

18th Century Material Culture

Books & Reading



Horn Books



Hornbook - The Lord's Prayer
16th Century
(The British Museum)



Hornbooks
16th - 18th Centuries
(Christie's Auction House)



Leather Covered Hornbook with Paper Alphabet
17th Century
(Kenneth Spencer Research Library, The University of Kansas)



Miss Champion Holding a Hornbook

1661



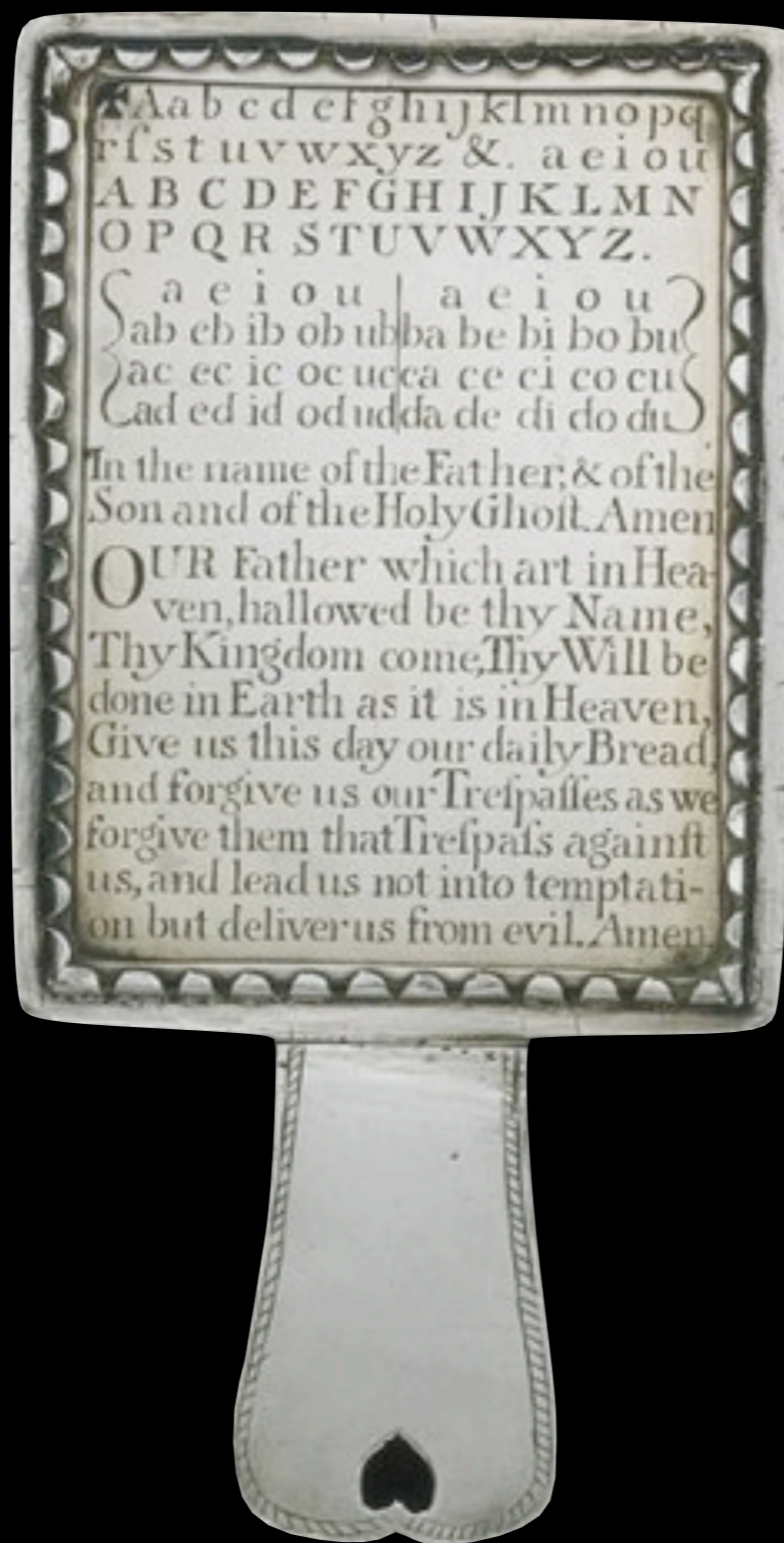
Hornbook
Late 17th Century
(The British Museum)



Horn Book

c. 1700

(New Hampshire Historical Society)



Silver Hornbook given by Queen Anne to her Godson, Master Guy Selbright
by Thomas Kedder 1705
(Victoria & Albert Museum)



Horn Book
c. 1710 - 1720
(Winterthur)



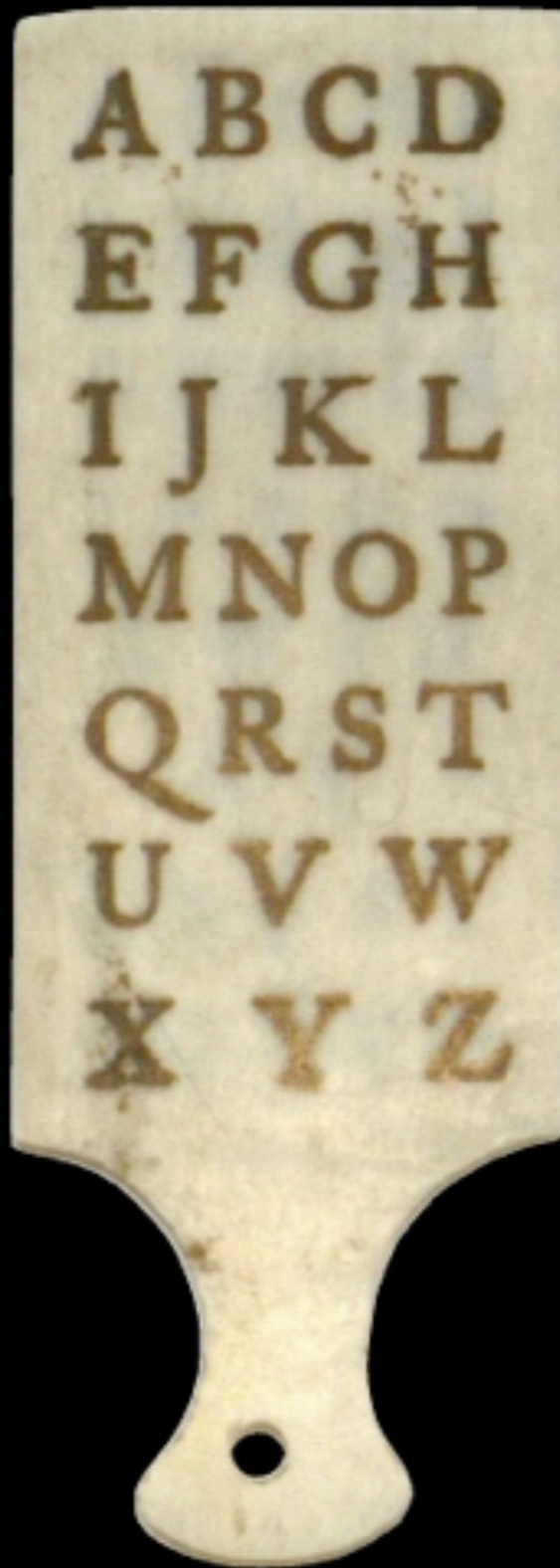
Horn Book
c. 1775 - 1825
(Winterthur)



Brass Horn Book
18th Century
(Freeman's Auction House)

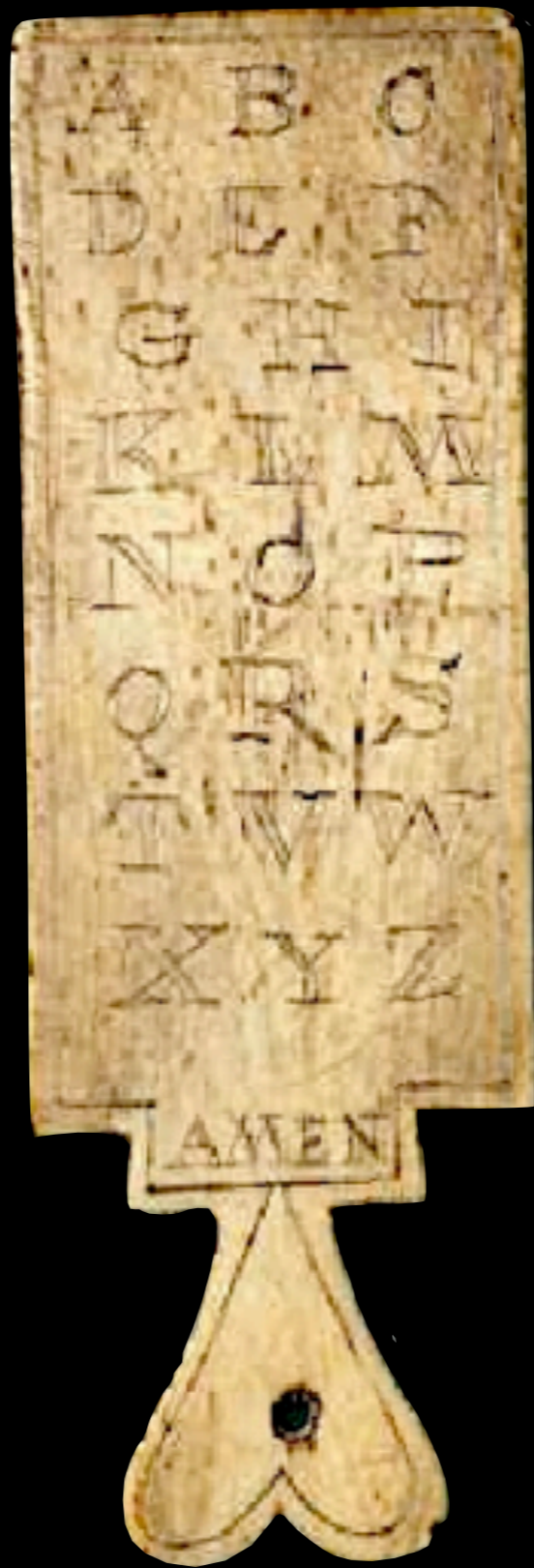


Pewter Horn Book
18th Century
(Private Collection)



Horn Book
18th Century

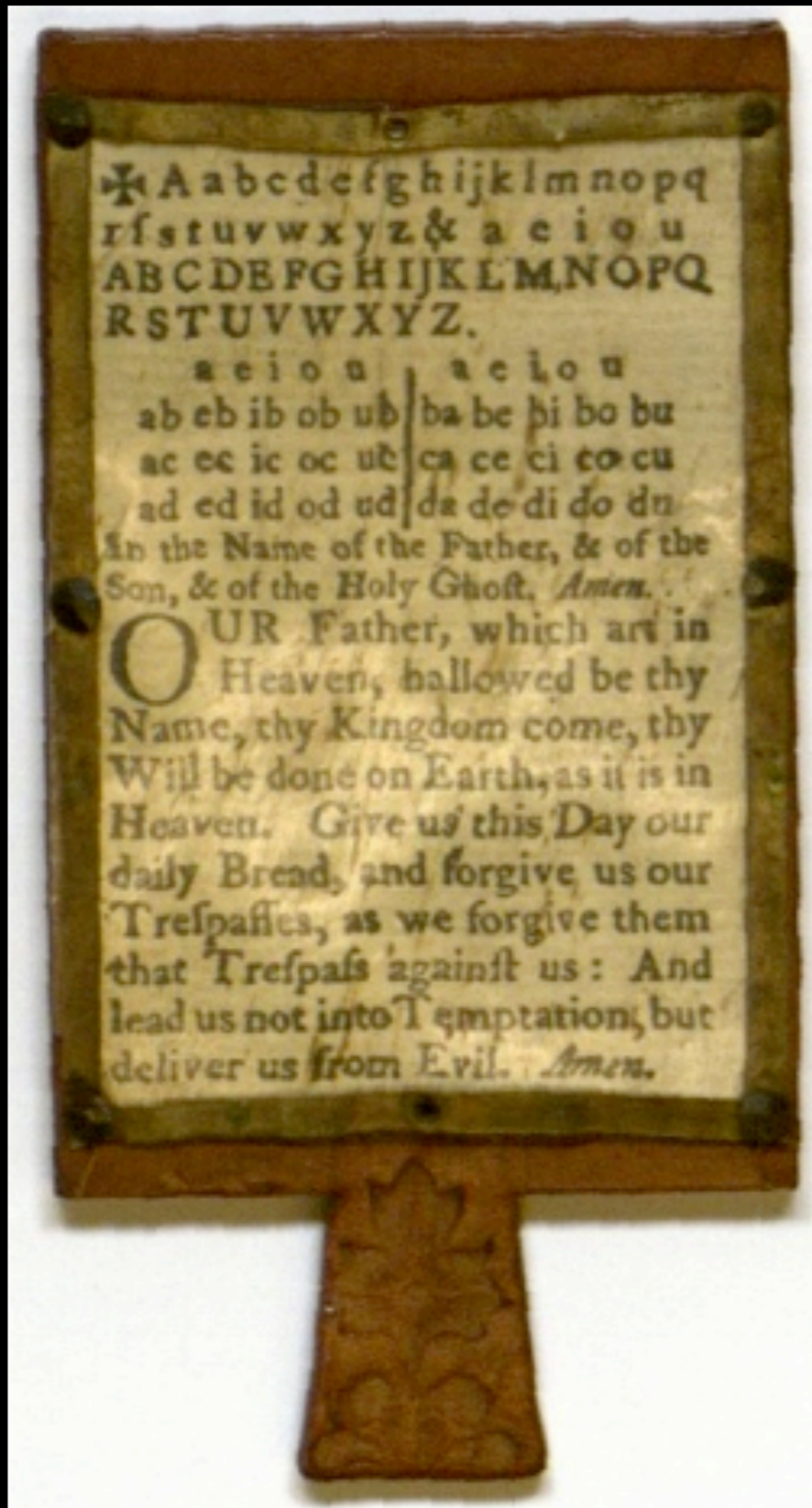
(MU Libraries, University of Missouri, Special Collections & Rare Books)



Horn Book
18th Century
(Private Collection)

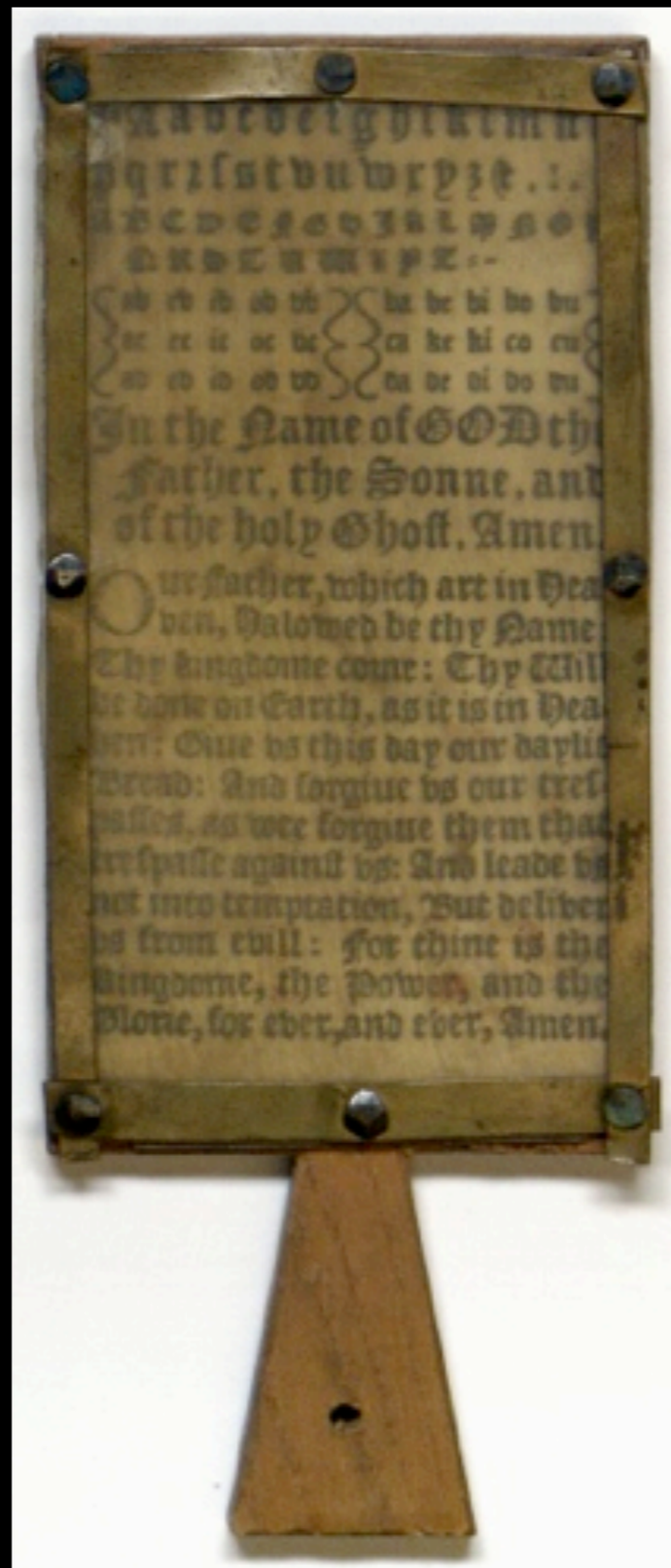


Adam & Eve Hornbook Holder
18th Century
(Christie's Auction House)



Horn Book
18th Century

(MU Libraries, University of Missouri, Special Collections & Rare Books)



Horn Book
18th Century

(MU Libraries, University of Missouri, Special Collections & Rare Books)



Les ACAFOTH ou les sept tours, autour du CERCUEIL.

“La ACAFOTH ou les sept tours, autour du CERCUEIL.”

by Bernard Picart 1733

(Betsalel)

Reading

This Indenture witnesseth that we Aaron Crary Jonathan Brewster
 John Tyler & Ezra Nieme select men of Preston in the County of
 New London and Overseers of the Poor in said Town do hereby set and seal
 Averill the son of Solomon Averill one of the Towns poor unto
 Gideon Nieme of Preston in said County with the said Gideon Nieme
 after the manner of an Apprentice from the Day of the hereof until
 he shall arrive to the Age of Twenty one years During all which time
 the said Apprentice his said Master Faithfully shall serve his said
 Master his said Master shall do no Damage to his said
 Master's Interest he shall not absent himself by Day or Night
 from his said Master's Service without his Leave but in all things behave
 himself as a Faithfull Apprentice During said term of time
 And the said Gideon Nieme doth Covenant and Oblidge himself that
 he will provide for his said apprentice sufficient most Dr. such apparell
 apparel Washing and Lodging suitable for such an apprentice both
 in sickness & in health During said Term and also to Learn to
 Apprentice to Read well and to write and Cypher so far as to be able
 to keep a book: and at End of said Term of time to give his said
 Apprentice two good Suits of Apparel and suitable for Sabbath
 Days and the other for Every Day and a Bible and to pay to said
 Apprentice the sum of thirty three Dollars & no more
 In witness whereof the parties to these Presents have hereunto
 set their hands and seals this 11 Day of September 1770
 Signed & Sealed

In Presence of
 Jonathan Crary
 John Tyler
 Ezra Nieme
 Gideon Nieme

Aaron Crary
 Jonathan Brewster
 John Tyler
 Ezra Nieme
 Gideon Nieme

Bill of Indenture for the apprenticeship of Jacob Averill, witnessed, signed, and sealed by several hands
 “overseers of the poor” in the town of Preston, Connecticut.
 Part of the contract deems Jacob be taught “to read well and to write and cypher.”
 (Colonial Williamsburg)



Henry Willoughby
by Raphael Mengs c. 1754
(Rhode Island School of Design Museum)



"The Studious Fair"

Engraved by Charles Spooner, Published by Henry Parker, Robert Sayer after Mary Benwell c. 1760
(Colonial Williamsburg)



The Sleepy Eye that spoke the Melting Soul.

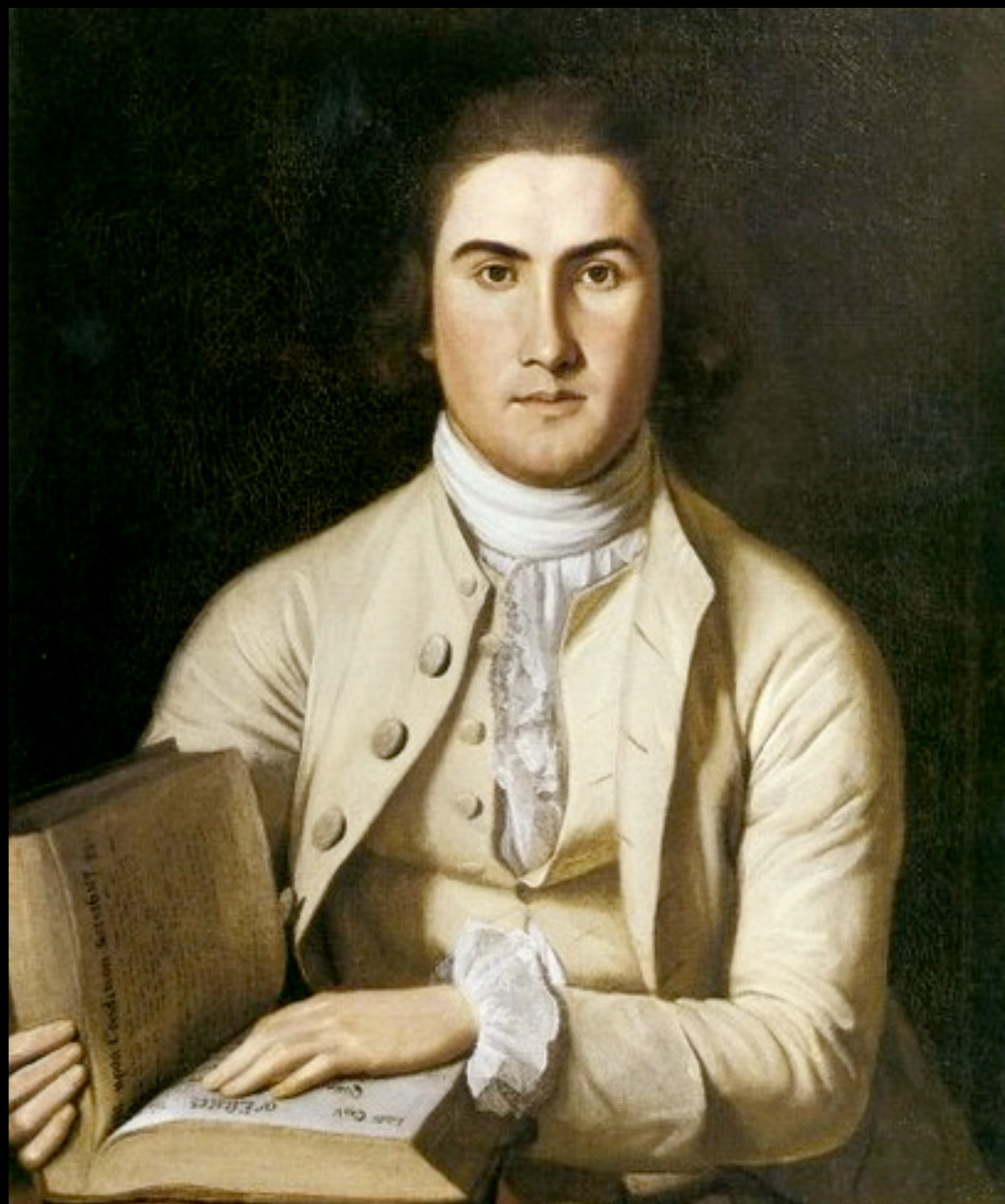
“The Sleepy Eye that spoke the Melting Soul”
after Richard Wilson c. 1760
(Colonial Williamsburg)



William Hall of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
by William Williams, Sr.
(Winterthur)



Nathan Hurd
by John Singleton Copley



Judge Benjamin Mackall
by Charles Wilson Peale c. 1770



Serjeant Richard Leigh
by Edward Penny 1772



John Palmer
by Thomas Gainsborough c. 1775
(Philadelphia Museum of Art)



Richard Cheslyn
by Joseph Wright of Derby 1777

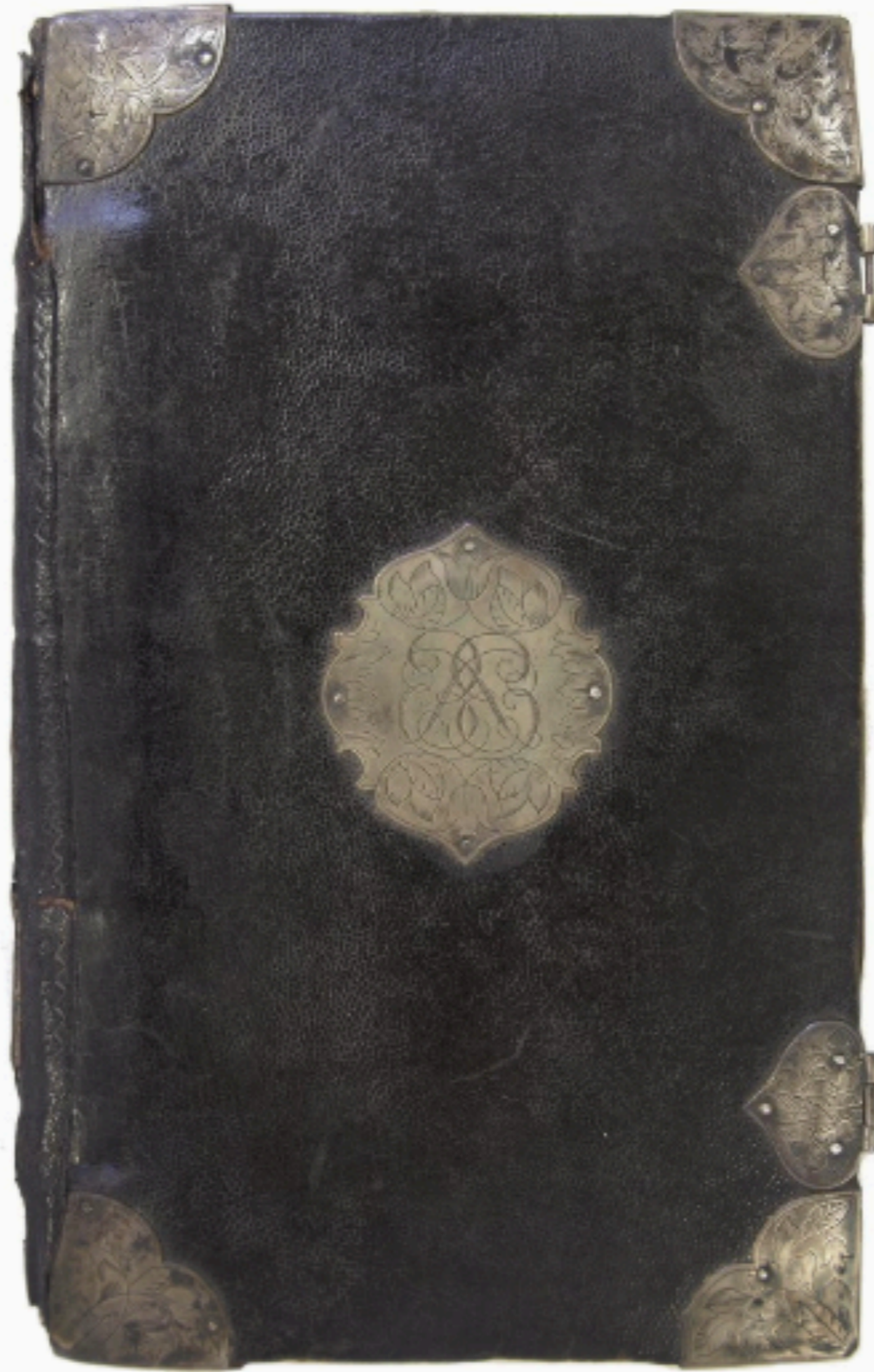


A School Scene
by Thomas Bewick c. 1779
(The British Museum)

Book Clasps



Benjamin Waterhouse
by Gilbert Stuart 1775
(Redwood Library and Athenaeum, Newport, Rhode Island)



English Leather Wrapped Book of Common Prayer with Silver Furniture
by John Bill 1695
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



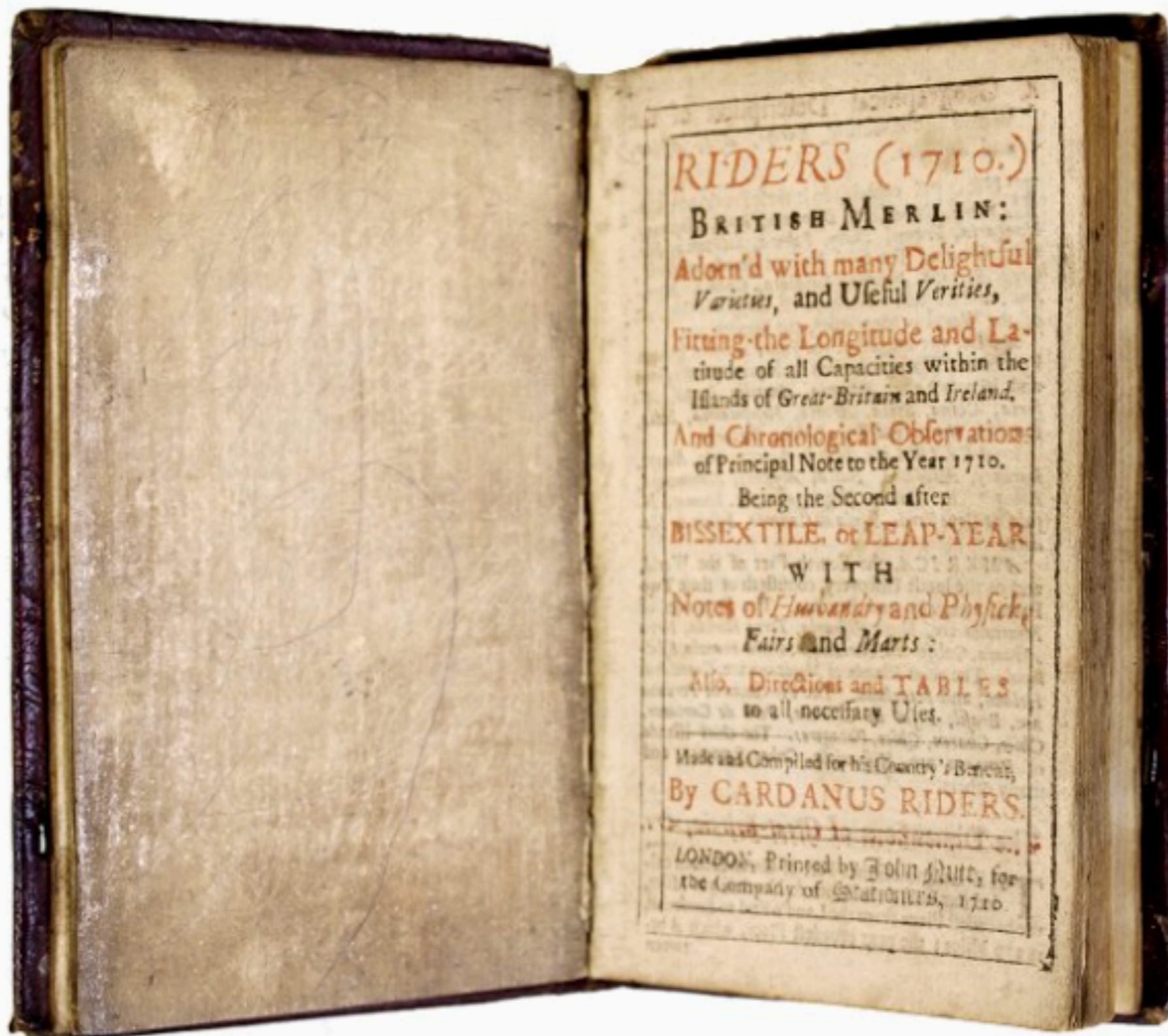
English Leather Wrapped Book of Common Prayer with Silver Furniture
by John Bill 1695
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Leather Wrapped Book of Common Prayer with Silver Furniture
by John Bill 1695
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Black Shagreen Wrapped Rider's Almanac with Silver Clasps
Oxford University 1710
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



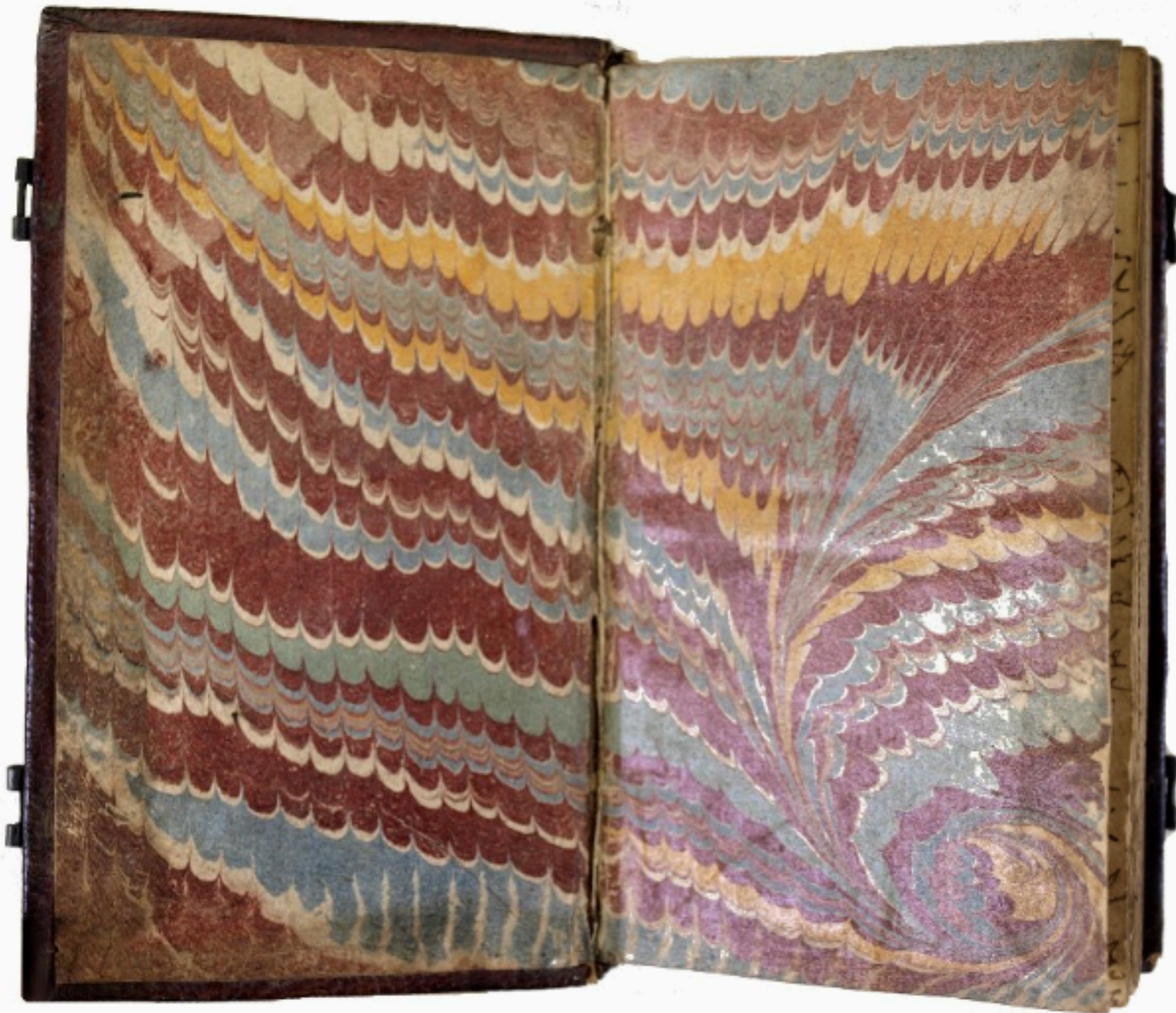
English Black Shagreen Wrapped Rider's Almanac with Silver Clasps
Oxford University 1710
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



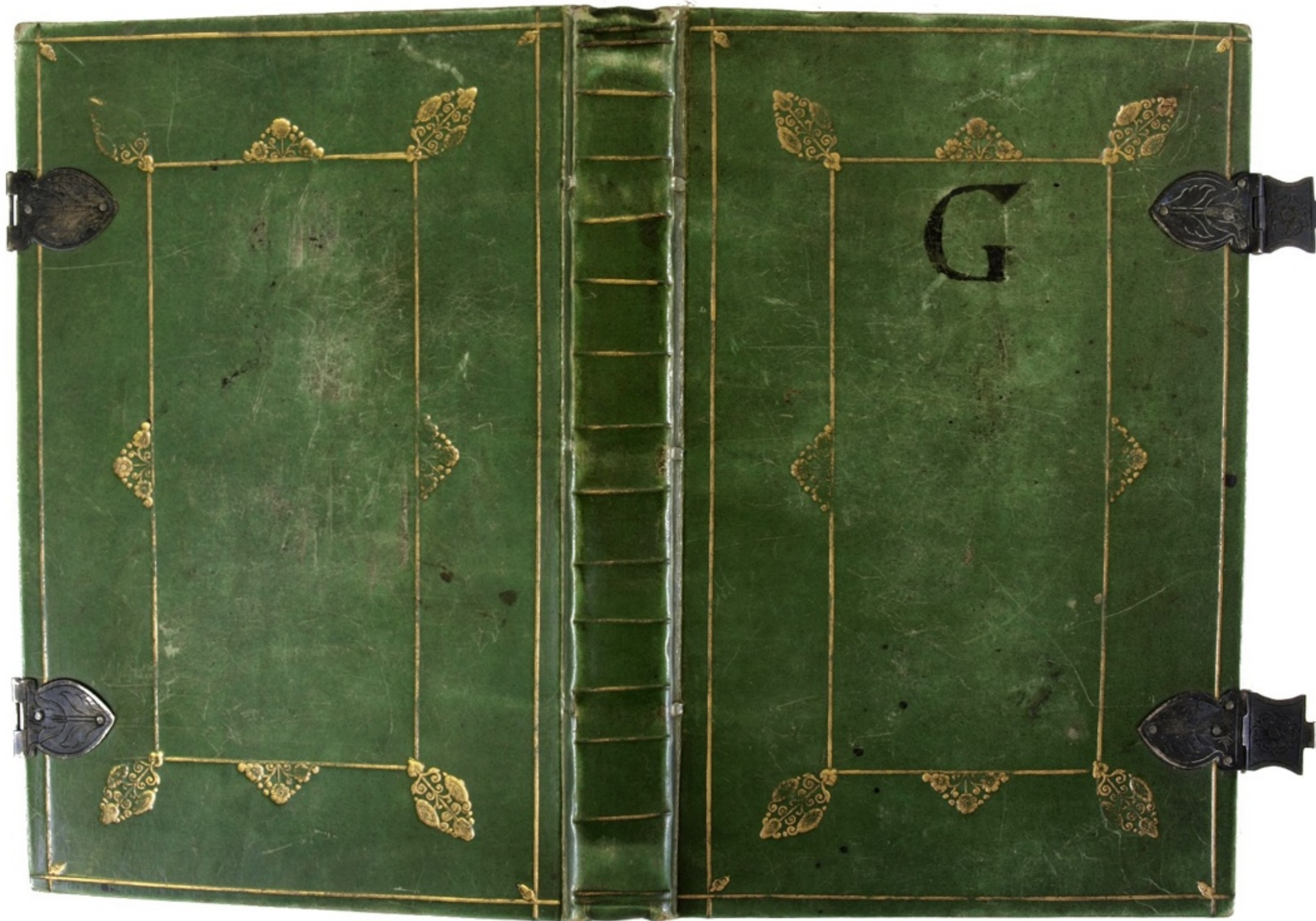
English Black Shagreen Wrapped Rider's Almanac with Silver Clasps
Oxford University 1710
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Red Goatskin Covered Almanac with Silver Clasps
by John Nutt 1711
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



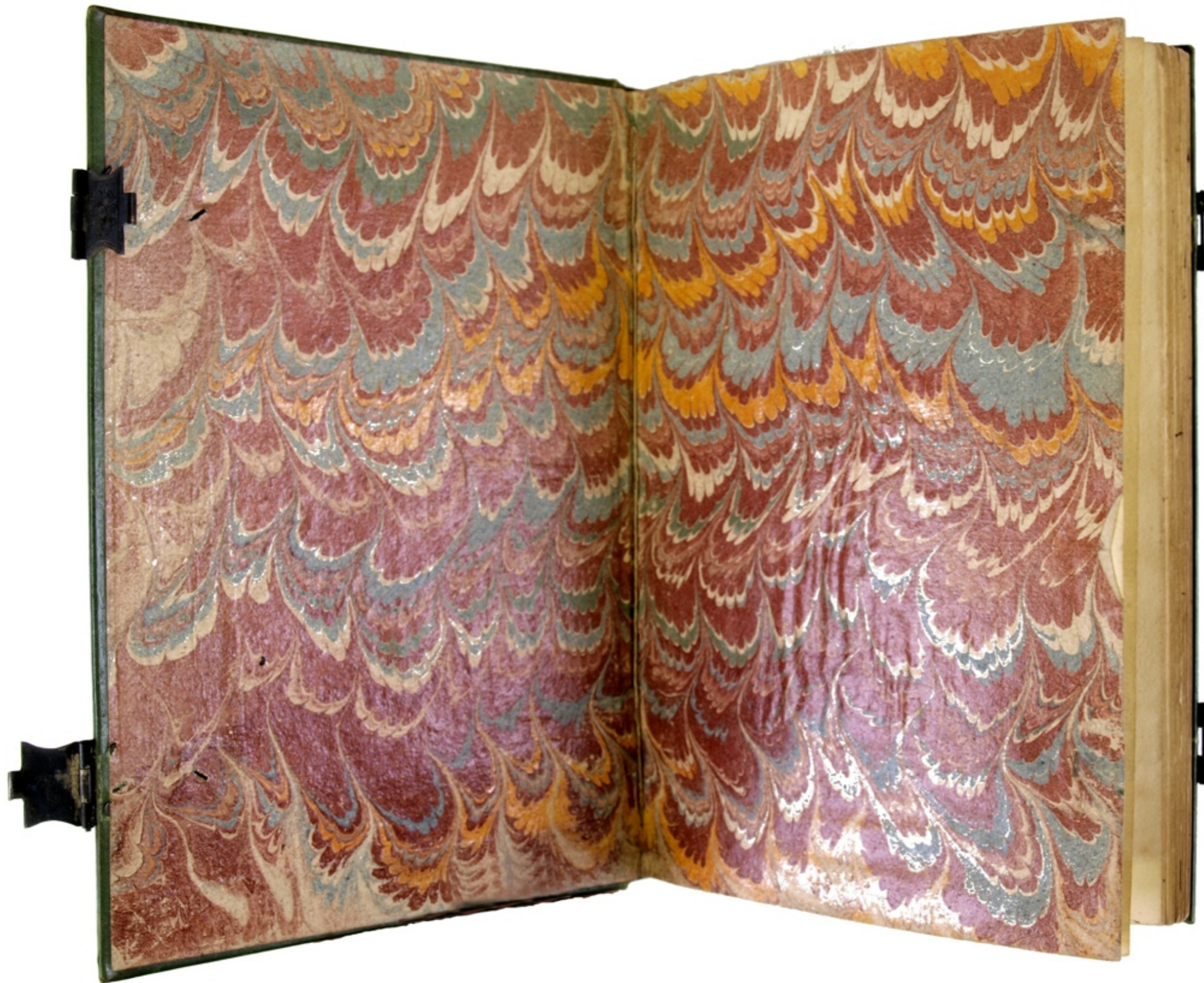
English Red Goatskin Covered Almanac with Silver Clasps
by John Nutt 1711
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Green Vellum Blank Book with Silver Clasps

1713

(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Green Vellum Blank Book with Silver Clasps

1713

(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Green Vellum Blank Book with Silver Clasps

1713

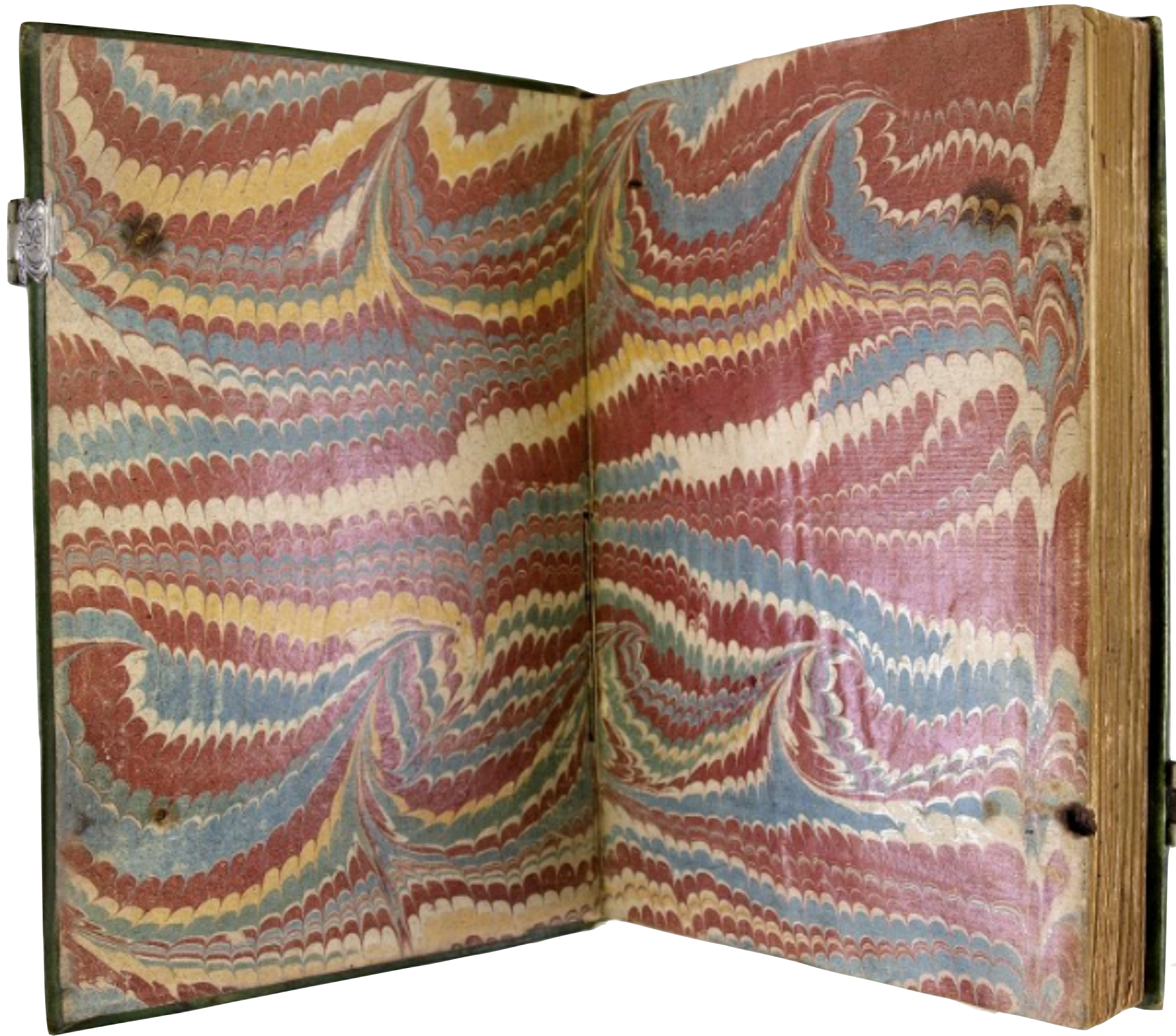
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Green Vellum Blank Book with Silver Clasps

1717

(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Green Vellum Blank Book with Silver Clasps

1717

(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Green Vellum Blank Book with Silver Clasps

1717

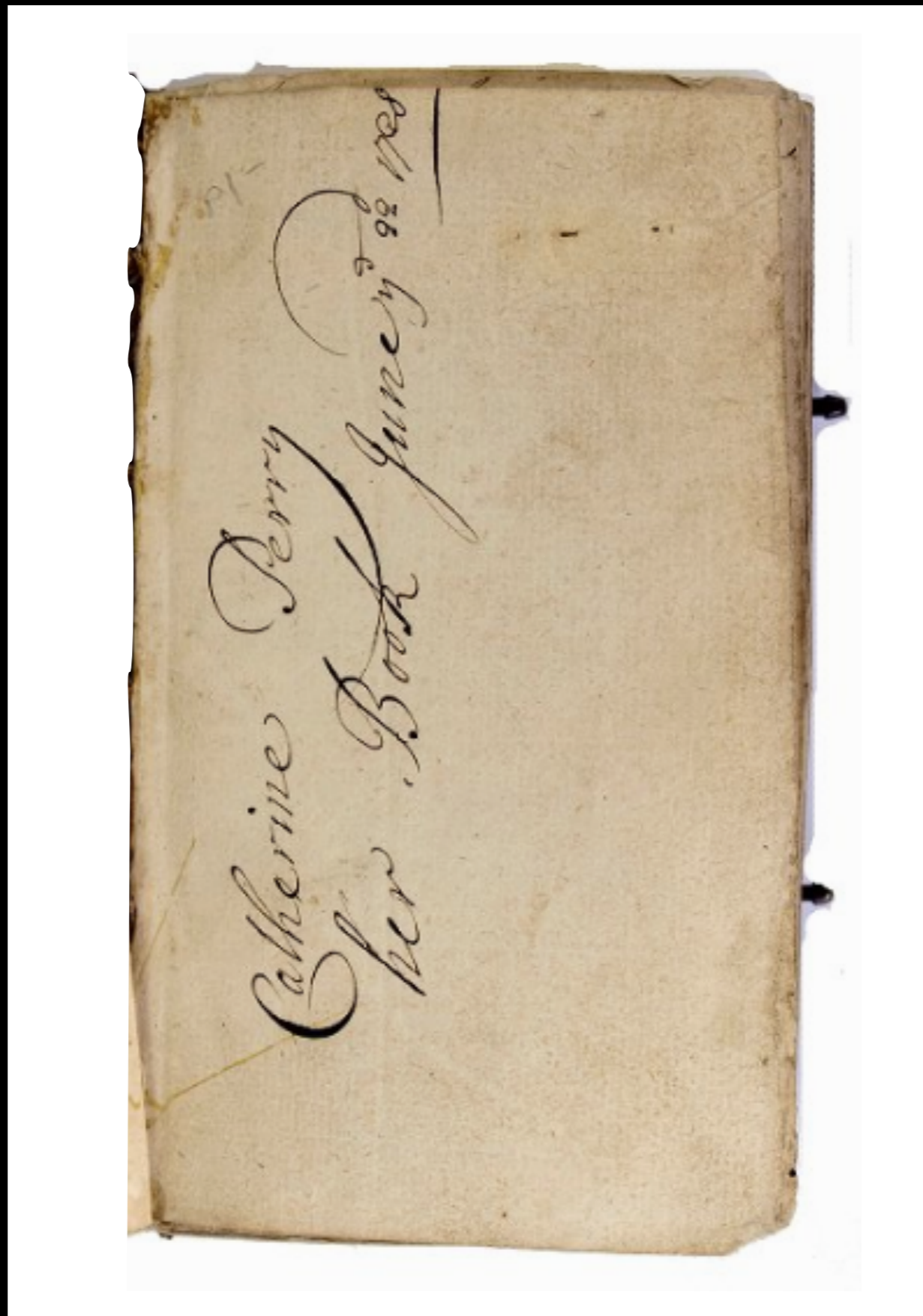
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



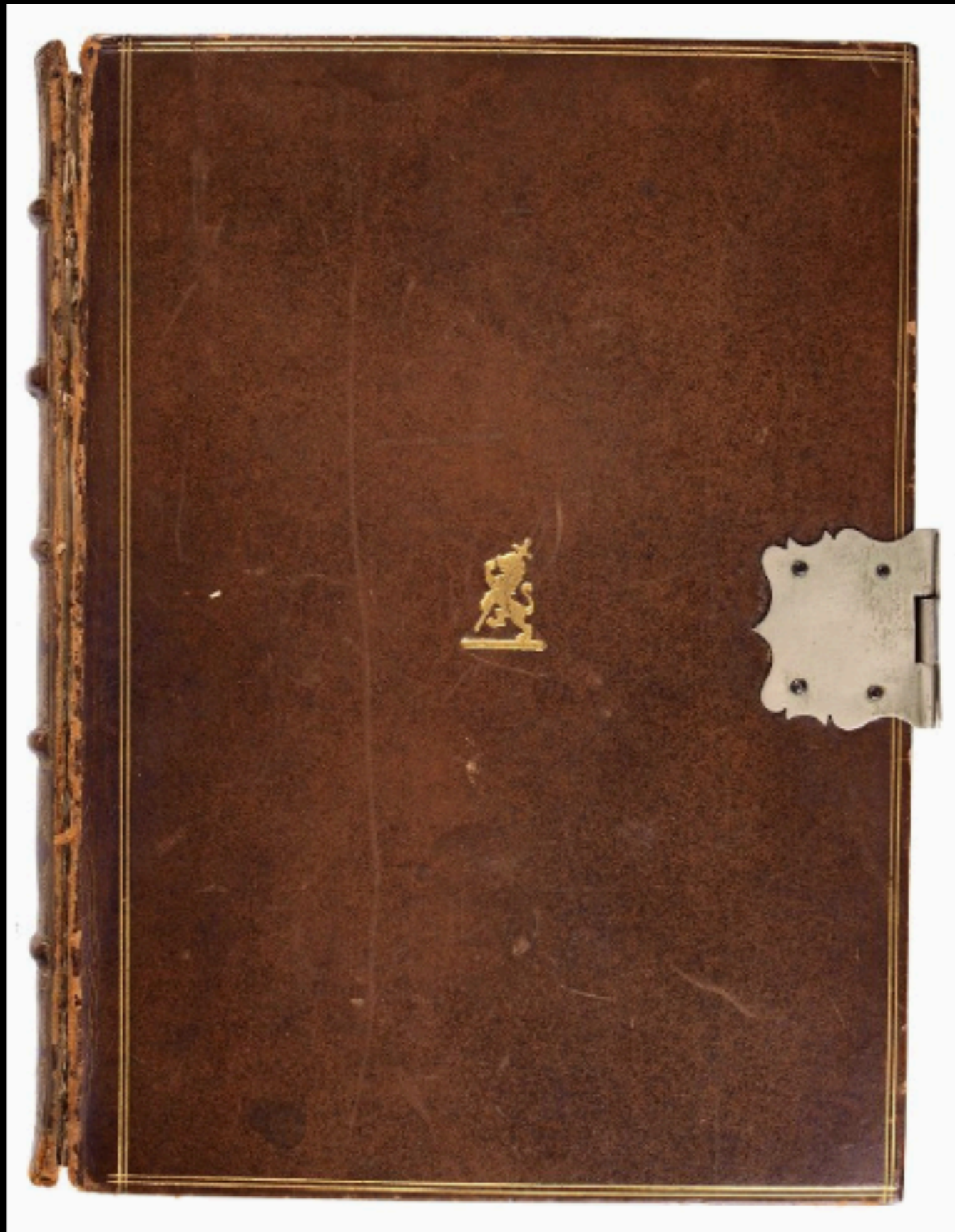
English Leather Wrapped Book of Common Prayer with Silver Clasps
John Basket, Oxford 1721
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Leather Wrapped Book of Common Prayer with Silver Clasps
John Basket, Oxford 1721
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Leather Wrapped Book of Common Prayer with Silver Clasps
John Basket, Oxford 1721
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Calfskin Wrapped Holy Bible with Clasps Owned by & with the Crest of Henry Aylorde
by Christopher Barker Late 18th Century
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Calfskin Wrapped Holy Bible with Clasps Owned by & with the Crest of Henry Aylorde
by Christopher Barker Late 18th Century
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



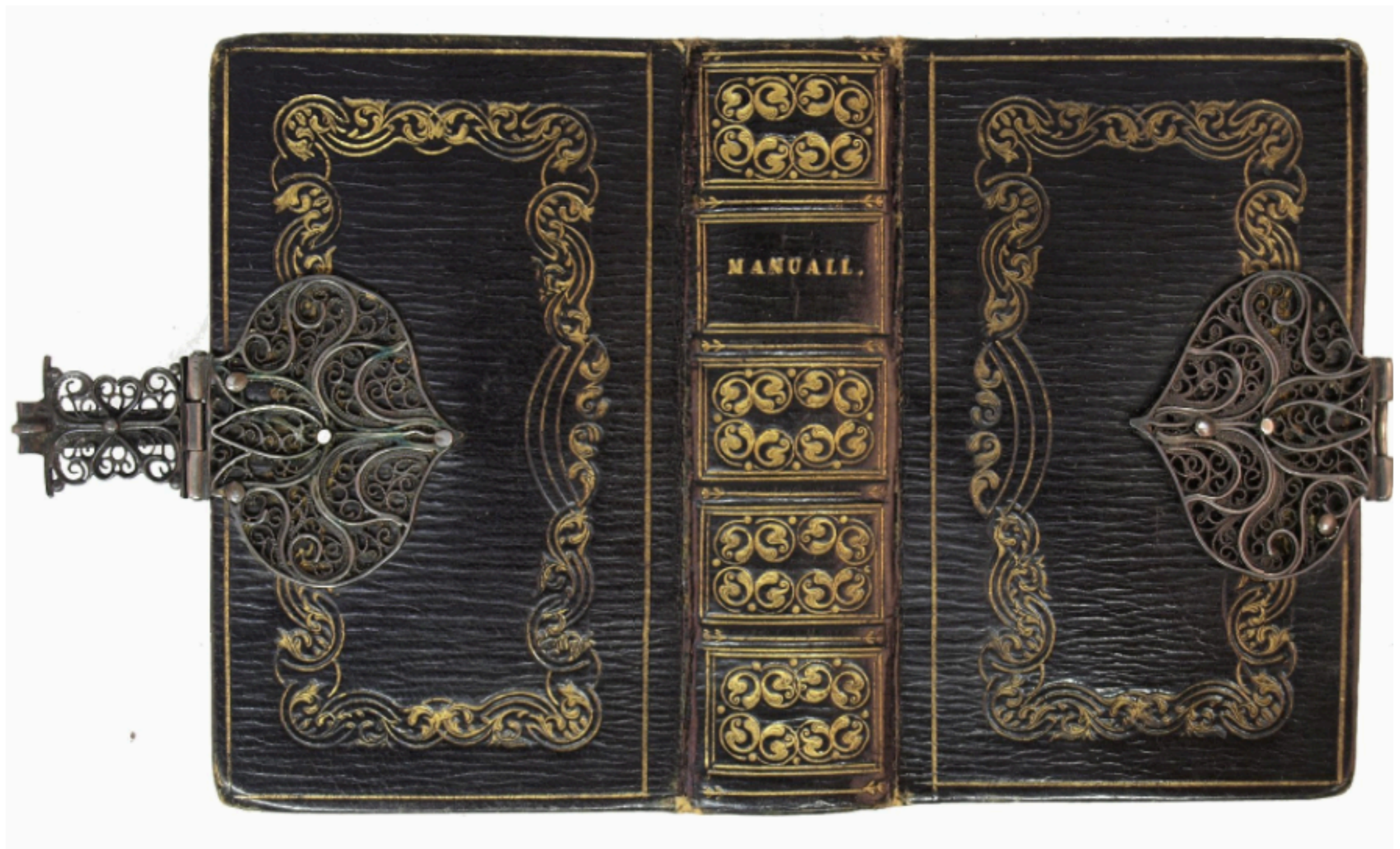
English Calfskin Wrapped Holy Bible with Clasps Owned by & with the Crest of Henry Aylorde
by Christopher Barker Late 18th Century
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



English Leather Covered Holy Bible with Silver Clasps

1774

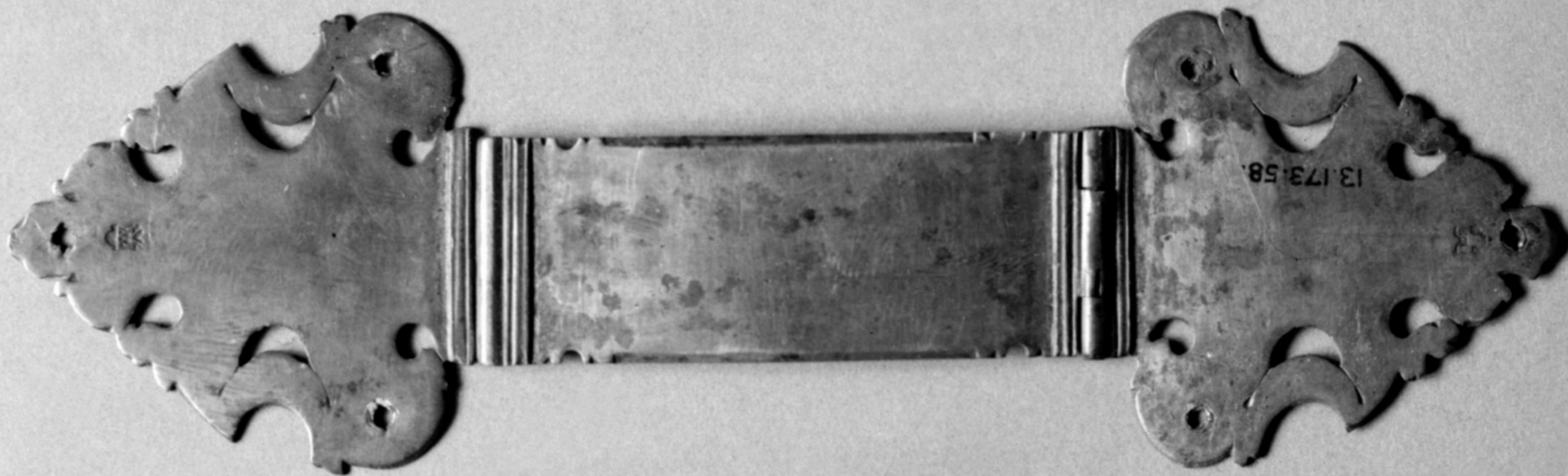
(National Trust - Belton House, Lincolnshire)



English (?) Leather Wrapped Manual of Common Prayer with Elaborate Silver Clasp
Late 18th Century
(Folger Shakespeare Library)



Gilt Brass Book Clasp Engraved with the Royal Coat of Arms
18th Century
(Bonhams)



Dutch (?) Silver Book Clasp
18th Century
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)



French (?) Silver Gilt Book Clasp
18th Century
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Primers

T H E
New-England
P R I M E R
Improved.

For the more easy attaining the
true Reading of English.

To which is added,

The Assembly of Divines
Catechism.

B O S T O N :
Printed for *D. Henchman* in Cornhil.

1 7 4 5.

“THE NEW-ENGLAND PRIMER”
for D. Henchman 1745
(University of Oklahoma Libraries)

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o
 p q r s t u v w x y z &
 Vowels.
 a e i o u y
 Consonants.
 b c d f g h j k l m n p q r s t v w x z
 Double Letters.
 Et ff fi ffi fl fh fi ff fi fl fl
Italick Letters.
Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh
Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq
Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz
Italick Double Letters.
Et ff fi ffi fl fh fi ff fi fl fl

"THE NEW - ENGLAND PRIMER"
 for D. Henchman 1745
 (University of Oklahoma Libraries)

Great Letters.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Most easy Syllables with single Consonants.

Ab	eb	ib	ob	ub
ac	ec	ic	oc	uc
ad	ed	id	od	ud
af	ef	if	of	uf
ag	eg	ig	og	ug
aj	ej	ij	oj	uj
ak	ek	ik	ok	uk
al	el	il	ol	ul
am	em	im	om	um
an	en	in	on	un
ap	ep	ip	op	up
ar	er	ir	or	ur
as	es	is	os	us
at	et	it	ot	ut
av	ev	iv	ov	uv
ax	ex	ix	ox	ux
az	ez	iz	oz	uz

“THE NEW - ENGLAND PRIMER”

for D. Henchman 1745

(University of Oklahoma Libraries)



In ADAM'S Fall,
We finned all.



Heaven to find,
The BIBLE mind.



CHRIST Crucify'd,
For Sinners Dy'd.



The Deluge drown'd
The Earth around.



Elijab hid,
By Ravens fed.



The Judgment made
Felix afraid.



As runs the Glafs,
Our Life doth pass.



My *Book* and *Heart*,
Must never part.



Job feels the Rod,
Yet bleffes GOD.



Proud *Korah's* Troop
Was swallowed up.



Lot fled to *Zoar*,
Saw fiery Shower
On *Sodom* pour.



Moses was he
Who *Israel's* Host
Led thro' the Sea.

N



Noah did view
The old World & new

O



Young Obadiah,
David, Josiah,
All were pious.

P



Peter deny'd
His Lord, and cry'd,

Q



Queen Esther saves
And saves the Jews

R



Young pious Ruth,
Left all for Truth.

S



Young Samuel dear,
The Lord did fear.

“THE NEW - ENGLAND PRIMER”
for D. Henchman 1745
(University of Oklahoma Libraries)



Young *Timothy*
Learnt th Sin to fly.



Vashti for Pride,
Was set aside.



Whales in the Sea,
GOD'S Voice obey.



Xerxes did die,
And so must I.



While *Youth* do cheer
Death may be near.



Zacchaeus he
Did climb the Tree
Our LORD to see.

G O D preserve Him.



GEORGE the Second,
By the Grace of God, King of *Great-Bri-
tain, France and Ireland*, Defender of
the Faith, &c.

THE
New-England
PRIMER

Enlarged :

For the more easy attaining the true
Reading of *ENGLISH*.

To which is added, the
Assembly's Catechism,

ALSO
Mr. Rogers's Verses, &c.

BOSTON: Printed,

GERMANTOWN: Reprinted and sold
by *Christopher Sower junior*, 1754.

“THE NEW - ENGLAND PRIMER”

Boston / Reprinted and sold by Christopher Sower, junior, in Germantown 1754
(Christie's Auction House)

THE
New-England
PRIMER

Enlarged.

For the more easy attaining the true
Reading of ENGLISH.

To which is added,
The Assembly's Catechism

PHILADELPHIA:

Printed and Sold by *B. Franklin*, and
D. Hall, in *Market-street*, 1764.

“THE NEW-ENGLAND PRIMER”
by B. Franklin and D. Hall 1764
(Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale University)

THE
American Instructor :

O R,
YOUNG MAN'S BEST COMPANION.

CONTAINING,

SPELLING, READING, WRITING and ALPHABETIC, in an easier Way than any yet published; and how to qualify any Person for Business, without the Help of a Master.

Instructions to write Variety of Hands, with Copies both in Prose and Verse. How to write Letters on Business or Friendship. Forms of Indentures, Bonds, Bills of Sale, Receipts, Wills, Leases, Releases, &c.

Also Merchant's Accounts, and a short and easy Method of Shop and Book-keeping; with a Description of the several American Colonies.

Together with the Carpenter's plain and exact Rule; shewing how to measure Carpenters, Joiners, Sawyers, Bricklayers, Plasterers, Plumbers, Masons, Glaziers, and Painters's Work. How to undertake such Work, and at what Price; the Rates of each Commodity, and the common Wages of Journeymen; with Gunter's Line, and Cregghal's Description of the Sliding Rule.

Likewise the Practical Gauge made easy; the Art of Dialing, and how to erect and fix any Dial; with Instructions for Dying and Colouring, and making Colours.

TO WHICH IS ADDED,

The POOR PLANTER'S PHYSICIAN.

With Instructions for Marking on Liscen; how to Pickle and Preserve; to make divers Sorts of Wine; and many excellent Plasters and Medicines, necessary in all Families.

AND ALSO

Prudent Advice to young TRADESMEN and DEALERS.

The whole better adapted to these American Colonies, than any other Book of the like Kind.

By GEORGE FISHER, Accomptant.

The Fourteenth Edition, Revised and Corrected.

NEW-YORK:

Printed and sold by H. GAINES, at the Bible and Crown,
in Hammer-Square, M,DCC,LXX.

“THE American Instructor: OR Young Man’s Best Companion”
by George Fisher, New York 1770
(Colonial Williamsburg)

The ROYAL BATTLEDORE: Being the first Introductory Part of the
 Circle of the Sciences, &c. Publish'd by the KING'S AUTHORITY.
 London: Printed by J. Newbery, in St. Paul's Church-Yard, and B. Collins, in Sarum, Pr. 2d.
 Also the Royal Primer, or second Book for Children, Price 3d. bound, adorn'd with Cuts.

He that neer learns his A B C,

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o
 p q r s t u v w x y z.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N
 O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z.

α β γ δ ε ζ η θ ι κ λ μ ν ξ ο π ρ σ τ υ φ χ ψ ω

a e i o u y.
 ab eb ib ob ub | ba be bi bo bu
 ac ec ic oc uc | ca ce ci co cu
 ad ed id od ud | da de di do du

IN the Name of the FA-ther, and of the
 Son, and of the HoLY GHOST. *A-men.*

Pray God to bless my Fa-ther and Mo-
 ther, Bro-thers and Sisters, and all my good
 Friends, and my E-ne-mies. *A-men.*

OUR Father which art in Hea-
 ven, hal-low-ed be thy Name; thy
 King-dom come; thy Will be done on
 Earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this
 Day our daily Bread; and forgive us our
 Tres-passes, as we for-give them that
 tres pass a-gainst us; and lead us not in-
 to Tem-p-tation, but deliver us from
 Evil; for thine is the King-dom, the
 Power and the Glo ry, for e-ver and
 e-ver. *A-men.* 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 0.

But he that learns these Letters fair,

For ever will a Blockhead be.

a Apple 	b. Bull 	c Cat 
d Dog 	e Egg 	f Fish 
g Goat 	h Hog 	j Judge 
k King 	l Lion 	m Mouse 
n Nag 	o Owl 	p Peacock 
q Queen 	r Robin 	s Squirrel 
t Top 	v Vine 	w Whale 
x Xerxes 	y young Lamb 	z Zant 

Shall have a Coach to take the Air

English Primer: "The Royal Battledore"
 18th Century
 (Colonial Williamsburg)

Presented by James Peachy Esq.
March 4th Montreal - in name of
a lady in Canada 20. Aug: 1870.



James Peachy Esq. 1786

(3)

P R I M E R,

FOR THE USE OF THE
MOHAWK CHILDREN,

To acquire the SPELLING and READING of their
OWN, as well as to get acquainted with the
ENGLISH, Tongue; which for that Purpose is put
on the opposite Page.

WAERIGHWAGHSAWE
IKSAONGOENWA

Tliwaondad-derighbonny Kaghyadoghsera; Nayon-
deweyestaghk ayeweanagnòdon ayeghyàdow Ka-
niyenkehàga Kaweanondaghkough; Dyorheaf-hàga
oni tfinihadiweanotca.

LONDON,

PRINTED BY C. BUCKTON, GREAT FULTNEY-STREET.

1786.

“PRIMER for the USE of the MOHAWK CHILDREN”
by James Peachy, printed by C. Buckton London, 1786
(University of Glasgow)

Book Covers



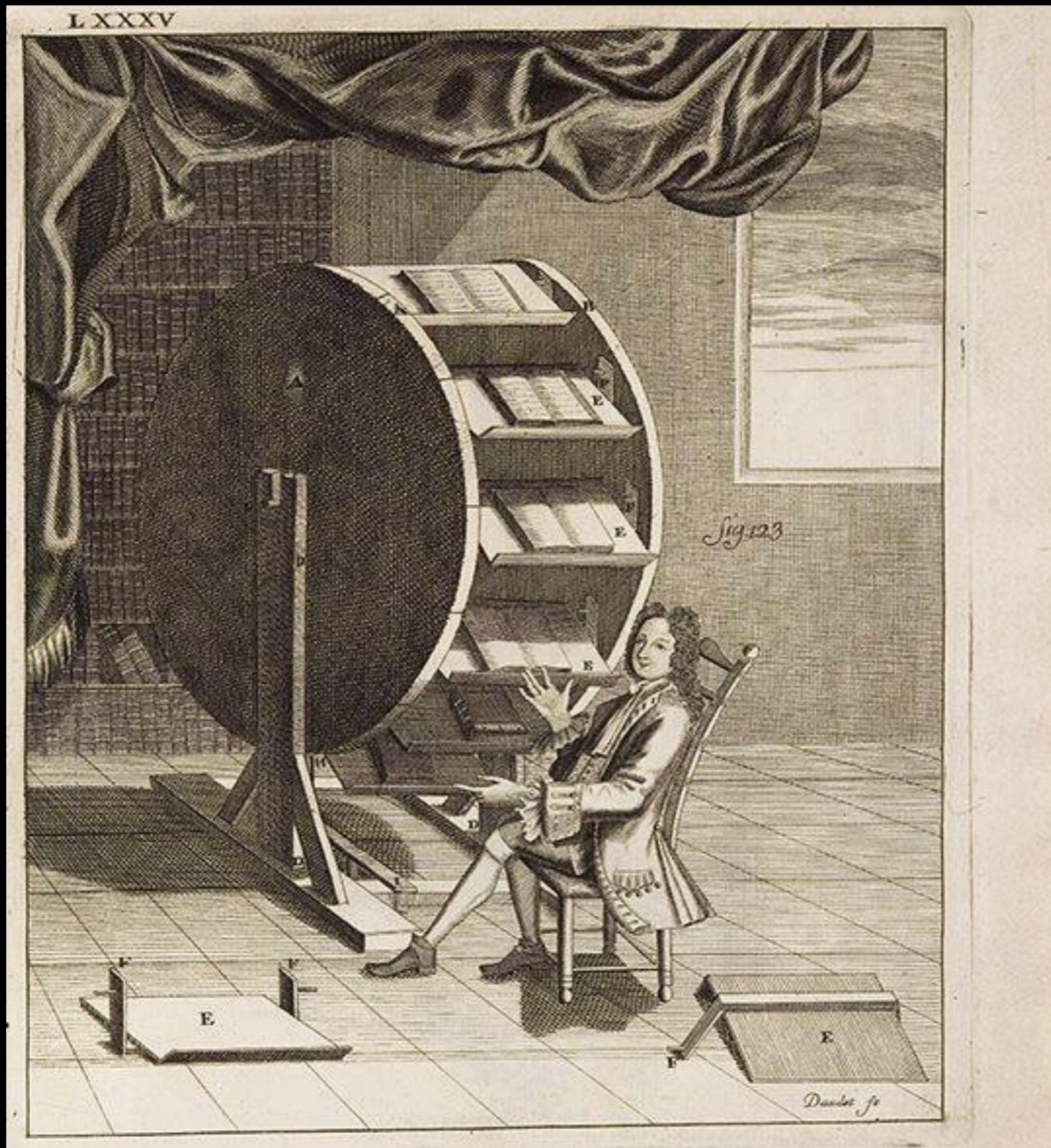
Book Jacket - Book of Common Prayer - Church of England, The Holy Bible
by John Baskett c. 1725 - 1780
(Winterthur)

Reading Chairs



English Reading Chair
c. 1750
(Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Reading Wheels



Nicolas Grollier's Reading Wheel
France 1751
(Fisher - University of Toronto)

Acknowledgements

The material contained within these slideshows is presented for educational purposes only. The 18th Century Material Culture Resource Center does not personally own any of the items depicted herein and is indebted to the countless museums, libraries, and private collectors who willingly share their collections with the public through the internet. Every attempt has been made to credit these organizations and individuals for their contributions as best as possible.

If there is a question you have regarding a particular item featured within a presentation, please contact the 18th Century Material Culture Resource Center and we will try to answer your inquiry as best as possible. If for any reason you feel there is any item that should not be presented here, or if there is an error in any listing, or if you know the source for any item whose credit is unknown, please inform us and we will make sure your concern is addressed as soon as possible.

Thank you!

- The 18th Century Material Culture Resource Center