



THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY

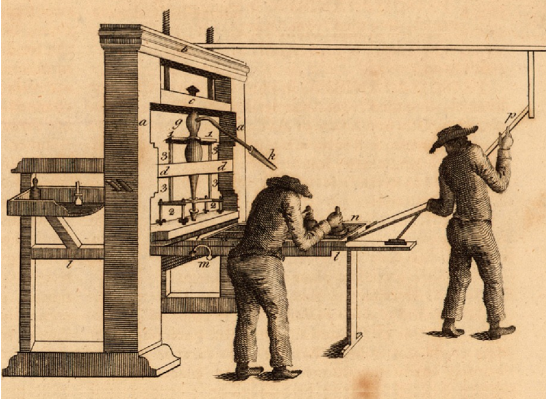
PRESS RELEASE

JANUARY 27, 2012

New Exhibition: *The Illustrated Colonial Printer*

the *Illustrated* Colonial PRINTER

An exhibition to accompany
The Colonial Printer
by Lawrence C. Wroth



Detail from *Encyclopaedia*, Philadelphia: Thomas Dobson, 1798.
Original in the John Carter Brown Library.

The John Carter Brown Library is a private, non-profit, independently funded and administered institution for advanced research in history and the humanities, founded in 1846 and located at Brown University since 1901.

John Carter Brown Library
Box 1894
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912
401-863-2725
JCBL_information @Brown.edu
www.jcbl.org

On the main green
8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays
9 a.m. to noon, Saturdays

THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY announces the opening of “*The Illustrated Colonial Printer*,” a companion exhibition to Lawrence C. Wroth’s *Colonial Printer*, one of the most important books—even after 80 years—on the early history of the printing press in North America.

Lawrence Counselman Wroth (1884-1970) was Director and Librarian of the JCB from 1923 to 1957. First published in 1931, *The Colonial Printer* remains the single most comprehensive treatment of all aspects of the printing trade in colonial America. In *The Colonial Printer*, Wroth writes learnedly, lovingly, and at times idiosyncratically about more than 300 books printed in North America before the American Revolution. Taking this seminal—and best-known—of Wroth’s prolific writing on the history of the book as its point of departure, the exhibition showcases a selection of the works mentioned, but not shown, in the text. Excerpts from Wroth’s text serve, in turn, as labels for the exhibited books, broadsides, and bindings. As an additional feature, the exhibition includes artifacts that illustrate the evolution of the text itself, including examples of Wroth’s manuscripts, galley proofs, and correspondence, drawn from the JCB’s rich institutional archive.

An online version of the exhibition is available at www.jcbl.org under “Online Exhibitions.” In conjunction with the exhibition, James N. Green, Librarian of the Library Company of Philadelphia (founded by Benjamin Franklin in 1731), will give a lecture on “Benjamin Franklin’s Job Printing” on March 1, at 6 p.m., in the MacMillan Reading Room, John Carter Brown Library.

Exhibition curated by
Kenneth C. Ward.

