



LIBRARY OF VIRGINIA

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Library of Virginia Participates in National Digitization Project

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For Immediate Release

Thirty-four of the Library of Virginia's rare and unique books from its Special Collections Department have been digitized by the Internet Archive through the LYRASIS Mass Digitization Collaborative. The digitization of these titles means that the public has free access to the books that are scanned, giving readers pictures of the actual text complete with color illustrations, underlined texts, and notes jotted in the margins. The reader views each fully searchable book as a flipbook with easy click-through page turning.

"As special collections librarians, we are often asked whether everything in Special Collections has been digitized ("If not the entire collection, then surely at least the rare books housed in the Reading Room?"), said Audrey C. Johnson, rare book librarian at the Library of Virginia. "While this is not a reality, we have chosen to digitize titles that reflect our Virginia heritage and Richmond roots, and to focus on scarce books and serials that are not currently available online. Our aim is to give patrons a window into our diverse and varied collections. We are excited to share these rare books with the larger community."

The books were selected based on the following criteria: completeness, format, condition, rarity, uniqueness, collection strengths, Richmond imprints, and works not freely accessible online. The digitized titles range from grammar and spelling books to treatises on excise taxes on tobacco and spirits to charters for railroads and designs for rural residences. In many cases the texts include maps, color plates, and engravings.

To view the collections, simply visit <http://www.archive.org/details/libraryofvirginia>. If you have any questions about this project and the works that have been digitized, please contact Audrey Johnson at 804-692-0166 or Audrey.johnson@lva.virginia.gov.

Funding for the digitizing came from LYRASIS members and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation through the LYRASIS Mass Digitization Collaborative—a Sloan Foundation grant-subsidized program that has made digitization easy and affordable for libraries and cultural institutions across the country.

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