



The Library Company of Philadelphia Collections Fact Sheet

- The Library Company of Philadelphia's holdings include more than half a million rare books, pamphlets, manuscripts, and graphics, dating from the colonial era to the end of the nineteenth century. The collection includes materials representing every aspect of American history and culture through the end of the 19th century, and while national in scope it also includes facets of the Atlantic world.
- All of the main subjects in the Library Company's collection are enmeshed with one another. It is a truly multidisciplinary collection the strength of which lies in the collectivity of the works taken together. The printed words of ordinary people appear on the shelves alongside the published voices of experts and authorities.
- Subject specialties, referred to broadly as "Americana," include Afro-Americana; American science; technology; economics; architecture; agriculture; natural history; education; philanthropy; medicine; German-Americana; history of printing and publishing; American Judaica; the history of women, domestic economy, and family life; printmaking, mapmaking, and photography in Philadelphia; and the Libraries of James Logan and Benjamin Franklin.
- WolfPAC is the Library Company's online catalog which allows researchers to search nearly 100% of the rare books collection and over 10,000 records from the print and photograph department.
- For those who cannot visit the Library Company of Philadelphia, elements of the extensive collection are available to audiences around the world via online exhibitions. The most recent exhibition is *Benjamin Franklin: Writer and Printer*, which takes a fresh, even surprising look at Franklin's dual relationship to the book as printer and author.
- Quality photographic duplications of materials in the collection are offered for research, publication, and commercial use. All materials are photographed on-site by a professional photographer.
- Numerous individuals have made donations to the Library Company's collection. With the acquisition of the Michael Zinman Collection in 2000, the Library Company now holds more than 17,500 books, pamphlets, and broadsides printed in America up to 1800, the second largest collection in the world.
- Current featured collections at the Library Company include the Helfand Collection of Proprietary Medicine Pamphlets, the Amy Cassey Album, and Portraits of American Women.
- The Library Company Reading Room is open to the public to study the institution's holdings and interact with reference librarians about their specific areas of interest.
- For more information, please visit <http://www.librarycompany.org/collections>.

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