

**WOMEN'S • ROYAL • NAVAL • SERVICE**

## **Women in Wartime**

*Soldiers, Doctors, Writers, Workers, 1775-1945*

**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

**join the  
Wrens**



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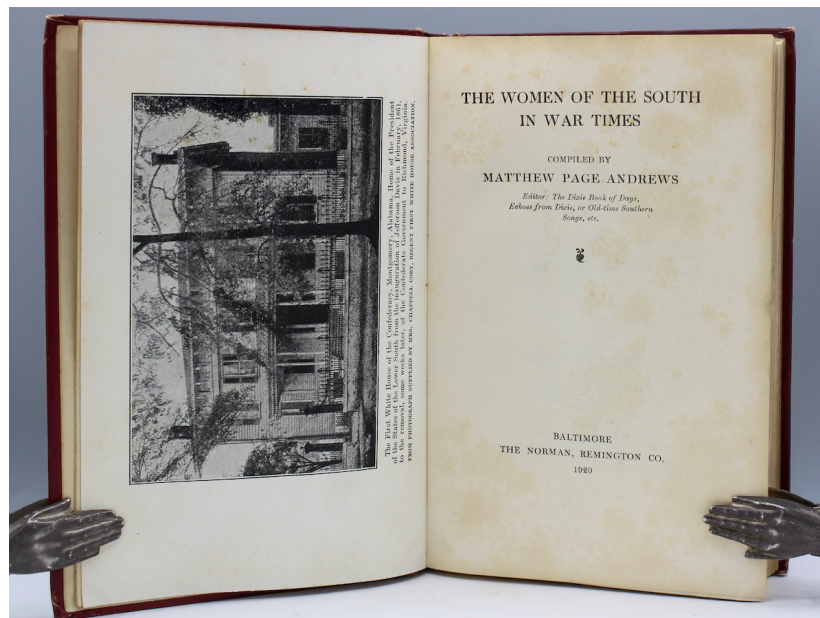
# Women in Wartime

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## Personal Narratives of Confederate Women

1. ANDREWS, Matthew Page. *The Women of the South in War Times*. Baltimore: The Norman, Remington Co., 1920.

Octavo. xvii, [2], 466 pp. With four photo plates (including frontispiece).

Publisher's red cloth titled in gilt. Some dustsoiling to cloth. Ink ownership signature (1921) of a Mrs. E.L. Merry to front pastedown. Foxing to a few leaves. One plate loose, laid in at original position. A very good, tight copy.

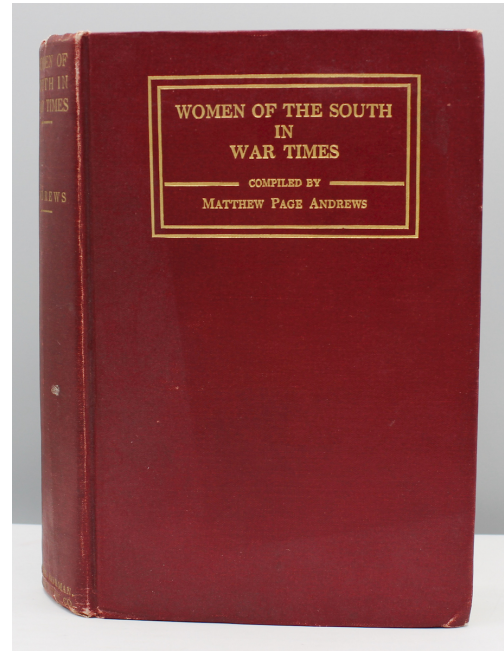
\$150

First edition of this collection of personal narratives of Confederate women.

The present work begins with a foreword defending the people of the Confederacy, particularly women. The author presents the narratives collected here to humanize the women of the South and avoid the “well-intended but somewhat doubt-provoking abundance of perfervid eloquence heaped upon them by a certain type of orator much given to flowery speech,” (p. 3).

Matthew Page Andrews (1879 – 1947) was an editor, author, and prominent Southern historian. He was the nephew of Thomas Nelson Page (1853 – 1922), the Confederacy-born author and lawyer. Andrews also wrote *The Tercentenary History of Maryland, The Old Dominion, A History of the United States*, and *The American's Creed and Its Meaning*. He was also the editorial advisor to the Yale University Press film series *Chronicles of America*. Andrews was staunch defender of aristocratic Southern white opinion: he was opposed, for example, to Republicans, prohibitionists, and abolitionists. He was also a supporter of the 1931 “Faithful Slave Memorial” at Harper’s Ferry and played a principal role in the controversy surrounding the memorial.

West Virginia and Regional History Center (West Virginia University) website.



## Rare Ephemera Remembering Clara Barton's Work with Other Civil War Nurses

2. [BARTON, CLARA.] [WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS.] [Clara Barton memorial ribbon.] "Thirtieth National Convention of the Woman's Relief Corps / Auxiliary to the Grand Army of the Republic." Los Angeles, Cal.: 1912.

3<sup>5</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. x 8<sup>3</sup>/<sub>8</sub> in. Printed on one side with vignette of Clara Barton and facsimile signature.

Cream-colored ribbon. Minor fraying along bottom edge, some faint toning. A near-fine piece of rare ephemera.

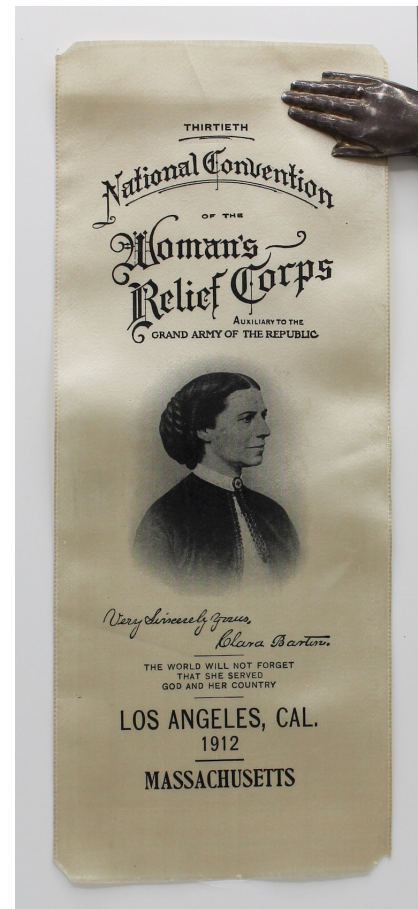
\$250

Created shortly after Clara Barton's death for distribution at that year's Woman's Relief Corps Convention in Los Angeles.

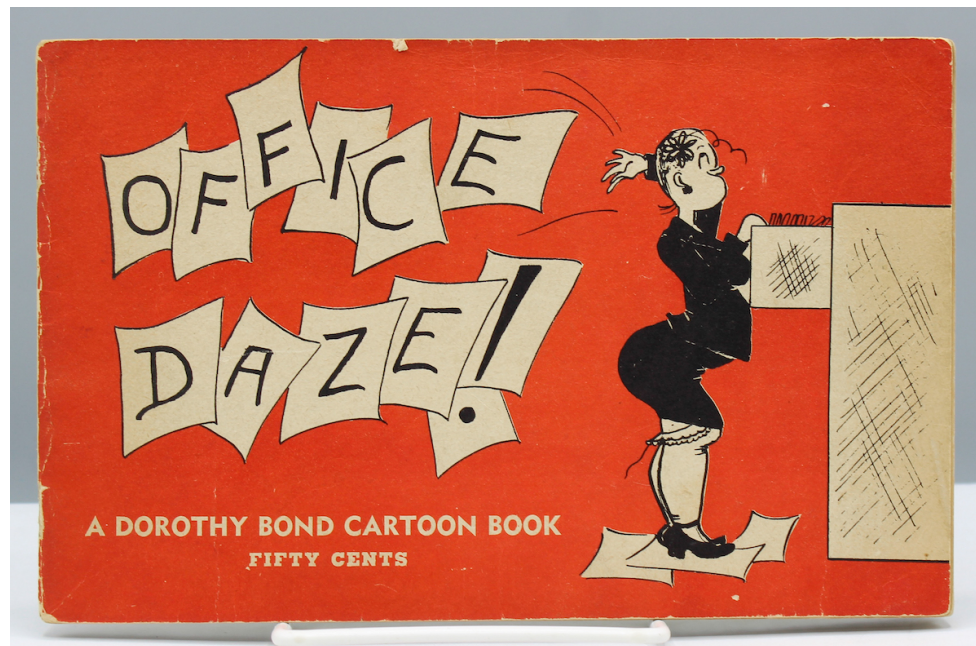
Barton (1821 – 1912) was one of the earliest members of the Woman's Relief Corps (WRC), which was founded in 1883 as an auxiliary of the Grand Army of the Republic, an advocacy group for veterans of the Union Army. The WRC focused on establishing pensions for the women who provided medical care to the Union Army and on supporting the families of soldiers who had been killed or injured during the Civil War. In 1892, the WRC and its president, Annie Wittenmeyer (1827 – 1900), successfully lobbied Congress to pass the Army Nurses Pension Law, which granted pensions to Wittenmeyer and other Civil War nurses.

Barton's involvement in the WRC was a natural extension of her work to establish the American Red Cross, which she founded in 1881. Barton was also an acquaintance of both Susan B. Anthony and Frederick Douglass, and was involved in suffrage and civil rights activism — two causes also in accordance with the work of the WRC. Barton was the most decorated woman in America, who counted among her awards the International Red Cross Medal, the Prussian Iron Cross, the Cross of Imperial Russia, and the Golden Cross of Baden.

American National Biography.







Rare Cartoons Satirizing the Lives of Working Women During WWII  
By a Self-Proclaimed "Office Girl (with the Soul of a Jerk)"

3. BOND, Dorothy [Ann Peterson]. *Office Daze! A Dorothy Bond Cartoon Book*...only an office girl (with the soul of a jerk) could draw the humorous back-of-the-scenes in an office...and now it's been done by one...[Chicago:] Dorothy A. Bond, 1945.

8½ in. x 5⅝ in. 64 pp. Illustrated with comic strips, printed in black, on every page. All illustrations by Dorothy Bond.

Original pictorial wrappers, printed in black and red, illustrated by Dorothy Bond. Binding is bright and clean. Toning to title-page and final page. Two signatures on title-page: one ink signature, dated 1945, of "Annie C. Weir WD, FMR" (War Department Financial Management Regulation?); and one roughly contemporary pencil signature of "Marie - Auditor's Office." Some toning to edges but still a very good, very clean copy of a rare cartoon book self-published by a woman cartoonist who lampooned the experiences of working women during World War II.

\$450

First edition. OCLC records no copies.

*Office Daze!* satirizes the harried lives of women working in offices during World War II. The cartoons poke fun at characters like



“the Wolf,” a terrible boss who “spends weeks telling you he is going to get a divorce – you’re the girl for him.” Other characters include “the uniformed one,” a woman in military uniform who returns to the office for a visit and praises her “wunnerful” schedule of marching, eating, and sleeping; and a messy bachelorette living with her mother who puts on a mud mask and her pajamas only to be asked out on a date immediately afterwards.

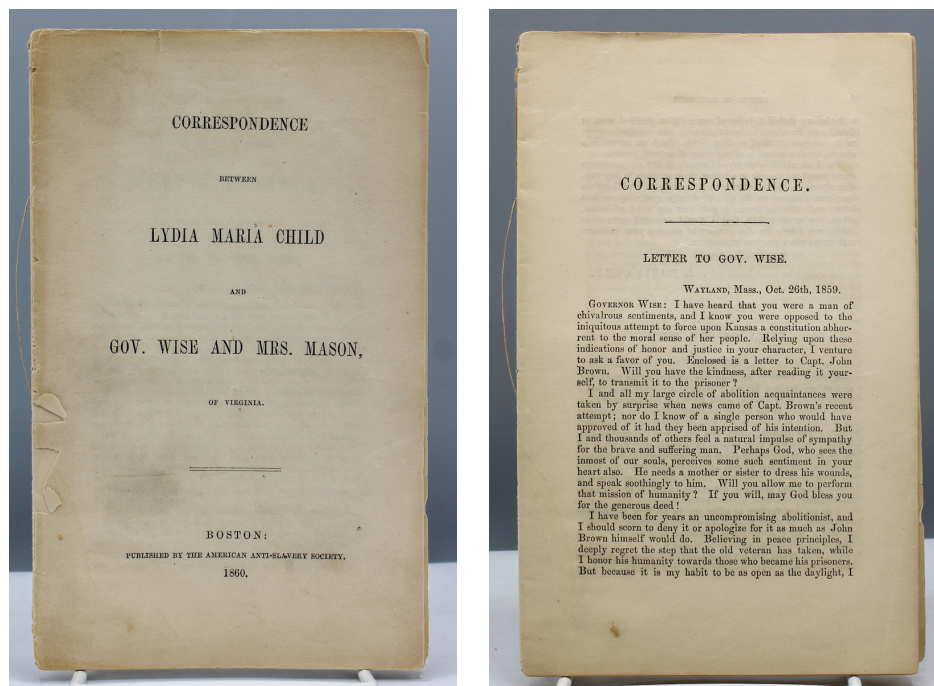


Dorothy Anne Peterson Bond (1905 – 1982) was a newspaper cartoonist born in the United States to Hungarian immigrant parents. Her cartoons were inspired by her work as the secretary for a furnace manufacturer and, during World War II, as the secretary for a Navy admiral. She self-published the cartoon books *Life with the Army* (1943), under the pseudonym “Navy Nora,” and *Government Gertie* (1944), which satirized the life of a wartime government clerk. Bond also illustrated the comic strips *The Ladies*, *Chlorine*, and *Champion of the Working Girl*, whose titular character was based on her own real-life secretary Dee Mulvey.

Robbins, Trina and Catherine Yronwode. *Women and the Comics* (1985).







With a Letter from L. Maria Child to Abolitionist John Brown

4. CHILD, Lydia Maria. *Correspondence Between Lydia Maria Child and Gov. Wise and Mrs. Mason, of Virginia*. Boston: Published by the American Anti-Slavery Society, 1860.

Twelvemo. 28 pp., including wrappers.

Printed self-wrappers, stitched. Wrappers loose. Uniform light toning due to paper quality, but overall a good, clean copy.

\$750

First edition. A New York edition was published in the same year.

The present tract compiles correspondence between Lydia Maria Child (1802-1880) and Virginia Governor Henry Wise (1806-1876), plus correspondence between Child and Maria J.C. Randolph Mason (1826-1902), on the topic of John Brown's raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859. In her first letter, Child requests that Wise forward an enclosed letter to Brown, though the communication quickly turns to debate between Child and Wise. Child's letter to Brown and Brown's response are also included in the tract (pp. 14-16).

Lydia Maria Child (1802-1880) was a women's rights activist and a dedicated abolitionist who authored numerous anti-slavery publications, edited Harriet Ann Jacobs' now-classic memoir *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* (1861), and offered protection and shelter to people fleeing slavery. Child was also a member of the executive committee of the American Anti-Slavery Society and an editor of the society's periodical, *The National Anti-Slavery Standard*.



Interracial Marriage During the Civil War  
By the First Woman to Address the United States Congress

5. DICKINSON, Anna E. *What Answer?* Boston: Ticknor and Fields, 1868.

Octavo. 301 pp.

Publisher's green cloth titled in gilt. Some bubbling to cloth on back cover. Toning to leaves. A very good copy.

\$750

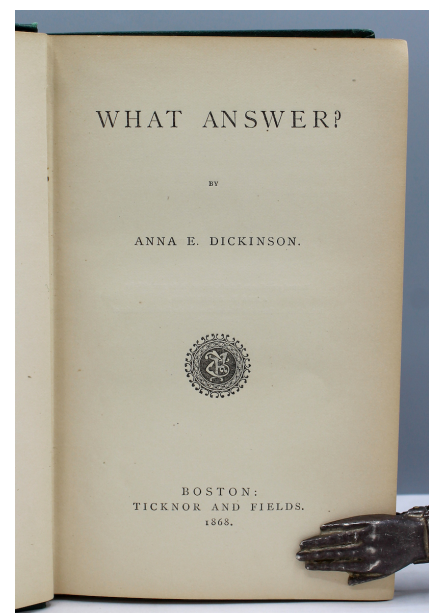
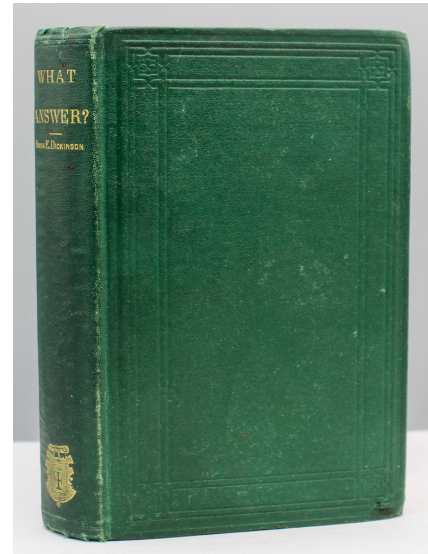
First edition.

A novel about the marriage between an aristocratic white New Yorker, William Sutton, and a mixed-race Black woman, Francesca Ercildoune. The novel takes place during the Civil War and features scenes during the New York Draft Riots, during which a friend of Sutton's is lynched, and the battles at Battery Wagner in July of 1863, where Francesca's brother fights as a member of the Massachusetts 54<sup>th</sup>.

New York was one of only nine states that never had any miscegenation laws in place. By the publication of the present work, only three states had repealed their existing laws.

Anna E. Dickinson (1842 – 1932) was a lecturer, abolitionist, women's rights advocate, mountaineer and the first woman to give a political address before the United States Congress. Dickinson, a Quaker, was a friend of Lucretia Mott, who arranged for Dickinson to speak for the Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society and helped shape Dickinson's career as a major political force for abolition. Dickinson campaigned for pro-Union Republican candidates leading up to the 1863 senate election and delivered her speech to Congress the next year, when she was only twenty-two. President Lincoln was in attendance, and she received a standing ovation.

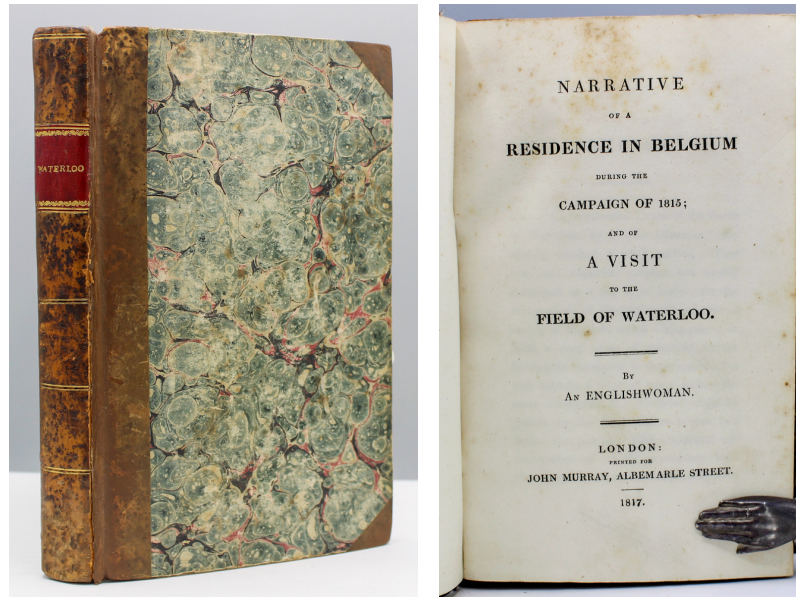
*What Answer?* is considered Dickinson's most radical work. She also wrote plays and some nonfiction, including *A Paying Investment, a Plea for Education* (1876), which advocated for education for children, prisoner's rights, and labor law reform. Dickinson was also a notable mountaineer, and was the first white woman on record to summit several Colorado peaks.



Wright II, 751. "Miscegenation during the Civil War."







By an Early Woman War Correspondent,  
 “One of the Best Contemporary Accounts by a Non-Military Writer” (ODNB)

6. [EATON, Charlotte Anne.] *Narrative of a Residence in Belgium during the Campaign of 1815; and of a Visit to the Field of Waterloo.* By an Englishwoman. London: Printed for John Murray, 1817.

Octavo. vii, 351 pp.

Contemporary calf over marbled boards. Spine with gilt rule and red morocco label. Binding is clean and attractive. Twentieth century bookplate of an A.R. Turner to front pastedown. Still quite fresh throughout despite some foxing. A very good, clean copy.

\$600

First edition.

In June of 1815, Charlotte Anne Eaton, née Waldie (1788 – 1859), her sister Jane Watts (1793 – 1826), and their brother John traveled to Brussels, which began the events chronicled in the present memoir. They were evacuated to Antwerp, then witnessed the Battle of Waterloo, and returned to England after six weeks. Eaton first published her account of the battle in *The Battle of Waterloo* (1815), illustrated by Watts, and published this extended account two years later. The present work “was noted for its liveliness and its unflinching account of the horror of the battle...It was also a staunchly patriotic piece of writing, which revelled in ‘English greatness and glory,’ and was considered one of the best contemporary accounts by a non-military writer,” (Oxford DNB).

Eaton also wrote novels, but she was best known for her works on travel, which also included *Rome in the Nineteenth Century* (1818) and *Sketches Descriptive of Italy in 1816-17* (1820), which she co-authored with Watts. Eaton was an early woman novelist-turned-war-correspondent, preceded by important woman writers like Ann Radcliffe.

Colbert; Robinson, pp. 261-262.



7. [KIRKLAND, Caroline Matilda]. *A Few Words in Behalf of the Loyal Women of the United States, by One of Themselves*. New York: The Loyal Publication Society, Wm. C. Bryant & Co., 1863.

Octavo. 23 pp. Rear cover printed with ads.

Original printed gray paper wrappers, sewn. Wrappers slightly toned, minor dampstain to upper margins of leaves, never intruding into text. A very good copy of a rare work.

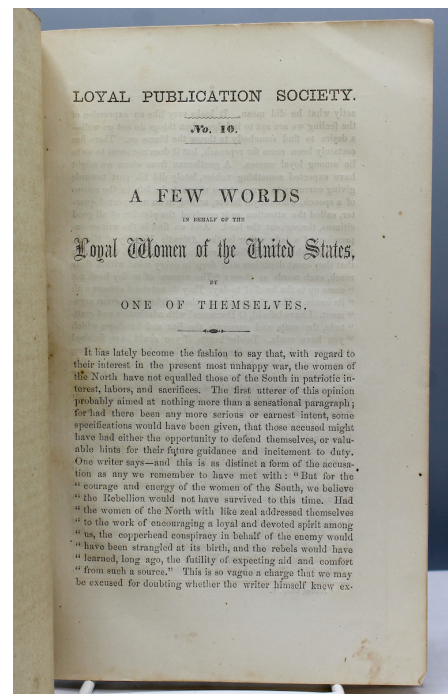
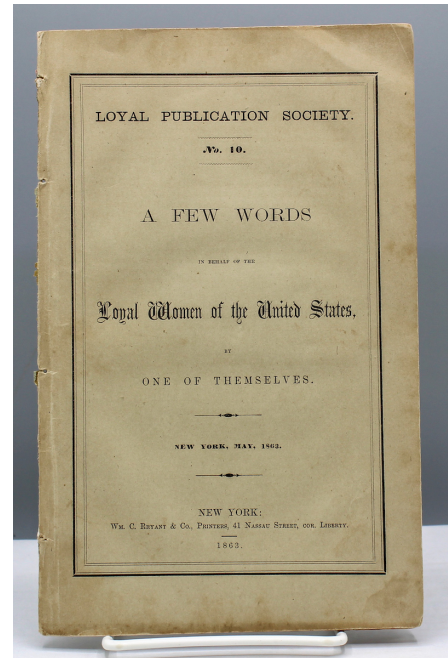
\$375

First edition. The Loyal Publication Society published a series of "Slips and Pamphlets," of which this is no. 10. On the inner front wrapper, the following is noted: "...the object of this organization is and shall be confined to distribution of Journals and Documents of unquestionable and unconditional loyalty throughout the United States and particularly in the Armies now engaged in the suppression of the Rebellion, and to counteract, as far as practicable, the efforts now being made by the enemies of the Government and the advocates of a disgraceful peace to circulate journals and documents of a disloyal character."

Caroline Mathilda Kirkland (1801-1864) was an essayist, short story writer, abolitionist, temperance advocate, and editor. Her first book, *A New Home – Who'll Follow?* is based on letters the author wrote to friends while struggling with her husband on 1,300 marshy acres west of Detroit, a frontier life marked by hardship, boredom, and intellectual isolation. After returning to New York, her home became a literary salon and hosted such notable persons as Edgar Allen Poe, William Cullen Bryant, and Elizabeth Drew Stoddard. The present work extolls the efforts of Northern women during the war, refutes the argument that "with regard to their interest in the present most unhappy war, the women of the North have not equaled those of the South in patriotic interest, labors, and sacrifices" (p. 1), and encourages Northern women to "pledge ourselves to treat with a true disdain every insidious attempt at corrupting public feeling at the North..." (p. 23).

OCLC lists no copies.

*The Feminist Companion to Literature in English*, p. 615.





8. NATIONAL WOMEN'S TRADE UNION LEAGUE OF AMERICA. *Report of Committee on Women's Work in Wartime*. Adopted by the Delegates to the Sixth Biennial Convention of the National Women's Trade Union League, Held in Kansas City, June 4 to 9, Inclusive, 1917. [Chicago, Illinois: National Women's Trade Union League, 1917].

9 x 6." [7] pp. Rear wrapper printed with a list of members and their respective roles (chairman, various union representatives, board members, etc.).

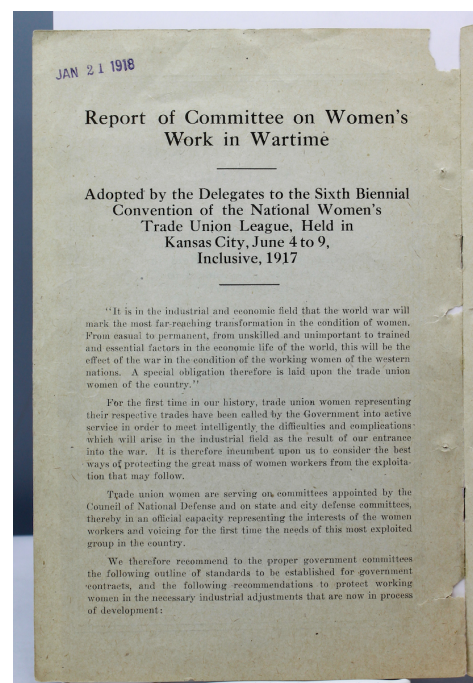
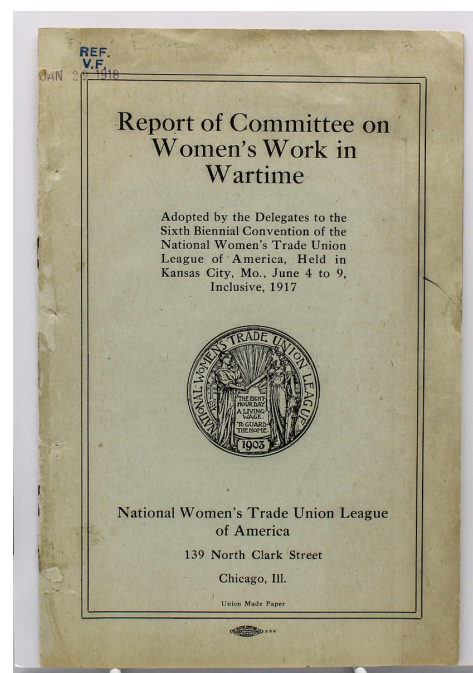
Printed paper wrappers. A few minor chips and short, closed tears to covers. Two small ink stamps to upper corner of front wrapper, additional small ink stamp to upper margin of first page, and small ink stamp of the Seattle Public Library on rear wrapper. Very light soiling to covers. A very good copy of a scarce, fragile book.

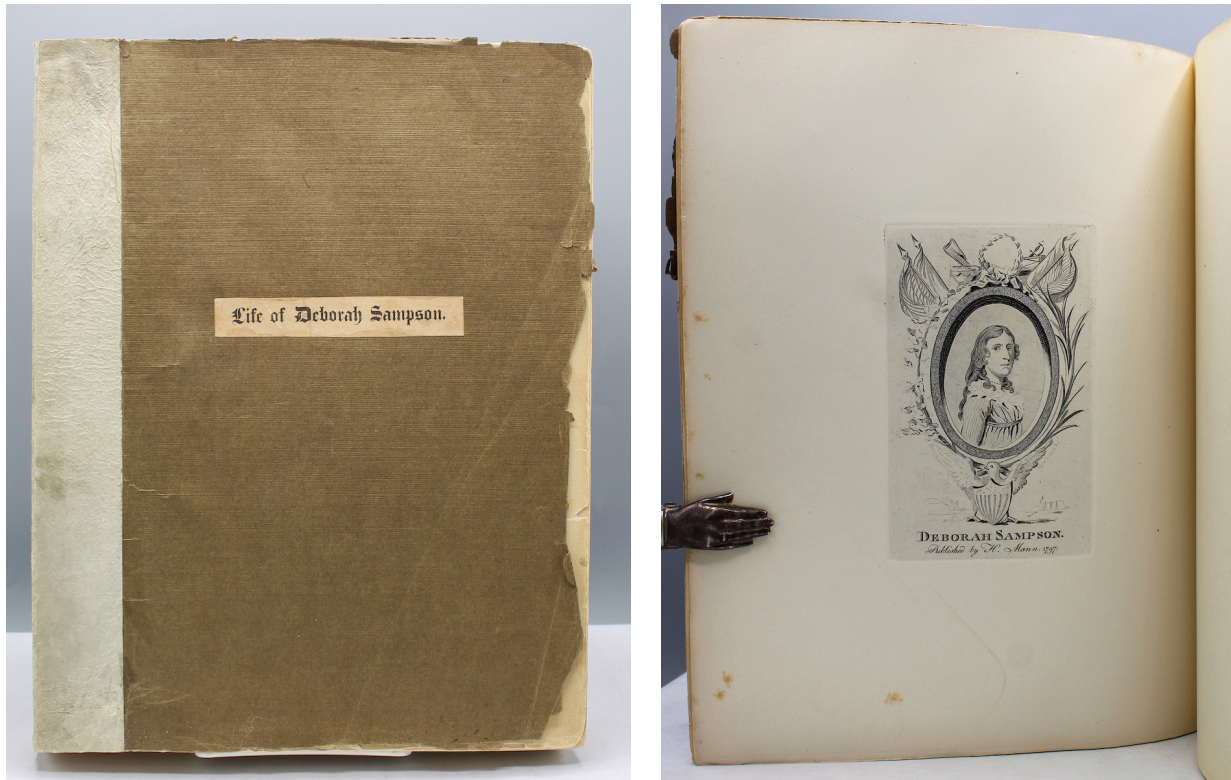
\$200

First edition.

Founded in 1903, the W.U.T.L. played a crucial role in supporting the massive strikes during the first two decades of the twentieth century that led to the establishment of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union and Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America in addition to campaigning for women's suffrage. Between 1907 and 1922, the W.U.T.L. operated at its zenith, organizing women workers into unions and securing protective legislation for them. *Report of Committee* extols the importance of women in the workforce upon America's entrance into World War I: "It is in the industrial and economic field that the world war will mark the most far-reaching transformation in the condition of women: "From casual to permanent, from unskilled and unimportant to trained and essential factors in the economic life of the world..." It then states the "Standards of Industry for Government Contracts," notes the shifting of women into men's places, and further notes "Co-Operation with the Secretary of Labor," "Women's Work in War and National Labor Standards," and "Resolution No. 18," which calls for labor clauses to be included in the treaty of peace after the war that guarantee workers certain standards, working conditions, and elementary rights.

OCLC records six copies, five of which are located in the United States.





The Biography of a “Pioneering Female Soldier”: One of Thirty-Five Large Paper Copies,  
Unopened and in the Original Wrappers

9. [SAMPSON, Deborah.] [MANN, Herman.] *The Female Review: Life of Deborah Sampson, the Female Soldier in the War of Revolution*. With an introduction and notes by John Adams Vinton. Boston: J.K. Wiggin and Wm. Parsons Lunt, 1866.

Quarto. 267 pp. With an engraved frontispiece (reproduced from the first edition). Primary title-page printed in red and black. With a separate title-page for the text of the original 1797 account. Also with reproductions of two signatures (Sampson and John Hancock).

Original brown paper wrappers, quarter parchment paper. Some soiling to spine. Chipping to edges of wrappers and first couple leaves. Unopened. Some light foxing to edges of frontispiece. A very good, wide, and internally bright copy of this scarce large paper edition.

\$950

One of thirty-five royal quarto (large paper) copies, numbered and signed “Wiggin and Lunt” in ink above edition statement. 250 small quarto copies were also issued. The account of Deborah Sampson, reprinted here, was written by Herman Mann and originally published as *The Female Review: or, Memoirs of an American Young Lady* in 1797.

Massachusetts-born soldier Deborah Sampson (later Gannett, 1760 – 1827) enlisted in the Continental Army in 1782 and was assigned to the Light Infantry Company of the 4<sup>th</sup> Massachusetts



Regiment. She served for eighteen months, disguised as a man under the identity of “Robert Shirliff,” until she was injured in battle and honorably discharged at West Point in 1783. After her service, “Sampson won some recognition in her lifetime as a pioneering female soldier and public speaker,” (Hiltner, p. 93). In 1805, she successfully petitioned the Massachusetts State Legislature for a pension, which had been initially denied because she was a woman.

In “The Example of Our Heroine,” Judith Hiltner writes, “Mann’s 1797 Sampson...was a fictional construct shaped to inculcate the early republican values virtues of industry, reason, and self-sufficiency, and to establish the limits of female patriotism while endorsing the popular ideology of chaste female influence,” (p. 98). It was a sensationalized account that only partially reflected Sampson’s experiences in the Continental Army. Mann (1771 – 1833) was a publisher, bookseller, and newspaper editor. Though he claimed to be Sampson’s friend, Mann was likely seeking profit by pretending that his account was reliably sourced from Sampson’s own recollections.

Hiltner, Judith. “‘The Example of Our Heroine’: Deborah Sampson and the Legacy of Herman Mann’s *The Female Review*.” *American Studies*, vol. 41, no. 1 (Spring 2000), pp. 93-113.



Slavery Novel, Praised by President Lincoln,  
As Popular in its Time as *Uncle Tom's Cabin*

10. VICTOR, Metta V[ictoria Fuller]. *Maum Guinea, and Her "Plantation Children."* A Story of Christmas Week with the American Slaves. By Mrs. Metta V. Victor. London: Beadle and Company, [circa 1860s].

Twelvemo. 253 pp. Wood engraved frontispiece and three inserted wood engravings with tissue guards.

Publisher's blue cloth stamped decoratively in blind, gilt-lettered spine, pale yellow endpapers. Spine toned, very minor soiling to cloth. Frontispiece slightly loose, small tear to frontispiece tissue guard. Light foxing to preliminary leaves. A very good copy, scarce in commerce, of a slavery novel that was popular among Union Soldiers.

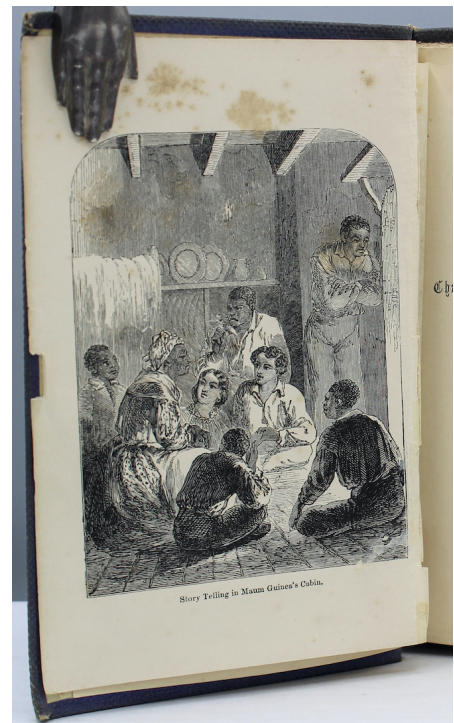
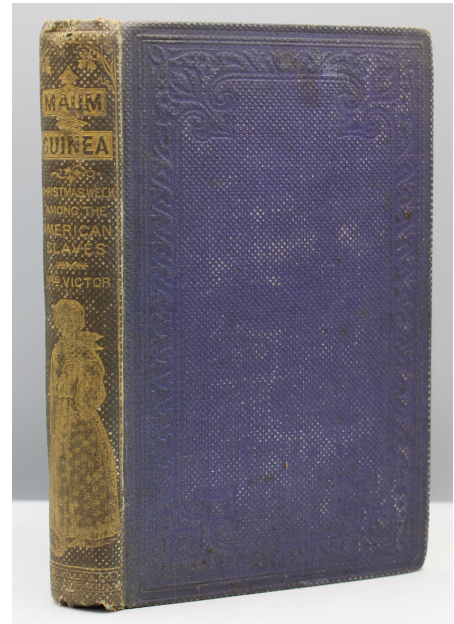
\$750

An early Beadle edition, issued between 1861 and 1866, of a novel that was popular with the Union troops and praised by President Lincoln. In its time, *Maum Guinea* was reputedly read as widely as *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Metta Victoria Fuller (1831-1885), Ohioan poet, wrote two temperance novels, *The Senator's Son* (1853) and *Fashionable Dissipation* (1854). Along with her sister Frances Victor (1826-1902), Metta published *Poems of Sentiment and Imagination* (1851), which was received positively by its readers and was critically acclaimed by Edgar Allan Poe. *Maum Guinea* depicts life on an antebellum Louisiana plantation. In the Preface, the author writes the following: "I have been enabled, in the guise of a romance, to reproduce the slave, in all his varied relations, with historical truthfulness...his habits, tastes, and individual peculiarities..."

"The various slave-stories given are veritable historical transcripts...That of the leading character, with slight embellishments is drawn from a life history...The various descriptions of barbecues, negro-weddings, night-dances, hunts, alligator adventures, slave-sales, are simple reproductions of what is familiar to every Southerner" (pp. v-vi).

Not in Wright. See Baym's *Women's Fiction*, pp. 267-268.







### Woman Medical Doctor and Nurse Imprisoned in the Philippines During WWII

11. WITTHOFF, Evelyn M. and Geraldine V. Chappell. *Three Years' Internment in Santo Tomas*. Kansas City, Missouri: Beacon Hill Press, [1945].

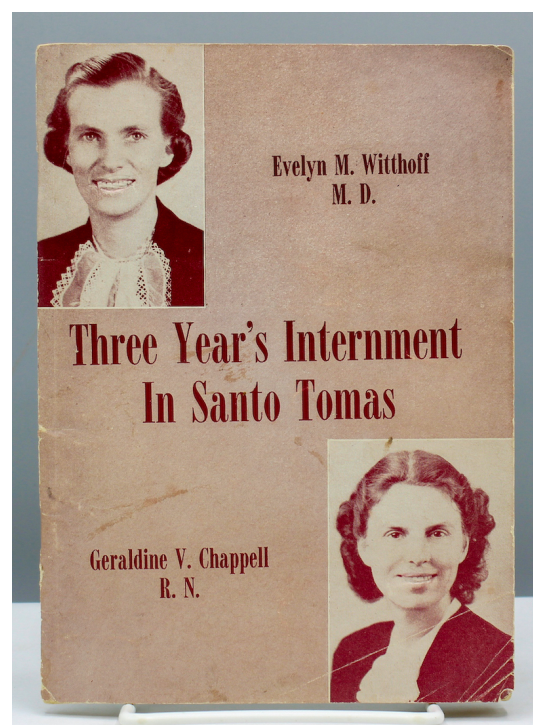
Octavo. 82 pp. Photo reproduction of Witthoff, Chappell, and two other women on inside of front cover.

Original paper wrappers printed in pinkish red with photo reproductions of Witthoff and Chappell. Light soiling and wear. Contemporary pencil signature (Mrs. William C. Parker) to half-title. Very clean internally. A very good, fresh copy of this prisoner of war memoir written by a woman medical doctor and nurse.

\$475

First edition.

Between 1942 and 1945, seventy-seven American woman medical professionals working with the Army and Navy, among them Dr. Evelyn M. Whittoff (1912 – 2002) and nurse Geraldine V. Chappell (1911 – 1997), were held as prisoners of war in the Philippines. In the present work, Dr. Whittoff and Chappell describe their experience being captured in their hotel in Manila's



Walled City and later being imprisoned in a camp at the University of Santo Tomás in Manila, along with hundreds of other servicemen and women. The woman nurses and doctors were essential to the survival of the prisoners. With very limited supplies, they treated the many other prisoners who had fallen ill or been injured, especially as the male doctors in the camp fell ill themselves.

Dr. Whittoff earned her Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Illinois and her medical degree from the University of Michigan. Chappell received her nursing education at Olivet Nazarene College and the University of Chicago. Two years after their return to the United States from Santo Tomás, Whittoff and Chappell were assigned to at a hospital in Washim, India. Chappell stayed in India for the next thirty-three years. Both women retired to Alhambra, California.

OCLC records nineteen copies, though only seven are located west of the Mississippi.

Yellin, Emily. *Our Mother's War* (2004), pp. 186-189.





**Women's Army Corps Recruitment Material,  
Illustrated on Every Page with Women in the War Effort**

12. [WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS.] *A book of facts about the WAC.* [n.p., 1944].

5¾ in. x 8½ in. Illustrated on nearly every page with photo reproductions of Women's Army Corps members at work, plus two pages of illustrations showing WAC uniforms. Inside of front cover illustrated with a full-page photo reproduction of Oveta Culp Hobby, Colonel, General Staff Corps, and the Director of the WAC.

Original color-printed paper wrappers illustrated with a woman in a WAC uniform. Contemporary ink stamp of the US Army Recruiting Office in Dayton, Ohio, on back cover. Slight toning to edges of wrappers. A bright, near-fine copy of an uncommon item.

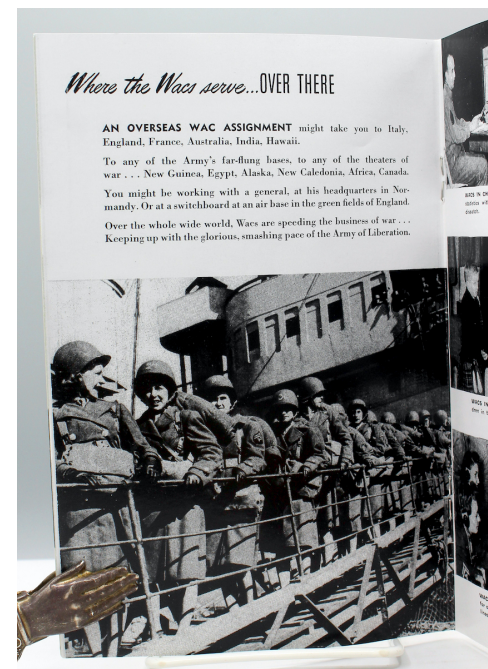
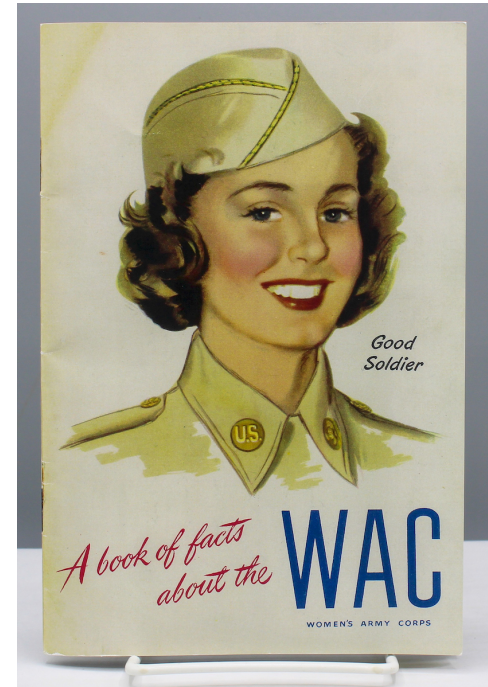
\$100

First edition.

"What the Wacs do — they are making a glorious war record — in all three army forces!"

A Women's Army Corps recruiting booklet discussing the impact of WAC members working as mechanics, medical professionals, switchboard operators, mapmakers, welders, cryptographers, and in many more essential positions during World War II.

The WAC, the women's branch of the United States Army, was established in 1943. Its predecessor was the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, which was formed in 1942 in large part through the efforts of women political figures like Eleanor Roosevelt and Congresswoman Edith Nourse Rogers. The WAAC mobilized the many women who wanted to participate directly in the war effort, and put women in Army positions both in the United States and on the front in Europe, East Asia, and North Africa. The WAAC became the WAC when the organization was converted to active-duty status. The WAC remained active through WWII and the Korean and Vietnam wars, after which women were permitted in the general ranks of the United States Army.



Yellin, Emily. *Our Mother's War*, pp. 111-133.



“While You Fight for Us, We’ve a Part We Can Play,  
For the WAC is a Soldier Too”

13. [WOMEN’S ARMY CORPS.] *WAC Song Book*. Iowa: Fort Des Moines, [ca. 1943 – 1945.] [Cover title.]

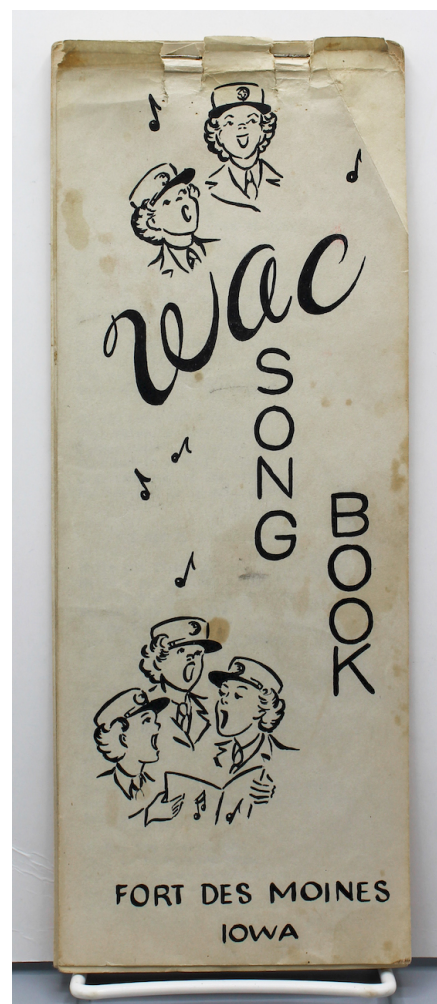
4 in. x 10½ in. 24, [2, index] pp. Mimeographed text.

Original pictorial wrappers illustrated with vignettes of women in uniform singing. Bound with staples at top edge. Chipping to top edge of front cover. Some toning to wrappers and first leaf. A very good copy of a rare and fragile item.

\$300

First edition. This item appears to have been self-published for distribution among members of the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) stationed at Fort Des Moines. Ephemeral publications like this songbook are rare today, given their fragility, but regionally specific publications that captured the spirit of local WAC branches were an important part of WAC culture. OCLC records no copies.

The present item compiles patriotic and humorous songs with original lyrics. The songs include “The WAC is a Soldier Too,” “I Fell in Love with a WACy in Khaki,” “We’re the Women’s Army” (set to the “Victory March”), and about two dozen others. The lyrics of “The WAC is a Soldier Too” read, “While you fight for us, / We’ve a part we can play / For the WAC is a soldier too. / We can type and file / In the Army way / For the WAC is a soldier too. / We can drive a truck / Take our place in the mess / We’ll be here to see this through. / We’ll replace you men / While you fight at the front / For the WAC is a soldier too.”





Uncommon WWII Broadside  
With a Full-Color Illustration of a Woman Medical Technician at Work

14. [WOMEN'S ARMY CORPS.] *Women...Our Wounded Need Your Care!* [Recruiting broadside.] [Washington, DC:] United States Army Recruiting Publicity Bureau, 1945.

Broadside (17" x 25"). With full-color printed illustration of a woman medical technician, in uniform, carrying a tray of medical instruments. Also with two medals, printed in bronze, bearing the emblems of the U.S. Army Medical Corps.

Text printed in blue, black, and gray. Some creasing. A very good, bright, and clean copy of this uncommon item encouraging women to serve in Army hospital assignments.

\$375

First edition.

Full text as follows: "Women...our wounded need your care! You can serve as medical technicians, surgical technicians, and other Army hospital assignments. Join a hospital company. Other assignments available at Army Air Forces, Ground Forces, and Service Forces installations."



Rare WWII Recruitment Poster for the Women's Branch of the Royal Navy

15. [WOMEN'S ROYAL NAVAL SERVICE.] "Join the Wrens and Free a Man for the Fleet." [London: Stationery Office, ca. 1939-1944.]

Broadside (15½" x 23"). Richly color-printed with an illustration of a Wrens member saluting. Lettered in black, silver, and gold.

Buff paper sheet. Creased, but now stored flat. Pinpoint holes at corners (where poster was hung up). A very good, bright, and clean copy of a fragile and scarce recruiting poster for the Wrens, the women's branch of the British Royal Navy.

\$400

First edition. The publisher and location of the present item are uncertain, but similar recruitment posters were printed by the Stationery Office in London.

The Women's Royal Naval Service, popularly known as the Wrens, was formed during World War I. It was disbanded in 1919, then revived in 1939 for World War II under the direction of Dame Vera Laughton Mathews. At its peak in 1944, there were 75,000 enlisted Wrens, who filled a wide variety of roles including transport plane pilots, weapons analysts, mechanics, engineers, and as staff at the Government Code and Cypher School, where both men and women worked to crack the German Enigma and Lorenz codes. The Wrens were one of several branches of women in the British armed forces, along with the Women's Royal Air Force and the British Women's Army Corps. Other nations had similar branches, including the WAVES and the WASPs, the women's branches of the United States Navy and Air Force, respectively. The Wrens remained active until their incorporation into the Royal Navy in 1993.

OCLC records no copies.

