



Welcome to
Rare Books

This exhibit
highlights
specific features of
twenty
different Rare Books
or documents in
Hofstra's
Special Collections



This is an introduction to rare books and documents. Twenty items have been selected to show different aspects of book arts and changes in the creation of the written word over the course of history; from the different fonts that were used or the skills that were required to create each item. Also included are highlighted words that are associated with books. They are defined at the end of this exhibit.

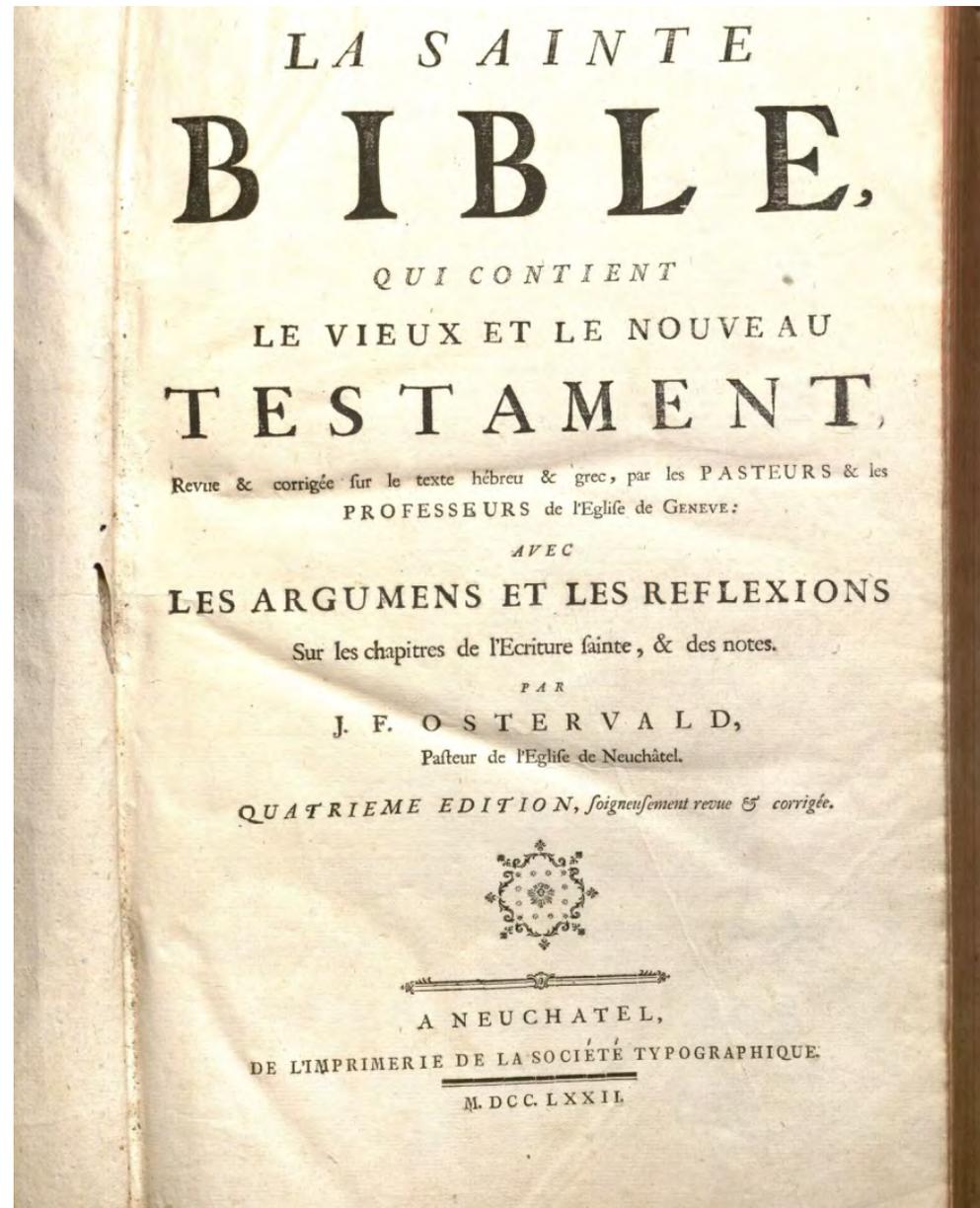
1. Illuminated Manuscript leaf, French c.1440.

In this leaf of an illuminated manuscript note the blue coloration, the use of **gilt**, and the beautiful **calligraphy**. The most expensive pigment was ultramarine blue, derived from the semi-precious stone lapis lazuli mined in the mountains of Afghanistan.



2. La Sainte Bible, 1772.

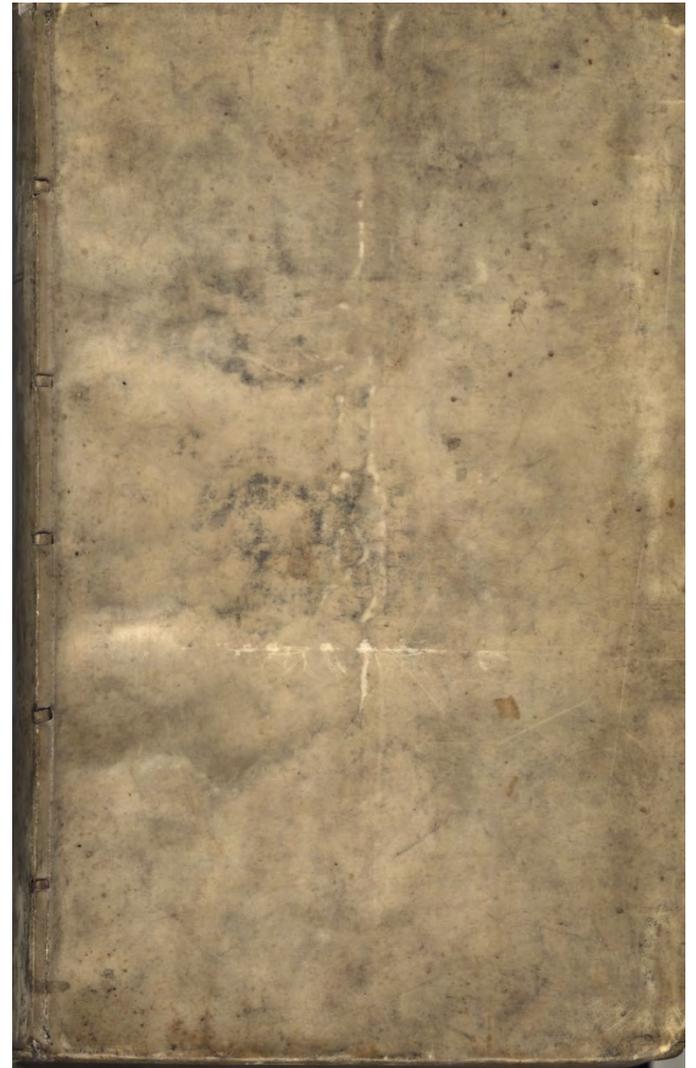
This item is quite large at over a foot and a half long by a foot wide and quite heavy as well. Bibles were among the first items printed because the only people who could read were clergymen.

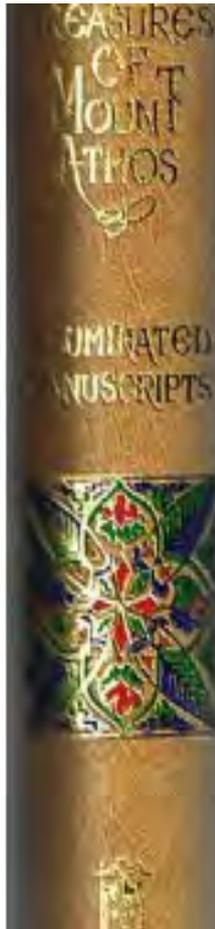




3. *St. Freheri Germanica,* 1624.

The covers of
this book are
vellum.





4. The Treasures of Mount Athos, modern rendition.

This volume has beautifully illustrated **versal** letters.

WINE

A

POEM.

*Nulla placere diu, nec vivere carmina possunt,
Quæ Scribuntur aquæ portoribus.*

Epist. 19. Lib. 1. Hor.

To which is added,

*Old England's New Triumph: Or,
the Battle of Audenard.*

A SONG.

LONDON:

Printed and Sold by *H. Hills* in *Black-fryars*
near the *Water-side*, 1709.

5. *Wine a Poem*, 1709.

Printers of this time period often used “f” for “s” which was customary and not considered a [misprint](#).



6. *Horatii*, 1676.

This volume has large **versal** letters and uses small columns within the text.



7. Giuoco della palla, 1555.

This book has **historiated** letters. The leather binding was done at a later date most likely for a second owner. This is thought to be the first book about court tennis.

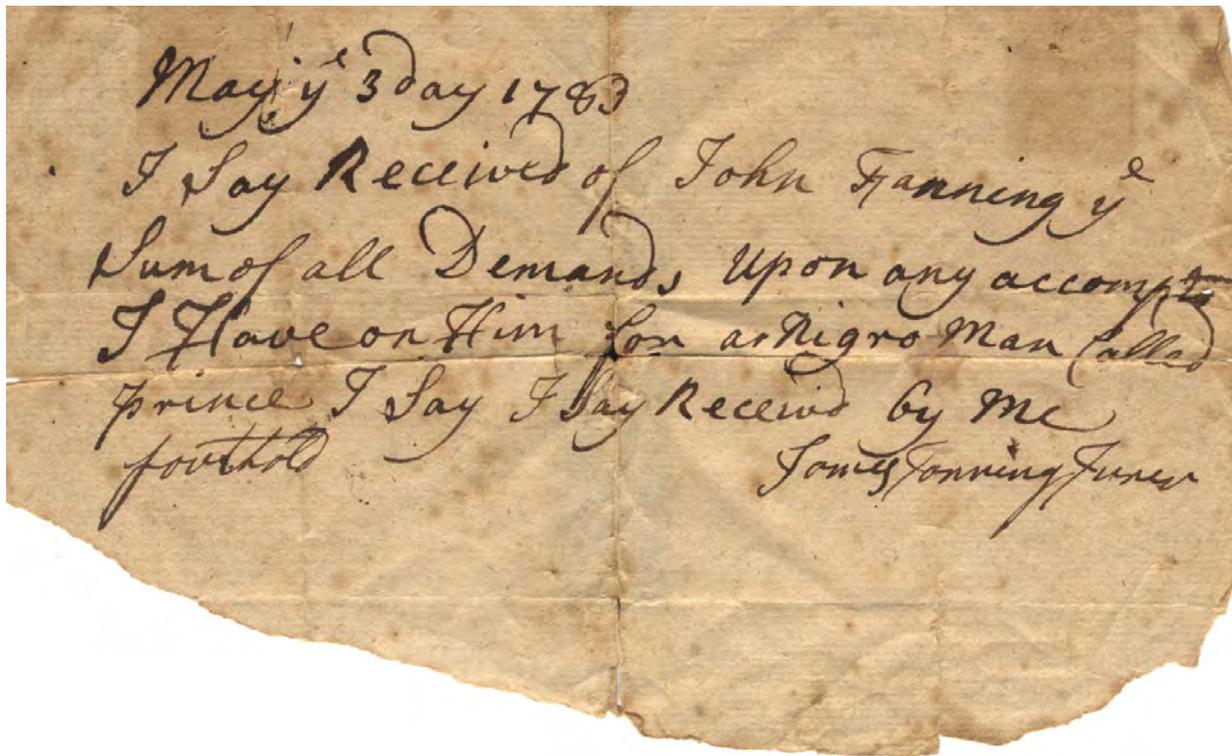
8. *Hamilton's Vases*, 1814.

This volume has a painting on the **fore edge** of the **text block** and has **gilt** which covers the painted portion.



9. Fanning slave document, 1783.

This handwritten item is a legal document. One copy was probably filed in a County Clerk's Office within a volume and the other was held by the slaveowner.



May^y 30^{ay} 1783
I Say Received of John Fanning
Sum of all Demands Upon any accounts
I Have on Him for a Negro Man called
Prince I Say I Say Received by me
J^ohn Fanning Jun^r

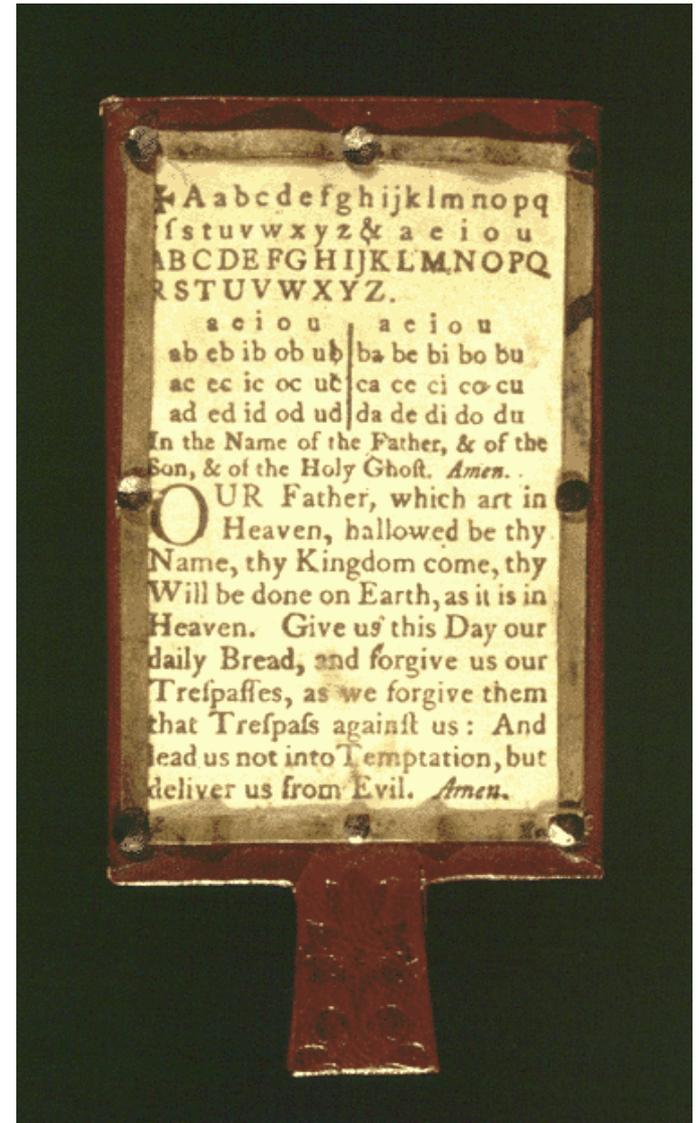
10. *Gazetteer of the Seat of War, 1813.*

“Gazettes” were official government bulletins that were circulated among the population. They were the forerunners of today’s newspapers. This gazette, which is printed on one side only, gave out comprehensive information about the War of 1812.



**11. Horn Book, facsimile,
popular in the 15th-18th
century.**

Original horn books were made of animal horn as the **overleaf** (as it was transparent) and had a wooden back. Many horn books used religious texts (a psalm or passage from scripture) to teach children to read. The bottom portion of the item is a handle so that children can hold the item.



12. Miniature books in German, 1907-1908. T

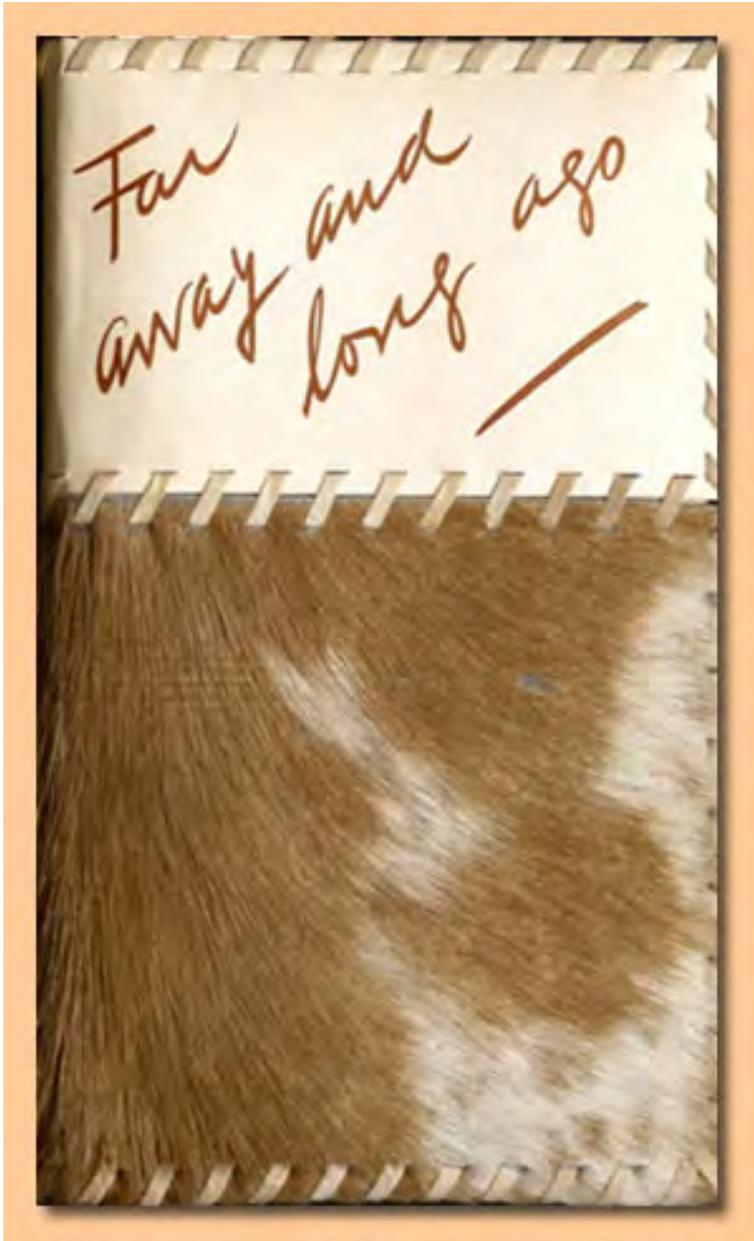
These books have very small **typeface** and size. They measure less than two inches. German printers experimented with miniature type after the Gutenberg bible was printed. The miniature books didn't gain popularity until much later.





13. *Walt Disney's Pinocchio*, 1950.

The brand name "Disney" makes this miniature book appealing to young children. At this time, children are thought of as a "consumer" group.

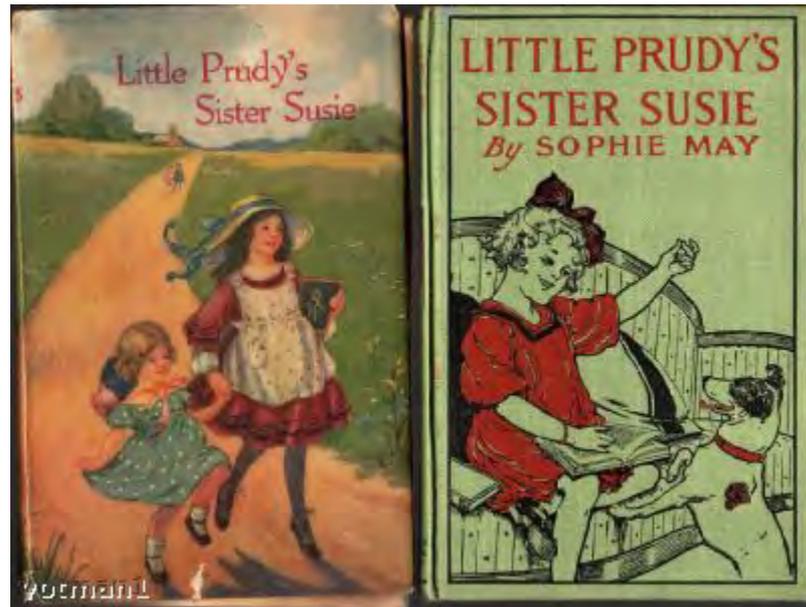


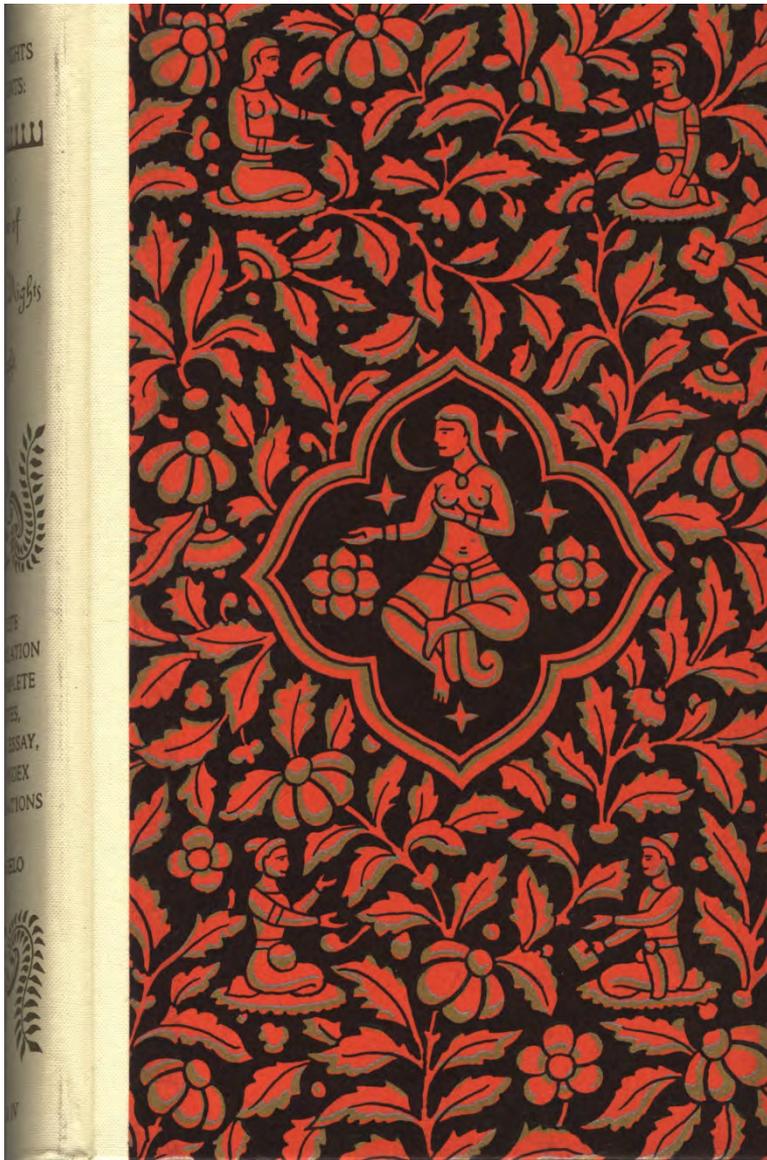
14. *Far Away and Long Ago*, 1943.

This book has a cow hide cover. This is a special press or **limited edition**. These editions, sometimes called deluxe editions, were used by book publishers to entice high end consumers.

15. *Little Prudy's Sister Susie and Little Prudy's Cousin Grace, 1876.*

When books were first published they were costly and most people could not afford them. Many books were **serialized** first in newspapers, or they were inexpensively made using board or **buckram** bindings. These titles were created specifically for children.



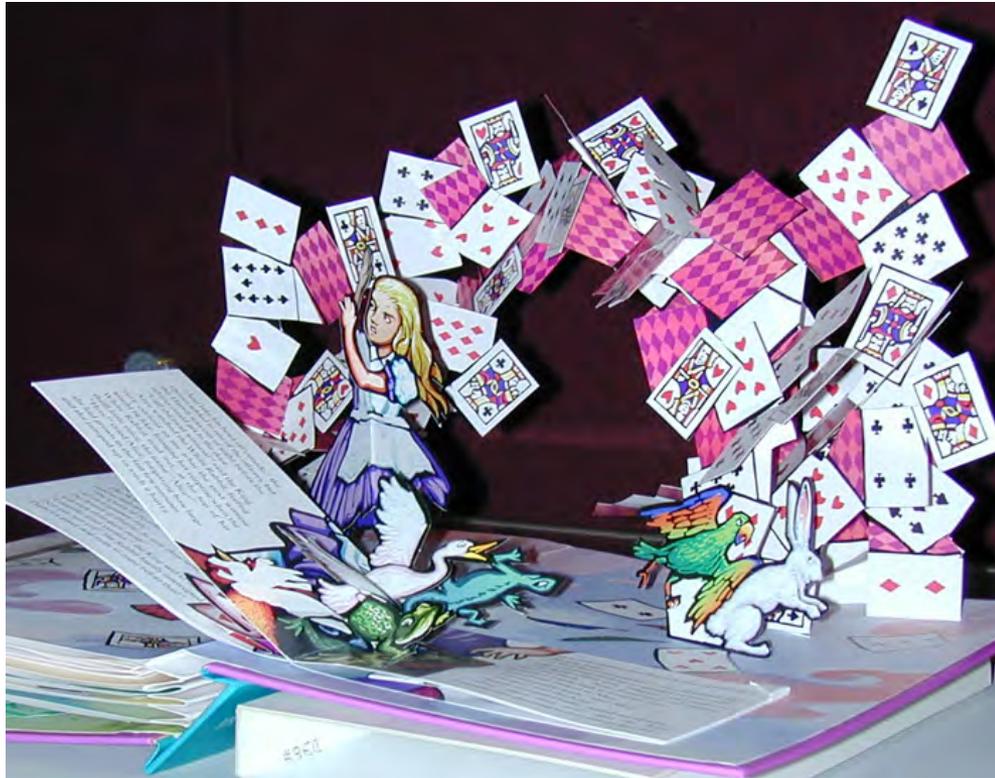


16. *The Thousand and One Nights*, 1962.

This volume is considered the first **serialized** story. It was a collection of Middle Eastern folk tales collected as one story. There have been many times in book history when the serialization of stories has been extremely popular. Charles Dickens is famous for his “*Pickwick Papers*” which was published in 1836 in England in 19 installments.

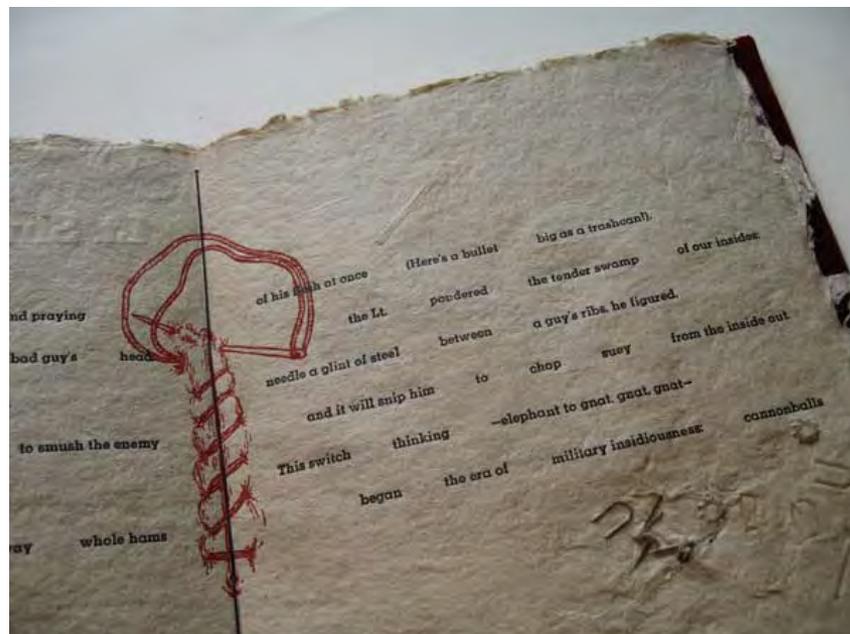
17. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, 2003.

This is a pop-up book which uses the art of paper engineering to create scenes which illustrate the text. Pop-up books, movable books and pull-down books have a very rich history and date back to the 13th century.



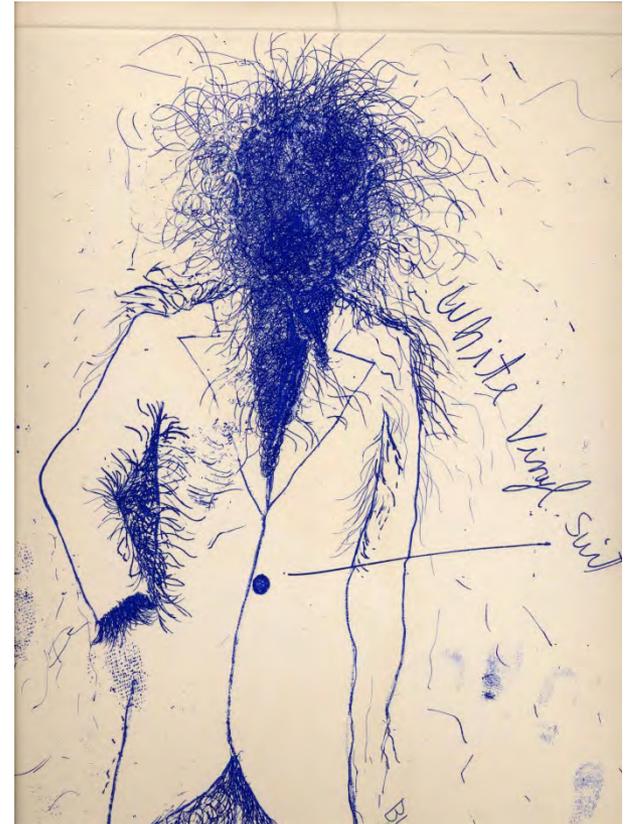
18. *Lt. Shrapnel, 2000.*

This volume is designed to fit into a pine box sleeve and has a camouflage cover. There are pieces of shrapnel embedded in the pages. It tells the story of a soldier at war. This is an **artist's book** which is a work of art created in the form of a book.



19. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, 1968.

This text is re-created as a play, using annotations and “director” annotations to supplement the traditional story. The cover of the volume is green velvet and the pages include costuming instructions as well. It is also an **artist’s book**.



Definition of highlighted words:

Artist's book - are works of art that utilize the form of the book and they are often published in small numbers.

Buckram – is a stiff cotton (occasionally linen or horse hair) cloth with a loose weave, often muslin.

Calligraphy – is a visual art related to writing. It is the design and execution of lettering.

Fore-edge – is the vertical edge of the book opposite the spine, where the pages are unconnected.

Gilt – thin layer of gold applied with a brush.

Historiated – an enlarged letter at the beginning of a paragraph or section of text, that contains a picture.

Leaf - is a single sheet in a book.

Limited edition - an edition of a book limited to a specific number of copies.

Misprint - an error in printed text.

Overleaf – in books indicates that something is on the other side of the page you are reading or is a covering on the page.

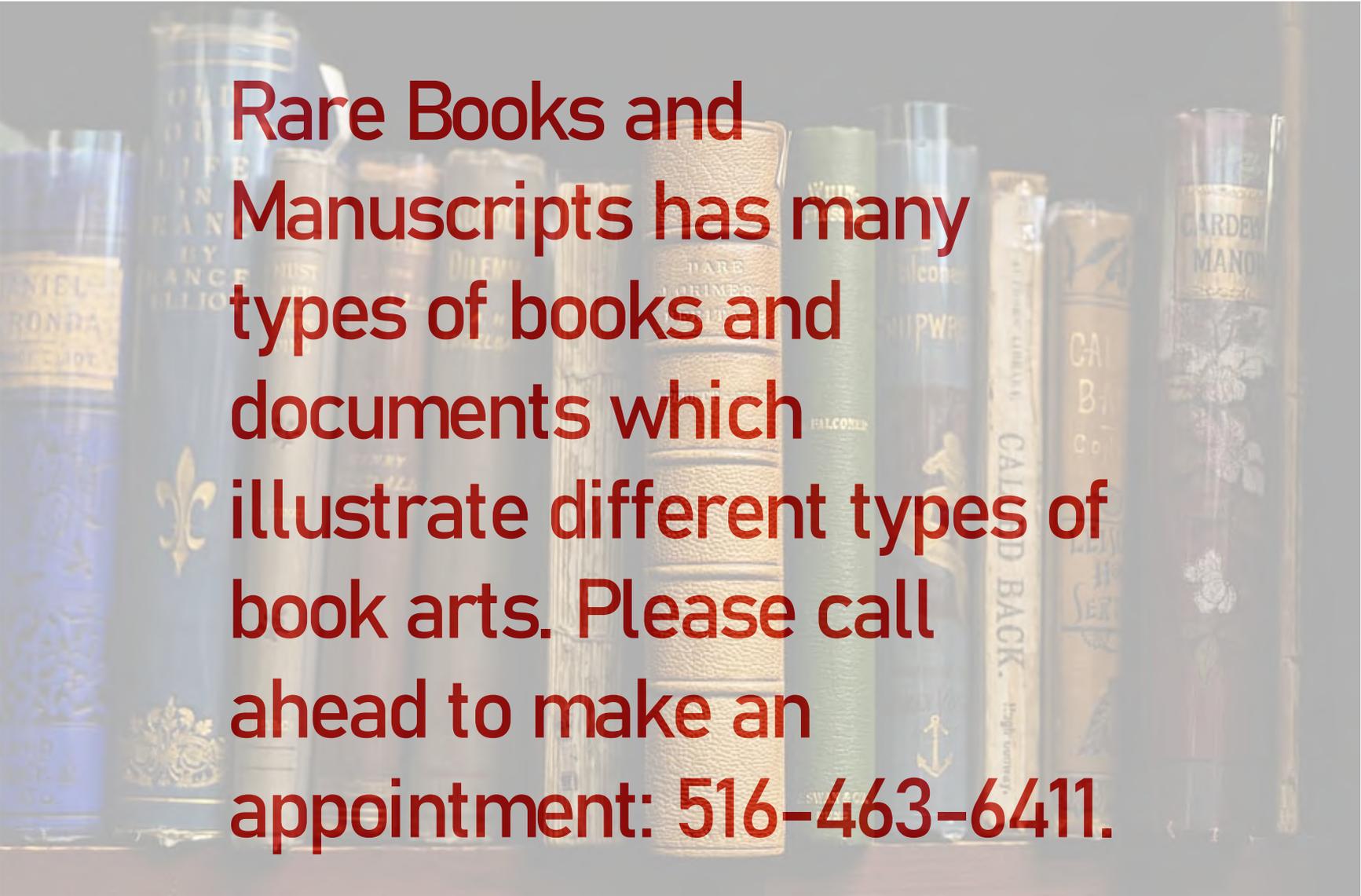
Serialized – is a novel or story that is published in sequential pieces called installments.

Text block- the inside pages of a book; the block of paper formed by the cut and stacked pages of a book.

Typeface- is the overall design of lettering; the design can include variations, such as extra bold, bold, regular, light, and italic.

Vellum- is prepared animal skin or "membrane," typically used as a material for writing on.

Versal – relating to a style of ornate capital letter used to start a verse, paragraph, or manuscript.



Rare Books and Manuscripts has many types of books and documents which illustrate different types of book arts. Please call ahead to make an appointment: 516-463-6411.