A Charming Pastime

by James D. Stedman, III
1968 Winner
*Amy Loveman National Award

Americans have a deep-rooted sense of the past and in a few years many will be participating in the bi-centennial recognition of the American Revolution. Like all struggles of its kind the American Revolution produced heroes and traitors, rebels and loyalists, death for some and a renewed hope for others. Major historical events, when publicized, often spawned scores of collectors of every character. Likely, the bi-centennial of the American Revolution will follow the materialistic standards set by the recent centennial celebration of the American Civil War. Collectors will buy its commemorative stamps, hoard its tokens, and roam its battlefields with typical tourist curiosity.

Historically, the book collector survives long after collectors of other artifacts have passed from memory. The obvious reason for such "natural selectivity" is found in the non-ephemeral nature of the document itself which serves as the source for future interest. A subject oriented collection of books, therefore, would seem to be more important than a superficial commercial recognition of an era. When the historian, whether he be amateur or professional, attempts to assess the significance of the American Revolution, a war that continued six years and claimed as its price innumerable lives, he is eventually faced with an appraisal of when, where, and how the conflict became a victory for the tattered patriots over the scarlet and lace of King George's finest troops.

For many years the historian has been aware that the campaign in the southern states made a substantial, if not tremendous, contribution to the defeat of Charles Cornwallis at Yorktown and consequently, to the complete and irreversible breakdown of the British enterprise in North America. It is my contention that such an awareness will be all the more apparent when scholars and collectors explore the still basically virgin field that is the history of the South in the American Revolution. This belief has prompted the collection of books described and annotated herein, not to mention others too numerous to annotate.

The collection came into being approximately six years ago, in part because of a previous interest in the role of the

*NOTE: As many Association members will remember, Amy Loveman was associated with the Saturday Review from the beginning of its publication in 1924 until her death in 1955. In 1961 Saturday Review, the Book-of-the-Month Club, and the Women's National Book Association established in her memory the Amy Loveman National Award of $1,000 for the best student personal library which could be identified through a national competition. The first annual award of $1,000 was made in 1962. Between 1962 and 1969 when the program ended for a lack of funds, North Carolina had no less than two runners-up in the 1962 and 1966 competitions and one national award winner in 1968. The national award winner was James D. Stedman III, who was at that time a student at Guilford College. The article which appears here is Mr. Stedman's essay and annotated bibliography, which was used for his presentation in the competition.
South in the American Civil War and especially in North Carolina’s participation. Begun earlier, this collection is also being added to continually; however, within the past six years my collecting — mainly through the interest and encouragement of Burke Davis, author and friend — has expanded into the field of the American Revolution. Under the watchful eyes and fortifying words of friends, fellow collectors, and professional bookmen the collection has taken shape. It is to Burke Davis and many others that I owe an indebtedness beyond my ability to repay and, in many ways, it is their collection as well as mine.

The casual observer and critic might inquire that of all the productive and inviting fields relating to the humanities, why would a collector select an area so destructive and uncreative as the act of war in which to invest both time and money in no small measure. The answer is neither simple nor convincing. One need only to read the address of the late Douglas MacArthur when he spoke at West Point in 1962, for it expresses much, not only about the American soldiers, but about the man-at-arms regardless of the country under whose standard he fights. Elaborating on the meaning and significance of the words “Duty-Honor-Country,” General MacArthur said:

The code which those words perpetuate embraces the highest moral laws and will stand the test of any ethics or philosophies ever promulgated for the uplift of mankind... The soldier, above all other men, is required to practice the greatest act of religious training — sacrifice. In battle and in the face of danger and death, he discloses those divine attributes which his Maker gave when he created man in his own image... However horrible the incidents of war may be, the soldier who is called upon to give his life for his country is the noblest development of mankind.

This is not to suggest in any way the glories of war above its horrors, but it is to remind us that we should never forget the past no matter how horrible its memories which may be lurking in the shadows of our minds. Indeed the past may well be the key to the future, for as George Santayana has said, “those who are ignorant of history are apt to repeat it.”

The ideal home library, like a man’s collection, is or should be an extension of himself; therefore, it is presumptuous to recommend what I feel another collector should include. Some collectors venture into the world of literature, eagerly seeking the classics from Chaucer to Shakespeare and America’s Mark Twain. Others collect books bearing the magic date “1775” while many attempt to duplicate famous libraries or published bibliographies. To expect that everyone, in order to be a Christian, should own a copy of the HOLY BIBLE or, to be literate, a copy of Shakespeare’s plays as absurd as recommending the excessively rare Paris edition of Thomas Jefferson’s NOTES ON THE STATE OF VIRGINIA for everyone.

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What is presented in the following pages is exactly what it claims to be—a history of the American Revolution in the Southern Provinces of North America (a title borrowed in part from Banastre Tarleton’s classic history), one into which are incorporated English as well as American histories of the struggle. The earliest item included is Tarleton’s CAMPAIGNS (1787) and the latest is North Callahan’s study of the Tories (1963). The collection spans 176 years of commentary, from primary sources to twentieth-century appraisals. Together it totals 134 volumes—far from complete yet considerably more than a beginning. As in all collections, some of the works are biased, others are surprisingly objective, and still others take the “middle of the road” which is both convenient and attractive. The desire has been to include the first edition and any other edition which makes a fuller contribution to the subject, either through additional maps, plates, notes or commentary. Each of the annotated titles has been selected from the entire collection because of its contribution to the subject rather than because of its material value. All too often rare books are poor ones historically. Of course, one must include the poor books also for they are very much a part of history.

Describing and annotating the volumes has presented its own special problem. Because no bibliographic style adheres completely to a type of work such as this (at least not to my satisfaction), I have taken the liberty in places of promoting my own in hopes that, aside from the slight originality, it will be refreshing as well. For reasons of time the collation of the volumes and other scholarly notations are omitted. They are complete unless otherwise noted. Additions such as maps, plates, etc. are commented upon.

As mentioned previously, this collection has been encouraged through the years by many factors. It began in hope of finding all and will most likely end in desperation, either by finding and not being able to afford or vice versa. Once the serious collector departs from the road of trivia his companions are hope and prospect. His enemies are time and money. Having departed the ways of the average collector, the journey begins to demand of the traveler a vivid imagination and a vigilant eye.

Aside from moments of quiet desperation, a collection like this creates in the backroads of the reader’s mind the fields and meadows of nearly two centuries ago. If only for a moment he feels he can hear again the British officers shouting down the closed ranks of grenadiers: “Fix bayonets...eyes on the center...march!” or Admiral Graves shouting to his mate aboard the flagship “London” as the English close the distance with De Grasse’s French fleet: “Beat to quarters and clear for action!” The flint and steel, the smell of smoke thickly hugging the ground, the roar of the king’s guns and the flash of polished steel in the sun are recreated as the panorama of the rebellion in the American colonies awaits the reader who will open its history.

As the collector grows increasingly more familiar with his field of interest, the seemingly insignificant things do their part to lure him on, continually adding to his fascination as well as to his knowledge. For me it is discovering there is a little known addition to William Johnson’s life of Nathanael Greene, that Simcoe’s JOURNAL was virtually non-existent before a copy was discovered in the 19th century, that Frank C. Deering had perhaps the most elaborate bookplates in the history of the art, that the De Renne copy of Thomas Charlton’s life of James Jackson lacks the title page, and that Banastre Tarleton’s map of the action at Guilford Courthouse is incorrect by approximately 15° in its northerly latitude. Insignificant as such things may seem, they have their own peculiar attraction and soon the list becomes as endless as it is rewarding and encouraging.

The education of a bookman or collector is by no means accomplished in a month or in a few years. Rather, it is a cumulative education not completed even in a score of lifetimes. The best philosophy in the beginning is to realize that all you
seek and all you wish to know is beyond even the most gifted of those who engage in the pastime of book collecting. Having resigned myself to this fate some years ago, it is perhaps fitting that I include at this point a list of titles which I would like especially to add to my collection.

They are as follow:


An excessively rare book of which only four copies are known to exist. Fortunately it was reprinted towards the end of the 19th century in an edition of 250 numbered copies. Jackson served on the South Carolina-Georgia frontier and, consequently, the book makes a valuable contribution to the history of the area during the conflict.


A very scarce pamphlet on a much-neglected hero, the man said to have been the most famous private in the Continental Army. He was with William Washington’s cavalry at Guilford Courthouse on March 15, 1781 and supposedly killed eleven soldiers in the charge from the American third line.


“This author’s most notable work and one of our great historical monographs.” — Wright Howes


This work is extremely rare and, consequently, the complete title has been unobtainable as of this writing; however, it was reissued in part by E. E. Hale who was able to examine the Faden collection. The edition compiled by Hale was issued in Boston in 1862. Its twenty-three maps are much sought after. Among Faden’s more notable achievement, aside from the correction mentioned earlier, is Tarleton’s map of Guilford Courthouse. Howes locates only four copies.

FANNING, DAVID. The Narrative of Colonel David Fanning (a Tory in the Revolutionary War with Great Britain). Giving an Account of his Adventures in North Carolina, from 1773 to 1783, as written by himself, with an Introduction and Explanatory Notes. Richmond: Printed for Private Distribution Only, 1861.

“The original edition was the first book printed in the Confederacy.” — Howes. Fanning was, without much doubt, the most notorious of the Tories. Unfortunately, the book was originally issued only in an edition of sixty copies, ten on thick paper.

HANGER, GEORGE. An Address to the Army in Reply to Strictures by Roderick M’Kenzie (Late Lieutenant in the 71st Regiment) on Tarleton’s History of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Provinces of North America. London: Printed for J. Ridgway, 1789.

This is the final volume in a threesome that includes Tarleton’s Campaigns and Mackenzie Strictures. Together they provide as interesting a controversy as that between Sir Henry Clinton and Charles Cornwallis.

HORRY, PETER. The Life of General Francis Marion. Philadelphia, 1806.

A very rare book of which no copy is known to exist. The second edition appeared in Baltimore, printed for the Rev. M. L. Weems by W. D. Bell and J. F. Cook in 1814. Details of this early biography of Marion can be found in the catalogue of the DeRenne Georgia Library.

JAMES, WILLIAM DOBEIN. A Sketch of the Life of Brig. Gen. Francis Marion and a
History of His Brigade, from Its Rise in June 1780 until Disbanded in December, 1782, with Descriptions of Characters and Scenes not Heretofore Published, Containing Also an Appendix with Copies of Letters which Passed Between Several of the Leading Characters of that Day, Principally from Gen. Greene to Gen. Marion. Charleston: Printed by Gould and Riley, 1821.

The author served with Marion during the war and afterwards became an associate judge in South Carolina. The book is an excellent first-hand account of operations in South Carolina. The Continental Book Company of Marietta, Georgia reprinted the James classic in 1948 with an introduction by A. S. Salley.

SABINE, LORENZO. The American Loyalists; or, Biographical Sketches of Adherents to the British Crown in the War of the Revolution; Alphabetically Arranged with a Preliminary Historical Essay. Boston: C. C. Little and J. Brown, 1847. A well known and important study.


The Clinton-Cornwallis exchange which grew out of the handling of the campaign in the South was perhaps the most famous controversy of the struggle in North America.

The objective of the collector is a dream into which must be injected much affection and unbounded enthusiasm. What the collector and bookman seek is good taste, the cultivated refinement that is the civilized man, a man who gathers about him books with a clear objective and with what one bibliophile has said can only be called "grace." Book collecting is a charming pastime, a venture which can take the pursuer to any corner of the globe in search of his treasure. In all its glories and agonies, hopes and despair, the endeavor is one passed in the reading of "wish books" and, as is so often the case, the purpose and pleasure of the quest becomes the quest itself—a journey to be pursued passionately. If it is anything at all, what is represented by the following is an act of love.

THE WAR IN THE SOUTHERN PROVINCES
AS REPRESENTED BY THIRTY-FIVE TITLES

BARRS, BURTON. East Florida in the American Revolution.
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Howe, a native North Carolinian, served on the Carolina-Georgia-Florida frontier after his plantation in Bladen County was burned by the British. Prior to the war he amassed a large fortune and later, as major general, he led an unsuccessful venture against St. Augustine in 1777. In 1778 he was forced to evacuate Savannah before the British.

THORNTON 799. WEEKS, p. 7.

The first biography of Nathanael Greene, the man who took command of the Southern Department in December, 1780 after the defeat of Gates at Camden.

Howes C21 Thornton 1630.


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Callahan's book is a worthy contribution in an important area. There is included a fine section on King's Mountain where the Carolina frontiersmen challenged the Tory Army of Patrick Ferguson in October, 1780. Ferguson, supposedly the finest shot in the British Army, and his entire command were either killed or captured.

A study of the Tories is particularly important in that it was the assurance of Royal governors that thousands of loyal Englishmen would rise to defend the King's standard that account for so many of the bold British ventures, especially in the interior of the Carolinas and Georgia. All in all, the Tory movement failed and their flight before, during and after the American Revolution provides an entire chapter in the history of the United States.


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A famous and detailed study begun in 1934 when the author was a graduate student at Duke University.

Thornton 3276.


First Edition Octavo Original cloth Edition limited to 250 copies

Portraits and illustrations Original vellum and boards Number 406 of 650 copies printed for the society.

It was the defeat of Thomas Graves, Lord and Rear Admiral of the Red, off the Virginia capes that sealed the fate of Marquis Cornwallis at Yorktown. The above contains the official correspondence of the campaign, letters to and from Admiral Graves.


Jackson, a native of Devonshire, England, served in the Georgia campaign of 1776-1778. After serving with Moultrie in South Carolina, he returned to the siege of Savannah in 1780. After the war he became governor of Georgia at the age of thirty, a representative in Congress, and later a member of the Senate.


Chadwick, French ENSOR (ed.). The Graves Papers and Other Documents Relating to the Naval Operations of the Yorktown Campaign, July to October, 1781. New York: Printed for the Naval History Society by the Devinne Press, MDCCCXXVI.
The editor's copy with marginal notes and letters regarding the volume tipped in. Included are many letters of Washington, Madison and Jefferson which relate to the operations in the South, especially during the final phases of the war.

HOWES J233.

Seven volumes
Portraits, maps, and plates
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Biographies of Washington are essential to a collection such as this one because they provide insight into the emphasis that the commanding general placed on the southern campaign. Along with the studies of Washington Irving and John Marshall, Dr. Freeman's work is a classic. Unfortunately he died while working on volume six and the work was completed by J. A. Carrol and M. W. Ashworth in 1957.

Octavo
Bound in crushed levant morocco by Sangorski and Sutcliffe.
The collection contains letters from both British and American participants in the struggle. "A revised and much enlarged edition in two volumes and covering the entire Revolutionary period from 1764 to 1782 was published in 1855-1857." — De Renne.


GRAHAM, JAMES. The Life of General Daniel Morgan, of the Virginia Line of the Army of the United States, with Portions of the Correspondence; Compiled from Authentic Sources. New York: Derby and Jackson, 1856. First Edition Duodecimo
Portrait
Original cloth enclosed in a calf slipcase by Bayntun of Bath.

Daniel Morgan is best remembered for his smashing victory over Banastre Tarleton at Hannah's Cowpens on January 17, 1781. The following March Congress voted him a gold medal in recognition of his services. "A particularly valuable source for numerous letters of Morgan’s, many of which are difficult to find elsewhere."

— Treacy.

THORNTON 5043. HOWES G285.

Three volumes
Octavo
Portrait and four maps
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"G. W. Greene was a grandson of Nathanael Greene, but he has for the most part avoided the eulogies which commonly mar the biographies produced by relatives of the subject. The work is valuable for the many documents it contains. . . ." — Treacy.

HOWES G380. WEEKS, p. 23. THORNTON 5225.

Two volumes
Portrait and cartoons tipped in
Bound in contemporary calf and boards, from the libraries of A. M. Broadley and Albert Louis Cotton with their bookplates.
The author served with John Graves Simcoe during the campaign in Virginia and later wrote a commentary on the works of Tarleton and Mackenzie.

HOWES H158.

Hartley, like William Gilmore Simms, was one of the more popular writers of the period and, as such, his works are filled with the glamour usually found in popular works.

HENRY, ROBERT. Narrative of the Battle of Cowan’s Ford, February 1, 1781 by Robert Henry and Narrative of the Battle of Kings Mountain by Captain David Vance. Greensboro: Reece and Elam, Printers, 1891. First Edition Octavo Original printed wrappers

A scarce and famous account of the action at Cowan’s Ford during the retreat of Greene’s army towards the Dan River in Virginia. It was during this action that the flamboyant William Lee Davidson lost his life.

WEEKS, p. 46. THORNTON 6031.


This brief work covers the period between January 17, 1781 when Morgan defeated Tarleton at the Cowpens until Greene crossed the Dan River in the middle of the following February. Lord Germain said of the venture “the rebels conduct their enterprises in Carolina with more spirit and skill than they have shown in any other part of America.”


The enterprise to retake the city of Savannah from the British was a failure and among the many casualties was Count Casimir Pulaski, the famous Polish volunteer.

HOWES H685. DE RENNE II, p. 685.

JOHNSON, JOSEPH. Traditions and Reminiscences Chiefly of the American Revolution in the South: Including Biographical Sketches, Incidents and Anecdotes, Few of Which Have Been Published, Particularly of Residents in the Upper Country. Charleston: Walker and James, 1851. First Edition Octavo Plan and three maps Original cloth

A notable and detailed study with interesting maps of Charleston and the surrounding area.

HOWES J140. THORNTON 6998a. DE RENNE II, p. 540.

JOHNSON, WILLIAM. Sketches of the Life and Correspondence of Nathanael Greene, Major General in the Armies of the United States in the War of the Revolution Compiled Chiefly from Original Materials. Charleston: A. E. Miller, 1822. First Edition Two volumes Quarto
Portrait, map and seven plans with the Appendix not included in all copies. Bound in calf and marbled boards by Morgan of Sussex.

"Johnson says that he had access to a complete collection of Greene's papers through the courtesy of members of Greene's family. He includes many letters and documents in his work. Johnson was a justice of the United States Supreme Court and something of a dissenter. In his history he is extremely critical of his sources, particularly of the Memoirs of Henry Lee and the Campaigns of Tarleton. . . He apparently disliked in particular miracles and flamboyant young men. He is undoubtedly biased, but it is the bias of a man accustomed to weighing evidence." — Treacy.

HOWES J156. DE RENNE I, p. 380. WEEKS, p. 29. THORNTON 7021.

Octavo
Original cloth
Illustrations and maps

Johnston's book is but one of several fine ones on the subject. It reviews the situation in America, the campaign of Cornwallis in the Carolinas, Lafayette and Cornwallis in Virginia, the operations of the French and English fleets, and the siege of Yorktown. The book was eventually reprinted by the National Park Service and offered for sale.

Octavo
Bound in buckram by Baytun of Bath.

Jones was one of the best known writers of the day. His works include a scholarly history of Georgia, a study of Savannah, a sketch of the Chatham Artillery in the Confederate Army, and biographies of Hernando de Soto and Henry Lee.

The subject of this address was one of the heroes of the struggle. Although Jasper could neither read nor write, he displayed great courage during the British bombardment of Fort Moultrie in 1776 when the South Carolina flag was shot away. In the midst of a heavy fire being poured in upon the fortress and in easy view of the English fleet he replaced the flag. The following day Governor Rutledge gave him his sword in token of his valor. At the siege of Savannah in 1779 he was killed while placing the standard on the British works. He was twenty-nine years old.


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Pulaski served under Benjamin Lincoln in the siege of Savannah in 1779. He was a veteran of the northern campaigns and as commander of Pulaski's Legion in the South died while trying to lead 200 horsemen into the besieged fortress of Savannah.

First Edition
Octavo
Bound in morocco by Stikeman and Company from the library of H. O. Havemeyer, Jr. with his bookplate.

"Lee was Light Horse Harry Lee's son by his first marriage. This book is a defense against what the son considered criticism of his father in Johnson's biography of Greene, published two years earlier. The book is carping, sententious, vituperative, and historically unacceptable. Its value lies in the numerous letters of Lee, Greene, and others contained in the appendix..."
—Treacy.
HOWES L204. THORNTON 7609. WEEKS, p. 32.

First Edition
Quarto
One of only ten copies on large paper Bound in contemporary morocco.

Valuable for its insight into the condition of the American Army during the early days of the war in the South.
HOWES L306.

Mackenzie, Roderick. Strictures on Lt. Col. Tarleton's History "of the Campaigns of 1780 and 1781 in the Southern Provinces of North America" Wherein Military Corps and Characters are Vindicated from Injurous Aspersions and Several Important Transactions Placed in Their Proper Point of View. In A Series of Letters to A Friend by Roderick Mackenzie, Late Lieutenant in the 71st Regiment. To Which is Added A Detail of
the Siege of Ninety Six, and the Recapture of the Island of New-Providence. London: Printed for the Author, M DCC LXXXVIII.
First Edition
Octavo
A tall, uncut copy in original boards enclosed in a polished calf slipcase by Bayntun of Bath.

Mackenzie defends Cornwallis and is very critical in his analysis of Tarleton's book.

THORNTON 8174. WEEKS, p. 33. DE RENNE II, p. 242. HOWES M 138

First American Edition
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Illustrations

The latter half of the book deals with the essential contribution that France made to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

First Edition
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Plates
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Francis Marion has been one of the most romanticized men of the war. The biographies on him are numerous. After the destruction of Gates' army at Camden, Marion joined Henry Lee in an array of battles that ended at Eutaw Springs.

HOWES M771. THORNTON 8931.


First Edition
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A short, but essential study of the battle that began the Revolution in the South with the defeat of a Tory army.

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Robin was a chaplain in Count Rochambeau's Army that aided the Americans at Yorktown. Aside from its military value, the book is an interesting account of a Frenchman's view of America.

HOWES R361. JCB II, 2180. CLARK I, 298.

SCHENCK, DAVID. North Carolina 1780-'81. Being a History of the Invasion of the Carolinas by the British Army under Lord Cornwallis in 1780-81, with the Particular Design of Showing the Part Borne by North Carolina in that Struggle for Liberty and Independence, and to Correct Some of the Errors of History in Regard to that State and Its People. Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton, 1889.
First Edition
Octavo
Original cloth
Seven maps and four illustrations

The book is exactly what its author says it is.

HOWES S154. THORNTON 12261. WEEKS, p. 46.

SIMCOE, LIEUTENANT COLONEL (JOHN GRAVES). A Journal of the Operations of the Queen's Rangers from the End of the Year 1777 to the Conclusion of the Late American War. Exeter: Printed for the Author, (1787).
First Edition
Quarto
Ten engraved folding plans
Bound in full gold tooled morocco from the library of Frank Deering with his armorial bookplate.

Excessively rare. "Not published for sale, but for private distribution only." — Sabin

This is one of the most important prime sources for the military history of the American Revolution by the British officer who organized and commanded the highly mobile and successful Queen's Rangers from the end of 1777 to the battle of Yorktown. The ten order-of-battle plans of Richmond, Petersburg, Kingsbridge, etc. illustrate some of the best and least known skirmishes of the conflict. Simcoe made his regiment conspicuous by the self-restraint exercised in victory. He strongly urged the adoption of Indian methods of warfare. As first lieutenant-governor of Upper Canada, Simcoe founded Toronto in 1793 and later London, Ontario.

HOWES S461. JCB 3160 LANDE 793. SABIN 81134. CLARK I, 311.


First Edition
Two volumes
Quarto
Fifteen maps
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Stedman was an English military historian who served in the colonies, first at Lexington and Breed’s Hill and later with Lord Cornwallis in the South. His book is a standard British work and contains maps of great military value.

HOWES S914. THORNTON 13274. DE RENNE I, p. 265. JCB II, 3695.


First Edition
Quarto
Five Maps
A tall copy bound in contemporary calf from the library of Lord Newark, Thoresby Park Notts with his armorial bookplate.

"This book has great value, especially because it contains many documents that cannot be found elsewhere with great labor. ... The work begins with d’Estaing’s fruitless attack on Savannah in the autumn of 1779 and proceeds with great minuteness of detail to give the military events of the Carolinas and Virginia down to the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, October 19, 1781." — Church. Tarleton displayed exceptional skill and bravery in the field and was often cited by Cornwallis for his actions. A large map of the southeast shows the campaign lines of march in color. The other maps outline in color the disposition of troops at Camden, Guilford Courthouse, Charleston, and Yorktown.