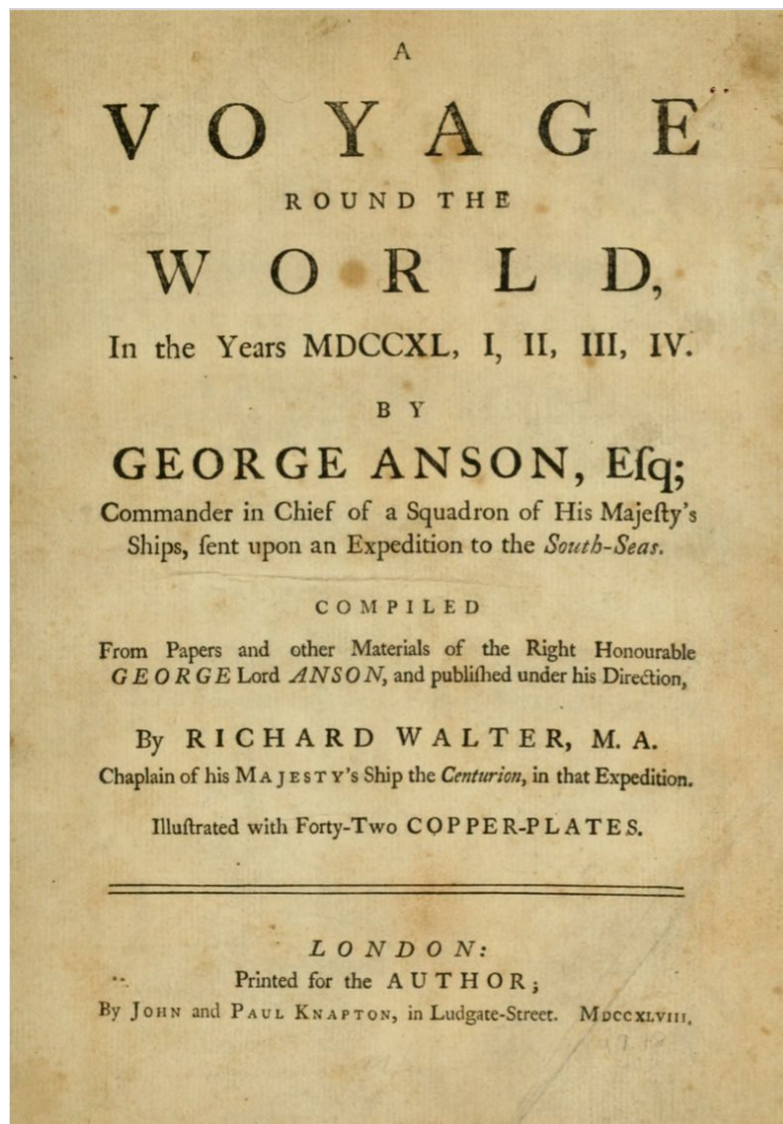


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INFO 689
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A Descriptive Bibliography of a first edition copy of
George Anson's *A Voyage Round the World, in the Years MDCCXL, I, II, III, IV*



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¹ Title page from Anson's *Voyage*, *HathiTrust digital library*

*“Thus was this expedition finished, when it had lasted three years and nine months, after having, by its event, strongly evinced this important truth, That though prudence, intrepidity, and perseverance united, are not exempted from the blows of adverse fortune; yet in a long series of transactions, they usually rise superior to its power, and in the end rarely fail of proving successful.”*²

Imprint Information

Title: A voyage round the world, in the years MDCCXL, I, II, III, IV. By George Anson, Esq; Commander in Chief of a squadron of his majesty’s ships, sent upon an expedition to the South-Seas.

Author: Compiled from papers and other materials of the right honourable George Lord Anson, and published under his direction, By Richard Walter, M.A. Chaplain of his Majesty’s Ship the *Centurion*, in that Expedition.

Imprint: John and Paul Knapton, in Ludgate-Street, London; MDCCXLVIII

Edition: First Edition, 1748

In 1740, eight English ships set out from Southern England and returned three and a half years later after an unplanned circumnavigation, a fraction of the original crew, and quite a story to tell. King George II’s English Empire and the Spanish Empire were in constant battle and tension over broken treaties, a war, and competition over land, goods, and slaves from South America. Commodore George Anson led 1,900 men on a mission to disrupt the Spanish trade ships and possessions along the Pacific coast. The flagship *Centurion* was followed by two merchant vessels and five warships made up of young, injured, sick, and aging soldiers. Two of the ships, *Severn* and *Pearl*, returned to England with scurvy-rattled crews before they even reached Cape Horn at the tip of Chile.

Due to storms, navigational confusion, and disease, only one ship made the journey across the Pacific. *Wager* crashed on the rocks and sank, *Tryal* was damaged beyond repair by storms, merchant ships *Carmelo* and *Carmin* were destroyed because too many of their crew had died, and *Gloucester*’s mainmast fell in a storm. The men that were still alive and who hadn’t been captured or left behind were absorbed by *Centurion*. Since the Spanish were chasing Anson

² A voyage round the world, p.417, *HathiTrust digital library*

and his crew, he decided to go back to England by way of the Pacific and China rather than sail back through Spanish waters.

By the end of 1742, the *Centurion* arrived in Macau. Not wanting to return home empty handed, Anson decided to ambush one of the Spanish Galleons that transported silver and trade goods between Mexico and the Philippines. Anson sold the Covadonga in Manila and handed over Spanish prisoners. The *Centurion* landed in England on 15 June 1744 with 1,313,843 pieces of eight and over 35.682 ounces of virgin silver (Anson p.384). Anson was invited to meet King George II, became a Lord, and the treasure was paraded through the streets of London. (“George Anson’s voyage around the world,” 2020)



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A Voyage Round the World was printed in 1748 and quickly became a popular adventure tale and maritime resource read by many. The navigation information and charts printed in the book strengthened English exploration and set the stage for Captain Cook’s well-known expeditions in following years. It probably saw similar popularity as today’s *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies. (“George Anson’s voyage around the world,” 2020)

Richard Walter served as Anson’s chaplain during the journey and is credited with authorship of the four volume book. Mathematician and narrator, Benjamin Robins, was known to have written for Anson in the past and is thought to have contributed to the text as well, asked by Anson himself (Johnson 1992). Walter’s widow stated of her husband’s writing: “...I have

³ *Cape Virgin Mary at the north entrance of Magellan Streights*. Copperplate image. *HathiTrust digital library*

frequently heard him say how closely he had been engaged in writing for some hours to prepare for his constant attendance upon Lord Anson, at six every morning, for his approbation, as his lordship overlooked every sheet that was written. At some of those meetings Mr Robins assisted, as he was consulted in the disposition of the drawings...” (Laughton, 1885-1990)

Publisher and bookseller James Knapton started Ludgate-Street printing in London and John and Paul Knapton took over their late father’s business in 1736. Ludgate Hill connects to Fleet Street, which has been associated with printing and newspapers in London since 1500. The name *Ludgate-Street* likely refers to both streets and means that it was among other well-known printing houses in London. Little else could be found about the printers or printing house. (“John and Paul Knapton,” n.d.)

Descriptive & Analytical Bibliography

Collation: royal 4° in 4s: A⁴ a⁴ b c-d⁴ B-3G⁴ π² [\$2 signed]; 227 leaves, pp. [34] 1-417 (319 misnumbered 219), [4] [=455]

Contents: A1^a title, A1^b blank, A2-A3^a dedication, A3^b blank, A4-b^b list of subscribers, c-c2 contents, c3-d4^a introduction, d4^b blank, B-π1^a text, π1^b blank, π2 directions to bookbinder

Technical notes:

Catchwords on every page except the last page of the dedication. 8 copperplate engravings.

Type: Roman type and occasional Italic type.

Paper: Hand-made laid paper due to the time period.

Copy specific notes:

Only 8 of 42 copperplate engravings, evidence of stains on most pages where the images once lay. Some manuscript corrections with black pen: p.56 ink smudge on top of the ‘a’ in ‘already,’ p.97 ‘rout’ corrected to ‘route’ and word ‘track’ corrected or changed, p.114 capital letters crossed out and lower-case written in, p.255 ‘h.h.’ corrected to ‘H.H.,’ p.267 ‘no’ corrected to ‘a,’ p.282 ‘longitude’ crossed out and ‘latitude’ written in, p.305 ‘fower’ corrected to ‘four,’ p.378 ink smudge above the word ‘saw.’ Dewey Decimal number on top of the dedication.

Binding: Embossed calico grain.

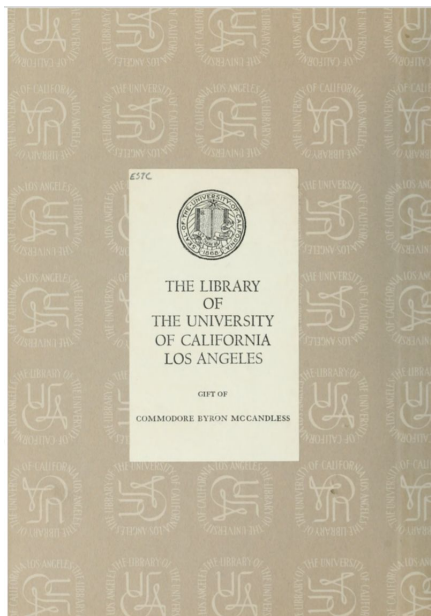
Provenance: Henry Northcote Stafford; Commodore Byron McCandless; University of California Los Angeles Library

This copy of Anson's *A Voyage Round the World* is a cuarto in fours, evidenced only by the signatures because no chain lines or watermarks were able to be seen. There should be horizontal chain lines. I made an educated guess that it is printed on hand-made laid royal paper due to the time period, estimated general size, and from a few sale records that I found. As for the collation, the signatures appear on the recto of the first two leaves and catchwords on every page further helped the binders.

There is little abnormal about the signatures, only that the last page of the list of subscribers appears to be a single leaf. Page 319 was misnumbered as 219, but instead of a mistake I see it as exciting evidence of a first edition. The π at the end of the collation formula is for two loose un-signed leaves that contain that final page of the text and the two pages of the binding directions. It is possible that this was a half cuarto gathering, but it is unclear because

there is no signature on any of the four pages.

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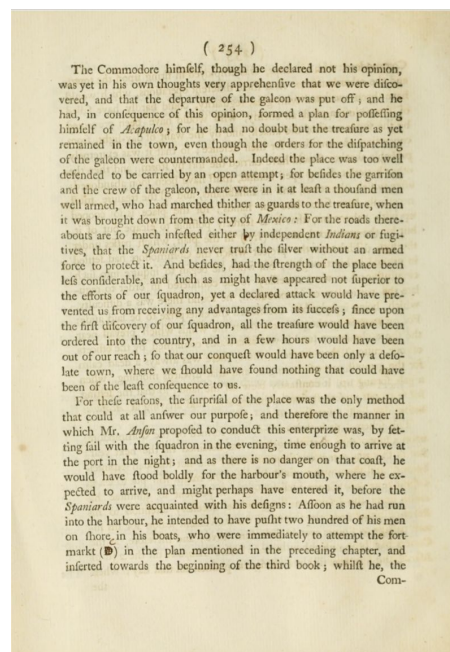
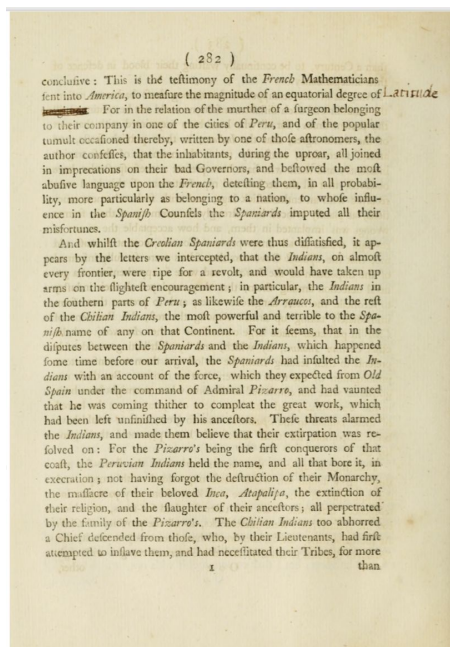
The last private owner of this copy was Commodore Byron McCandless, who lived from 1881 to 1967. McCandless was a captain in the United States Navy and served as Commander of the destroyer USS Caldwell during World War I where he earned the Navy Cross for valor in combat. After the war, he commanded the USS Kansas, USS Parrott, USS Brazos, and the USS Raleigh before he was assigned as the commanding officer of Destroyer Base in San Diego in 1937. During World War II, McCandless and his base maintained and repaired over 5,000 Navy ships. McCandless

played a significant role in the redesign of the Presidential flag in 1945 and then retired from service in September 1946. Among his accomplishments, McCandless also invented the “Jeheemy,” a contraption to aid salvage boats, and conducted research on flags in historical societies. The frigate USS McCandless was commissioned in 1971, and a street was named after him on the San Diego naval repair base. He gifted a collection of books printed pre- and post-1800 to the University of California Los Angeles, among those was *A Voyage Round the World*. (“Byron McCandless,” 2020)

⁴ Bookplate on front pastedown, *HathiTrust digital library*

It makes sense that someone adept with navigation and maritime expeditions once owned the book due to some marginalia and corrections. A few of the corrections (see images of pp. 282 and 254 below) appear to be written with either a quill or fountain pen, but a fountain pen would have been common in the early twentieth century so it is difficult to know who added the manuscript. Perhaps they were corrections made by the binder, but I have not discovered any similar notes from descriptions of other first edition copies. The copy was likely rebound by UCLA as evidenced by the pastedowns covered in a UCLA logo. It appears to be a red embossed calico grain, which would make it more durable to be circulated by the library. The bookplate states that it was a gift of McCandless, and 'ESTC' is written in pencil in the top corner. There is also pencil on the dedication page that appears to be the library's Dewey Decimal classification. Additionally, inside the back cover of the copy there is a UCLA library checkout page that ranges from June 1978 to November 1985, evidence of a folder and card checkout system, and

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two different barcodes that might be ISBN numbers but have brought up no conclusive information. 'CB' is written beside the top most barcode, I don't have a guess as to the meaning. Another mystery is when or why 34 of the 42 copperplate engravings disappeared. Due to significant stain evidence of additional folded pages, the engravings did exist inside this copy at its original printing. Perhaps they were stolen and are floating around the black market.

⁵ *HathiTrust digital library*

Research Value

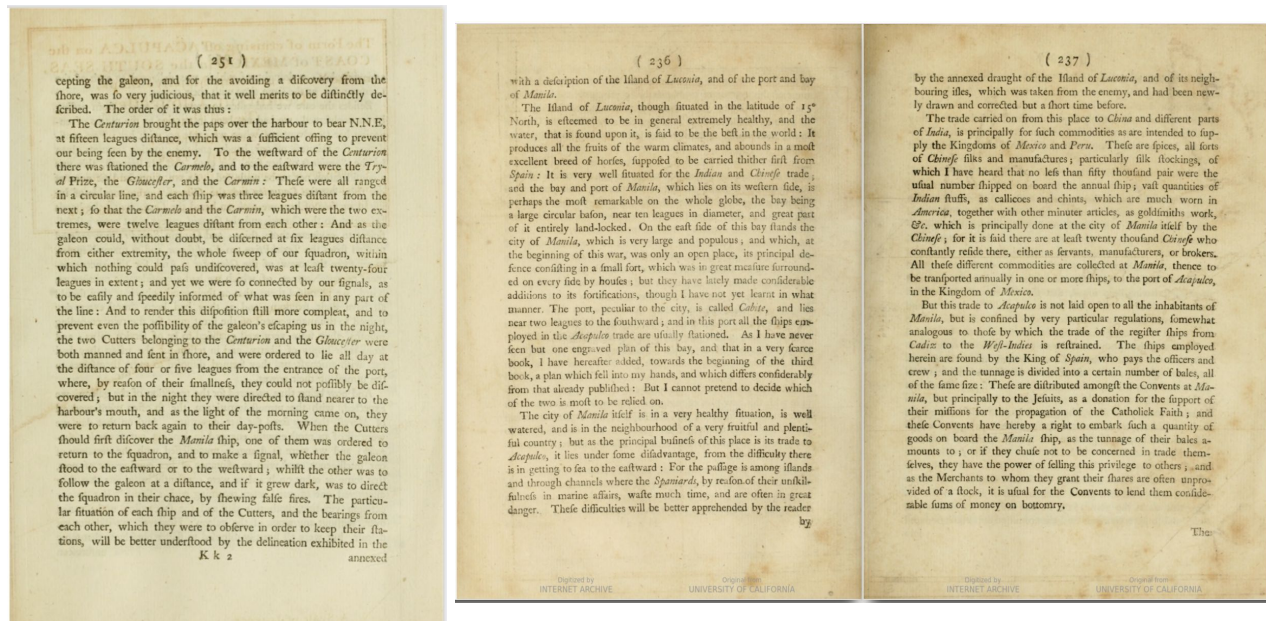
The text was written to entertain the public as well as share useful information about navigation and the new Spanish colonized land, and it remains entertaining and informational. This book would be interesting in an exhibition of English maritime exploration and history, or even in a special exhibition about historical stories that inspired the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie franchise. It could also be forefront in an exhibition about Commodore McCandless, his descendants, and their book collections. I would lend this book to other museums or libraries because despite the missing images it is in good condition and with limited light exposure I wouldn't be too worried about decomposition.

Valuation and Condition

English Short Title Catalog record citation no. T89475. American Book Prices Current lists a large paper copy that sold at Bonhams auction house for £9,437 (\$12,592) in February 2020. AbeBooks has another first edition copy with the original binding for sale for £5,817.30 (\$7,750.24) and it doesn't include the list of subscribers. Other copies and editions range from £1,000 to £5,000. A poor condition first edition copy that has the original calf binding is offered on AbeBooks for only £850 (\$1,134), and it has all 42 copperplate images.

The missing 34 images decrease the value of this copy, but otherwise it is a fine copy with a new binding and without tears or significant water damage. Also, it is a first edition with the list of subscribers and binding instructions included and no text pages missing. It's value is increased by provenance; this specific copy was owned by a prominent WWI Naval Officer whose great-grandson was a NASA astronaut.

Due to the replaced bindings and 34 missing images, I would be surprised if this McCandless copy would sell for over \$2,000. It likely would be offered closer to \$1,000 but I aimed high because the provenance could be of special interest to WWI and WWII historians. Also the great-grandson of Commodore McCandless was Bruce McCandless II, a NASA astronaut who completed the first untethered spacewalk in 1984.



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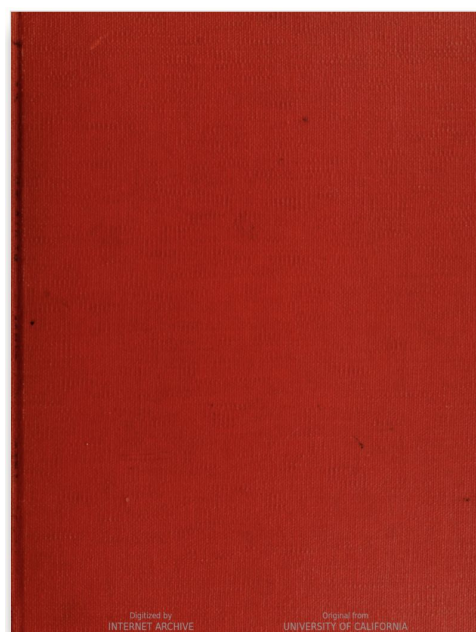
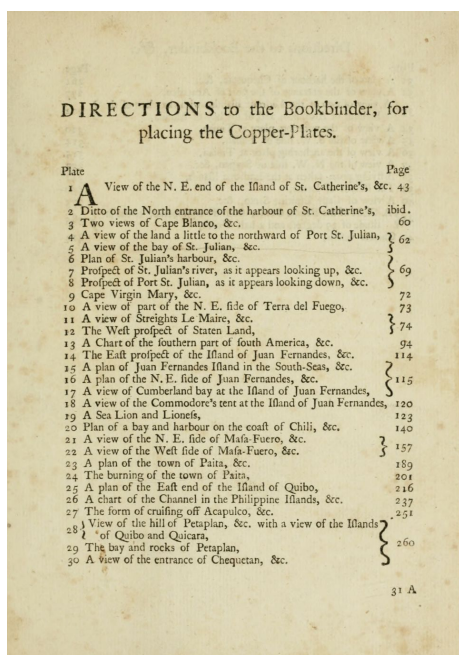
Interesting Elements

Most all interesting elements have already been discussed in provenance and copy specific notes. The mystery of the 34 missing images is curious. The directions to the bookbinder at the end of the text give us clues to where the images should have been placed within the pages. Most of these pages that at one time were next to folded copperplate imprints show rather significant shadows of where the folded image rested against the leaves. The above right image shows a spread of pages 236-237. The image, *A chart of the Channel in the Philippine Islands* was supposed to be before or after page 237. Maybe the damage seen on the spread is water damage from when someone removed the image. The above left image shows page 251, where the image *The form of cruising off Acapulco* once was. What is interesting about this page is what looks to be a shadow from the facing page or imprint from the verso. But, the box of text is nowhere to be found on any nearby pages. Where did it come from? It is most likely a note about the image or the image plate itself since the words *Acapulco* and *coast* can be clearly seen printed backwards. Because so many are missing, it seems more likely that they were intentionally removed from the copy, either by one of the owners or stolen while the book was at UCLA. No doubt that the images would sell for a fair amount individually.

⁶ *HathiTrust digital library*

Experience

Reading the wikipedia page of the book's contents was fascinating, it read like an adventure novel and I could visualize the entire voyage. I decided not to read the actual text since descriptive bibliography is rarely conducted on books that the bibliographer can read and it is more about the copy itself than the text. I did consult the text for the specific amount of Silver stolen from the Spanish Galleon, and for the quote on page 2. It took some time until I looked closely at the UCLA bookplate and researched the donor of the book, but once I did I was full of excitement and interest. This book is of special interest to me because I have traveled a moderate amount, I enjoy studying maps, and my favorite book and movie genre is anything involving adventures and the ocean. This specific copy's provenance of Commodore McCandless is particularly interesting because my Grandfather flew for the army air corps in WWII, I've read a lot about the Navy SEALS, and I lived in San Diego for six years. The research became more interesting when I found AbeBooks and read descriptions of specific copies for sale. I was excited to find that my copy, too, had page 319 misnumbered. All in all it was a great experience, I only wish I could have consulted with colleagues and seen a similar copy in person.



⁷ Page 1 of binding directions and the front cover. *HathiTrust digital library*

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⁸ Copperplate engraving of Port St. Julian, *HathiTrust digital library*