

D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, the younger – (1860-1948)

And the elder – (1829-1902)

Each item individually priced.

The list of items by or about the son 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).

Some of the books by the father contain 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 list is an third volume of “nursery nonsense”, never published, probably unique, the son's own copy.

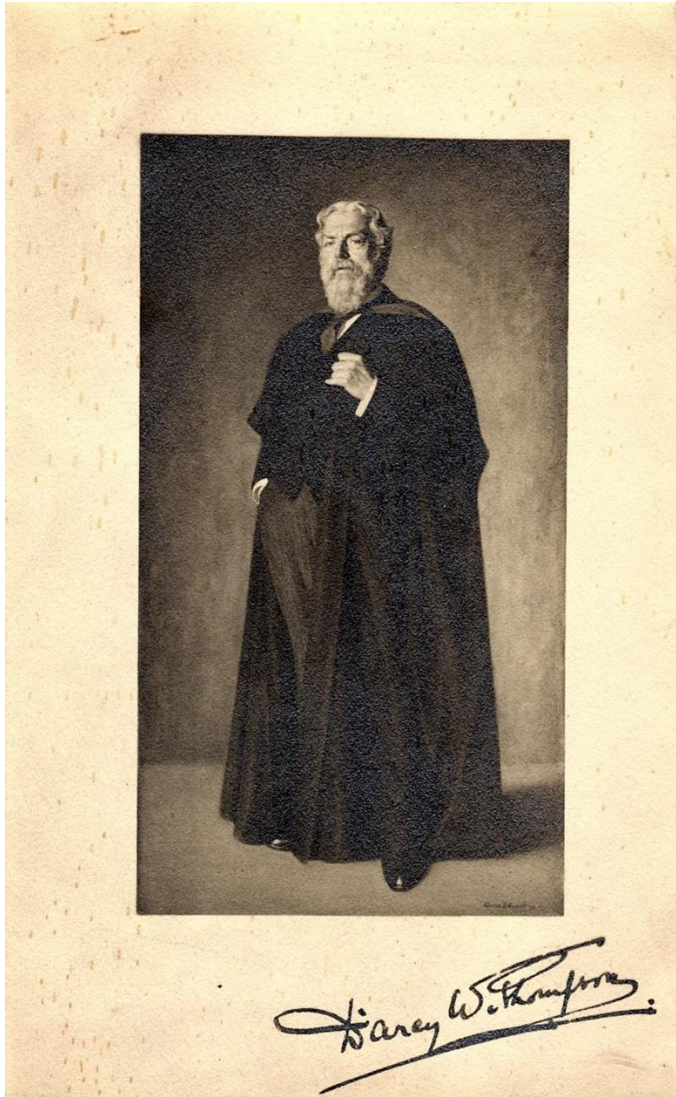
D'Arcy the son was also an eager classicist; an enthusiasm he retained all his life. He too studied at Trinity College. He was an excellent mathematician, self-identified as a natural historian rather than a biologist, and was especially inspired by developmental biologist Frank Balfour, whose *Comparative 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’; they dealt, after the manner of the ‘Day Dreams,’ 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, item 9).

The Son

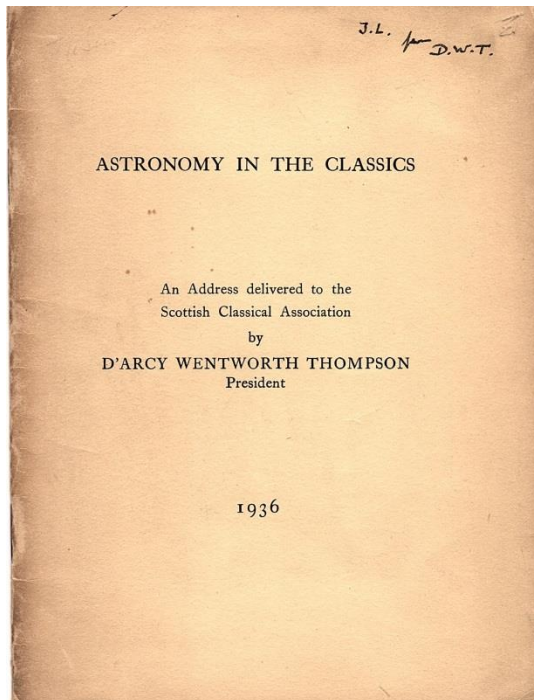


D'Arcy the Younger, Photograph by David Shanks. See item 10, below

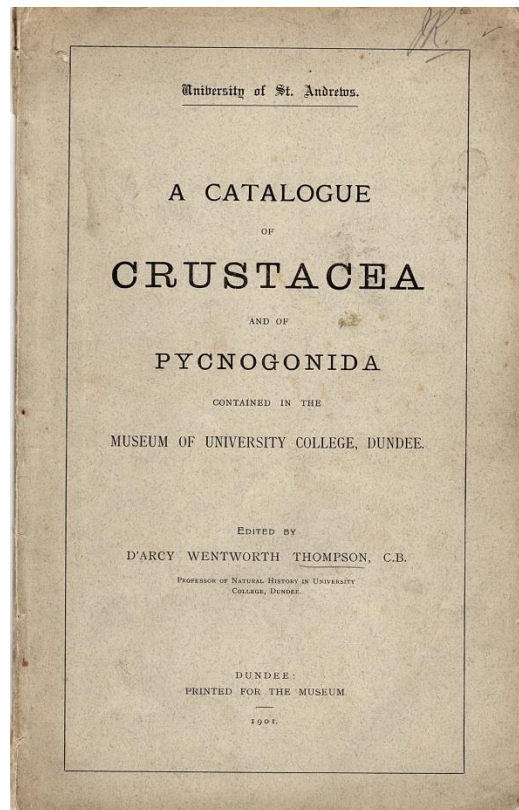
His grandfather was a sea captain; he lived aboard ship with his wife. D'Arcy the elder, was born on a return trip from Australia. A passenger, an English army captain, D'Arcy Wentworth, was present at the christening - the baby was named for him (Ruth).

1. D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson . ***Astronomy in the Classics***. (No place, no publisher), 1936. Original cover title, illustrated, 24pp. First separate edition, not in Bushnell, who cites the periodical version. **A presentation copy**: "J.L. from D.W.T." on the cover. Two corrections made in the text with the same pen as the presentation. "An Address delivered to the Scottish Classical Association by D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, President". Five locations in WorldCat. Rubbed at the spine, staples rusty, light soil to covers. A Very Good copy. \$100

Not to scale



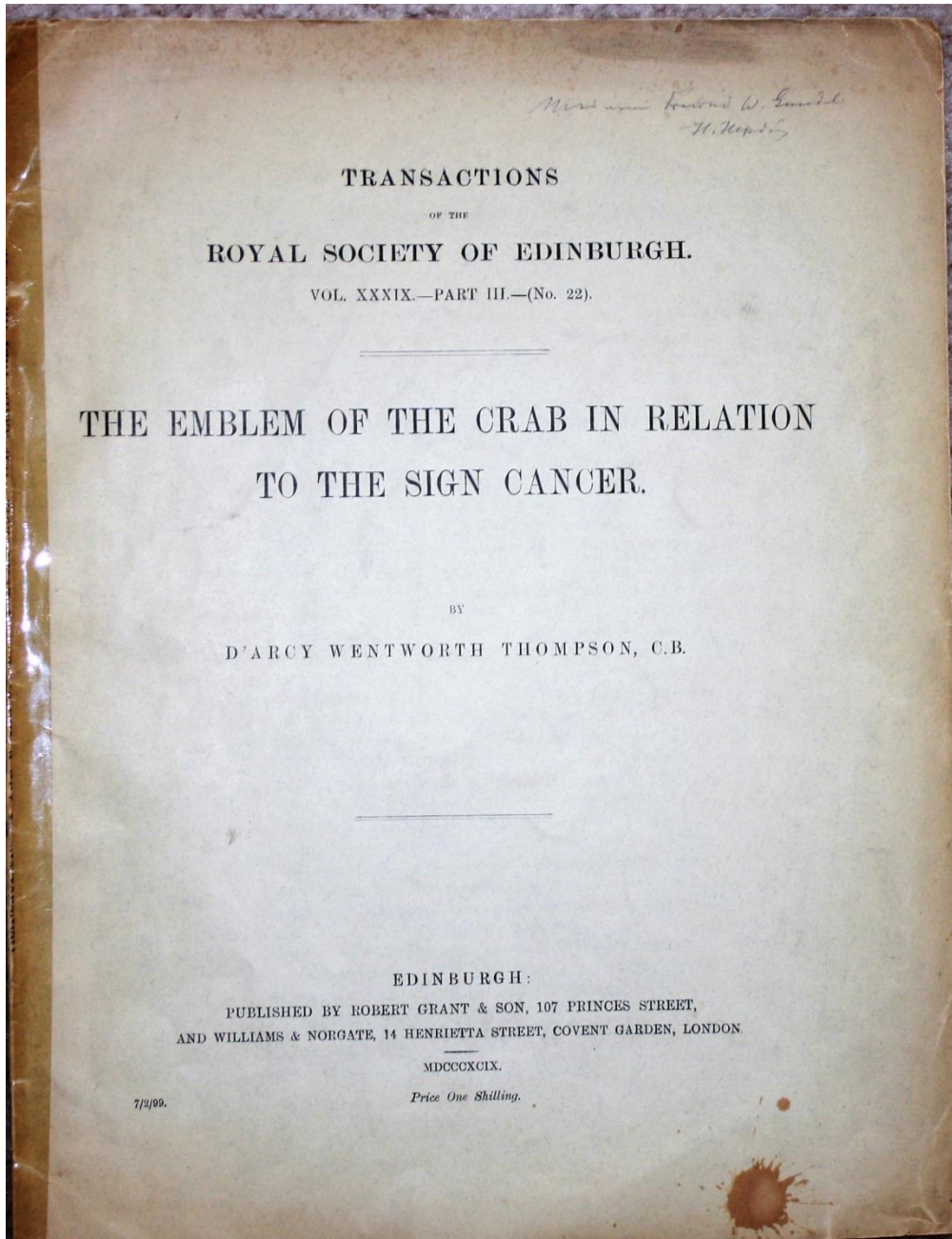
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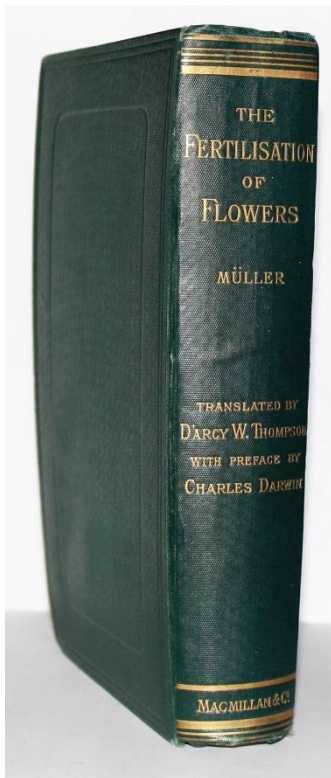
2. D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson , editor. ***A Catalogue of Crustacea and of Pycnogonida Contained in the Museum of University College, Dundee***. Dundee: Printed for the Museum, 1901. First edition, not in Bushnell, who was working with the St. Andrews library collection. Original printed wrappers, 56 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. \$75

3. D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson . *The Emblem of the Crab in Relation to the Sign of Cancer*.
Edinburgh: Robert Grant and Son; London: Williams and Norgate, 1899. First separate edition, Bushnell
cites the periodical version. Original green cover title, an offprint from the *Transactions of the Royal
Society of Edinburgh*, pp. (603)-611. An illegible gift inscription on the front and some marginalia in
German. Thompson read this to the Society in May of 1898. Four locations in WorldCat. Spine reinforced
with transparent tape, some edgewear and two small splash stains. A Very Good copy. \$75

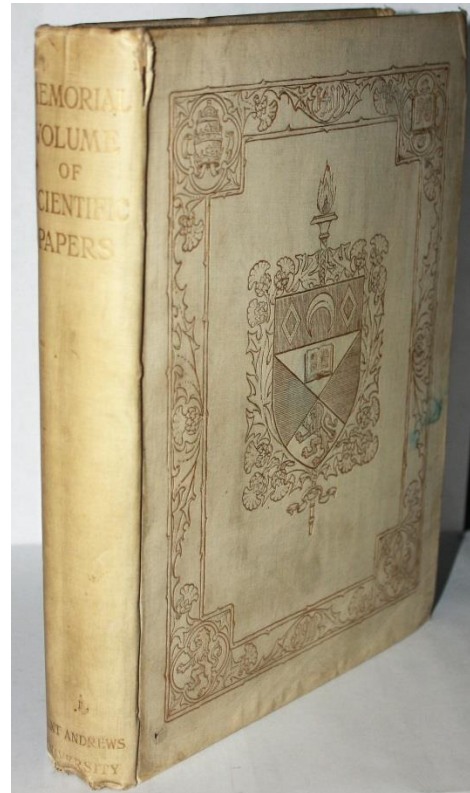


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4. [D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, translator] Muller, Prof. Hermann. ***The Fertilisation of Flowers***. London: Macmillan and Co., 1883. First edition (Bushnell). Original green cloth, gilt-lettered, ruled in gilt and blind, chocolate endpapers, illustrated, 669 pp., 2 pp. of ads. "Translated and edited by D'Arcy W. Thompson, with a preface by Charles Darwin". Thompson got top billing over Darwin on both the spine and the title. He was at the time just 22 years old, a scholar of Trinity College, Cambridge. A gift inscription dated 1935 on the half title; booksellers ticket (D. Wyllie & Son, Aberdeen) on the front endpaper. Very little wear, three small bits of cloth bubbling, rear endpapers just beginning to crack; cloth and paper clean. A Very Good copy. \$250



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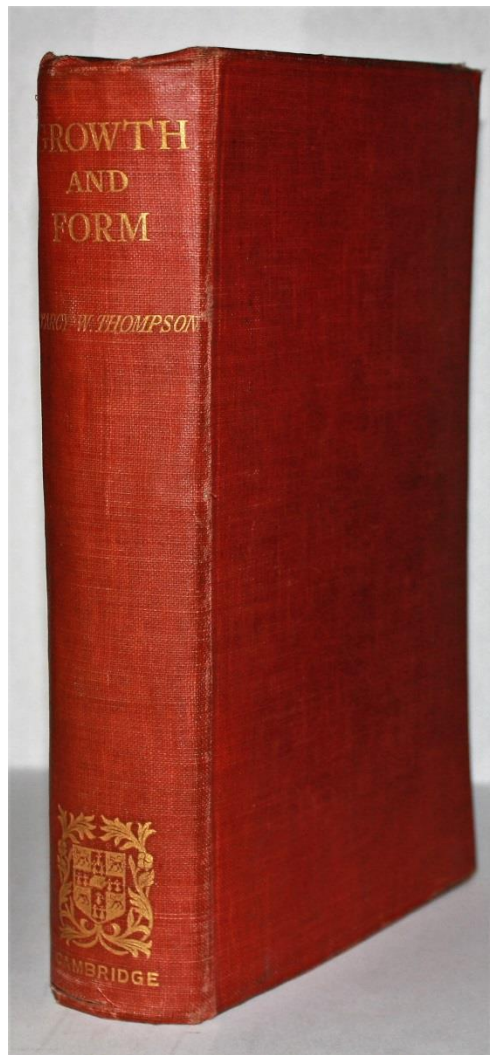


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5. D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson . **"Magnalia Naturae"** in *Memorial Volume of Scientific Papers*. (St. Andrews): University of Saint Andrews, 1911. A reprint (Bushnell). Original white cloth, lettered and elaborately decorated in gilt, illustrated, 324 pp. In commemoration of the University's "Five Hundredth Anniversary". Contributions by "Members of the University". Thompson's contribution, "Magnalia Naturae: Or the Greater Problems of Biology", covers pages 305 to 325. It was the "Presidential Address delivered to the Zoological Section of the British Association, August 31st, 1911." A review of classical attitudes toward biology, then a foreshadowing of his forthcoming *On Growth and Form*, 1917. Largely unopened. The cloth dirty with some wear, front endpapers beginning to crack at the bottom, but a Good, sound copy. \$50

6. D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson. **"Natural Science. Aristotle"** in *The Legacy of Greece*. Oxford: The Clarendon Press, 1921. First edition (Bushnell). Original blue cloth, lettered and decorated in gilt, 424 pp., edited by R.W. Livingston. The Thompson contribution is p. (137)-162. A little wear, spine slightly sunned. A Very Good copy. \$50

7. D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson . ***On Growth and Form***. Cambridge: at the University Press, 1917. First edition (NCBEL v.4, 1300). Original red cloth, gilt-lettered, decorated in gilt and blind, illustrated, xv, 793 pp. There were just 500 copies printed (Ruth). \$800



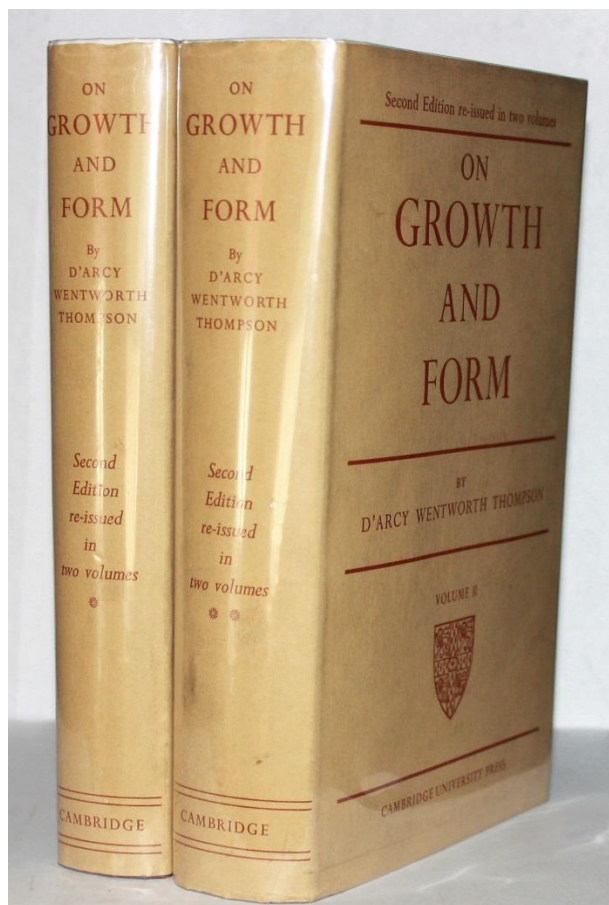
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"On Growth and Form is one of the key works at the intersection of science and the imagination.....It is a book that has inspired scientists, artists and thinkers as diverse as Alan Turing, C. H. Waddington, Claude Levi- Strauss, Jackson Pollock and 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.

8. D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson . ***On Growth and Form***. Cambridge: at the University Press, 1951-1952. In Two Volumes. Second edition (NCBEL v.4), second printing of v.1, third printing of v.2. Uniformly bound in red cloth, gilt, and printed dust jackets, illustrated, (viii), (1)-464; (iv), (465)-1116. Edges lightly foxed in v.2. A Fine set. \$250



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.

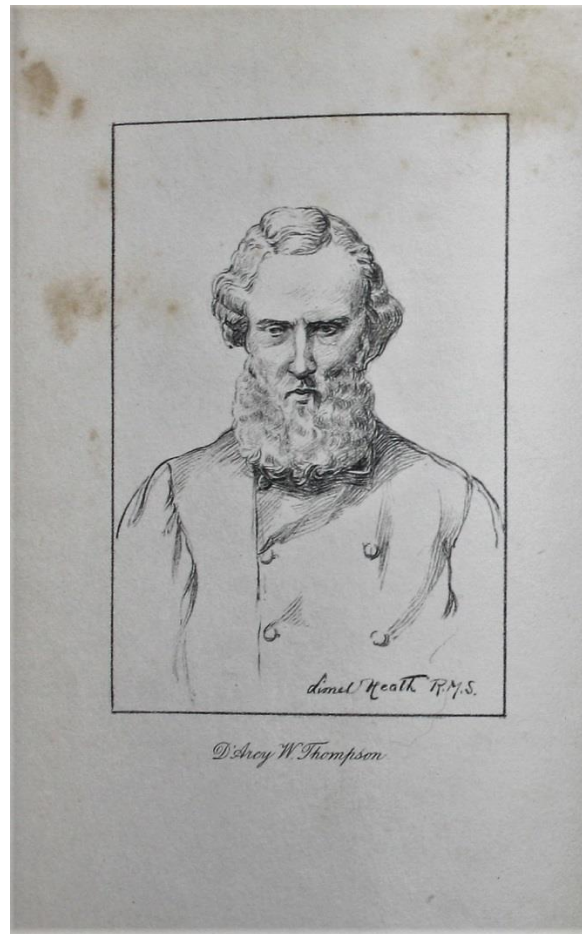


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10. Photograph. **Studio Photograph of D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson.** Dated 1934, by David Shanks Ewart. Not held by the National Gallery, but there is a copy at the Royal Society of Edinburgh. In his academic robes, full length, standing. On 5 x 8 inch paper, the image 3 x 5 1/2. Some soil spots. See top of this document. \$75

11. [D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, his copy] N.K. Chadwick. ***The Beginnings of Russian History. An Enquiry into Sources.*** Cambridge: At the University Press, 1946. First edition. Original grey cloth, gilt, and printed dust jacket, 180 pp. **A presentation copy:** "To Sir D'arcy W. Thompson, with warm gratitude for much encouragement in early days, from Nora K. Chadwick. July, 1946". Mrs. Chadwick (1891-1972) was an historian at Cambridge University, specializing in the medieval period. She lectured at St. Andrews during WWI. Cloth with a couple of small bubbles, else Fine. \$100

The Father

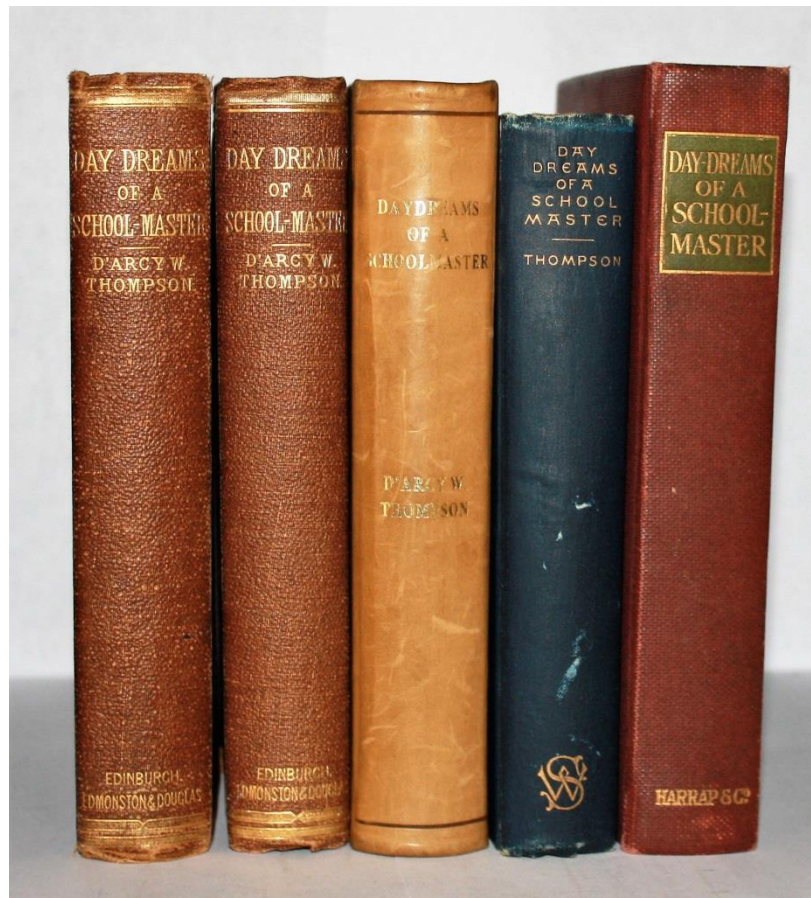


D'Arcy the father, portrait by Lionel Heath, R.M.S., see item 16

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. \$200

13. 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, undated. Binder's ticket different from the one above: "Bound by Burn 37 & 38 Kirby St.". Light wear, lightly sunned spine, a Very Good copy. \$125

14. D'Arcy W. Thompson. *Day Dreams of a Schoolmaster*. Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas, 1864. First edition (NCBEL v.3). Rebound, 20th century half-calf and cloth, new endpapers, retaining the half-title and 24 pp. of ads, undated. Ownership signature (D. McLeod, 1865) on the half-title. A few stray marks to the calf, a Fine copy. \$100



Items 12-16

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. \$75

16. D'Arcy W. Thompson. *Day Dreams of a Schoolmaster*. London: George G. Harrap, no date, the preface dated 1912. Original red cloth, gilt-lettered, decorated in green and gilt, top edge gilt, frontis portrait (by Hugh Lionel Heath, R.M.S. - Royal Society of Miniature Painters), title in red and black, 254 pp. Five or six chapters from the first edition are omitted. Light rubbing, gilt edge eroding, a little foxing. A Very Good copy. \$50



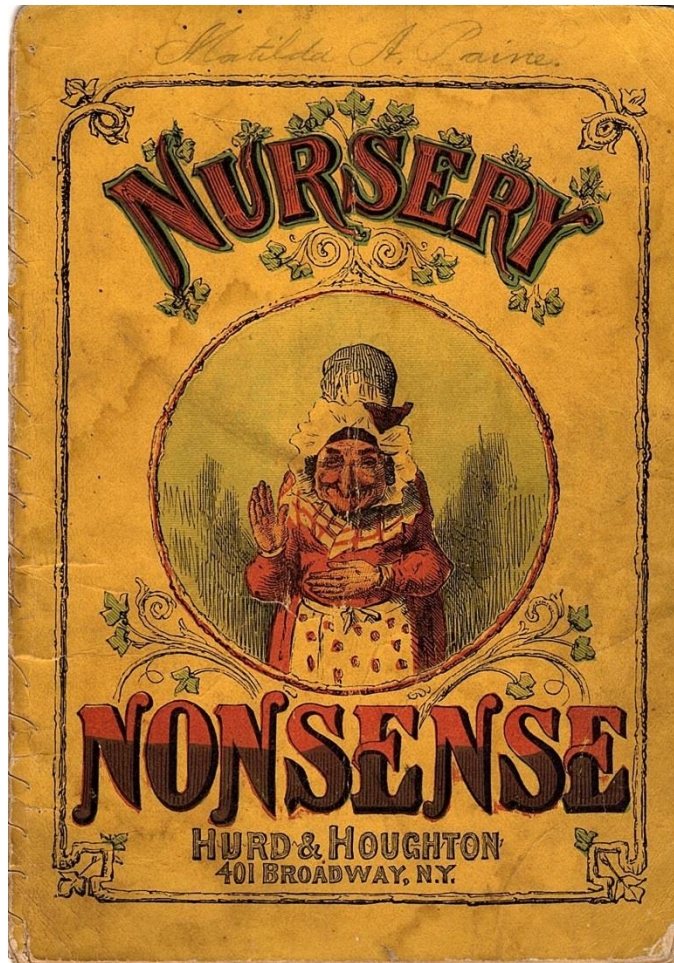
16cm tall – items 17 and 18

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. \$150

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. \$125

19. (D'Arcy W. Thompson). **Nursery Nonsense**. New York: Hurd & Houghton, no date but about 1865. Bright yellow cover title, 15 pages, first and last pages (blank) pasted to wrappers, chromoxylographed illustrations by Charles Henry Bennett, publisher's ads on lower wrapper. An anonymous abbreviated version, using the same illustrations, of the English first edition of 56 pp., 1864. WorldCat shows one location, UCLA. Contemporary signature on the front. Some wear and soiling, but a Good copy. \$90



18 cm tall

A Unique Copy

20. D'Arcy W. Thompson. *Rhymes Wise and Whymysical*. Edinburgh: Edmonston and Douglas, 1865. Contemporary full calf, red leather label, gilt, decorated in gilt and blind, and marbled paper boards, plain white endpapers. **D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson the younger's copy**, his signature on the front pastedown, and two annotations: "Bt. (bought) at Sir T.D. Brodie's sale, Sotheby's. 26/." Then, "A unique copy. The book was never published, my Father being dissatisfied with it in proof. D.W.T."

The title pamphlet is 32 pp., there are four sections: "Whymysical 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 Whymysical', 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.

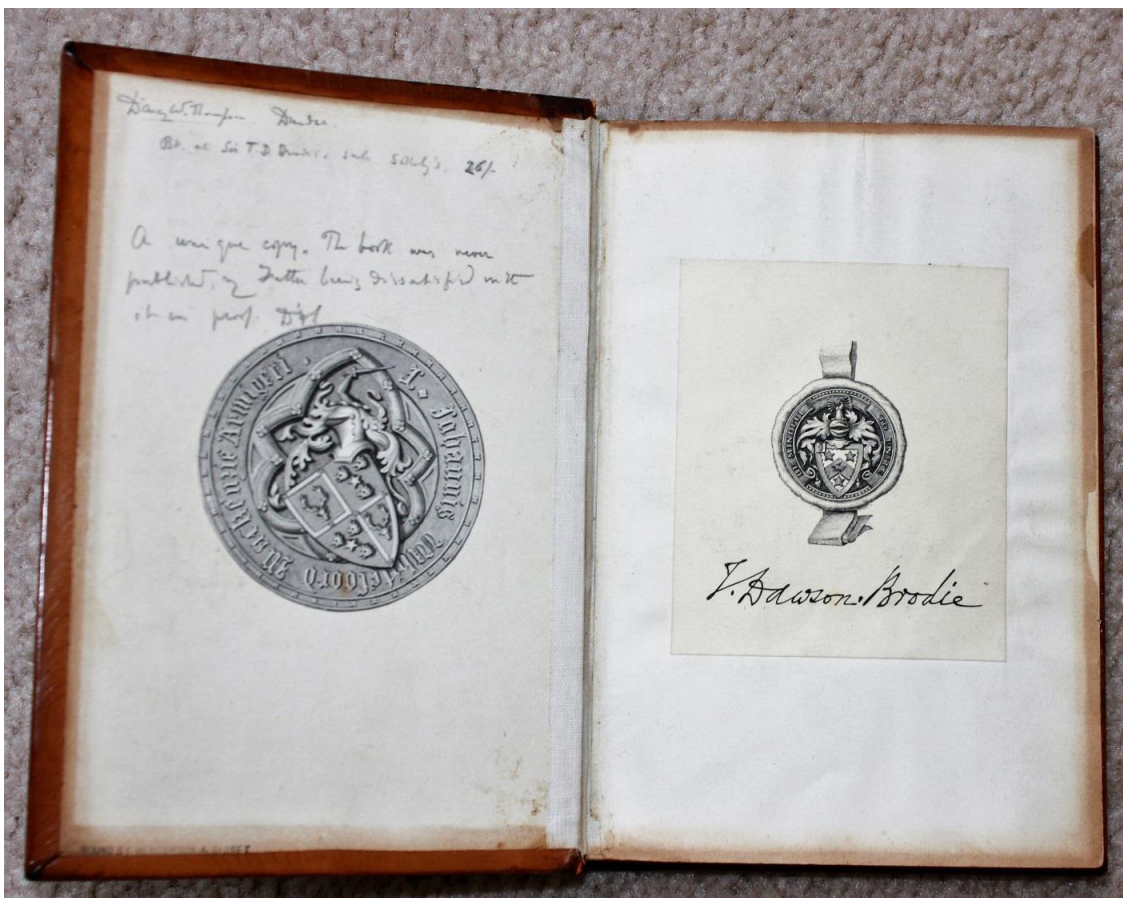
Then, another title page, 32 pages of *Wayside Thoughts of an Asophophilosopher*, the sections: "Address to Mr. Woodlouse, the Distinguished Critic", p.(1); "Toys and Picture Books, Or, the Philosophy of Nonsense", (2)-29; "On Progress", (17)-21; another title page, then "On Progress" again, a different 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. \$900

Several pictures, below, then a list of sources.



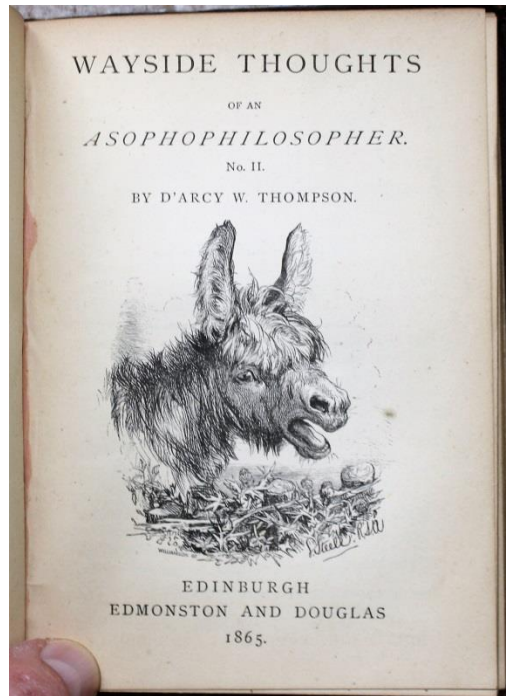
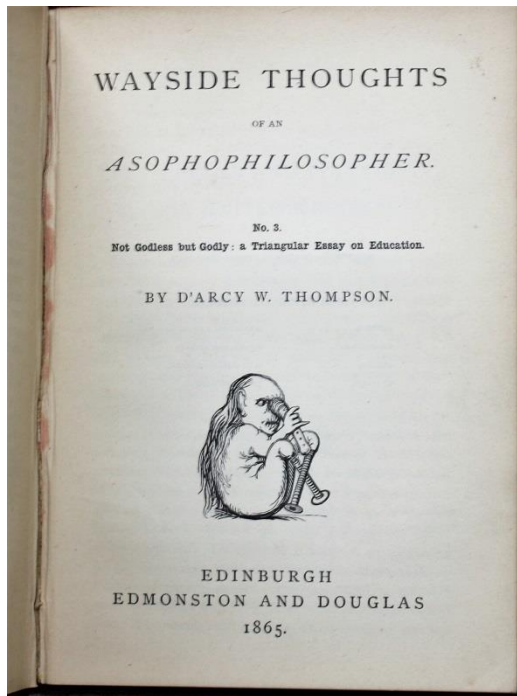
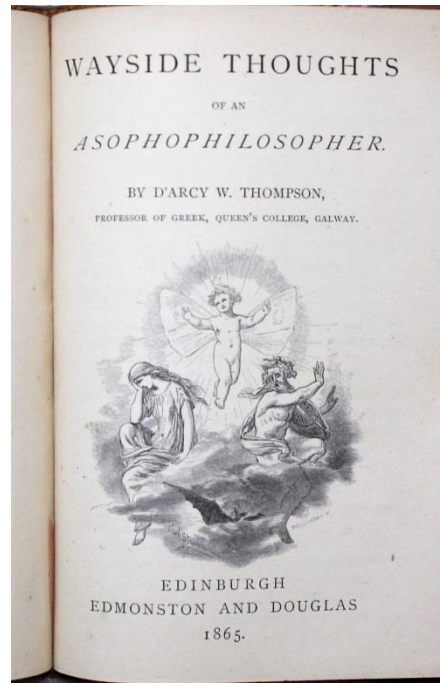
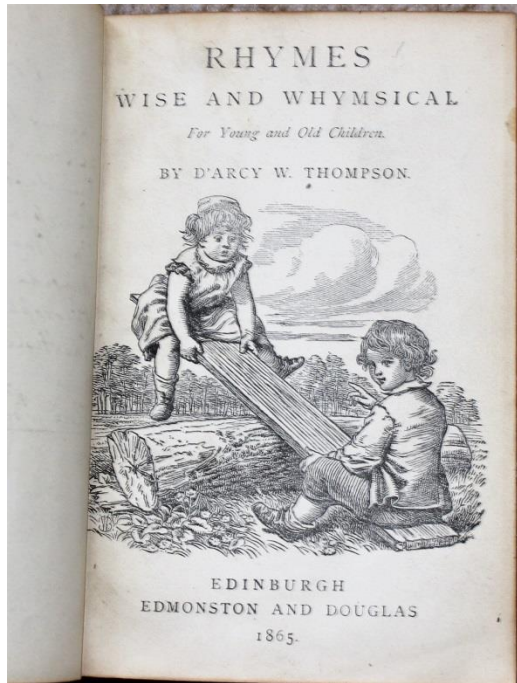
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"D'Arcy W. Thompson, Dundee

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

elf early,
hem told
al pipe;
ss; and
was an

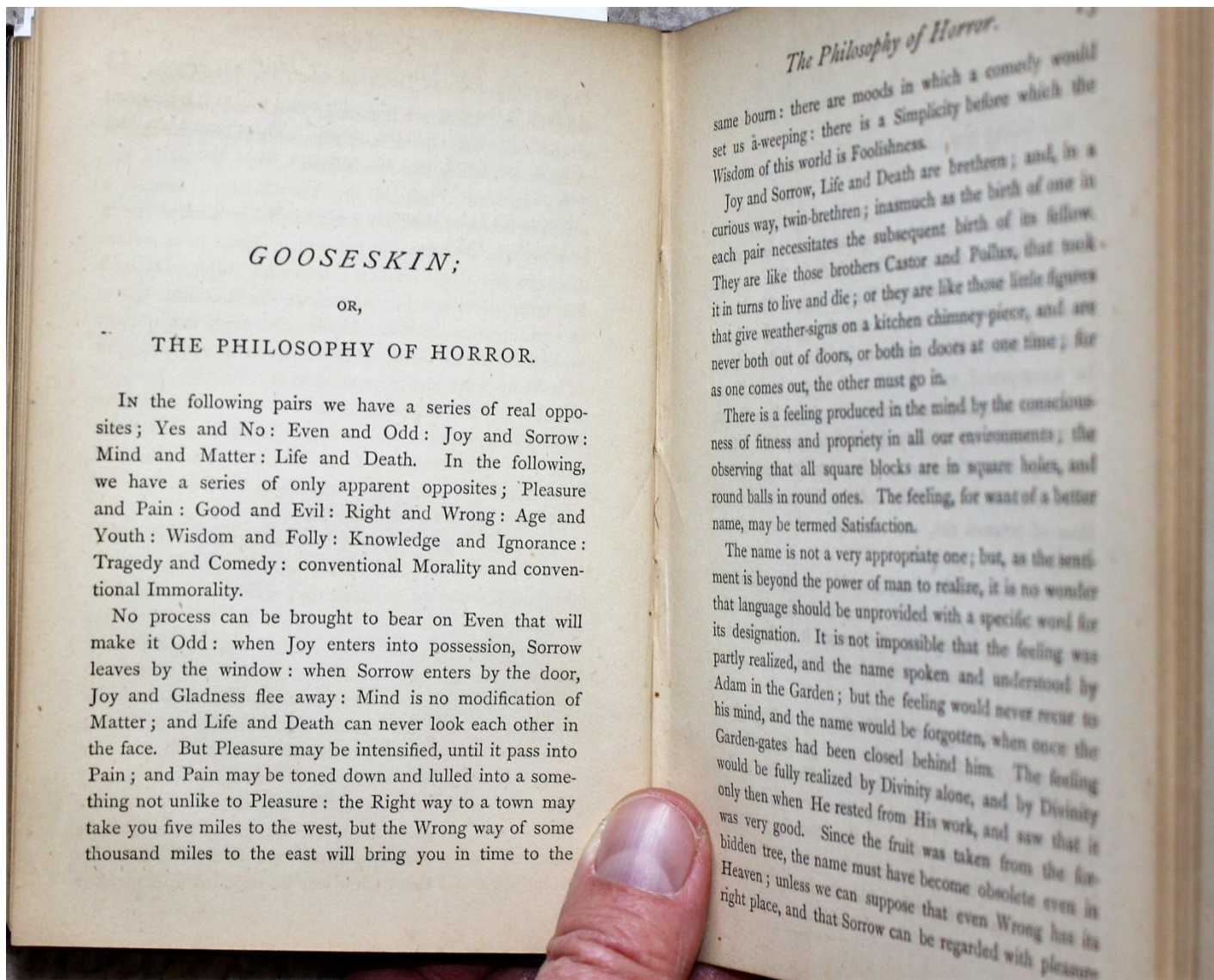
TE DEUM LAUDAMUS;

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.



Sources:

Bushnell: George H. Bushnell, "A List of the Published Writings of D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson", pp.(386)-400 in *Essays on Growth and Form Presented to D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson*. Oxford: The Clarendon Press 1945.

Coates: Peter Coates, "An Elegant and Original Idea", <http://thesecondpass.com/?p=7447>, taken Dec. 29, 2016.

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

Gould 1: Stephen Jay Gould, Foreword to the 1992 printing of the abridged edition of *On Growth and Form*, 1961.

Gould 2: Stephen Jay Gould, "D'Arcy Thompson and the Science of Form" in Greene and Mendelsohn, eds., *Topics in the Philosophy of Biology*, 1976, p.66.

Jarron: Matthew Jarron, "Editorial", in *Interdisciplinary Science Reviews*, Vol. 38, No. 1, March 2013, tandfonline.com, taken Jan. 2, 2017.

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

Ruth: Ruth D'Arcy Thompson (D'Arcy's oldest daughter), *D'Arcy Wentworth Thompson, the Scholar-Naturalist, 1860-1948*. London: Oxford University Press, 1958.

The End.