

*WOMEN NATURAL  
HISTORY AUTHORS*

*EC BOOKS*



## CONTENTS

Anne Pratt 1800-1893

4

Jane Loudon (1807-1858)

13

Margaret Plues (1828-1901)

17

Jane Marcet (1769-1858)

21

Works by Assorted Writers

25

The Marine Botanist; an Introduction to the Study of Algology

26

The Butterfly Collector's Vade Mecum ; With a Synoptical Table  
of British Butterflies

27

Popular Garden Botany:

28

containing a familiar and scientific description of most of the  
Hardy and Half-Hardy Plants introduced into the Flower Garden

28

British Sea-Weeds. Drawn from Professor Harvey's  
"Phycologia Britannica."

29



# INTRODUCTION

We hope that this guide to a few of the titles on our shelves will prove to be of interest.

Despite strong prejudice, restrictive laws and societal views, there have been many great female scientists and natural history writers. While their research may now be considered definitive works or integral to our modern understanding, often times they would be seen as incapable of bringing anything to the scientific world.

These women fortunate enough to find their way into print were often derided for 'populising' their subject matter. Often this amounted to using more common vernacular to allow a greater audience to understand their contents.

This is a sample of works by a number of women who, for a variety of reasons decided to write on natural history and science.

If you are interested in any of these or want to know more about our stock, please contact us at [Books@ECRareBooks.com](mailto:Books@ECRareBooks.com), or you can see our stock on Biblio under E.C.Books and at our website :

[www.ECRarebooks.co.uk](http://www.ECRarebooks.co.uk)



## Anne Pratt 1800-1893

Well known as a successful illustrator of botanical and some ornithology works. Her works were published by the 'Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge' (SPCK) which allowed her to use her own name instead of a pseudonym.

The second of three daughters. Anne was in poor health as a child with a 'stiff knee' kept her indoors, it was the family doctor, Dr Dods, encouraged her to draw.

She later moved to Brixton in 1826 and there began her career as an illustrator. Her work was extremely popular with her style considered easy to read and overall reasonably accurate. She helped to popularise the study of botany. At the same time her work was dismissed by 'professionals' on the grounds that she was self taught.





# *The Flowering Plants And Ferns Of Great Britain - The British Grasses And Sedges*

- 7 Volumes

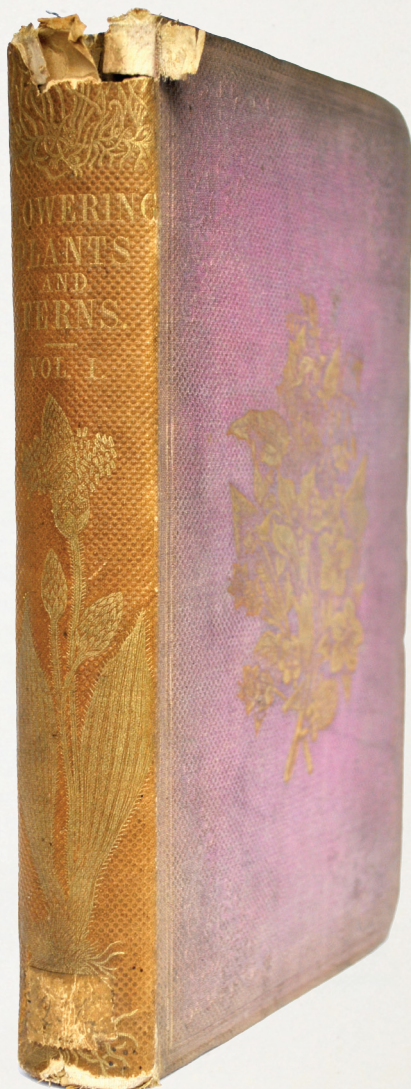
Anne Pratt

Published by SPCK

1860

This is a 7 volume set and is therefore probably the first edition; as this was the only set issued in 7 volumes. It consists of 5 volumes of Flowering Plants, 1 of Grasses & Sedges, and 1 of Ferns. Original gilt decorative cloth - very worn. Contents are fine & bright.

Price £350.00





## Wild Flowers

Anne Pratt

Published by SPCK

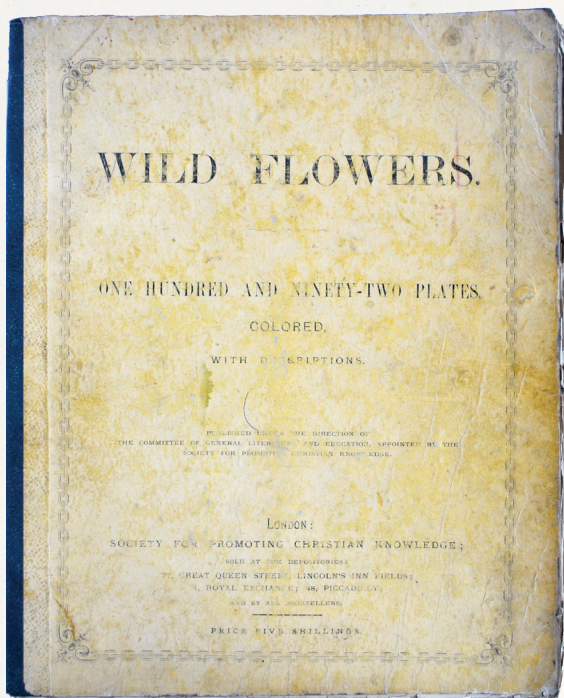
1853

A rare folio version of Anne Pratt's work on wild flowers with the title 'Wild Flowers', followed by 'One Hundred and Ninety-Two Plates Colored, with descriptions'. There is no author's name or date but it is likely to be 1853 (referenced in Freeman). Normally issued in 2 x 12 mo volumes, this work has 2 plant illustrations per page together with the relevant text below.

The pages are printed on one side only and each page has a price at the bottom suggesting that they were sold individually. The pages are loosely bound into a soft paper board binding - most are detaching. There is no title page or index - it looks as though the plates were issued simply as plates. Some have some wear and browning to edges - which could be trimmed. Otherwise the illustrations are very clean and there is little marking. The paper binding is in fairly poor condition. Overall in fair condition.

Price £50.00

We also have the the two volume edition of this work in stock and a rare volume one still bound in its original parts.







WILD HYACINTH.—*Hyacinthus non-scriptus*.

EVERY child who has wandered in the woods in the sweet months of April and May, knows the Blue-Bell, or Wild Hyacinth. Scarcely a copse can be found throughout our land which is not then blue with its flowers, for it is to the woodland and the green-lane, in Spring, what the buttercup is to the meadow. Growing near it we often find the beautiful pinkish-white blossoms of the wood-anemone, and before it fades away the hedges are getting white, and becoming fragrant with wreaths of the blooming May, but the primroses have almost all departed, and the violets are daily more rare. The root of the Wild Hyacinth is round, and full of a poisonous, clammy juice; indeed every part of the plant gives out more or less of this juice if we bruise it. Though the root is unfit for food, and is useless to us now, yet in former times it was much prized. In days when very stiff ruffs were worn, the juice was made into starch, and employed to stiffen linen. It served the bookbinder, too, as glue, to fasten the covers of books. The flower has a slight scent, but the chief charms of the Blue-Bell are its beauty and its early appearance. It is but lately that we have looked upon bare trees, and ground strewed with withered leaves, and when no songs of joy were heard; and now the early flowers seem to say, in the language of Scripture, "The Winter is past; the rains are over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time for the singing of birds is come; and the voice of the turtle is heard in the land." Our Wild Hyacinth is sometimes found with white or flesh-coloured flowers, but the beautiful garden Hyacinths, with double blossoms, are brought from different countries of the East.



COMMON BROOM.—*Cytisus Scoparius*.

As the wood has flowers peculiar to it, and the meadow and the cornfield have each their own blossoms, so there are some plants which flourish especially on heaths and commons. Far away, over many a heath-land, we may see the bright golden blossoms of the "bonnie broom;" and if, on some sunny day in July, we stray among them, we may see the large dark brown Broom-pods opening to let out their ripe seeds. The blossoms seem to invite the butterflies to linger about them, and the bees keep a perpetual humming near them. The Broom is useful also to man. Sometimes when roads are cut down it is planted on the sides of the banks that its roots may hold the crumbling earth together. The bark is steeped in water that its fibres may be used instead of flax, and the small twigs and branches are serviceable in tanning leather. The young boughs are made into brooms, and the young green buds are pickled in vinegar, and eaten as capers. When the shrub attains a good size its wood is hard, and is valuable to the cabinet-maker for veneering. The plant varies much in height according to the soil and situation on which it grows. When it is found on exposed heaths it is usually a low shrub; but when it springs up on some sunny hill-side, or is sheltered by a neighbouring rock or thicket, it is sometimes ten or twelve feet high. It is always an ornamental plant, for when its flowers have passed away, its dark green leaves and twigs remain. Wordsworth well describes it:—

"Am I not  
In truth a favour'd plant?  
On me such bounty summer showers,  
That I am cover'd o'er with flowers;  
And when the frost is in the sky,  
My branches are so fresh and gay,  
That you might look on me, and say—  
'This plant can never die.'"



# *The Grasses, Sedges and Ferns of Great Britain, and their allies the Club Mosses, Pepperworts and Horsetails.*

Anne Pratt

Published by Frederick Warne and Co  
1889

A fair copy of this extract from the author's major work on British Flora issued as a single volume. In the original green decorative cloth binding with gilt decoration and titles to the front board, and gilt titles to the spine and with the original endpapers.

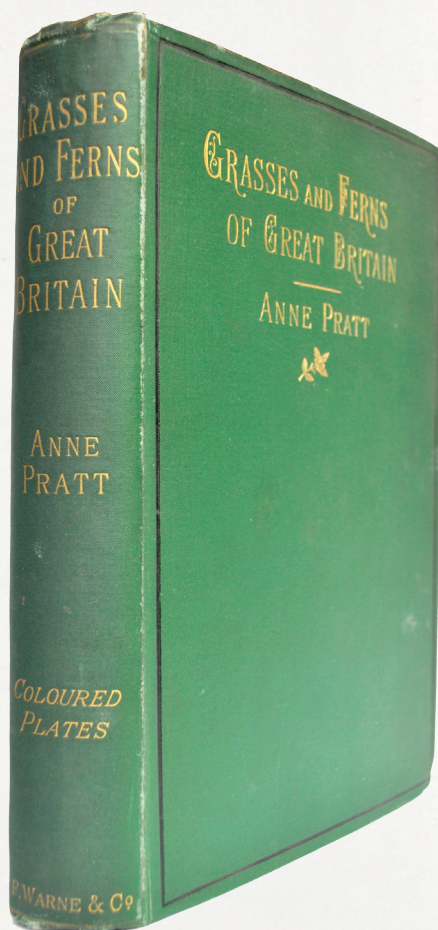
The book is in 2 sections with the first covering Grasses and Sedges and includes 33 colour printed plates with the frontispiece and runs for 62 pages. The second section covers ferns, is 78 pages and has 41 colour printed plates and numerous black and white illustrations in the text.

The binding has some darkening to the spine which has pulling top and bottom. There is some wear to joints and corners, but overall the binding is clean and with bright gilt decoration. There is a small signature on the reverse of the front end paper.

The contents are generally clean and the plates are, overall, very bright. However, they lack tissue guards and some are detached. The numbering is a little odd because it refers to the full work, but plates 246, 247, 259, 260, 274, 275 and 310

are detached and need tipping in. Some of the text pages are smaller than the plate pages so some edges to the plates have wear. This does not generally affect the image. There is occasional browning.

Price £80.00









*The Flowering Plants of Great Britain. Together with The  
Grasses, Sedges and Ferns of Great Britain.*

4 vols

Anne Pratt

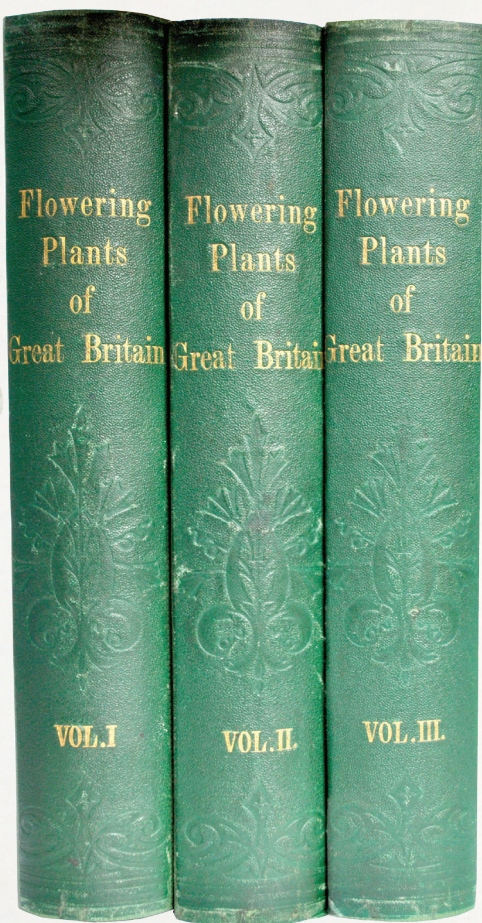
Published by SPCK

A very nice set in original green decorative cloth bindings, with 316 colour printed plates with tissue guards and 1 plain plate. The set is undated but looks to be mid 1800's from the binding style.

Vols I-III are titled *The Flowering Plants of Great Britain*. Vol IV is separately titled, although in uniform binding, covering the *Grasses, Sedges, Ferns of Great Britain*. The bindings have been nicely re-backed and are very sound and clean with gilt decoration on the front boards and gilt titles to spines.

The contents are generally clean and bright with occasional brown spotting. With bookplate of Robert Allan on the front pastedown of all the volumes. Vol I has 1 plain and 80 colour plates, 256 pp with catalogue at the rear. The binding has slight scuffing and bumping to corners. Vol II has 79 colour plates, and is 247 pp plus publisher's catalogue. The binding has 2 small indentations to the side of the front board and slight bumping to corners.

The 6th plate has a small hole at the outer edge and one plate is lacking a tissue guard. Vol III has 82 colour plates and includes the index to the 3 volumes - 248 pp plus publisher's catalogue. The binding has slight bumping to corners. Vol IV is has a separate title on the spine. It has 75 colour plates in all.







There is a half title to the ferns section at page 62, and the ferns section includes black and white figures in the text. 140 pp plus publisher's catalogue. The binding has what looks like an ink mark on the spine and slight bumping to corners. Very good condition.

Price £250.00



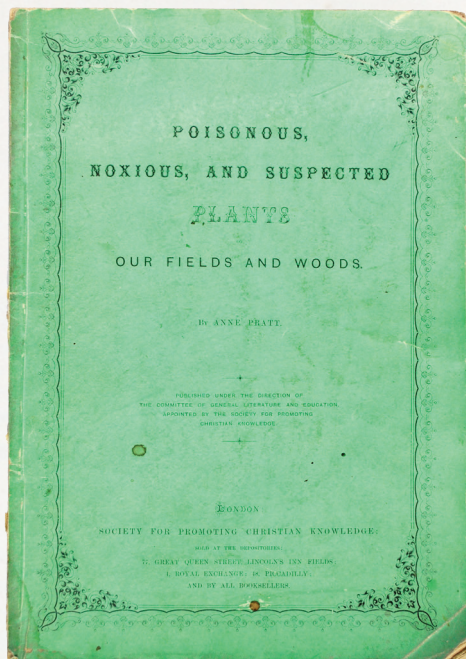
# Poisonous, Noxious, and Suspected Plants of our Fields and Woods

Anne Pratt.

Published by SPCK

A fair copy of the large paper edition of Anne Pratt's work. Originally designed as single sheets, each one showing a picture of the plant with its description below.

This book is undated but mid to later 1800's. In the original light green card wrap with 44 colour printed illustrations. The cover is slightly soiled and turned up at the edges. The pages have some light browning to edges and some of the corners are turned over at the tip. The colour printing is well done. The plant outline shows through the back of the page it is printed on but there is no offsetting. There is the occasional spot or mark but generally the contents are nice and clean. An interesting and fairly scarce work.



Price £25.00





## Jane Loudon (1807-1858)

Born Jane C Webb, Jane was an early pioneer of science fiction writing. Her father was a manufacturer in Edgbaston – she travelled with him and picked up several languages. Upon his death, her father died leaving her no money at the age of 17.

'The Mummy' was published in 1827 by Henry Colburn and was her first work and an attempt to earn a living. She married a landscape gardener from whom she gained her interest in botany. He was not wealthy and the production of his work 'Arboretum' in 1838 put them seriously into debt. She used her writing skills to turn her new knowledge into profitable natural history and gardening works. She wrote the first popular gardening manual – written for people who gardened as opposed to horticultural experts. She was a particularly talented illustrator.



## *British Wild Flowers*

Mrs Loudon  
Published by William S Orr & Co  
1846

A beautiful copy of the 2nd edition in full leather with 60 finely detailed hand coloured plates by Jane Loudon. The full leather binding has raised bands to the spine and a gilt title label. Internally there is the bookplate of Frederick Perkins, Chipstead Place, Kent on the front pastedown. There is a record of Chipstead Place being sold by the Polhills to a Frederick Perkins, cited as a brewer in 1829.

The binding has some wear to the spine - principally some snagging at the top and general scuffing with a scuff to the title label and wear on the joints although they remain sound. There is scuffing to the edges and some wear marks on the boards. Internally the original endpapers are present with slight splitting at the front joint towards the bottom. There is a small crease to a preliminary. The contents are very clean and the plates are VG to fine. There is very small repaired paper tear to the bottom margin of plate 60.

Price £650.00





## *British Wild Flowers*

Mrs Loudon

Published by William S Orr & Co

1846

A poor copy of this beautiful work with 60 hand coloured plates. Classed as poor because the title page is missing; the binding is poor - in marked plain cloth and beginning to detach; and there is a little marking internally.

The pagination matches our other 2nd edition copy so this is presumed as second, dated to 1846. The plates are in good condition - there is some brown spotting to edges, and around 3 have a darkened section, again at the edge not affecting the flower image (we have noticed only one plate with a light mark affecting the flower). All have tissue guards - one guard is torn and one has a small hole - most guards have marking. A few text pages have a little marking and p 117 has a repaired tear to the top margin. The final index page has a small hole at the top. This copy would be well worth rebinding.

Price £350.00





1 Travellers Foot 2 Meadow Rue the lesser 3 Pheasants eye



## Margaret Plues (1828-1901)

Born in Ripon, Yorkshire, as one of 8 children. Margaret never married, instead she lived with a succession of her sisters and their husbands. She appeared in the 1881 Census as the Head of a Household in Kennington with 16 other women, 13 of them dressmakers where she stated her occupation as 'artist in painting and embroidery'.

She became a Catholic and entered a convent towards the end of her life having published a number of botanical works including *British Grasses* and *British Ferns* which coincided with the height of the Victorian fern craze.

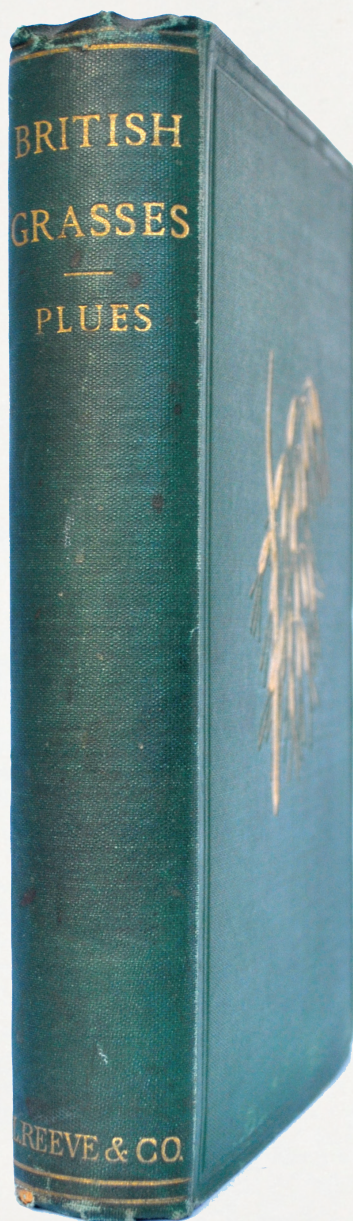


*British Grasses: an introduction to the study of the  
Graminae of Great Britain and Ireland*

Margaret Plues  
Published by Reeve & Co  
1867 1st edition

A very good copy of the 1st edition. British Grasses was part of Reeve's Crown Series - designed to encourage students and amateurs to study nature more deeply. In original green cloth with gilt picture of a grass head on the front board and gilt titles on the spine. The binding is very clean and bright - there is the odd slight spot, the spine is slightly darker than the boards and some pulling to the bottom of the spine and slight bumping to corners. Endpapers unmarked. Contents including 16 coloured plates and numerous text illustrations clean and bright. Includes publishers catalogue.

Price £80.00





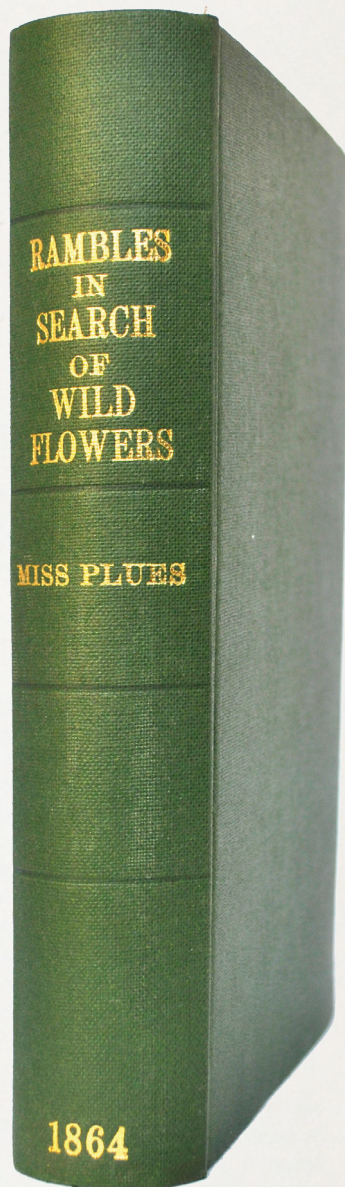
## *Rambles in search of Wild Flowers, and how to distinguish them*

Margaret Plues

Journal of Horticulture and Cottage Gardener  
Office 1864

A good copy of the 2nd edition in a possibly slightly more recent strong green cloth binding. With 18 hand coloured plates. The binding has plain boards and gilt titles and date to the spine. It is in very good sound condition. There is a small indentation on the rear board. The endpapers are clean. There is a blind stamp of 'Greystones' Gloucestershire, and another blind stamp and a small signature to the half title page. There is a small dedication to the rear of the dedication page. The contents are in good condition. There is some browning to page edges and occasional marking. There are a couple of pages with slight loss to outer margins where the book has been poorly opened. The plates are well coloured and in good condition. A publisher's catalogue is bound at the rear.

Price £20.00









## Jane Marcet (1769-1858)

Born Jane Haldimand, she married John Gaspard Marcet a Swiss exile, physician and lecturer in Chemistry at Guys Hospital. Helped her husband with his work – including proof reading. She and her husband attended a series of lectures given by Humphrey Davy but it was through discussing the details with him afterwards that she realised that a conversational style with questions and answers was far more helpful way of learning. This style then formed the base for her books which were written for children and younger people.



*Conversations on Chemistry* was published anonymously in 1805 and was extremely popular, this led her to finally add her name to it when it reached its 12th edition in 1832. It was an influential work – Michael Faraday read it while working as a bookbinder's apprentice. She wrote a number of other works in the same light, conversational style, these were on botany, entomology, economics and other serious topics, all taking potentially complex subjects and making them understandable while maintaining accuracy. She and her husband had a wide circle of acquaintances including, for example Mary Somerville, making her well placed to assimilate the essential elements of her subjects. Through her 'salons' she developed and maintained an extensive women's network. Her works became standard textbooks for girls in the United States.

*Conversations on Chemistry; in which the elements of that science are familiarly explained and illustrated by experiments.*

Vols I & II

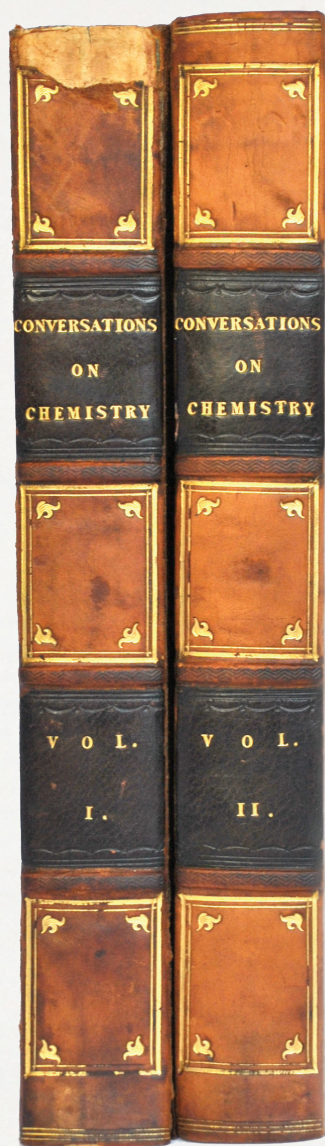
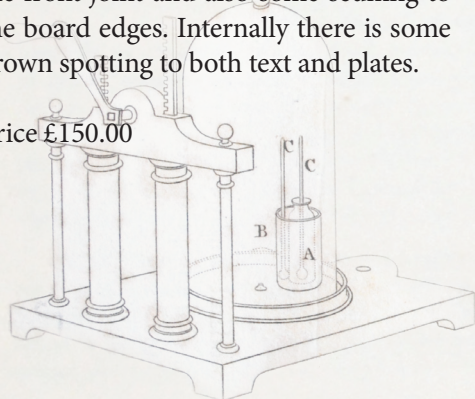
Jane Marcet

Published by Longman, Hurst, Rees,  
Orme, and Brown

1813

A fair copy of this historically important work by Jane Marcet written for those wanting to become familiar with a subject. In 2 full leather volumes with the bookplate of George Phillips on the front pastedown of each. The spines have gilt compartments and title and volume labels and there is gilt decoration to board edges. Vol I covers Simple Bodies and Vol II, Compound Bodies. There are numerous diagrams in the text and 14 black and white plates. Plate 9, referred to in Vol I is bound in Vol II. The bindings have some wear to spine joints; Vol I has some tearing at the top of the spine at the front joint and also some scuffing to the board edges. Internally there is some brown spotting to both text and plates.

Price £150.00





*Dialogues on Entomology, in which The Forms and Habits  
of Insects are Familiarly Explained.*

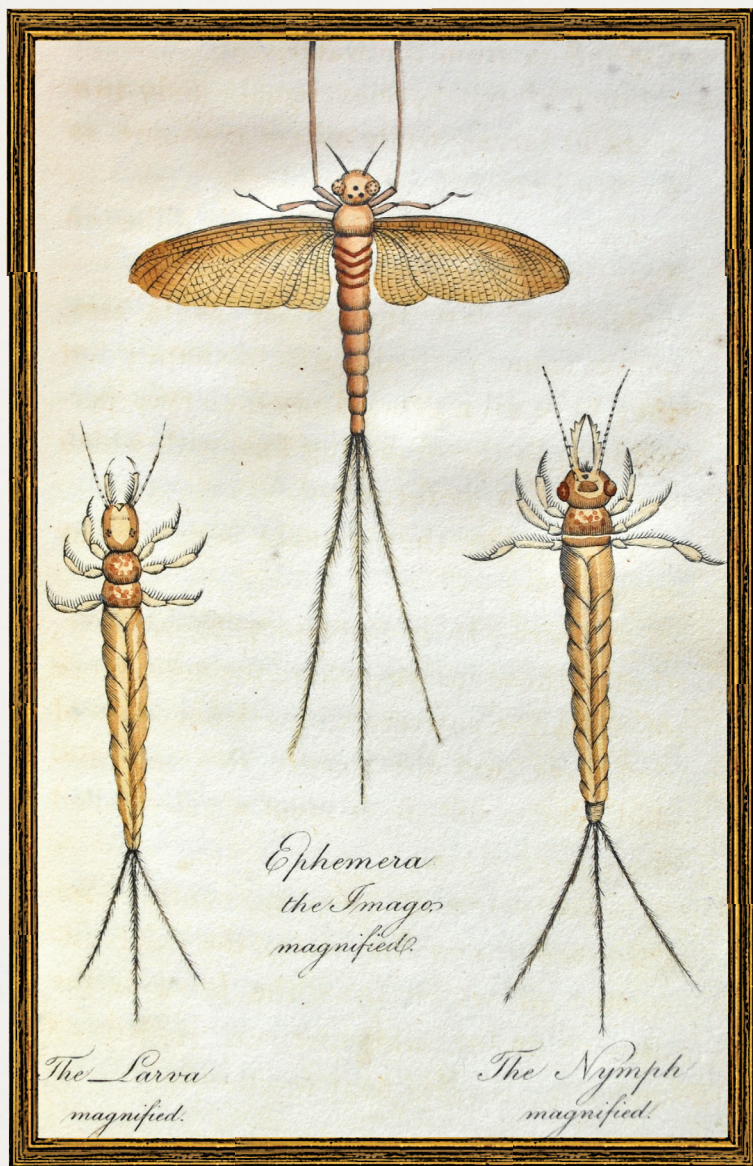
Jane Marcet  
Published by R.Hunter  
1819

An extremely rare work by Jane Marcet, famed for her introductory works to scientific subjects in the early 1800's. With 24 of 25 hand coloured engravings. Marcet's style was to use dialogue between an adult and up to 2 young people to ask pertinent questions about the subject. In this book the dialogue is between a mother and her daughter Lucy. In new half leather binding with marbled boards and new endpapers. The spine has gilt titles - but the author is named as Janet Marset! The contents have some browning and occasional spotting but the plates are very detailed and nicely coloured. With the remains of an ink signature to the top of the title page.

Price £250.00









## Works by Assorted Writers

Not all notable works were by well known writers and artists, below you will find more humble titles or overlooked treasures.

### *The Marine Botanist; an Introduction to the Study of Algology*

Isabella Gifford

Published by Darton and Co; Binns and Goodwin

Undated but circa 1850. In original light blue decorative cloth binding with gilt titles and gilt decoration to front board. With 6 colour plates, including the vignette title page, and 6 black and white plates. The binding is sound but grubby at the edges, with a small ink mark to the back board, and a slight indentation and very small white mark to the front. The contents are in very good condition - the colour plates are particularly bright and clean. A nice and increasingly scarce work.

Price £40.00



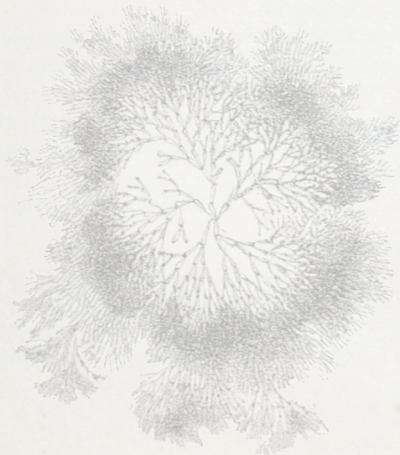
# *The Marine Botanist; an Introduction to the Study of Algology*

Isabella Gifford

Published by Darton and Co; Binns and Goodwin.

A fair copy. Undated but likely 1848 according to Freeman. In original light blue decorative cloth binding with gilt titles and gilt decoration to front board. With 6 colour plates, including the vignette title page, and 6 black and white plates. The binding has been re-backed and is sound but grubby with wear to the corners. The contents are generally clean but occasional spotting and there are new endpapers. The vignette title page is detached and has signature dated 1871 at the top. A light ink line of names has been ruled out at the top of the preface and there is a further ink signature dated 1860 at the top of the introduction. There is also a small hole in this page not affecting text and some pages have light creases.

Price £20.00





*The Butterfly Collector's Vade Mecum ; With a Synoptical  
Table of British Butterflies*

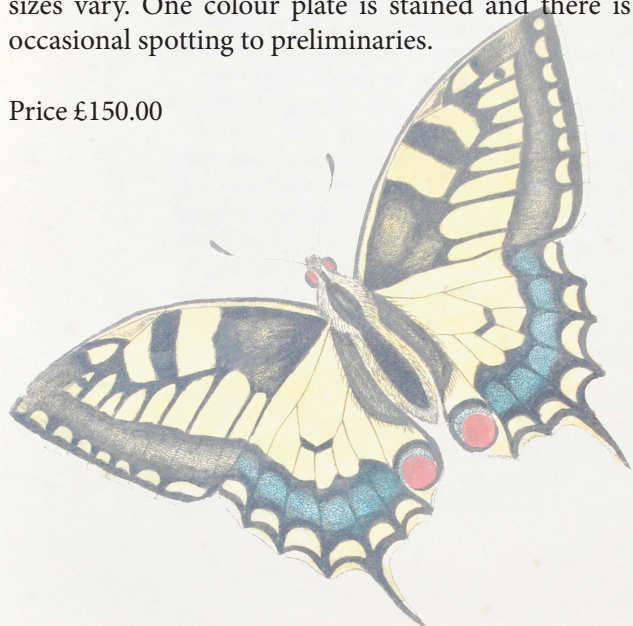
Laetitia Ford

Printed and Sold by J. Raw, and Sold also by Longman  
Rees & Co. and G.B. Whittaker, 1827

Second, 'enlarged' edition of the only work written by Laetitia Ford, nee Jermyn first published in 1824. Laetitia's father was a bookseller in Ipswich. This is an extremely scarce work. She was allowed by her family to foster an interest in butterflies (at a time when women were not supposed to have serious occupations) and was greatly encouraged by her neighbour, the Revd William Kirby of Barham.

This copy is complete in a plain board binding with 2 hand coloured and 3 plain plates. Laetitia drew the plates and dedicated the work to Kirby. The binding is serviceable but slightly stained and with a slight split on the spine. The contents are uncut so page sizes vary. One colour plate is stained and there is occasional spotting to preliminaries.

Price £150.00





*Popular Garden Botany:*  
*containing a familiar and scientific description of most of the Hardy*  
*and Half-Hardy Plants introduced into the Flower Garden*

Agnes Catlow  
Lovell Reeve 1855

A fair copy of a scarce title from the Popular Natural History series published by Lovell Reeve. The series was intended for older children and young students of the natural world - feeding the Victorian desire for studying and cataloging the world around them. In the original decorative cloth boards with gilt decoration and blind stamping to front board, gilt to spine and blind stamping to rear board. With 20 fine hand coloured plates by Fitch and Vincent Brooks. 320 pp plus publisher's catalogue bound at the front. The binding has been repaired at some time but is showing some wear at the joint between the front board and the spine. The spine is darkened. There is a little marking on the back board. Books from this series have a tendency to fray and chip badly at the spine, so it is nice to see that this binding is complete. Internally the fep is missing. There is a loose section which includes plates 4 and 5. The text is very clean with occasional spotting - and some pages are unopened. Some pages have rough edges where they have been poorly opened (again this is relatively common with this series). The plates are in lovely condition.



Price £60.00



*British Sea-Weeds. Drawn from Professor Harvey's  
"Phycologia Britannica."*

Mrs Alfred Gatty  
Published by Bell and Daldy  
1872

A very good copy of this relatively scarce work in 2 volumes complete with 80 colour printed plates. In matching dark green cloth with gilt titles and decoration to spine and decorative endpapers. Vol I, 74pp, 37 plates. Vol II, 93pp, 43 plates. Margaret Gatty was principally known as a writer of children's books, but became a keen student of marine biology and this work takes a lot of the jargon out of previous publications, making the subject more accessible for the reader. The introduction contains a lovely account of how to manage the inconvenience of Victorian women's dress when scrambling over slippery rocks looking for seaweeds. The bindings are in good to very good condition with only slight wear to corners and slight pulling to the spine. Vol I has a little marking on the back board and Vol II has some mottling on the front board. The endpapers in both have some dark staining. There is a small ink signature of J G Roger to the half title of both volumes. The contents are in very good bright condition. The stitching can be seen at some points but the bindings on both volumes are tight and sound.

Price £200.00







13.—*Fucus nodosus*, Linn.



14.—*Fucus Mackaii*, Turn.



15.—*Fucus canaliculatus*, Linn.



16.—*Himanthalia lorea*, Zyngb.



## *About EC Books*

We are rare book dealers. We specialise in Natural History and works prior to 1900 but have a wide range of stock from 1524 to the modern day.

Key areas we cover:

- Natural history - Entomology, works by Buffon and Cuvier, flowers, marine biology, fungi. Focused mostly on illustrated works with hand coloured plates
- Early works - Ovid, Pliny, John Bate
- Early historical writings - John Speed, Holinshed, Blome
- Eighteenth & nineteenth century womens literature - Maria Edgeworth, Jane Austen, Bronte sisters
- Illustrated works - Rackham, Dulac, Heath Robinson
- Fairy tales & Folklore
- Travel in the Eighteenth & nineteenth century