

Mansion Library Updates

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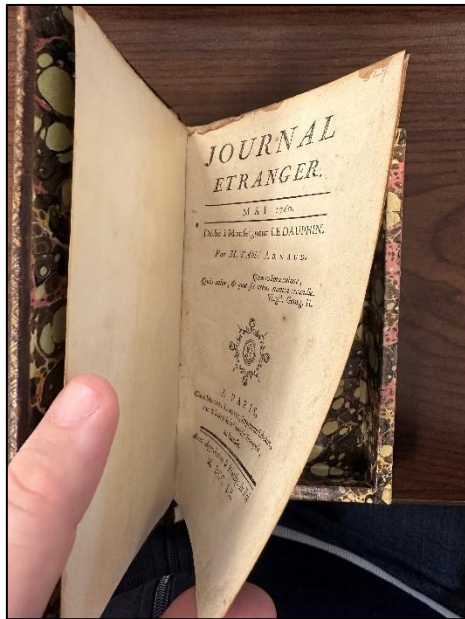
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In January 2025 Archives and Special Collections completed the first half of a project to identify the shelf locations of every book in the mansion. Prior to this project we could only tell which library a book was in; this project narrows a book's location to an individual shelf. We decided to start with the first-floor library, which holds approximately 1,200 volumes. The library holds volumes on a wide variety of subjects in multiple languages (mostly English, French and German). In addition to books belonging to Marjorie Post, it contains books that belonged to her father C.W., including a book of poetry written by Post's grandmother, Caroline.

Subjects covered in the library include:

- Religious works, including the Bible and the Christian Science Hymnal, as well as numerous books by and about Mary Baker Eddy
- Classical works, such as the *Aeneid*, *Iliad* and the *Decameron*
- U.S., world, and military history
- Philosophy
- Works by U.S. Presidents, including Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S. Grant, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Harry Truman, and Lyndon B. Johnson
- Exploration and Travel, including the Lewis and Clark Expedition
- The Arts, including opera, painting, theater and poetry
- World Literature, including Dickens, Shakespeare, Poe and many others
- Biography

One additional fascinating discovery was a hollow book, though nothing was inside. The title page of the work, *Journal Étranger*, dates the volume to 1760, though when the book was hollowed out is unknown.



A hollow book discovered during the first phase of the project.

The second half of the shelf locations project is scheduled to be completed in early summer. This important project allows us to identify the volumes needed more efficiently, which in turn means less handling of the books over time, which helps to maintain their condition.