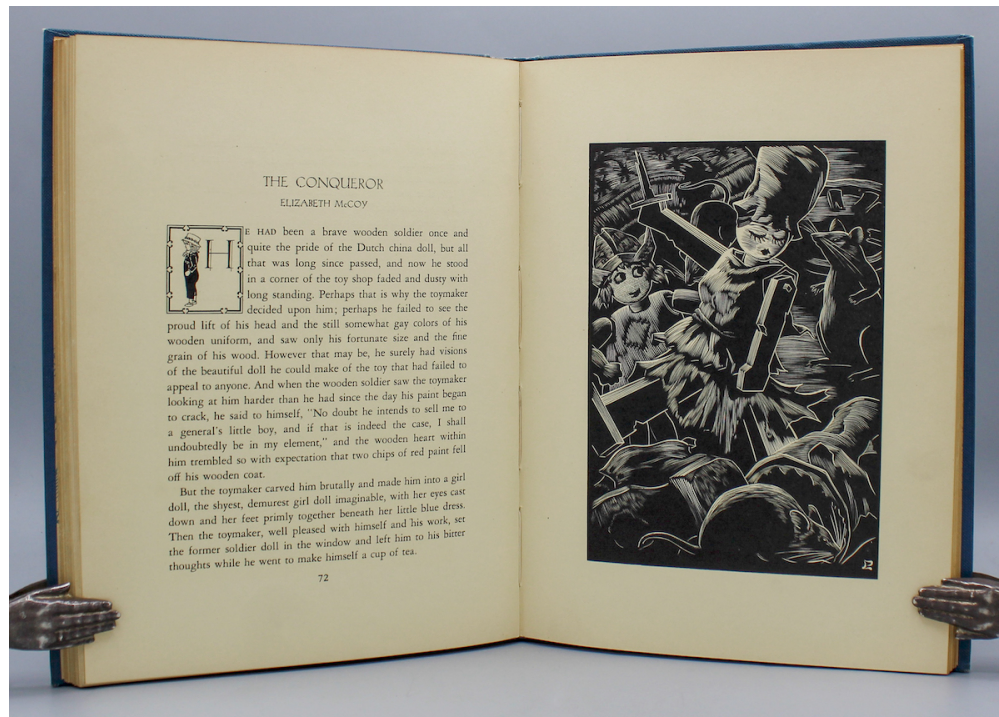
A collection of contest-winning doll stories written by children ranging in age from eight to fourteen. Each story is illustrated by a California artist.

Lucile Phillips Morrison (1896 – 1991) was a writer and psychologist who was dedicated to the arts and education in Southern California. She was a trustee of Scripps College from 1930 to 1972, during which she served as the chairman of the educational policy committee for five years, and served as a member of the advisory board of the Institute of Antiquity and Christianity at



Claremont Graduate School (now University). Her other books were *The Lost Queen of Egypt* (1937), *The Blue Bandits* (1930), *The Attic Child* (1929), and *Mystery Gate* (1928).

We could not find much information on the Hollycrofters. Their publications date from 1929 to 1958, with most dating from the 1930s. Their other titles include *Wit and Gossip of the French Court* (1937), *Indians of Death Valley* by Lydia Clements (1953), and *Orphans of the Desert* by Leo Papiano (1929), the latter of which was one of their earliest publications.





Rare Color-Printed Paper Doll Set Educating Children on Math and Budgeting

11. [DOLLS.] [PEAT, Fern Bisel, illustrator.] *Let's Play Store*. Akron, [Ohio]: Saalfeld Pub. Co., [1933].

12½ x 10 in. [8] ff. Every leaf printed in full color on one side with paper dolls and scenery pieces, each with perforated edges. A complete copy with over two hundred pieces.

Color printed card self-wrappers titled in black. Some chipping to wrappers. Narrow tear to fore-edge of back cover (touching corner of one illustration). A very good, bright, and clean copy of a rare educational toy.

\$375

First edition.

A paper doll kit that children could assemble into a grocery store scene. The cut-out bills (with various monetary values) could be used to practice math, budgeting, and buying.

Fern Bisel Peat (1893 – 1971) was a prolific children's book illustrator, painter, and interior designer. She opened an interior design studio with her husband, where she designed textiles, murals, and wallpaper, home goods, and toys.

OCLC records two copies, one in Canada (Toronto PL) and one in Japan (Waseda University Library).





Scarce Educational Paper Dolls Encouraging Acceptance of Ethnic "Others"

12. [DOLLS.] WARREN, Fanny L. *Little Neighbors of Many Lands*. Costume Dolls to Cut and Color. Springfield, Mass.: Milton Bradley Co., [1926].

Ten leaves ($11\frac{3}{4} \times 8\frac{3}{4}$ ") printed on one side only. Eleven leaves are printed with paper doll designs of children in cultural dress (two printed in color) and one is an instruction sheet printed in black. A complete set.

Enclosed in the original color-printed buff paper envelope ($12\frac{3}{4} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ "). Envelope a bit worn and chipped at edges. Leaves are fine and bright in a very good envelope.

\$650

First edition.

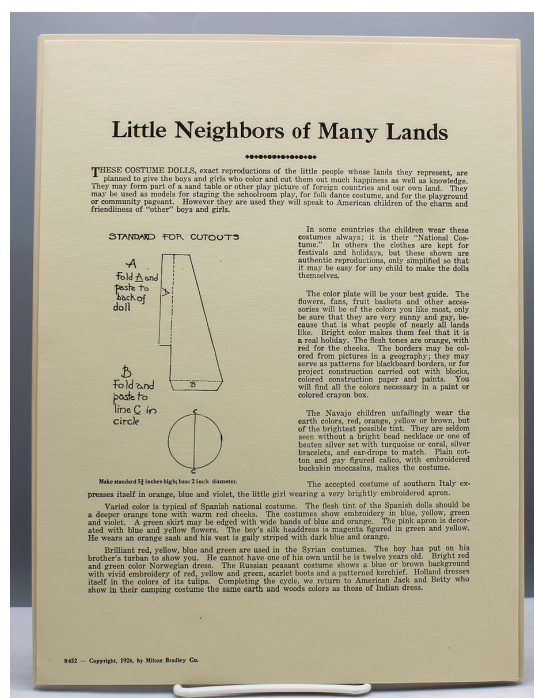
A complete set of these color-printed paper dolls and blank paper dolls for children to cut out and color. There are sixteen dolls total: one girl and one boy to represent eight nationalities and cultures. The dolls are titled Children of Italy, Holland, Russia, Norway, Syria, Spain, and the United States, as well as a pair of dolls titled "Navajo Indian Children."



In the instruction sheet, Warren writes, “[These dolls] will speak to American children of the charm and friendliness of ‘other’ boys and girls.”

Fanny L. Warren wrote and illustrated many other educational tools for children, including several with the writer and educator Mary S. Haviland. Warren and Haviland frequently collaborated on materials for the National Child Welfare Association, including poster sets like *Children from Many Lands* (1923), which was also themed around acceptance of racial and ethnic differences, and *Nursery Rhymes for Healthy Habits* (1921 – 1922). The present item and these poster sets were produced at the height of the Progressive Movement, which focused on federal welfare programs and was responsible for mother’s pension laws (forerunners of the Social Security Act) and the founding of the National Child Labor Committee.

OCLC locates one copy (Brandeis University).





Uncommon Movable Toy Book

13. DUDLEY, Carrie. *Let's Play Circus!* Another Peek-a-Boo Book. Minneapolis: A Gordon Volland Production presented by the Buzza Co., Craftacres, 1928.

12¾ x 9¾ in. [15] ff. With eight heavy card leaves, printed in color with circus scenes, each with die-cut windows that give a view of the underlying leaves. The remaining seven leaves are a thinner paper stock, also color-printed, offering backgrounds that can be viewed through the die-cut windows. The thick leaves are hinged at the left and the thin leaves at the right (similar to a dos-a-dos format), so they can be interleaved to create circus scenes. Playful verse printed in red.

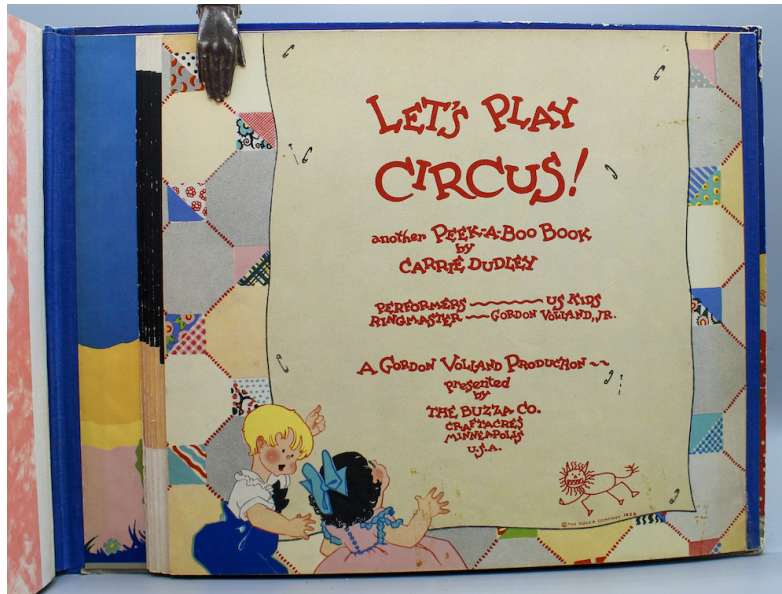
Publisher's die-cut pictorial boards printed in color. The cut-away parts of the boards reveal a "wild man" circus attraction in a wooden cage (the "wild man" appears to be a white child in blackface with the caption "wild kanibull from feegee ilez"). Some wear to corners. Blue cloth spine. One leaf with minor old tape repair. Still a bright, near fine copy of an uncommon book.

\$450

First edition of this movable toy book. This is a follow-up to an earlier movable toy book illustrated by Dudley, *My Peek-a-Boo Show Book*, which was very popular. Both feature the vivid color printing of Gordon Volland, son of the publisher Paul Frederick Volland (1875 – 1919).



The circus attractions include “Animulez Freeks & Everything”: a “mermade” and “bearded lady,” a fierce ensemble of animals (goat, horse, parrot, and friendly dog), and the “wild kanibull from feegee ilez.” The children playing circus appear in all the roles, including as at the ringmaster, the snake charmer, the wild man, the mermaid, and the clowns.



Carrie Douglas Dudley Ewen (1894 – 1982) was a Kentucky-born illustrator educated at the Art Institute of Chicago. She was a prolific artist whose work appeared in children’s books, cookbooks, in advertisements and magazines, and on holiday cards. Her most popular books were these peek-a-boo books, though her work also appeared in Betty Baxter’s *Supposin’* (1931), May Justus’ *At Foot of Windy Low* (1930), and others.

OCLC records seven copies: NYPL, UCLA, Chicago PL, Princeton, University of Michigan, University of Southern Mississippi, and the Filson Historical Society (Kentucky).

“Carrie Douglas Dudley Ewen: Ohio Valley Artist” and “Carrie Douglas Dudley Ewen Paper Doll Collection” (webpages). Filson Historical Society website.





Illustrated with Early Twentieth Century Authors,
A Near-Fine Set of Attractive Card Game Scorecards

14. *Every-Player Your-Partner System Tallies*. Modern Authors Series. New York: Chas. S. Clark Company, [1924].

Box (2½" x 5½") enclosing full set of twelve folding tally cards for calculating card game scores (bridge and five hundred). Each card is illustrated in color with an American author (including Edith Wharton, Henry Van Dyke, and Joseph C. Lincoln). The player holding the card plays as the author pictured, and the rules printed inside instruct players on how to interact with each other in games ("You are Edith Wharton...Play the first game with Irvin Cobb as partner at table three").

Black printed paper card box. Corners of lid a bit rubbed. White paper on bottom of box worn away. Each card is one leaf folded in half. Cards inside are fresh and clean, each with the original colorful cord tie at upper corner. A near-fine set of these rare cards in the very good original box.

\$125

First edition. A set that included historical authors (like Shakespeare) was published in the same year, and an expanded "Modern Authors" set was published in 1925. All editions are scarce. OCLC records no copies of the present edition, one copy of the set with historical authors (Harvard), and two copies of the second "Modern Authors" set (Winfield Unified School District in Kansas and Kent State).

We could not locate any information on the illustrator of the present item.





Early Froebel-Inspired Building Blocks from Milton Bradley

15. [FROEBEL, Friedrich.] *Alphabet & Kindergarten Building Blocks*. No. 4½. [Set of twenty Milton Bradley Co. building blocks.] Springfield, MA: M[ilton] Bradley & Co., [n.d., ca. early 1870s].

Twenty color-painted blocks ($2\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{5}{8}$ ") enclosed in wooden box ($7 \times 5\frac{1}{2} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$ "). On one side of each block is an illustration of an animal and on the other is a letter of the alphabet, in both upper- and lowercase, that corresponds with the animal pictured (e.g., R and rat). With duplicates of three blocks (Q/quail, W/water hog, and T/tiger), plus one block that seems to be misprinted with "D" on one side and "horse car" on the other. Lacking ten letters (C, E, H, I, N, O, S, V, Y, and Z).

Black walnut box with color-printed paper onlay to sliding lid. Lip missing from sliding lid and some rubbing and cracking to the paper onlay. Advertisement leaf, partially rubbed away, pasted onto verso of lid. Edgewear to blocks, with some fading to the paint. Despite general wear, the box and blocks are well-preserved. A good set of rare building blocks that predate the popularization of the kindergarten concept in the United States.

\$750

The twenty alphabet blocks preserved here do not seem to correspond with the set named on the box label. According to *Bradley's Catalogue and Price List of Games and Home Amusements for 1873-4*, Set 4½ of the Milton Bradley *Alphabet & Kindergarten Building Blocks* contained thirty blocks: "Roman alphabets, large and small letters, numerals and animals. Blocks painted, black walnut box," (p. 22). The present set of blocks do seem to be a product of the Milton Bradley Co., and resemble the blocks illustrated in *Bradley's Catalogue*, but probably originate from one of the other six sets in the *Alphabet & Kindergarten Building Blocks* series.

The present set of blocks is notable in large part because it predates the 1876 Centennial Exhibition and the corresponding explosion in popularity of the kindergarten concept in the United

States. Milton Bradley published the first American book on the kindergarten, a translation of Edward Wiebé's *The Paradise of Childhood*, in 1869 and within the next few years was producing activity kits based on the Gift designs of Friedrich Froebel (1782 - 1852). In large part due to the popularity of Milton Bradley's Froebelian materials, "The Forms selected by Froebel and his followers in the 1850s and 1860s thus became a kind of international standard for use in schools of all countries," (Brosterman, p. 99). Froebel's ideas were further amplified at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, which included the "Kindergarten Cottage," an exhibit of work done by young Boston students who were engaging with Froebel's curriculum in one of the first kindergarten classrooms in the country (Brosterman, p. 10). (Brosterman, Norman. *Inventing Kindergarten*, 1997.)



Two Complete Froebel Gift Sets,
A Remarkable Survival Rarely Found in this Condition

16. [FROEBEL, Friedrich.] *Bradley's Kindergarten Material*. No. 5. Fifth Gift...Springfield, Massachusetts: Milton Bradley Company, [n.d., ca. 1890s].

Thirty-seven wooden building blocks (twenty-one 1" cubes, six larger pyramids, and twelve smaller pyramids) enclosed in a 3⁵/₈" cubic box. A complete set.

Brown wooden box with sliding lid. Contemporary pencil ownership signature to inside of lid (Gladys Chipman). Printed paper label, somewhat cracked and chipped. A very good set of rare blocks that are rarely found in complete sets.

[and:]

Bradley's Kindergarten Material. No. 6. Sixth Gift. Springfield, Massachusetts: Milton Bradley Company, [n.d., ca. 1890s].

Thirty-six wooden building blocks (eighteen large rectangular blocks, twelve square blocks, and six long rectangular blocks) enclosed in a 3 $\frac{5}{8}$ " cubic box. A complete set.

Brown wooden box with sliding lid. Contemporary pencil ownership signature to inside of lid (Gladys Chipman). Printed paper label. A near fine, remarkably attractive set.

\$750

The third, fourth, fifth, and sixth Froebel Gifts are all variations on the theme of wooden building blocks. The fifth and sixth Gifts are both three-inch cubes that have been divided into smaller shapes along horizontal, vertical, and, in the case of the fifth Gift, diagonal lines. The fifth Gift was meant to be seen by students of Froebel's method as (literally) building on the aesthetic and geometric concepts introduced in the third Gift, a two-inch cube; and the sixth gift as an extension of the fourth. In *Inventing Kindergarten*, Norman Brosterman explains that the fifth and sixth Gifts were "designed to further the sequence of nature, knowledge, and beauty forms previously explored, in more complexity and with greater variety...Like all the block toys, the fifth and sixth gift taught lessons on volume, planarity, construction, and enclosure" (p. 57). Brosterman also notes that Froebel's block-themed Gifts foreshadowed the actual buildings of Frank Lloyd Wright, Mies, Adolf Loos, and Le Corbusier, which drew aesthetically on Froebel's designs.

Brosterman, Norman. *Inventing Kindergarten*, pp. 50-57, 99.





Rare Educational Toy Featuring a Movable Color-Printed Scroll

17. *Little Pet's ABC Panorama*. New York: McLoughlin Bros., [n.d., ca. 1870].

Box (7 x 7 x 1½") containing paper scroll (approx. 5" wide). Scroll is color-printed with twenty-six vignettes, one for each letter of the alphabet, with accompanying verse ("B is for Benjamin, making a bow"). Illustrated by William Mombberger.

Original wooden box with color-printed paper onlay. Two wooden knobs on the side of the box allow readers to turn through the scroll. Some rubbing to edges and soiling. Old crack to box lid repaired with adhesive. Bottom of box reinforced with tape at two corners. A child's old pencil scribbles to bottom. Scroll itself is clean and bright. A very good copy.

\$1,250

First edition. The illustrations seem to be the same as those that appear in the McLoughlin children's book *Major's Alphabet* (1870).

Companies like McLoughlin Bros. in New York and Milton Bradley in Massachusetts employed creative formats for alphabet books during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The present item is an unusual book that introduces an element of tactile play to learning the alphabet. While McLoughlin, Milton Bradley, and other companies were distributing these alphabet books, the Educational Toy Manufacturing Company, also in Massachusetts, experimented with a movable metal multiplication tool "Consul the Educated Monkey," and British company H.G. Clarke released their "Magic Toymaker" booklet, which could be assembled into a paper puppet.

These books utilized the concept of learning through play, a staple of early childhood education since Friedrich Froebel innovated the kindergarten in early nineteenth century.



William Momberger (1829 – 1895) was a German-born painter and lithographer who immigrated to the United States in 1848. He and his partner John Coughy established their own lithography firm in New York in the early 1850s. Momberger created lithographs for newspapers, banknotes, and books, including Evert Duyckinck's *Cyclopedia of American Literature* (1856). He also illustrated Civil War scenes and traveled through Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. His travels in Indiana led him to illustrate Robert Carlton's *New Purchase, or Early Years in the Far West*.

OCLC records only two copies (Indiana University and the Library of Congress).





Rare and Remarkably Complete Multiplication Puzzles,
Published by a German Jewish-Owned Games Company

18. [MATHEMATICS.] *Luftiges Ein mal Eins*. Bavaria: J.W.S[pear] & S[ons], [n.d., ca. 1900].

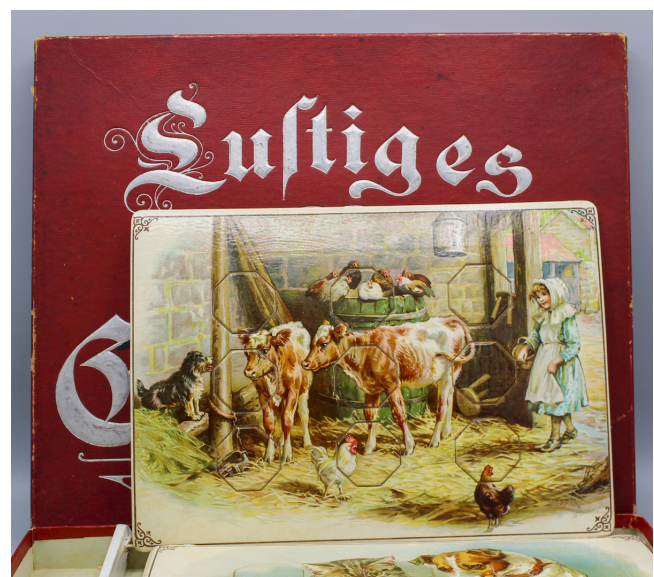
Six puzzles (11 x 8") and three circular color printed paper holders for puzzle pieces (3" diameter) enclosed in a box (14 x 12"). Each puzzle is printed in full color and has nine pieces that fit into a larger image. Each piece has a multiplication problem on its verso and fits into a matching space that shows the answer to the problem and text in German.

Red card box lettered in silver and with a glossy color printed onlay. Paint or ink stain to lid of box, some rubbing to edges. Inside of box lid printed in German with directions for the puzzle. The puzzles and paper holders are bright and clean. With all the puzzle pieces present, this is a remarkable survival, a rare mathematics teaching tool in very good condition.

\$750

First edition. OCLC records no copies. We could not locate any other copies in commerce.

The German text in the puzzle piece spaces are simple sentences that add a basic



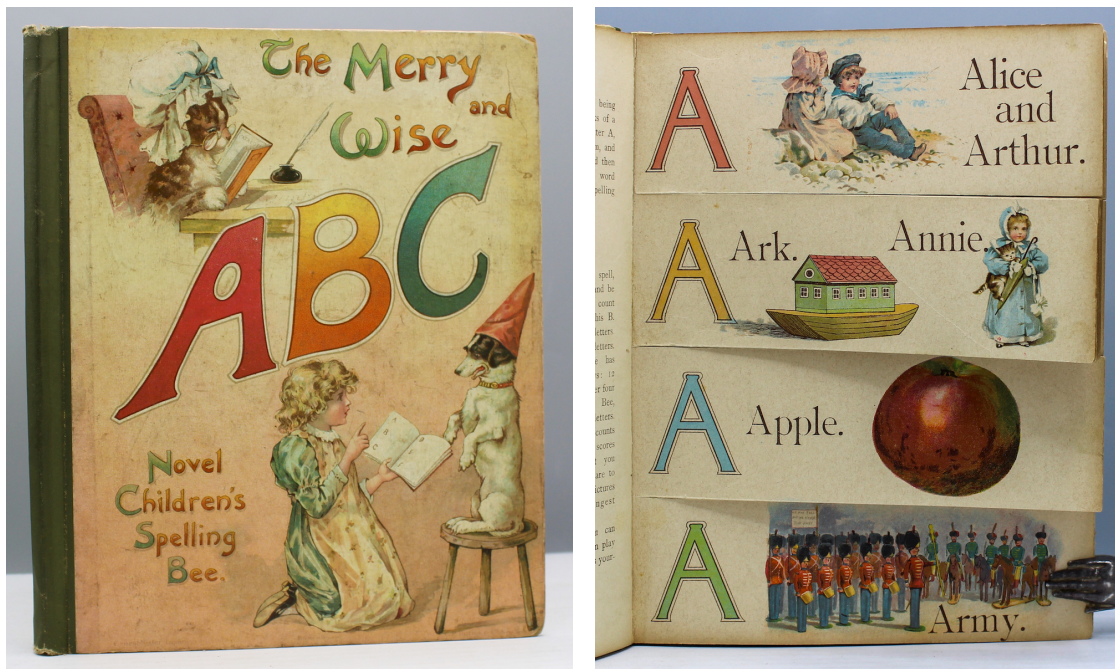
reading component to the puzzle. The text seems to rhyme with the solution to the math problem: for example, $8 \times 8 = 48$, *Achtundvierzig*, which rhymes with “Mein Bruderlein ist lieb und herzlich.”

J.W. Spear & Sons was board game manufacturer founded in Nuremberg in 1879 by Jacob Spier (1832 – 1893). At its founding, the company produced home goods like table mats and photo frames, but games became their main product by the turn of the century. In the early 1930s, the company began operations in Britain, where the Spier family would eventually move to escape Nazi Germany (the Spiers, a Jewish family, anglicized their name to Spear upon their move to Britain). As the Nazis rose to power and began their campaign of seizing Jewish businesses, the Nuremberg factory was “purchased” by a German businessman, and eventually bombed by the Royal Air Force during World War II. The Spiers’ British factory converted to military production during the war.



After World War II, the British factory returned to game manufacturing. The company acquired the rights to produce and distribute Scrabble outside of North America, and produced the popular Brickplayer construction toy. In 1994, the company was taken over by Mattel after a bidding war with Hasbro. As of 2017, J.W. Spear & Sons no longer operates, but about two thousand of its games are preserved by the German Games Archive in Nuremberg.





Scarce Teaching Tool and Picture Book,
Attractively Printed in Color with Over a Hundred Illustrations

19. *The Merry and Wise ABC. Novel Children's Spelling Bee.* [London: Ernest Nister, 1896.]

Quarto. [4] pp., plus [26] ff., each sectioned into four strips that can be turned separately (four strips for each letter of the alphabet). With over a hundred attractive color-printed vignettes illustrating words beginning with each letter of the alphabet.

Original color-printed pictorial paper boards with green cloth spine. Some dustsoiling and dampstaining to boards. Very bright inside despite some light toning to margins. A very good copy of a scarce and attractive book of educational games.

\$850

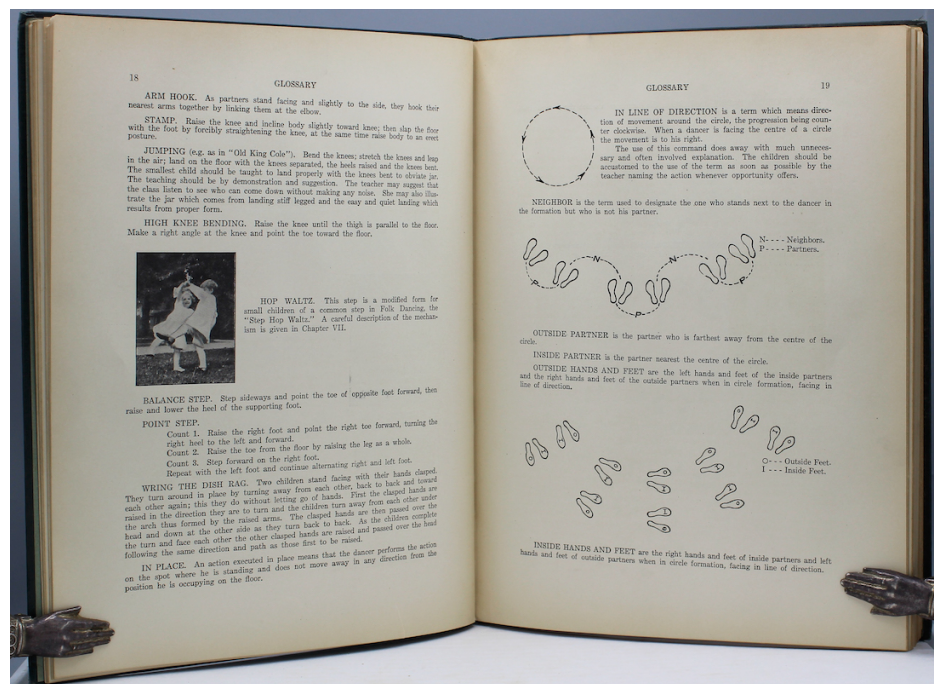
First edition.

The present item is both a picture book and a teaching tool that facilitates word games and memory exercises. The first four pages outline activities for children: turning the letter strips separately to form four-letter words, basic reading and counting exercises, and a game in which children unscramble letters to form simple words. The charming and vivid illustrations incorporate the process of recognizing animals, household items, and toys and pairing them with their names.

We could not identify the author of the explanatory text, nor the illustrator (or illustrators) responsible for the art. The verse that opens the work was written by the English composer Graham Clifton Bigham (1859 – 1913), who also contributed verse to *Nonsense Rhymes for Holiday Times*, *The Animals' Rebellion*, *Christmas in Animal Land*, and other Ernest Nister titles.

OCLC records only four copies: BL, Cambridge, Toronto PL, and Princeton.





Physical Education for Children, Illustrated Throughout

20. MOSES, Irene E. Phillips. *Rhythmic Action Plays and Dances*. A book of original games and dances, arranged progressively, to mother goose and other action songs with a teaching introductory; for the kindergarten, primary school, playground and gymnasium. Springfield, Massachusetts: Milton Bradley Company, 1916.

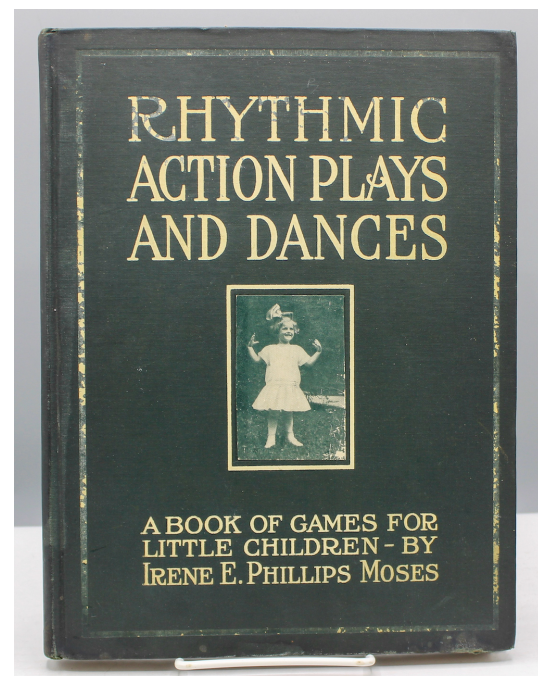
Quarto. vii, [3], 164 pp. With sheet music and photo reproductions of children dancing on nearly every page.

Publisher's green cloth titled in cream with paper onlay of a photo reproduction of a girl dancing. Some rubbing to cloth. Green endpapers. Light toning, mostly to margins. A very good copy of this book of children's physical education activities.

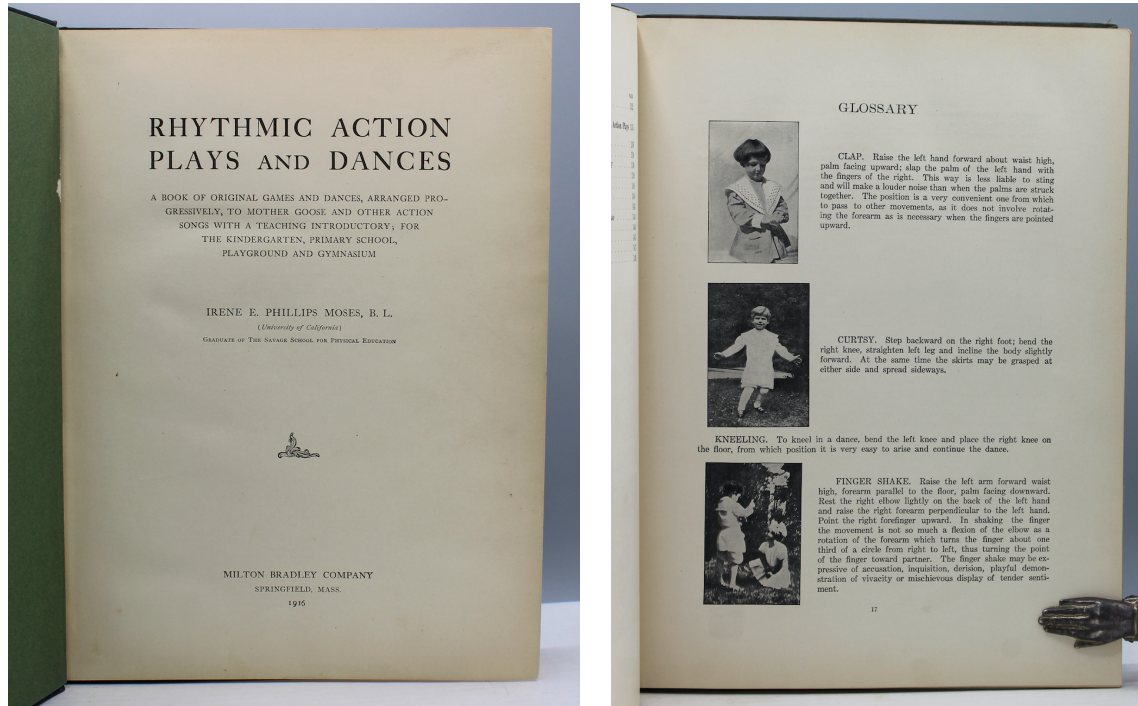
\$100

First edition, second printing. First printed in 1915.

"Physical Education in common with all other branches of the curriculum has been undergoing important changes with the adaptation of modern theories to the teaching of young children. Games and Folk Dances have come to occupy a well merited place in the child's education. Their successful use is largely result

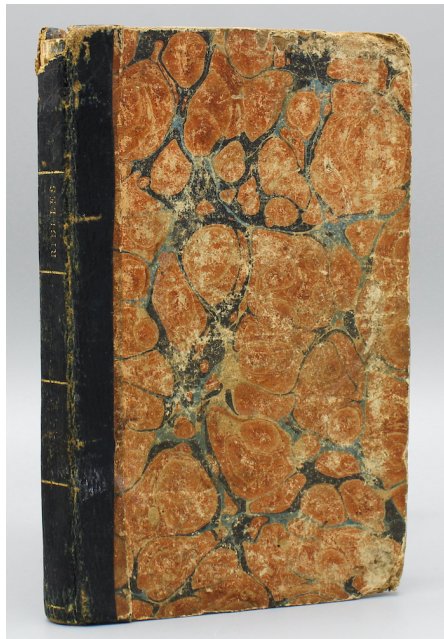


of their strong universal appeal to the child in contrast to the rather remote interest stimulated by the formal gymnastics. Under these circumstances Games and Rhythmic Action Plays are found to give a maximum of educational and recreative physical exercise," (p. v). The plays and dances are also reminiscent of Froebel's *Mother-Play and Nursery Songs*.



We could not locate much information on Irene Elizabeth Phillips Moses (1884 – 1967). This appears to be her only published book.





**Scarce Collection of Riddles with Forty Illustrations
and an Elaborate Decorative Title-Page**

21. [RIDDLES.] *The Temple of Fancy: or, Choice Riddles, Enigmas, Charades, and Conundrums. Calculated to Amuse the Minds of Youth.* London: Whittingham and Arliss, [n.d., ca. 1816].

Twelvemo. 95 pp., [1] p. publisher's ad. With woodcut frontispiece, elaborate decorative border on title-page, 38 different illustrated vignettes, and one tailpiece.

Original black roan over marbled boards. Gilt rule and lettering on spine. Some wear to boards and some rubbing to extremities. Some chipping to head of spine. Two ink signatures on front endpapers: one dated 1820 and the other from roughly the same time. Some light foxing and some contemporary pencil annotations on last ten pages or so. A very good, clean, and tight copy of a scarce book.

\$600

Edition and date not given, though the publisher's ad lists titles with dates of 1815 and 1816. The present book also appeared under the J. Arliss imprint, though no copies seem to bear dates. OCLC lists only four copies under the Whittingham and Arliss imprint: one in England, one in Canada, one at Yale, and one at Princeton. The copies with the J. Arliss imprint are scarcer, with OCLC listing one copy in England and one at UCLA.

The Temple of Fancy contains 128 riddles, all in verse, with illustrations that offer clues to the riddles' solutions. Some of the riddles are very simple, though many make reference to obscure historical events and little-known facts; the riddles also seem to progress in difficulty over the course of the book.





Full-Color Facsimile of a Colonial Manuscript
Containing Twenty-Two Illustrations with Moveable Parts

22. SHEPHERD, Catharine. *My Lady's Toilette*. Philadelphia: C.H. Graves Company, 1911.

Twentyfourmo (5.25" x 5.5"). [22] ff. printed on heavy paper. Twenty-color illustrations of jewelry, flowers, and containers with a hinged flap, which, when lifted, reveals a different virtue (i.e. "modesty," "good humour," "contentment").

Decorative boards illustrated with medallion portrait on front cover, punch sewn with yellow silk ribbon. A near fine copy in the original very good glassine dust jacket with a few small chips and a single, closed tear, scarce in the very good original publisher's gift box that has some light wear and very minor soiling.

\$275

First edition, a facsimile of the original manuscript that consists of a series of illustrations, designed and executed by the author, and presented to her niece. The title page notes that the original, "which is a treasured heirloom, is yellow with age and the ink somewhat faded, but the water colors...indicate considerable talent and artistic and artistic ability..." It is dedicated to the author, "the fair Colonial Belle who more than a century ago conceived and executed these quaintly appropriate illustrations" (f. [2]).

We were unable to learn much information about the Catharine Shepherd from the resources available to us, though OCLC gives her dates as 1788-1848. Each leaf of *My Lady's Toilette* contains rhyming verses telling of an attribute that is becoming to a proper young woman. On the manuscript title-page, Shepherd writes, "My Lady's Toilette: Whose adorning let it not be that outward / adorning of wearing of gold but let it be even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit which is in the sight of God of great price" (f. [3]).





Rare Educational Vocabulary and Spelling Game for Children

23. [SPELLING.] *La Scatola dei Giocattoli per Imparare a Leggere, a Scrivere e a Contare*. [Sampierdarena, Genoa, Italy: Alfabetiere Internazionale Pollano, ca. 1930.]

Box (16½" x 11") enclosing two wooden game boards (15" x 9½") and wooden tiles corresponding to every letter of the alphabet, numbers zero to nine, punctuation marks, and math symbols. The verso of the box lid is also a game board. The game boards are printed in color with images and their corresponding names (e.g., an image of a soldier is combined with "soldato") and a space for children to copy the word using the wooden game pieces. Each letter, number, and symbol have multiple copies of each corresponding game piece. It is unclear how many corresponding pieces were issued per character, but each character has between three and six pieces.

Wooden box with color-printed paper onlay illustrated with a scene of children playing the game. Some wear and soiling to box lid and some cracking at edges. Game boards inside are quite clean and bright despite a bit of rubbing. A very good copy of this rare educational game.

\$2,250

First edition. The text on the box lid notes that this game is more elaborate than other games produced at the time, being the only model with both capital letters and cursive, and with the vowels printed in a different color than the consonants (blue and red, respectively).

We could not locate any copies in commerce at this time. OCLC records no copies.





Rare Panorama Book with Six Die-Cut Chromolithograph Panels

24. *The Three Kittens*. London: Raphael Tuck & Sons, Designed in England, Printed in Germany, [n.d., ca. 1895].

Six panels, each 3 in. by 4 ½ in. Folds out to 3 in. by 17¾ in. Printed on one side only. Each panel with a different die-cut embossed chromolithograph plate showing three kittens losing their pairs of mittens, being chastised by their mother, finding the mittens, and having pie.

Bound in accordion format. Joints have been reinforced on verso, which forces the item to fold into only three sections (rather than six). Some light soiling and a bit of faint toning to verso, but overall a good, very bright and clean copy of a rare item.

\$375

First printing? The present item was probably part of the Panorama Toy Booklets series published by Raphael Tuck & Sons. The title-page indicates that it is "No. 25." A set of twelve of the Panorama Toy Booklets were published in a box set as the Youngsters Library, though *The Three Kittens* was not included in that set.

OCLC lists no other copies matching the exact description of this item. Raphael Tuck & Sons also printed *The Three Kittens*, sometimes titled as *The Three Little Kittens*, on linen and in sixteen-page books in boards, but there are no copies on OCLC in the panorama format.

The Bookseller: A Handbook of British and Foreign Literature (1892), p. 1045.