

Adopt a book

The library of the Devon and Exeter Institution was established in 1813 with an initial budget of £4,000. The historical collection contains a wealth of fascinating books covering a wide range of subjects including travel, science, history, zoology and religion.

The National Preservation Office of The British Library conducted a survey of the stock in 2015. The results of this work reported that 71% of the stock is actively deteriorating. An enormous amount of work has been undertaken since 2015 by the volunteer Library Preservation Team supported and trained by the conservation team at the South West Heritage Trust. The stock and library shelving have been cleaned and a programme of rebinding has been undertaken.

The earliest book in the library dates from the 16th Century. We need your help to ensure that this marvellous collection is here for future generations to use.

We are fortunate to have engaged the services of a specialist bookbinder and some of you may have already seen the results of her work.

How do I adopt a book?

Below are some examples of books in need of rebinding. The books have been selected by the library team based on their knowledge of the collection. However if there is a particular title that you would like to adopt please let us know.

1. Choose the book that you would like to adopt or make your own selection.
2. Choose the amount that you would like to donate.
3. Complete the donation form on the Adopt a Book leaflet which can be found in the library or you can print a copy [here](#).
4. Return the form with a cheque made payable to **Devon & Exeter Institution 2** marked for the attention of LIBRARIAN.

In return

for your donation you will receive

- A certificate of thanks
- A personalised bookplate attached to the inside cover of your adopted book, once it has been fully restored.

Book List

1) **Some Accounts of the Cathedral Church of Durham** **Published: 1801**

Condition Report

Half brown leather binding with vellum corners. Blue, grey, pink marbled paper sides.
Bright

Red leather label on front board.

Spinal leather missing.

Leather sides worn and missing in places

Marbled paper worn and missing in places

Boards showing on edges of corners.

Stitching loose and broken in places

Endpapers worn

Binding very dirty



Proposed Action:

Removal of boards

Removal of old linings and glues.

Clean and repair paper when needed.

Removal of remaining old stitching.

Re-sew text block

Add new endpapers.

Add new glue and linings.

Repair board edges and sides where needed.

Repair vellum corners.

Tool spine as required

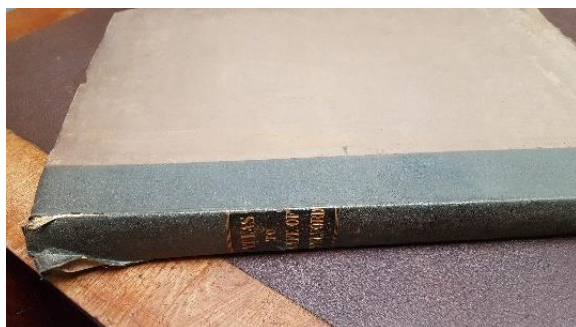
Feed leather with dressing.

Cost: £310

2. Atlas to the Life of Thomas Telford

Published: 1838

Thomas Telford FRS (9 August 1757 – 2 September 1834) was a Scottish civil engineer, architect and stonemason, and a noted road, bridge and canal builder. After establishing himself as an engineer of road and canal projects in Shropshire, he designed numerous infrastructure projects in his native Scotland, as well as harbours and tunnels. Such was his reputation as a prolific designer of highways and related bridges,, he was elected as the first President of the Institution of Civil Engineers, a post he retained for 14 years until his death.



Mid blue cloth quarter binding, grey paper sides, leather label on spine

Condition Report

The Paper is torn and loose in places. Spine torn on joints at the top and the tail. Boards very bent and weak on edges and corners. Endpapers worn and dirty.

Proposed Action

Removal of boards and spine

Removal of linings and glue

Assess the Stitching

Repair paper where needed

Re-sew text block if required

New boards for cover.

The original leather label will be retained and add to spine.

Cost: £295.00

3. Encyclopedie

Volumes 2, 4, 7 and 7

Published: 1770

Encyclopédie, ou dictionnaire raisonné des sciences, des arts et des métiers (Encyclopaedia, or a Systematic Dictionary of the Sciences, Arts, and Crafts) was a general encyclopedia published in France between 1751 and 1772, with later supplements, revised editions, and translations. It had many writers, known as the Encyclopédistes. It was edited by Denis Diderot and, until 1759, co-edited by Jean le Rond d'Alembert.



The Encyclopédie is most famous for representing the thought of the Enlightenment. According to Denis Diderot in the article "Encyclopédie", the Encyclopédie's aim was "to change the way people think".[1] He and the other contributors advocated for the secularization of learning away from the Jesuits.[2] Diderot wanted to incorporate all of the world's knowledge into the Encyclopédie and hoped that the text could disseminate all this information to the public and future generations.[3] It was also the first encyclopedia to include contributions from many named contributors, and it was the first general encyclopedia to describe the mechanical arts. (Wikipedia)

Condition Report

Full mottled brown vellum binding, spinal joints worn, vellum missing on top and tail, front and back sections loose and split, corners bent and worn showing boards in places.

Proposed Action:

Removal of boards

Removal of spinal vellum

Removal of old glues.

Assess the stitching.

Repair paper where needed.

Repair board edges and corners with paste and vellum where necessary.

Add new endpapers and cloth joints.



Make a new case using the original boards

Add new glues and linings.

Case in the text block.

Add the original spine.



Cost:

Volume 2 £340.00

Volume 4 £340.00

Volume 7 £ 280.00

Volume 9 £280.00

4.The History of the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire 2 volumes

Edward Gibbon

Published: 1782 and 1787

Condition Report

Quarter calf binding with mottled leather sides

Boards held on by cords

Spinal leather brittle and worn

Endpapers split.

Leather worn on sides and edges

Paper torn in places.

Proposed Action

Removal of boards

Removal of spinal leather

Removal of old glues

Repair of any paper where needed

Repair sides and edges with paste and leather.

Repair corners with paste and leather.

Add new glues and linings.

Add new endpapers.

Make a new case using original boards.

Case in the text block.

Add the original spine.

Feed leather with dressing.

Cost: £185 per volume

5. Forty Eight Views of Cottages and Scenery at Sidmouth, Devon.

George Rowe

Condition Report

Black leather quarter bound volume.

Brown marbled sides

Part of spinal leather missing.

Boards worn on sides and edges showing boards.

Corners showing boards.

Leather joints split.

Leather label worn and torn.

Proposed action

Removal of boards.

Removal of spinal leather.

Removal of old glues and linings.

Assess the stitching and re-sew if required.

Add new glues and linings.

Add new cloth joints.

Repair sides and edges of books.

Repair corners of boards with paste and leather where necessary.

Repair headbands.

Make a new case using the original boards.

Case in text block.

Add spinal leather.

Repair leather label.

Feed leather with dressing.

Cost: £175.00

6. The Topographer

1789 and 1791

Condition Report

Front board off.

Full mid-calf brown binding.

All leather extremely worn and lifting in places.

Bottom headband missing.

Half of the lower label missing.

Endpapers split.

Corners and edges worn and showing boards.

Proposed Action

Removal of spinal leather.

Assess stitching and re-sew if required.

Repair paper where needed.

Add new glues and lining.

Add new endpapers.

Sew new headband.

Repair edges and corners with paste and leather where needed.

Make a new case using the original boards.

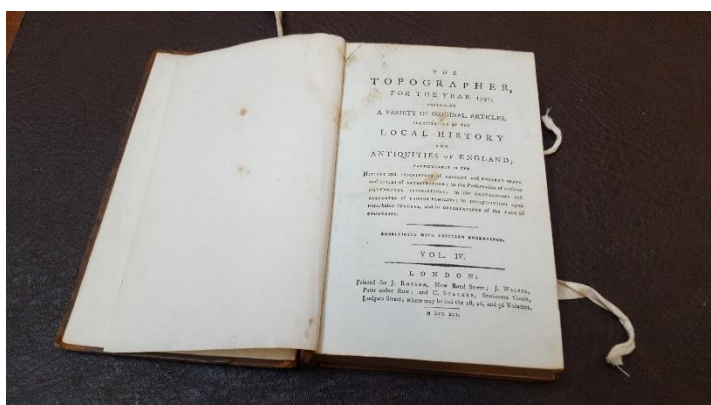
Case in text block.

Add original spine where possible.

Tool new lower label.

Feed leather with dressing.

Cost : £ 185 and £205



7. Later Biblical Researches in Palestine and the Adjacent Regions. Edward Robinson and Eli Smith 1856

This book is a first edition of Robinson and Smith's detailed account of their second trip to the Middle East in 1852, the first having been made in 1838. It was first published in 1856 and was intended to update the account of their first trip by revisiting a number of places and posing new questions about the ancient sites of the region.

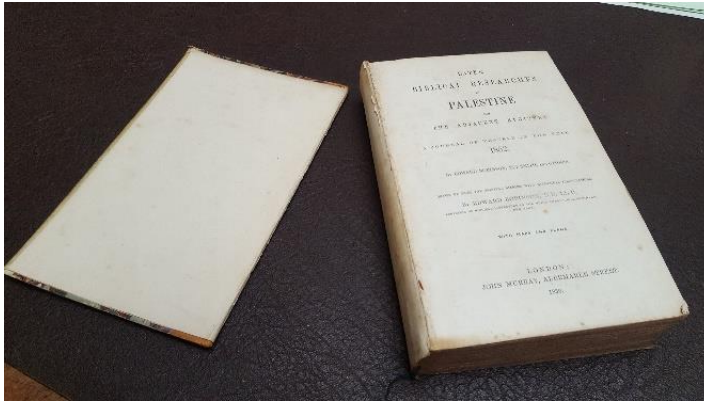
The Authors

Edward Robinson was born in April 1794 in Southington, Connecticut. He attended Hamilton College in New York State and graduated in 1816. His initial interest was in ancient languages and he worked on scriptural and Classical translations, including a translation of Homer's *Iliad*. In 1826 he went to Germany to further his knowledge of ancient languages, studying principally in Halle and Berlin. There he met his future wife, Therese Albertine Luise, and married in 1828. They returned to America in 1830, where Robinson was made a professor extraordinary of sacred literature at Andover Theological Seminary. He changed his academic focus in the mid-1830s, moving towards Biblical geography and archaeology in order to better understand the scriptural texts he worked on. His connection to Andover Seminary may have led to his acquaintance with Eli Smith, who had attended the Seminary until 1826. It may have been a recommendation from a fellow professor which brought the two together.

Eli Smith was also from Connecticut, born in 1801 in Northford. He studied at Yale and Andover Theological Seminary, graduating in 1821 and 1826 respectively. Smith then became a missionary, travelling to Malta where he worked until 1829. He then met Harrison G.O. Dwight, a fellow Christian scholar, and began travelling with him. Dwight and Smith published a work entitled *Missionary Research in Armenia* in 1833, based on their travels through Armenia, Georgia and Persia. Smith then settled in Beirut before falling in with Robinson and acting as his interpreter.

Smith and Robinson began their original journey in 1838, travelling extensively throughout the Holy Land in search of ancient sites mentioned in the Bible. Their research uncovered many sites of archaeological and Biblical interest, including the Siloam Tunnel and Robinson's Arch (named for Robinson) in the Old City of Jerusalem. Their original work *Biblical Researches in Palestine*, was published in 1841 and gave an account of their travels and discoveries. It won the Royal Geographical Society Gold Medal in 1842 and led to Robinson being made a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

This book is the product of their second venture together, revisiting many of the sites in order to expand and improve on their original research. It features re-drawn maps of the area and is a detailed account of their working life in the Holy Land.



Condition Report

Half bound calf and vellum binding.

Red marbled sides.

Front board off and back board missing.

Dusty on top edge.

Spinal leather missing.

Sides and edges worn on board.

Vellum corners worn and vellum lifting.

Proposed Action

Removal of board.

Removal of old glues and linings.

Assess stitching and re sew if needed.

Add new glues and linings.

Repair sides and edges with paste and paper.

Repair corners with paste and vellum.

Make a new case using the original board and new materials to make up back board.

Clean, top, tail and fore edge.

Case in text block.

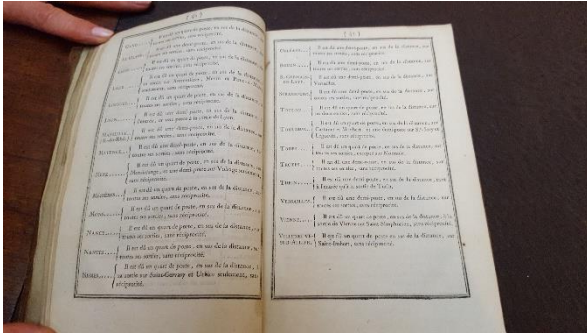
Letter spine where required.

Feed leather with dressing.

Cost: £185

8. Postes Imperial. 1809

A curious item from our library, this little book is a guide to the post routes (and therefore coaching routes) across France for the year 1809. It also includes a comprehensive calendar of Saints days and Christian feast days.



Condition Report

Mid brown calf full binding.
Spinal leather half off and missing in places.
All leather very worn and fragile.
Separate map worn and torn in many places.
Boards worn and corners showing through.
Leather joints split.
Top headband missing.

Proposed Action

Removal of boards.
Removal of spine.
Removal of map.
Removal of old glues and linings.
Add new glues and linings.
Repair map and clean.
Add new top headband.
Repair sides and edges with paste and paper.
Repair corners with paste and vellum.
Make a new case using the original board and new materials to make up back board..
Case in text block. Mid brown calf full binding.
Spinal leather half off and missing in places.
All leather very worn and fragile.
Separate map worn and torn in many places.
Boards worn and corners showing through.
Leather joints split.
Top headband missing.

Proposed Action

Removal of boards.
Removal of spine.
Removal of map.

Removal of old glues and linings.

Add new glues and linings.

Repair map and clean.

Add new top headband.

Repair sides and edges with paste and paper.

Repair corners with paste and vellum.

Make a new case using the original board and new materials to make up back board..

Case in text block.

Add original spine.

Add original spine.

Feed leather with dressing.

Cost: £175

9. Early Travels in Palestine

Thomas Wright

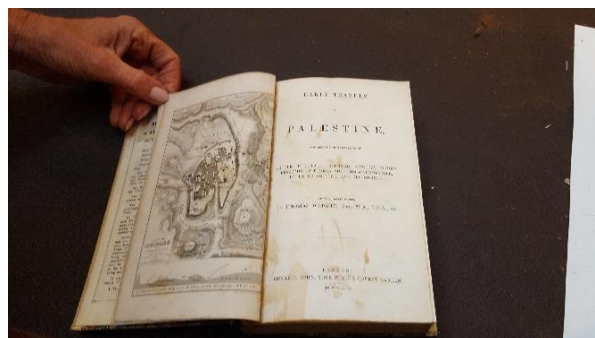
1848

This volume collects together accounts of early travels in Palestine between 700 and 1697. They were collated and translated by Thomas Wright, a noted historian and antiquary of the nineteenth century.

Wright was born in April 1810 at Tenbury in Worcestershire. His father, also named Thomas Wright, was a bookseller and printer who had settled in the area after moving from Yorkshire. Wright was educated at King Edward Grammar School before attending Trinity College at Oxford, where he graduated in 1834. He went on to study for a MA, graduating in 1837, developing his interests in Old English and mediaeval studies during this time. Thomas Wright's academic interests evolved throughout his life, as he became more interested in the field of esoteric studies from the mid-1840s, concentrating on folklore, legend and sorcery in his works of this era. This shift in interests led him to specialise in the early history of Britain, including the Anglo Saxon and Roman eras; his work *The Celt, The Roman and The Saxon; a history of the early inhabitants of Britain* became a standard text until the end of the nineteenth century ..

Towards the end of his life, Wright's interests changed again in a literary direction, with his work chiefly concerning the ballads and political songs of earlier eras. He also developed an interest in satire.

This volume represents the transition of Wright's interests, as it was after its publication in 1848 that he began to pursue his interest in esoteric studies. This copy is first edition.



Condition Report

- Half calf and vellum binding.
- Brown marbled sides.
- Front board off.
- Leather worn and torn in places.
- Spinal leather torn in places.
- Endpapers split.

Corners worn.

Proposed Action

Removal of boards.

Removal of spinal leather.

Removal of old glues and linings.

Add new glues and linings.

Repair paper where needed.

Repair sides and edges with paste and paper.

Repair corners with paste and vellum.

Clean text head, foreedge and tail.

Clean headbands.

Make a new case using the original boards.

Add new endpapers.

Case in text block.

Feed leather with dressing.

Cost: £170.00

10. The Physical Atlas of Natural Phenomena

Alexander Kent Johnston

1848

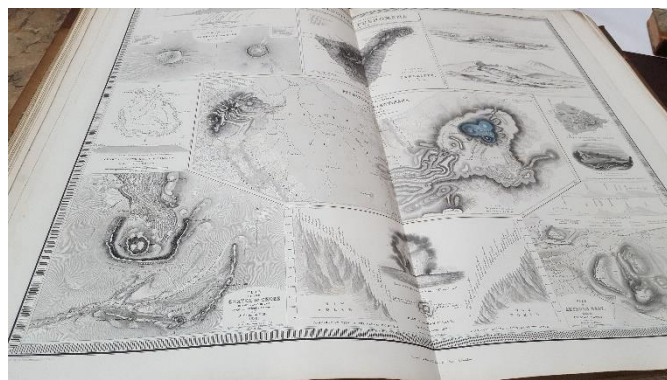
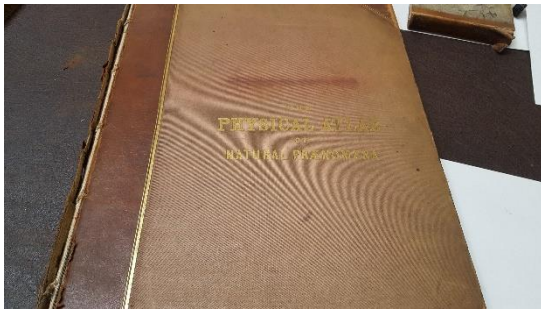
Alexander Keith Johnston

1804 -1871

He was born at Kirk hill near Penicuik, south of Edinburgh.

After an education at the High School and the University of Edinburgh he was apprenticed to the Edinburgh engraver and mapmaker, James Kirkwood. In 1826, he joined his brother Willi in a printing and engraving business.

His interest in geography had developed early, and his first important work was the National Atlas of General Geography, which gained for him in 1843 the appointment of Geographer Royal for Scotland. Johnston was the first to bring the study of physical geography into competent notice in England. His attention had been called to the subject by Alexander von Humboldt; and after years of labour he published his magnificent Physical Atlas in 1848, followed by a second and enlarged edition in 1856. This, by means of maps with descriptive letterpress, illustrates the geology, hydrography, meteorology, botany, zoology, and ethnology of the globe.



Condition Report

Half leather binding, mid brown in colour.

Cloth sides

Cloth torn on edges and sides showing boards.

Spine worn and missing on top and tail as well as raised boards.

Headbands worn and half off with threads worn.

Leather worn and missing on joints.

Boards showing through on corners.

Paper torn in places.

Stitching loose and broken in places.

Cloth joint worn and old.

Leather worn on edges.

Proposed Action

Removal of boards

Removal of spine where still attached

Removal of old glue and linings.

Repair paper where needed.

Re-sew text block.

Add new glues and linings.

Add new cloth joints.

Repair cloth sides and edge of boards.

Repair leather sides and corners with paste and leather where needed.

Repair headbands/and or sew where required.

Make a new case with original boards.

Add original spine.

Feed leather with dressing.

Cost: £290.00

II. The History of Manchester
Rev. Mr. John Whitaker
1773

This is the second volume in Whitaker's series on Manchester, but it is the one in the poorest condition from our set. It is a second edition, printed in 1773,

John Whitaker was a native of Manchester, born there in 1735 to James Whitaker, an innkeeper. John Whitaker studied at Oxford, completing a BA (1755), MA (1759) and B.D (1767) before entering the clergy. He held two curacies before becoming the Rector of Ruan Laniorne in Cornwall in c.1777, where he spent the rest of his life. Whitaker was a prolific reviewer of books, writing regularly for the *English Review*, *British Critic* and *Anti-Jacobean Review* as well as writing his own articles, sermons and poems for books and journals. He became a good friend of Richard Polwhele, a fellow clergyman, poet and historian. Whitaker produced articles for Polwhele's publications, including his *History of Cornwall*, which is still a standard reference work for the history of the county today. Whitaker himself published a number of works on wide variety of historical subjects, including an account of Hannibal's journey over the alps, the history of Britain and the life of Mary, Queen of Scots in addition to this history of his home town. He also became a scholar of the Cornish language, which he felt had suffered greatly due to the imposition of the English language via the church.



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