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18th - 20th Centuries

American, British &  
Continental

ROBERT H. RUBIN BOOKS

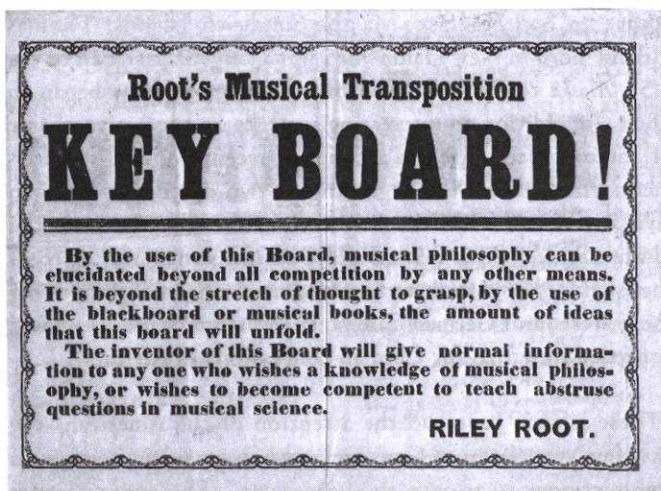
Brookline, Massachusetts

dom embraced in the platform of the Republican Party." The prospectus lists the names of 40 subscribers to date in two columns of bold type, but three hundred subscriptions are needed, the minimum required for "a really good paper, which is the only kind of paper with which I am ambitious to be connected." The subscriptions fell short and the paper never materialized.

This failed attempt would be of no special interest were it not for the fact that Benjamin D. Walsh, who became a significant figure in Illinois history, had a most atypical career path. Walsh was born in England and graduated Trinity College, Cambridge. He came to America in 1838 (according to Tucker, in 1845 according to the DAB). After some years as a farmer in Henry County, Illinois, he moved to Rock Island around 1850 and opened a lumber business. More in keeping with his Cambridge pedigree, Walsh, who had all along been a serious student of natural history, eventually decided to enter the field professionally. "In England he had known and worked with Charles Darwin ... retiring from business about 1858, he devoted the rest of his life to entomology."—DAB. Walsh wrote prolifically for the professional journals and in 1868 he founded the *American Entomologist*. "Walsh's bibliography shows 385 titles of individual record ... [His] papers were of very high rank and attracted the attention of scientific men both in America and Europe ... [They] were sound and in many respects ahead of his time. He was an early adherent of the doctrine of evolution, and in 1864 published a long paper ... in which he attacked the anti-evolutionary views of Agassiz and Dana. In 1867 he was appointed state entomologist of Illinois." cf. DAB and the biographical sketch by Mrs. Edna Armstrong Tucker in *Transactions of the Illinois State Historical Society* 1920, pp. 54-56. This interlude in search of a career in progressive journalism goes unnoticed by his biographers. Neither this nor the *Rock Island Freeman* found in OCLC, nor in the AAS or Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library online catalogues.

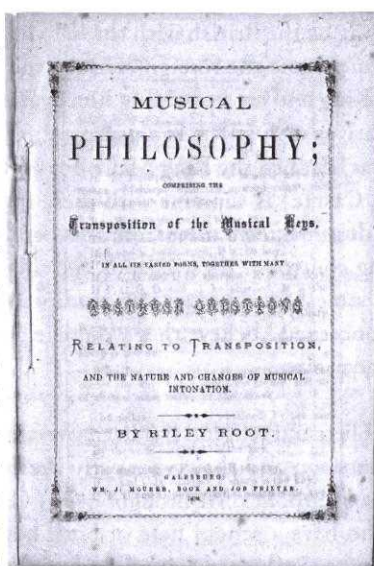
138. Root, Riley. **MUSICAL PHILOSOPHY; COMPRISING THE TRANSPOSITION OF THE MUSICAL KEYS, IN ALL ITS VARIED FORMS**, together with the many abstruse questions relating to transposition and the nature of changes in musical intonation. Galesburg, (Ill.): Wm. J. Mourer, Book and Job Printer, 1866. 20 pp., original printed wrappers repeating title. Cover and text within ornamental border. A fine copy. With:

**ROOT'S MUSICAL TRANSPOSITION KEY BOARD!**  
By the use of this board, musical philosophy can be elucidated beyond all competition by any means ... The inventor ... will give normal information to anyone who wishes a knowledge of musical philosophy ... [signed:] Riley Root.



Broadside, 22.5 x 30 cm. Large bold type. (Galesburg: 1865-66). Folded but very good. The pair: \$1250.00

Riley Root is remembered as the author of *Journal of Travels from St. Joseph to Oregon*, published in Galesburg in 1850, "one of the top four [books] written about the overland route to Oregon."—Graff 3565. Root's only other recorded publication is this novel musical instructor and the accompanying broadside advertisement. OCLC locates two copies of the latter (CU, ICN). For this issue of the pamphlet it also locates two copies (CrY; UPB); for another issue, same date but no place, no publisher, it locates 10 copies (NN; CsMH; CU; ICN; IU; MWA; NcD, and 3 others). Graff 3569 and 3567 respectively.



### *Samoa on the brink of civil war and partition*

139. (Samoa). Hiland, T(homas), Surgeon, U.S. Navy. **AUTOGRAPH LETTER SIGNED, DATED SEPT. 9, 1880 ON BOARD THE USS ALASKA, DESCRIBING A VISIT TO THE SAMOAN ISLANDS**. 8 pages, 8vo., approx. 1000 words, written in ink in a clear hand. With original envelope mailed from San Francisco Nov. 25, 1880, to John R. Prentiss, Alstead, N.H. Very good. \$475.00

This letter was written in Sept. 1880 on board the USS Alaska, at Upolo Island one month before she left Samoa on her return

voyage to San Francisco via the Sandwich Islands. Thomas Hiland, born in New Hampshire, was a surgeon assigned to the USS *Alaska* towards the end of a naval career that began in 1861. In addition to interesting remarks on the native people of Samoa Hiland gives an account of recent political developments that marked the beginning of two decades of Samoan civil war compounded by international conflict between the United States, Great Britain and Germany. As a result in 1899 the islands were partitioned into American Samoa, comprising the eastern, and German Samoa, the western islands. England conceded in return for German concessions in Africa.

"These islands have had the attention of the Americans the past few years because Gen. Grant when president sent out a commissioner to treat with the natives." The commissioner returned "on his own hook with a letter of recommendation from Grant, was kindly received by the natives and did considerable in assisting them to form a representative government, became a leading man in the government, was put out and taken away by the British with the help of the American consul, since which time the foreign consuls, the British leading, have made a King and are upholding him against the large majority of the natives who say he is a usurper ... at the present time there is a war between the King Malie Toa and other chiefs in the islands ... Cast[e] is supreme with these savages ... they object to outsiders making a ruler from another family. England is fast gaining control of these islands and they will eventually be English ... unless some other nation dips in. So far as the natives are concerned I believe they would be better off let alone to govern themselves.

"Their old religion has been overthrown by missionaries many years ago and they are mostly Presbyterians ... with a few Roman Catholics. We brought over 3 Catholic priests from Tutuilo who have a school here of both boys and girls and are beginning to influence a good deal of the natives and their government. I wish you could see these natives ... every day there are a good many on board especially the better looking girls ... who get a good many presents. They are at Pago Pago, where we have spent most of our time ... strictly virtuous more than can be said of the same number of whites ... so that it is perfectly safe to have them on board. ... Their skin is brown, occasionally quite dark, hair straight or a little curly usually cut short and made to stick up over the whole head by covering with white wash ... clothing a piece of cloth wound round the loins and descending half way down the thighs, called a lava lava, pronouncing the a's like r's. Some of the women wear a handkerchief, towel or even a chemise over the chest but they don't like to be so burdened. They anoint the whole body with perfumed cocoa nut oil ... They all swim and dive and make nothing of being upset in their canoes. The islands were called Navigation, I believe, because the people sail about so fearlessly ..."

They expect to leave for the Sandwich Islands in a week or so, and arrive in San Francisco "about the middle of Dec." The first USS *Alaska*, commissioned in 1868, served with the Pacific Squadron from 1878-1883. In 1879 she visited Alaska on a mission to protect American citizens during a time of Indian unrest. Returning to San Francisco in June 1879, she departed in August for the west coast of Central and South America, remaining there until July 1880 when she set out for the South Pacific. She arrived at Pago Pago on 27 August and remained there until 7 October when she began her return voyage to San Francisco.

140. Sanchez, Tomas, 1550-1610. *DE SANCTO MATRIMONII DISPUTATIONUM. TOMUS PRIMUS [-SECUNDUS-TERTIUS] POSTERIOR ET ACCURATIOR EDITIO ...* Lugundi: Sumptibus Laurentii Anisson, 1739. Large thick folio. Three volumes in one: pp. (20), 500; 404; 470. Complete with half-title. Contemporary calf, covers scuffed, spine richly gilt with raised bands, leather label. A very good sound copy. \$250.00

A classic text on marriage in canon law, the chief work of this 16th century Spanish Jesuit. The first volume was published in Genoa in 1602; the first complete edition was published in Madrid in 1605. The work appeared in numerous later editions of which this is the penultimate; the final edition was published in Venice in 1754.

*The rebel cause is fast failing*

141. Seymour, Truman. *THE CONDITION OF THE SOUTH, AND THE DUTY OF THE NORTH.* As set forth in a letter from Gen. T. Seymour, lately released from "Under Fire," at Charleston. New York, 1864. [Cover title.] 8 pp. Original printed wrappers, a fine copy. \$75.00

A call for decisive Union victory by committing more troops. This antidote to Copperhead propaganda reports the Rebel Cause as "fast failing from exhaustion ..." A Major General who was present at the Battle of Fort Sumter and Lee's surrender, Seymour made this appeal shortly after being released by the Confederates, having been captured at the Battle of the Wilderness. In his retirement Seymour (1824-1891) achieved distinction in the art world as a superb watercolorist. DAB. Sabin 79671.