Hamilton College Library "Home Notes"

Communal Societies Collection New Acquisitions

The Communal Societies Collection continues to grow at a very satisfying pace. We have some exciting rarities to share with our readers this month, as well as a teaser: the next issue will feature an astounding collection of Koreshan Unity imprints recently added to the collection.

Rare Fruitlands Pamphlet

Lane, Charles. The Law and Method in Spirit-Culture; an Interpretation of A. Bronson Alcott's Idea and Practice at the Masonic Temple, Boston. Boston, James Munroe and Company; Thurston and Torry Printers, 1843. (See Figs. 1-3.)

This item features an engraving of the main hall of the Boston Temple on the front cover, depicting A. Bronson Alcott's radical and remarkable Temple School with, apparently, Alcott himself at the podium. At the top of the front cover is written "Church Deans," the copy of the dean of the Fruitland's Academy or the Boston Temple, possibly the copy of one of Alcott's assistants—Elizabeth Palmer Peabody or Margaret Fuller.

Alcott's autograph is in a good, clear hand and has been authenticated. The initials—"C L"—appear to be in the hand of Charles Lane, "the deepest, sharpest intellect" Alcott had ever met. Lane and Alcott went on to found their utopian community, Fruitlands, at Harvard, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1843. Lane's presence at Fruitlands caused much tension and grief. Despotic and difficult, Lane held up an ideal of strictness and celibacy that emotionally tore the community apart. After the failure of Fruitlands, he joined a nearby Shaker group and then returned to Harvard.

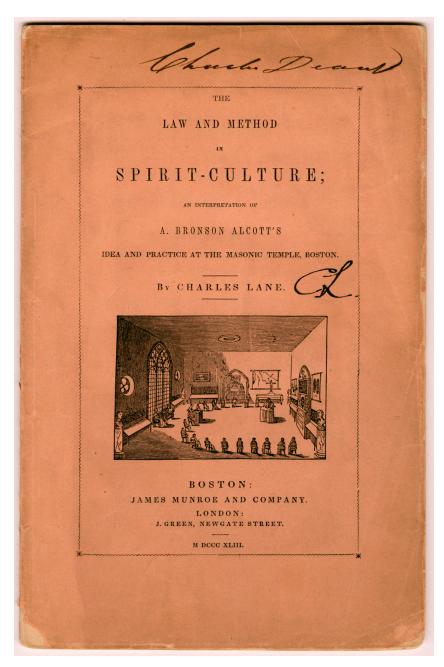


Figure 1. Front cover of The Law and Method of Spirit-Culture.

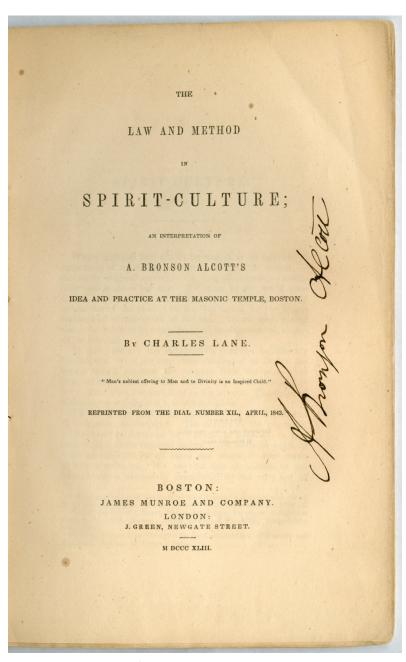


Figure 2. Title page of *The Law and Method of Spirit-Culture*, with A. Bronson Alcott's signature.

From 1834 to 1841, Alcott operated the Temple School with students from wealthy families. Classes were held at the Masonic Temple on Tremont Street in Boston. Alongside writing and reading, he gave lessons in "spiritual culture," which included interpretation of the Gospels, and also advocated object teaching in writing instruction. He even went so far as to decorate his schoolroom with visual elements he thought would inspire learning: paintings, books, comfortable furniture, and busts or portraits of Plato, Socrates, Jesus, and William Ellery Channing.

This work appears to be the only separate title published by Alcott or Lane during the period Fruitlands was operating.



Figure 3. Signature of A. Bronson Alcott from the front cover of *The Law and Method of Spirit-Culture*.

Snow Hill Cloister Manuscripts and Photographs

Hamilton College Library has acquired five manuscripts from the Snow Hill Cloister in Quincy Township, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. Four of the manuscripts are account books and one is a hymnal.

The earliest account book dates from 1830-1838, and also has information from 1891-1896. The first name in these accounts is David Snowberger. His accounts show income (apparently for the whole society) from farming (harrowing, planting, hauling) and expenses such as bureaus, whiskey, oak, iron, nails, etc. Catherine Snowberger's name is at the head of p. 2 and many of the expenses listed are sewing- and food-related: cloth, yarn, and transfer iron, as well as sugar, coffee, and salt. The book was reused beginning in 1891 and extensive lists of names are included of society members and others including Emmanuel Mann, George Keag, Solly Knepper, Sam Fitz, Jacob Null, James Bumbaugh, and Joe Kauffman.

Another account book records the years 1848-1891. Typical entries give the name of the member and goods purchased, usually foodstuffs including corn, flour, rye, and wheat.

Emanuel M. Mann's account book covers the years 1878-1896. Typical entries are for farm accounts and expenses for the grist mill—mowing hay, flour, bran.

"Ledger B" covers the years 1875-1892. Names occurring frequently in this account ledger include Emmanuel, James A., Rebeckah, and Joseph Mann. Other names include Charles Miller, Jacob Ritter, William Verdier, and Levi D. Hefner. The society accounts include expenses for farming and for the mill. An interesting entry appears in April and May 1899 for "Boarding at a Love Feast." This feast was a special Communion meal held twice a year, in the spring and fall.

A beautiful manuscript hymnal rounds out the collection. It is thought to have belonged to John Snowberger, one of the first trustees of the Snow Hill Cloister. It is likely to be in the hand of Barbara Snowberger, who was the first and most distinctive illuminator of the original Snow Hill manuscript hymnals. Barbara Snowberger was especially well known for her use of green, gold, and black ink in decorating her books. She died in 1851 at the age of eighty-three. This book, entirely in German, contains notation and lyrics for dozens of hymns. See figs. 4-5.

Additionally, Dr. Denise Seachrist, who wrote the definitive book *Snow* Hill: In the Shadows of Ephrata Cloister, has given Hamilton College digital

rights to her collection of images taken at Snow Hill during the course of her research. This remarkable collection of 1122 images was made before the objects and manuscripts at Snow Hill were dispersed, and documents the buildings extensively, both inside and out. Dr. Seachrist will be adding descriptive metadata to these images that Hamilton will add to its digital collections during 2014.

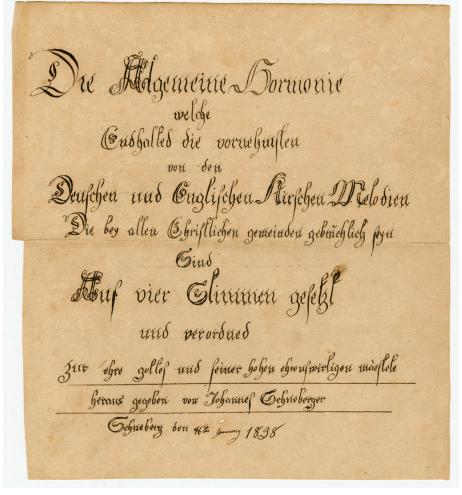


Figure 5. Title page of the Snow Hill music manuscript titled "Die Algemeine Harmonie ... von den Deuschen und Englischen Kirschen Melodien" [Translation: "The General Harmony ... of German and English Church Melodies."]



Figure 4. Page 79 from the Snow Hill music manuscript titled "Die Algemeine Harmonie ... von den Deuschen und Englischen Kirschen Melodien."



Figure 6. Snow Hill Nunnery (Cloister House). The cooper shop (no longer extant) is seen at the far right. This photograph was taken standing in front of the white stone church.

Amana Imprints, Manuscripts, and Photographs

Hamilton College has acquired another large collection of rare Inspirationist imprints, photographs, and manuscript correspondence. The books include four very rare early European imprints listed below. The collection of Amana materials also includes three historic photographs and twentyfour nineteenth-century manuscript letters. The collection of Inspirationist materials at Hamilton College is now the best available anywhere outside the state of Iowa.

Ein himmlischer Abendschein, noch am Feyerabend in und mit der Welt, ans Tages-Licht gestellt: zu Innigster Prüfung und Erwecküng vor Sehende, und den Blinden, Lebende, und doch Todten, im Reich der Gnaden und auch im Reich der Natur: welchen der Geist der wahren Inspiration, durch Ursula Meyerin, eine ledige Tochter aus dem Schweitzerland, doch hie und da im Teutschen Land, hat bezeugen und verkündigen lassen. Gedruckt im Jahr 1781.

[Translation of title page: A heavenly evening glow at the end of the day brought to the light; in and with the world for the heartfelt testing and awakening of those with sight, the blind, the living, and the dead; in the kingdom of grace, and also in the earthly realm, to which the spirit of true inspiration, through Ursula Meyerin, an unmarried daughter of Switzerland; indeed here and there in the German lands, has witnessed and proclaimed. Printed in 1781.]

This rare volume contains testimonies delivered by Inspirationist leader and instrument, Ursula Mayer, 1715-1719. Hamilton's copy is the only holding in WorldCat. See fig. 7.

Das Geschrey zur Mitternacht: durch den Geist der Weissagung gewürcket und verkündiget, und jetzo als ein Zeugniss der wahren Inspiration, Jederman, absonderlich denen Glaubigen, zur Prüfung und Erweckung dargelegt. Zum zweytenmahl nach dem ersten Exemplar in Quart-Format abgedruckt. Im Jahr 1758.

[Translation of title page: The cry at midnight, created and proclaimed through the spirit of prophecy at this time as a testimony of true inspiration, for everyone, published especially for the testing and awakening of the Believers. A second edition printed in quarto format. In the year 1758.]

A book of testimonies by Inspirationist leader/instrument, Johann Carl Gleim, with a foreword by sect cofounder, Eberhard Ludwig Gruber.

Hamilton's copy is one of three in the United States, with copies also held in Strasbourg, France, and Basel, Switzerland. See fig. 8.

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Wohl und Weh: so der Geist der wahren Inspiration in denen schwäbischen Landen und Reichs-Stätten insonderheit. Durch Johann Friderich Rock, Sattlern in Begleitung Unterschidlicher inn-ermeldter Gehülffen. Anno 1716, 1717 und 1718. Ausposaunen lassen. Gedruckt 1719.

[Translation of title page: Weal and woe, through the spirit of true Inspiration especially in Swabia and the Imperial states. By Johann Friedrich Rock Saddler, accompanied by various assigned companions. Year 1716. 1717. And 1718. Proclaimed. Printed 1719.]

One of the very earliest Inspirationist publications, this work contains testimonies by sect cofounder and instrument, Johann Friedrich Rock. Bound with the title below. See fig. 9.

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Buss-, Weck-, und Warnungs-Stimme: welche der Geist der wahren Inspiration in dem dietzischen zweybrückischen Elsass und in der Schweitz insonderheit erschallen lassen im Jahr 1716 und 1717. Durch Johann Adam Gruber, begleitet von Sigmund Heinrich Gleim und Blasius Daniel Mackinet, nebst vorausgesetzter Beschreibung eines vor dieser und anderer Aussendung auf der Ronnäburg in dem Büdingischen gehaltenen Liebes-Mahles. Gedruckt im Jahr 1718.

[Translation of title page: Voice of penance, awakening, and warning sounded out through the spirit of true inspiration especially in the areas of Dietz Zweibrucken Alsace and Switzerland in 1716 and 1717. Through Johann Adam Gruber accompanied by Sigmund Heinrich Gleim and Blasius Daniel Mackinet; in addition to a required description of this and prior love-feasts conducted at the Ronneburg near Buedingen. Printed in the year 1718.]

One of the earliest Inspirationist publications, and almost always bound with *Wohl und Weh*. Contains testimonies by Johann Adam Gruber, instrument, and son of sect cofounder E. L. Gruber. The younger Gruber emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1728 and became an important figure in colonial separatist circles. Hamilton's copy is the only holding in the United States, with four other copies held worldwide in Strasbourg, Basel, and Marburg and Berlin in Germany. See fig. 10.

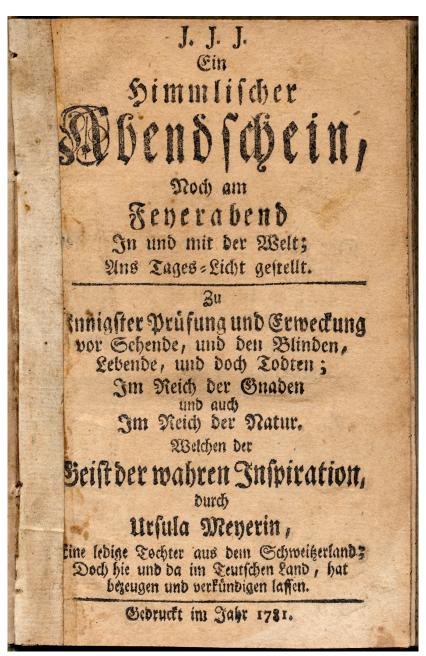


Figure 7. Title page of Ein himmlischer Abendschein, noch am Feyerabend in und mit der Welt ...



Figure 8. Title page of Das Geschrey zur Mitternacht ...

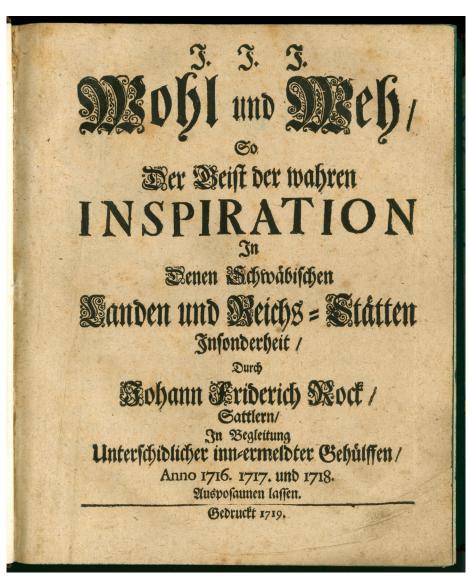


Figure 9. Title page of Wohl und Weh ...



Figure 10. Title page of Buss-, Weck-, und Warnungs-Stimme ...