D’Arcy Wentworth Thompson, the younger – (1860-1948)  
And the elder – (1829-1902)  

Two lots of books....  
For the price of each lot and contact information please scroll to the bottom

**Lot #1** features *On Growth and Form*, 1917, the classic multi-discipline “Essay”, as its author Thompson the younger termed it, of biological development, morphology, and growth, using mathematics to illuminate and predict biological processes, introducing concepts that were new and compelling to scientists and engineers, and even to historians and literary critics – “a textbook on how to think in any field” (Coates, see “Sources” at the bottom).

Stephen Jay Gould thought that D’Arcy Wentworth Thompson was “perhaps the greatest polymath of our century” and *On Growth and Form* was “the greatest work of prose in twentieth –century science” (Gould 1), “too pretty not to be true.” (Gould 2).

**Lot #2** is a list of books by the father, some containing annotations or inscriptions by the son. Classicist and educator, the father studied at Trinity and Pembroke Colleges, Cambridge, taught youngsters at the Edinburgh Academy, and for years was professor of Greek at Queen’s College, Galway. Featured in this lot is a third volume of “nursery nonsense”, never published, probably unique, the son’s own copy.

D’Arcy the son was also an eager classicist; an enthusiasm he retained all his life. He too studied at Trinity College. He was an excellent mathematician, self-identified as a natural historian rather than a biologist, and was especially inspired by developmental biologist Frank Balfour, whose *Comparative Embryology* (2v., 1880 and 1881), now a classic of invertebrate (v.1) and vertebrate (v.2) morphology, was an important influence.

Both men were well regarded in their respective careers. Both were invited by the Lowell Institute in Massachusetts to give a series of lectures:  
**The father:** “In 1867 he published his Lowell Lectures under his old title of ‘Wayside Thoughts’ (which see in lot #2); they dealt, after the manner of the ‘Day Dreams,’ (see also lot #2) with school and college memories and with the practice and philosophy of education.” (D.W. Thompson, the younger, in DNB) .  
**The son:** gave six lectures in 1936, the general title was “Growth and Form in Plants and Animals”. While in the United States he lectured in several other places, with such titles as “Soap Bubbles”, “On Aristotle”, “On Hexagons”, “The Anatomist and the Engineer”, (Ruth) and he gave a lecture “On Happiness” at Union College in Schenectady (see photograph in lot #1).
Lot #1, the Son

D’Arcy the Younger, Photograph by David Shanks. See item 10, below

His grandfather was a sea captain - he and his wife lived aboard ship. D’Arcy the elder was born on a return trip from Australia. A passenger, an English army captain, D’Arcy Wentworth, was present at the christening - the baby was named for him (Ruth).

2. D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, editor. *A Catalogue of Crustacea and of Pycnogonida Contained in the Museum of University College, Dundee*. Dundee: Printed for the Museum, 1901. First edition, not in Bushnell, who was working with the St. Andrews library collection. Original printed wrappers, 56 pp. Thompson had been curator of the Natural History Museum at University College for many years. University College (now the University of Dundee) was a satellite of the University of St. Andrews. Thompson worked at Dundee until 1917, when he replaced the retiring Chair of Natural History at St. Andrews. WorldCat lists three locations, Harvard and one each in France and Switzerland. Investigation of the St. Andrews and the University of Dundee catalogues shows another copy, at Dundee. A bit of soiling. Erosion of wrappers at spine ends, very little other wear. A Very Good copy.


22 cm tall

*On Growth and Form* is one of the key works at the intersection of science and the imagination.....It is a book that has inspired scientists, artists and thinkers as diverse as Alan Turing, C. H. Waddington, Claude Levi- Strauss, Jackson Pollock and Norman Foster. It pioneered the science of biomathematics, and its
influence in art, architecture, anthropology, geography, cybernetics and many other fields continues to this day. “ (Jarron)

Despite lots of favorable reviews the book sold slowly. When the C.U.P. wanted to reprint it in 1922 Thompson, compulsively critical of his own work, declined, saying that he needed time to make a number of revisions. The second edition, greatly expanded, did not see the light until 1942. Ownership signature of Cecil D. Murray dated 1920; Murray (Harvard, class of 1919) was at that date a medical student at Columbia. He later taught physiology at Bryn Mawr. Bookseller sticker on front pastedown, H.K. Lewis, London. Spine ends and tips worn, dust soiling, front endpapers cracked but holding. A Good copy.


22 cm tall
9. Photograph. **News Service Photograph of D’Arcy Wentworth Thompson.** Dated 1936, with a typed annotation on the back describing the subjects and the circumstances: standing on the porch of a building at Union College in Schenectady, N.Y., "where he had given an address before the student body, the theme of which was the fact that the only source of wealth evenly distributed the world over was happiness." With Thompson in the picture are George P. Haskell, class of '37, exchange scholar to St. Andrews in 1936-37, Bryan S.T. Simpson, the exchange scholar to Union from St. Andrews, and Dr. Edward Ellery, chairman of the Union College faculty. Thompson was in the United States to give a series of six Lowell Lectures with the general title “Growth and Form in Plants and Animals” (Ruth). Three short creases near two corners, in Very Good condition.

10. Photograph. **Studio Photograph of D’Arcy Wentworth Thompson.** Dated 1934, by David Shanks Ewart. Not held by the National Gallery, but there is a copy at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In his academic robes, full length, standing. On 5 x 8 inch paper, the image 3 x 5 1/2. Some soil spots. See top of this document.

12. D’Arcy W. Thompson. *Day Dreams of a Schoolmaster*. Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas, 1864. First edition (NCBEL v.3). Original red cloth, gilt lettered, ruled in gilt and blind, 328 pp., 24 pp. of ads, dated January, 1864. **A presentation copy from D’Arcy the younger:** "To Mother Mary de Sales with respect and affection, from the author's son. 28 Nov. 1931". An autobiographical collection of essays - "Here he stands out as a rebel against the dull, unimaginative scholastic grind, the discipline of which often had to be enforced by physical punishment which he found equally abhorrent....Most of his views on education were revolutionary; many have since become widely adopted....One man, reading the book, wrote that he 'felt the presence of a rare and noble spirit, and there was exquisite pleasure in the contact with one who could express with so tender a touch the light and shade of life'"(Ruth). The book was dedicated, in Latin, to his eldest son, also named D’Arcy, just three years old. Binder’s ticket, "Bound by Burn, London. Postage 4D". Some wear and rubbing, a little spine sunning, endpapers cracked - the front board a little loose.


Items 12-16, #12 is 18 cm tall

15. D'Arcy W. Thompson. *Day Dreams of a Schoolmaster*. Boston: Willard Small, no date but WorldCat lists copies dated 1885. Original blue cloth, gilt lettered and decorated, top edge gilt, 328 pp. A type facsimile, the contents leaf perhaps reset but identical to the first edition, the text is reset but winds up with the same number of pages. Former owner name in pencil, and on the rear free endpaper a paragraph noting that Robert Louis Stevenson "spent a year and a half under Mr. D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson" (at the Edinburgh Academy, 1861-62) "now for many years professor in Greek at the Queen's College, Galway." A few stray marks, Very Good.

17. D'Arcy W. Thompson, et al. *Odds and Ends.* Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas, 1866. A collection of ten Edmonston and Douglas pamphlets by various people, each with its own illustrated title with dates from 1865-66, each 32 pages, all bound together in purple cloth, gilt lettered, ruled in gilt and blind, with a general title and a contents page. Thompson's contributions are *Wayside Thoughts of an Asophophilosopher,* three parts, each 32 pp. Includes one pamphlet by John Brown, M.D. (author of *Rab and His Friends,* etc.), and one by James Anthony Froude. WorldCat notes seven locations for this format. Wear and dust soiling, but a Good, sound copy.

18. D'Arcy W. Thompson, et al. *Highland Characters, Etc.* Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas, 1864-1870. Rebound in half-calf, red leather label, gilt, decorated in gilt and blind, and marbled paper boards. A collection of six Edmonston and Douglas pamphlets, each 32 pp., each with a title page. No general title or table of contents. Includes two by Thompson, both are *Wayside Thoughts of an*
Asophophilosopher, but with little overlap with *Odds and Ends*, above - just three sections within one pamphlet - "The Philosophy of Sorrow", "The Philosophy of Horror", "The Philosophy of Joy". Included are two pamphlets by John Brown, M.D. - *The Enterkin*, which also appears in *Odds and Ends*, and *Jeems the Doorkeeper*, which does not. The calf with a few stray marks and a little wear, a Very Good copy.


18 cm tall
A Unique Copy


The title pamphlet is 32 pp., there are four sections: "Whimsical Rhymes by Willy Wiseacre", 19pp.; "Rhymes by Peter the Showman", (20)-24; "Rhymes by Our Parish Laureate", (25)-28; "Rhymes, Wise or Would-be-Wise", (27)-32. In the brief biography of his father, written by the son for the Dictionary of National Biography, D’Arcy says that the two volumes of “Nursery Nonsense, Rhymes Without Reason” (see above) and “Fun and Earnest, or, Rhymes With Reason” were written “for his eldest son” (D’Arcy himself), and “Of a third volume, cancelled before publication, ‘Rhymes Witty (sic) and Whimsical’, Edinburgh, 1865, a copy was sold in Sir T.D. Brodie’s sale at Sotheby’s in 1904.” Both volumes of “nursery nonsense” that were published are in the Catalogue of The Osborne Collection of Early Children’s Books, 1566-1910, v.1, p.81.

Then, another title page, 32 pages of *Wayside Thoughts of an Asophophilosoper*, the sections: "Address to Mr. Woodlouse, the Distinguished Critic", p.(1); "Toys and Picture Books, Or, the Philosophy of Nonsense", (2)-29; "On Progress", (17)-21; another title page, then "On Progress" again, a different setting of type, pp. (1)-18; "On Plagues", p.19-27. Then, another title, Anonymous (William Robertson, Sheriff of Argyle), *The Highland Shepherd*, 1865, 78 pp.

Bookplate of Thomas Dawson Brodie (1832-1896), attorney - the Sotheby sale of his library took five days in March, 1904; older armorial bookplate of John Whitefoord Mackenzie (1794-1884), solicitor, his sale was in two parts in March and April, 1886, by Thomas Chapman & Son. Both boards have been neatly re-attached. A little wear, a Very Good copy.

Several pictures, below, then a list of sources, then the pricing and contact information.
“D’Arcy W. Thompson, Dundee
Bt. at Sir T.D. Brodie sale, Sotheby’s, 26/.
A unique copy. The book was never
Published, my Father being dissatisfied with
It in proof. D.W.T.”
RAINY WEATHER;

OR,

THE PHILOSOPHY OF SORROW.

For Heaven's sake, let us sit upon the ground,
And tell sad stories about everything,
And see which one amongst us shall weep first;
And from the tangled skein of circumstance
Let's weave a web of dreariest argument,
And make us comfortably miserable.

Listen! how the rain is pattering against the window-panes!
and how the rain drives down the smoke!—and this is spring weather;
the season belauded by our old poets, in phrases borrowed from southern singers and suited only to southern climes. I wish we had one of the old conventional fellows here; with permission to treat him as we thought fit. It would be a pleasure to stick him in the water-butt, and watch him from behind the window-blinds.

But, after all, this weather is better than what an East wind brings; the wind as cold and cutting as ill-natured wit; the wind that blows with such a penetrative cheerlessness, that, while your sunny-side is baking, your shady-side is down at zero. You are, beneath its influence, a walking
TE DEUM LAUDAMUS;

OR,

THE PHILOSOPHY OF JOY.

Man was defined very imperfectly by one of the wisest, if not the wisest, of men, as 'the animal with the hand.' Surely, this definition would embrace all the ape tribe, from the gorilla to the marmoset. Had the old philosopher any dim presentiment of Darwinian theories? Whether he had or had not, I think we may safely offer to evolve definition upon definition superior to the one above quoted; such as will confound us as little with the hippopotamus as with the orang-outang.

Man, then, may be defined as the animal that protects itself against the wet or cold or heat by artificial covering; or that uses fire to prepare its food; or, that drinks fermented liquors; or, that smokes tobacco; or, that beats its young systematically for educational ends; or, that blows its nose; or, that laughs. And, although all these definitions are good, I hold the last to be the best of all; and I am sure that no candid judge will consider it as including the hyena or the Australian jackass.
In the following pairs we have a series of real opposites; Yes and No; Even and Odd; Joy and Sorrow; Mind and Matter; Life and Death. In the following, we have a series of only apparent opposites; Pleasure and Pain; Good and Evil; Right and Wrong; Age and Youth; Wisdom and Folly; Knowledge and Ignorance; Tragedy and Comedy; conventional Morality and conventional Immorality.

No process can be brought to bear on Even that will make it Odd; when Joy enters into possession, Sorrow leaves by the window; when Sorrow enters by the door, Joy and Gladness flee away; Mind is no modification of Matter; and Life and Death can never look each other in the face. But Pleasure may be intensified, until it pass into Pain; and Pain may be toned down and lulled into a something not unlike to Pleasure: the Right way to a town may take you five miles to the west, but the Wrong way of some thousand miles to the east will bring you in time to the

Sources:


DNB: The Dictionary of National Biography. Thompson the son wrote the entry for his father.


NCBEL, v.3: New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature, 1800-1900, column 1727

NCBEL, v.4: New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature, 1900-1950, column 1300


Prices -
Lot #1: $1850
Lot #2: $1750

D’Arcy Wentworth Thompson, Father and Son.

from Up-Country Letters
Gardnerville, Nevada

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The End.