A WEE DRAM OF PROHIBITION & TEMPERANCE

“It is the prohibition that makes anything precious.”
- Mark Twain’s Notebook

Dating as far back as the late 18th century, temperance is a social movement urging moderation and in many cases, abstinence with regards to the consumption of alcohol. Temperance movements developed the political influence necessary to press for alcohol regulations and even its complete prohibition. In 1838, the English working class, faced with parliament’s refusal to grant them the right to vote, saw the campaign against alcohol as a way of proving to the elites they were responsible. Similarly, women’s suffrage in the United States was tied closely to the prohibition movement.

The earliest temperance movements began during the American Revolution in Connecticut, Virginia, and New York, with farmers forming associations to ban whiskey distilling. By 1838, the American Temperance Society, which was founded in 1826, claimed more than 8,000 local groups and more than 1.5 million members. In time, the temperance movement became more radical, advocating the legal prohibition of all alcohol. Beginning in late 1873, women concerned about the destructive power of alcohol met in churches to pray and then marched to the saloons to ask the owners to close their establishments. Their success was temporary, so by the next summer the women concluded they must become organized nationally. This led to the founding of the National Woman’s Christian Temperance Union (WCTU), the oldest continuing non-sectarian woman’s organization in the world.

Represented in this list are numerous cultural artifacts of temperance and abstinence movements throughout history from across the globe. If you will pardon the metaphor, provided is but a wee sip from our prohibition cup, which overfloweth.

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Cheers!
THE ALBION TEMPERANCE RECITER: A Collection of Recitations in Prose and Verse. London and New York: Frederick Warne and Co., [1892]. First edition. 12mo. Original light brown cloth binding, with decorative dark brown and blue stamping. The contents are a bit shaken. The spine is darkened, with some general shelfwear and soiling. $20

[Band of Hope – Abstinence Pledge] Manchester, England: The Lancashire and Cheshire Band of Hope Union, 1884. The colorfully illustrated document reads in part, “This is to Certify That Isabella Morrell is a Member of the Above Society Having Signed the Following Pledge: By Divine Assistance I Will Abstain from All Intoxicating Drinks as Beverages and Discountenance All the Causes and Practices of Intemperance.” It is signed by Morrell, and signed and dated by T.A. Jackson, Secretary. Formed in 1863, the Lancashire and Cheshire Band of Hope Union was the first of the county unions and very influential by virtue of its periodical publication Onward, which was first published in 1865. The union’s papers are housed in the British National Archives. The pledge is matted and framed, with 7 x 5 inches of the pledge displayed within an 11 1/2 by 10-inch frame. Not inspected outside the frame. Evidence of some minor soiling and light creasing. $150


Blair, Henry William. THE TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT: or, The Conflict Between Man and Alcohol. Frontispiece portrait, with four color plates, 58 portraits, four diagrams, and a folding map. Boston: William E. Smythe Company, 1888. First edition. Blair (1854-1920) was a United States Representative and Senator from New Hampshire who in 1876 introduced the first prohibition amendment to Congress. Quarto. Original green cloth binding, with pictorial gilt and brown stamping. Typical mild browning to the contents, with a crease to the top corner of p.513-4. Period ink inscription to the verso of the dedication page. It appears the first signature was neatly sewn back in place. Mild wear to the corners and tips, with a light bump to the fore-edge of the rear board; otherwise very good and quite attractive. $150

Boole, Ella A., Ph.D. GIVE PROHIBITION ITS CHANCE. Evanston, Illinois: National Woman’s Christian Temperance Union, 1929. Third edition. “Part history, part survey, part record of present activity and part outline of proposed effort, this work is a plea to the friends of Prohibition and a challenge to its foes.” Boole (1858-1952) served as president of the international World’s Christian Temperance Union from 1931 to 1947, after serving as the head of the United States’ national WCTU. Original blue cloth binding, with gilt titles. Internally crisp and clean. In the uncommon dust jacket, which is a bit edgeworn; else very good or better. $25
A large broadside advertising “2 WESTERN NEW YORK PROHIBITION RALLIES” with Reverend J.H. Hector, The Black Knight. The first set of events took place at Florence Parlors and then the Grace Universalist Church in Buffalo, New York on Monday, February 6, 1905. The following day, meetings were held at the Advent Christian Church and then the First M.E. Church in Rochester. Hector (c.1842-1912) was a seasoned orator and fundraiser who spoke to crowds of African Americans and white Americans, with his wife and daughter in supporting roles. In 1904, he addressed the Prohibition Party’s national convention in Indianapolis where a number of African American men served as delegates and offered resolutions. Although no African American was ever elevated to the national committee, a level of representation and respect was to be found in the Prohibition Party and nowhere else in American politics at the time. In fact, delegates to the 1888 national convention threatened to leave its hotel in support of the African American delegates to whom the management had refused the use of the dining facilities. The broadside, which measures nine by twenty-five inches, was issued by J.H. Durkee of Rochester and features photographic images of Rector, his wife, and their daughter, along with a printed programme. Some horizontal creasing and a few short tears, with a shallow chip to the top edge; else very good. $1,500

The headline “ALCOHOL!” appears above a series of statements regarding its harmful effects and social consequences on this broadside, which was issued around 1914 by the Think-It-Over Poster Committee of Cambridge, Massachusetts. These claims include, “ALCOHOL LOWERS VITALITY; ALCOHOL OPENS THE DOOR TO DISEASE.”; “At the Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, the use of Alcohol as a medicine declined 77 per cent. in eight years.”; and “ALCOHOL IS THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF MUCH OF INSANITY. MUCH OF OUR POVERTY. MUCH OF OUR CRIME.” Organized by a group of leading physicians and other prominent residents of Boston and Cambridge, the Think-It-Over Poster Committee issued a series of broadsides making reasoned arguments against alcohol, rather than simply attacking it. This poster campaign is thought to be the first such effort in the temperance movement, and was the subject of the February 1914 article in Munsey’s Magazine that included a partial reproduction of this particular broadside. Printed in blue on white sateen, the broadside measures fourteen by twenty-two inches. Folded horizontally across the middle, it is a bit soiled with some toning to the top quarter and along the extremities; else very good. $750

Carter, Henry. THE ENGLISH TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT: A Study in Objectives. Volume I - The Formative Period, 1830-1899. Two portraits. London: The Epworth Press, 1933. First edition. Octavo. Original blue cloth binding, with gilt titles. The dust jacket is browned along the extremities, with a one-inch chip to the spine head; else very good. $100

Chalfant, Harry M. FATHER PENN AND JOHN BARLEYCORN. Frontispiece, with textual illustrations. Harrisburg, Pennsylvania: The Evangelical Press, 1920. Editor American Issue - Penn’a Edition. This work purports to use history to explain why the 18th amendment was finally passed in 1919. The author, while correctly instructing that William Penn built a brew-house for his estate, assures the reader that he “deplored the excessive use of strong liquor, but drank it in moderation” and that “is not to be construed as reflecting in any way upon his lofty character.” Original blue cloth binding, with gilt stamping. Some dust staining to the top edge, with evidence of shallow nibbling by silverfish along the extremities; else very good. $25


[Church of England Temperance Society – Certificate of Merit] This colorfully illustrated Second Class certificate was awarded in 1929 to Doreen Alma Learmont, then a young lady in intermediate school at Allerton Bywater, near the city of Leeds. It is additionally signed by the Chairman and Secretary. Founded in 1862, The Church of England Temperance Society had roots in the Anglo-Catholic tradition. Later, its volunteers within the court system would lead to the first probation service. A single sheet, which has been framed and measures approximately 10 1/2 by 8 1/2 inches. Not inspected outside the frame. Some of the holographic entries have faded. Evidence of occasional light soiling. $50


DeNeal, Gary. A KNIGHT OF ANOTHER SORT: Prohibition Days and Charlie Birger. Numerous textual photographs. Danville, Illinois: The Interstate Printers & Publishers, Inc., 1981. First edition. An American bootlegging gangster during the Prohibition period in southern Illinois, Birger (1881-1928) was also the last person to be publicly hanged in that state. Inscribed by DeNeal on the front flyleaf. Quarto. The original pictorial boards are lightly sun faded along the spine, with some minor wear at the corners and tips; else very good. $25
Dobyns, Fletcher. THE AMAZING STORY OF REPEAL: An Expose of the Power of Propaganda. Chicago and New York: Willett, Clark & Company, 1940. Fourth printing. Octavo. Original gray cloth binding, with gilt titles. The ink stamp of the Alcohol Education Association of Los Angeles appears on the front flyleaf. Just a hint of edgewear to the dust jacket; else near fine. $50


Evans, T.H., et al. FOLLOWED, BUT NEVER FOUND and Other Temperance Readings, in Prose and Verse: Being Evans’ Temperance Annual for 1892 (Sixteenth Season). Frontispiece portrait, with textual illustrations. London: Marshall Brothers, [1892]. First edition. Includes numerous period advertisements. 12mo. Original red cloth binding, with gilt titles and decorative black stamping. Minor production error to the bottom corner of p.37-8, with a period ink ownership signature to the front flyleaf. Some minor fading and wear along the extremities of the boards; else very good. $25

Fisher, Irving. PROHIBITION AT ITS WORST. Numerous textual charts. New York: Alcohol Information Committee, 1927. Seventh edition, revised. Fisher (1867-1947), the renowned American neoclassical economist, attempts to prove that prohibition has made a tremendous contribution to American advancement and that the Volstead law could be effectively enforced. Original gray cloth binding, with black titles. Small crease to the top corner of a few pages, with a period ink inscription to the front flyleaf. A very good copy. $15


Gordon, Anna A. SONGS OF THE YOUNG WOMAN’S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION. Chicago: The Woman’s Temperance Publication Association, 1889. First edition. Gordon (1853-1931) was national president of the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union when the Eighteenth Amendment was adopted. Original printed paper wrappers. Some general edgewear and soiling, with a faint period ink signature to the front panel; else about very good. $150


Gunder, Claude A. LIFE OF CLAUDE A. GUNDER: Saved by the Blood from a Drunkard’s Hell. Now in Taylor University, Upland, Indiana, Preparing for Temperance Lecture Work. Frontispiece portrait, with a textual photograph. Marion, Indiana: Claude A. Gunder, 1909. First edition. Original printed green paper wrappers. Small ink notation to the front flyleaf. The wrappers are browned and a bit worn along the extremities, with a slender chip to the fore-edge of the front panel and a few very faint stains; else very good. $15.

Hanly, J. Frank and Oliver Wayne Stewart (Editors). SPEECHES OF THE FLYING SQUADRON. Indianapolis, Indiana: Hanly & Stewart, [1915]. First edition. The Flying Squadron of America was a temperance organization that staged a nationwide campaign to promote the temperance movement in the United States. It consisted of three groups of revivalist-like speakers who toured cities across the country between September 30, 1914 and June 6, 1915. The Squadron, organized by former Indiana Governor J. Frank Hanly, was sometimes called Hanly’s Flying Squadron. Octavo. Original burgundy cloth binding, with gilt titles. The top edge is dust stained. Some general minor shelfwear; otherwise very good. $25.

Hohner, Robert A. PROHIBITION COMES TO VIRGINIA: The Referendum of 1914. [Richmond]: The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, 1967. The first separate printing of this paper, which appeared in the Volume 75, Number 4 of the magazine. Inscribed by Hohner on the front panel. Original printed paper wrappers. Minor dampstain to the bottom corner of the contents, with some browning and a few creases and staining to the extremities of the wrappers. $20.

Holt, Mrs. M.A. THE MODEL LANDLORD. Frontispiece illustration. New York: National Temperance Society and Publication House, 1874. First edition. From the publisher’s ads: “It shows how a ‘model landlord,’ who keeps a gilded saloon for fashionable wine-drinkers, though he may attend church, give money to the poor, and circulate in the ‘first society,’ may be the greatest instrument in leading the young down to destruction.” Original brown cloth binding, with gilt titles and decorative black stamping. Occasional soiling and staining to the contents. The top edge is dust stained. A bit of mottling to the boards, which are worn at the corners and tips. OCLC locates only two copies. $100.


THE MAINE LAW ADVOCATE: Protection From the Mischiefs of the Liquor Traffic, Through Prohibition. [New Series.] Vol. 3 – No. 40. Thursday, November 16, 1854. New Haven, Connecticut: Joint Stock Company, 1854. The newspaper contains poetry, excerpts from a novel and some news, including reports about temperance meetings. While this newspaper served Connecticut, it presumably derived its name from Maine law, one of the first statutory implementations of the developing temperance movement in the United States. Broadsheet, 4 pp., printed on newsprint measuring 17 by 22 3/4 inches. A few minor stains and some toning to the those portions of the front panel above the fold. $100


MARTHA WASHINGTON TEMPERANCE SONGSTER. New York: Nafis & Cornish, [1840]. First edition. In the mid-19th century, several temperance societies named in honor of the first First Lady of the United States. A small pamphlet (3” x 4”), issued in printed paper wrappers hand-colored on the front. Some general soiling and wear. The rear panel is missing and a strip of transparent tape reinforces the spine. Scarce, OCLC locates only two copies. $75
[Nation, Carrie] A photograph of the radical temperance leader wielding a Bible in one hand and a hatchet in the other. A leader in the movement that opposed alcohol before the advent of Prohibition, Nation (1846-1911) is particularly noteworthy for attacking the property of saloons with a hatchet. Dated 1901, the image is also labeled in the negative with the name of the subject and the photographer, Nichols and Davidson of Topeka, Kansas. The 3 7/8 by 5 1/2 inch image is mounted on a 4 1/4 x 6 1/2 inch cardboard mount, with the photographer’s ink stamp on the verso. Tiny nick to the top left corner, not affecting the image, with minor scuff to the verso; else clean and bright. $150

[National Temperance Society – Membership Certificate] New York: National Temperance Society and Publication House, n.d. (circa 1890). This extensively illustrated document certifies that Frank Hinkle, having signed the pledge, is admitted as a member of the Band of Hope. Hinkle’s name and the name and location of the temperance society are handwritten in ink, which has faded a bit, rendering the location difficult to read. A single sheet, which has been framed and measures approximately 6 by 10 1/2 inches. Not inspected outside the frame. Light toning, with evidence of some minor soiling and staining to the extremities. $100

[New York Youth Temperance Council] EMPIRE STATE SONG BOOK. Revised by Mrs. Clara A. Jacobs, State Y.T.C. General Secretary, and Miss Gertrude A. Marshall, State Y.T.C. Treasurer. N.p.: [New York Y.T.C.], n.d. (circa 1940). Original printed blue paper wrappers. Some offsetting from the temperance leaflet (still present) to p.16-7. Some mild fading along the extremities of the wrappers; else very good. $15


Richardson, Benjamin Ward, M.A., M.D., LL.D., F.R.S. THE TEMPERANCE LESSON BOOK: A Series of Short Lessons on Alcohol and Its Action on the Body. London: W. Tweedie and Co. (Limited), 1878. First edition. 16mo. Original brown cloth binding, with black stamping. Period pencil ownership inscription to the front pastedown. The spine is ever so slightly darkened; else very good. $100

Smith, Roy L., A.M., Litt. D. JOHN BARLEYCORN: Public Enemy Number 1. Drawings by Dick Rose. Los Angeles: First Methodist Church, 1934. 19th Thousand. “Like the clever criminal that he is, John [Barleycorn] has long eluded the law, and gone on his vicious way. He has piled the highways with wrecks, filled the hospitals with casualties, stolen food from families, and capital from legitimate business, corrupted courts, debauched the electorate, usurped authority, devastated homes, despoiled womanhood and deceived his best friends.” Original printed paper wrappers. A near fine copy. $25


Stearns, J.N. (Editor). TEMPERANCE IN ALL NATIONS. History of the Cause in All Countries of the Globe. Together with the Papers, Essays, Addresses, and Discussions of the World’s Temperance Congress, Held by The National Temperance Society, in Chicago, Ill., June, 1893. Two volumes. New York: The National Temperance Society and Publication House, 1893. First edition. Tall octavo. Original burgundy cloth bindings, with gilt and black stamping. Some dust staining to the top edges and less so to the other edges. Small gouge to the top edge of the second volume. The spines are very lightly faded, with some general shelfwear; otherwise a very good set. $175

Tenney, J.H. and Rev. E.A. Hoffman. TEMPERANCE JEWELS: For Temperance and Reform Meetings. Consisting of Temperance, Reform, and Gospel Songs, Duets, Quartets, Solos, and Choruses, etc. Boston: Oliver Ditson & Co. 1879. Original printed paper-covered boards over a black cloth spine. The boards are faded and a bit edgeworn, with a few spots of nibbling by silverfish and some minor staining. $125

Tietjens, Francis J. (Editor). TEMPERANCE - or PROHIBITION? The Hearst Temperance Contest Committee. Foreword by William Randolph Hearst. Frontispiece and fifteen textual illustrations, most by Winsor McKay, with three photographic plates. New York: New York American, Inc., 1929. First edition. A supporter of temperance and critic of prohibition, newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst (1863-1951) organized a contest designed to solicit and promote sensible alternatives to the Volstead Act. Original black cloth binding, with yellow titles. The rear hinge is just starting and still quite sound. Some dust staining to the top edge, with mild wear to the corners and tips; else very good. $25

Tillyard, Aelfrida. AGNES E. SLACK: Two Hundred Thousand Miles Travel for Temperance in Four Continents. Frontispiece portrait, with fifteen photographic plates. Cambridge, England: W. Heffer & Sons Limited, 1926. First edition. 12mo. Original blue cloth binding, with gilt and blind-stamped titles. Period ink ownership signature to the front flyleaf, with a small bookseller’s label to the front pastedown; otherwise very good. $15
Wallace, Les and Josiah Maloney (Lyrics) with Robert D. Sharp (Music). **JOHN BARLEYCORN GOOD BYE!** The Battle Hymn of Temperance. Denver, Colorado: The Robert D. Sharp Music Co., 1930. An early printing; the song was first published in 1915. 4 pp., 10 x 13 1/2 inches. According to an article in Volume 57 (June 1919) of The Music Trades, this song was officially adopted by the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union as their national temperance hymn at their national convention. The name John Barleycorn personifies alcoholic beverages made of barley and corn, such as beer and whiskey. Printed on white stock, with the title in bold block letters on the front. Creased down the middle, both vertically and horizontally, with several short tears and creases to the extremities. OCLC locates no copies of this printing and only two copies of the 1915 edition. $125


[War Prohibition Committee] “SAVE COAL! Wire Your Senators to vote for War Prohibition on AUG. 26” A small postcard mailer die-cut into the shape of a piece of coal, issued in 1918 by the War Prohibition Committee of Boston, Massachusetts. The call to arms on the verso argues, “The liquor traffic is curtailing coal production and the time has come to eliminate it if there is to be the substantial increase in coal output the war program demands.” An uncirculated example, showing just a hint of edgewear and toning. Near fine. $100


Watson, Claude A., J.D., LL.D. **REPEAL HAS SUCCEEDED.** Winona Lake, Indiana. Light and Life Press, 1945. First edition. “Read in this book how repeal of the Eighteenth Amendment has succeeded in increasing juvenile delinquency, crime, accidents, disease, insanity, and broken homes.” Original brown buckram binding, with gilt titles. Internally crisp and clean. Some general mild rubbing and edgewear to the dust jacket; otherwise very good. $20
[Woman’s Christian Temperance Union of the State of New York] REPORT OF NEW YORK STATE WOMAN’S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION 1918, 1920, 1925, and 1943. Several textual portraits. Four volumes. New York: New York State Woman’s Temperance Union, 1918, 1920, 1925, and 1943. Original printed paper wrappers. The date is written in ink on the bottom edge of each volume. Ink ownership signature to the front panel of the 1925 report, with some chipping and wear to the first two reports; else about very good. $75

[Woman’s Christian Temperance Union of Ohio] An official petition circulated by the Woman's Christian Temperance Union of Ohio to voters and women seeking support for an amendment to the state constitution prohibiting the manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors in Ohio. This petition specifically asks the state legislature to put the prohibition question on the ballot on October 2, 1883. Two amendments to the constitution were considered by the Ohio legislature in 1883 regarding the regulation and taxation of liquor and prohibition in the manufacture and traffic of liquor, but both failed. It wasn't until 1912 that voters in Ohio would convince its legislature to even license liquor. However, prohibition activists didn't give up. In 1919, Ohio went dry, a full six months before prohibition became the law of the land with the passage of the 18th Amendment. This was largely due to the influence of the state’s temperance movement, including such groups as the Woman’s Christian Temperance Union and the Ohio Anti-Saloon League. Original printed cardstock wraps with six pages for signatures in two columns, voters to sign on the left and women, who would not earn the right to vote for another 37 years, to sign on the right. This petition likely survives because signatures were not gathered in this example; however, there are what appear to be juvenile pencil notations on the cover and the first page and a half of the petition, along with some general wear, minor foxing, and the remnants of a pink label on the front panel. $500


THE WOMAN’S CHRISTIAN TEMPERANCE UNION OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA - YEAR BOOK 1928-1990. 52 volumes: 1928-35, 1940, 1942-3, 1945-7, 1949-70, 1972-8, 1981-4, 1986-90. Los Angeles: The Woman’s Christian Temperance Union of Southern California, 1928-90. Each annual includes reports of WCTU activities, obituaries, a detailed directory, information on the forthcoming state convention, etc. All are bound in printed paper wrappers of various colors; the later year books are spiral bound. Ink notations and/or ownership signature to some volumes. The 1942 and 1956 year books are in marked, with tabs added to the former and nonarchival reinforcement to the latter. However, most are in very good condition. $750


Youth Temperance Council of the State of New York Year Book 1948-1949. Edited by the State General Secretary Florence S. Franke. N.p.: Youth Temperance Council of the State of New York, n.d. Original printed paper wrappers. Ink ownership signature to the front panel; otherwise very good. $15