

James Branch Cabell's Personal Library: Enriching publishing with local library data

- Jimmy Ghaphery, Associate University Librarian for Scholarly Communications and Publishing
- Sam Byrd, Scholarly Publishing Librarian
- VCU Libraries





James Branch Cabell, 1923

Anybody here ever read anything by James Branch Cabell?



James Branch Cabell, 1923

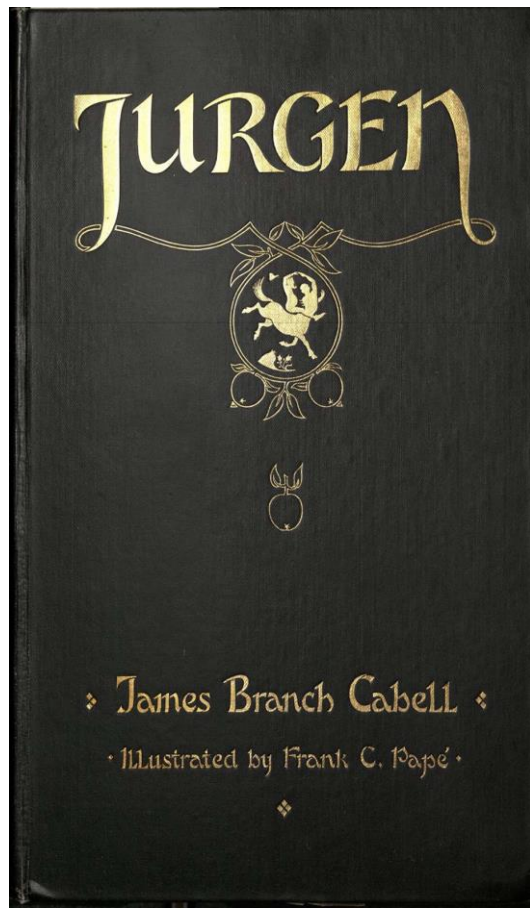
Anybody here ever heard of James Branch Cabell?

VCU Monroe Park Campus library named after Cabell





Halloween Party, Country Club, West Chester, PA, 1923



"[*Jurgen*] is so obscene, lewd, lascivious and indecent that a minute description of the same would be offensive to the Court and improper to be placed upon the records thereof." (John S. Sumner, agent for the New York Society of the Suppression of Vice)



Richmond Times-Dispatch, ca. 1949

The Cabell Room

Cabell Library, VCU



JAMES BRANCH CABELL'S LIBRARY: A CATALOGUE

by

Jean Maurice Duke

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the
requirements for the degree of Doctor of
Philosophy in the Department of English
in the Graduate College of
The University of Iowa

August, 1968

Thesis supervisor: Assistant Professor O. M. Brack

James Branch Cabell's Library: A Catalogue, by Maurice Duke

⊕ 144 Beardsley, Aubrey. The Art of Aubrey Beardsley. New York: Boni & Liveright, 1918. The Modern Library. Bp. A

⊕ 145 _____. Under the Hill and Other Essays in Prose and Verse. London: John Lane, The Bodley Head, Ltd., New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1928. D

⊕ 146 Beauclerk, Helen. The Green Lacquer Pavilion. New York: George H. Doran Co., 1926. Bp. B

⊕ 147 _____. The Love of the Foolish Angel. New York: (Cosmopolitan Book Corp.), 1929. A

Beaumont, Francis see 2301, 2302, 2303

⊕ 148 *Roberts, Carl Eric Bechhofer* Bechhofer, C. E. The Literary Renaissance in America. London: William Meinemann, Ltd., 1923? Bp. G
Autograph: Property of James Branch Cabell

*Summa
Home*

* 149 Bechtel, John H. Proverbs: Maxims and Phrases Drawn from All Lands and Times, etc. Philadelphia: The Penn Publishing Co., 1906. K

A = East Wall, Main Library
B = North Wall, Main Library
D = South Wall, Main Library
G = South Wall, Main Parlor
K = Poynton Lodge

Laid in: 1 piece of minutia.

462 _____. Another copy. I

Autograph: First binding, first state and/first printing of this book./James Branch Cabell

463 _____. Another copy. (Corrected in Cabell's autograph). G

464 _____. The Music from Behind the Moon: An Epitome. New York: The John Day Co., 1926. I

Autograph: Property of/James Branch Cabell

Autograph: To James Branch Cabell/Leon Underwood/26.

Autograph: This book has given me great pleasure/L. U.

TLS: From Carl Van Vechten, New York, 7 Sept. 1926, 1p.

TLS: From Richard J. Walsh, The John Day Co., Publishers, New York, 17 June 1926, 1p.

TLS: From Guy Holt, The John Day Co., Publishers, New York, 14 June 1926, 2pps.

TLS: From Douglas Seith, the Printing House of William Edwin Rudge, New York, 17 July 1926, 2pps.

TLS: From Leon Underwood, New York, 2 Nov. 1926, 1p.

TLS: From Underwood, New York, 16 Oct. 1926, 1p.

TLS: From Underwood, New York, 19 Nov. 1926, 1p.

Laid in: Brochure titled A First List of Books to be Published in the Fall of 1926 from The John Day Co.

Laid in: Advertisement from The John Day Co. regarding The Music from Behind the Moon.

465 _____. Another copy. I

Autograph: This is a specimen of the first "state,"/in that it is one of a handfull of/copies bound by a firm other than/the binders to whom the contract was/finally awarded. It is slightly thicker/than the succeeding copies, and the/label upon the backbone is noticeably/broader than the label used later./James Branch Cabell.

TLS: From Leon Underwood, New York, n.d., 1p.

Laid in: 6 page pamphlet titled A First List of Books to be Published in the Fall of 1926, by The John Day Co.

Laid in: Advertisement titled John Day 'Late Famous Printer of Many Good Books.' 1 May 1926.

466 _____. The Nightmare Has Triplets: An Author's Note on Smire.

N.p., n.d. I

Autograph: James Branch Cabell

This is a 14 page pamphlet.

Laid in: 2 typed, corrected in autograph, pages of corrections and emendations for The Nightmare Has Triplets.

Laid in: 1 piece of minutia, on at home and for Mr + Mrs Cabell bearing Kalki design at top.

462 _____. Another copy. I

Autograph: First binding, first state and/first printing of this book./James Branch Cabell

463 _____. Another copy. (Corrected in Cabell's autograph). G

* Another copy. Property of /James Branch Cabell/ book # 93 Autograph / James Branch Cabell / (newspaper clippings pasted in)

464 _____. The Music from Behind the Moon: An Epitome. New York: The John Day Co., 1926. I

Autograph: Property of/James Branch Cabell

Autograph: To James Branch Cabell/Leon Underwood/26.

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TLS: From Underwood, New York, 19 Nov. 1926, 1p.

Laid in: Brochure titled A First List of Books to be Published in the Fall of 1926 from The John Day Co.

Laid in: Advertisement from The John Day Co. regarding The Music from Behind the Moon.

A.S.: Tom Dalton, Ga. Twenty Seven Keys, 19 Feb. 1931

Laid in: 2 ephemera. Tipped in: Note by Frank Pappas

465 _____. Another copy. I

Autograph: This is a specimen of the first "state,"/in that it is one of a handfull of/copies bound by a firm other than/the binders to whom the contract was/finally awarded. It is slightly thicker/than the succeeding copies, and the/label upon the backbone is noticeably/broader than the label used later./James Branch Cabell.

TLS: From Leon Underwood, New York, n.d., 1p.

Laid in: 6 page pamphlet titled A First List of Books to be Published in the Fall of 1926, by The John Day Co.

Laid in: Advertisement titled John Day 'Late Famous Printer of Many Good Books.' 1 May 1926.

Laid in: 3 pages typed and corrected in autograph

466 _____. The Nightmare Has Triplets: An Author's Note on Smire.

N.p., n.d. I

Autograph: James Branch Cabell

This is a 14 page pamphlet.

Laid in: 2 typed, corrected in autograph, pages of corrections and emendations for The Nightmare Has Triplets.

Seeking Utility

- Large PDF
- OCR Challenges
- Beyond inventory and artifact
- Continue functional legacy of the work



Burton Rascoe, James Branch Cabell, Elliott White Springs 1928

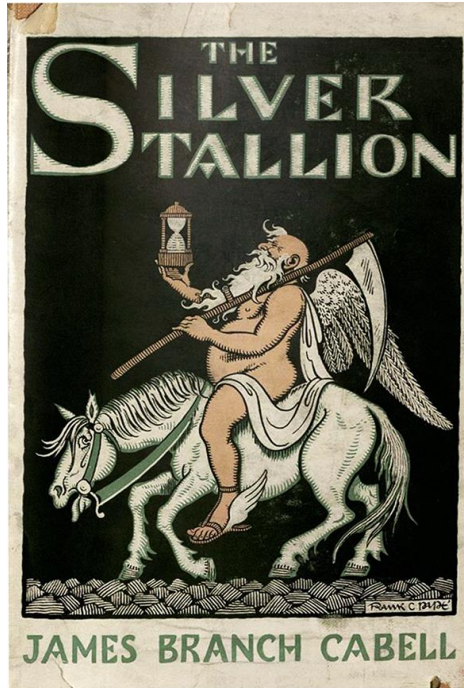
Another source for the data

- Surprise: Books cataloged
- Searchable in catalogs
- Inside knowledge needed (Duke no.)
- MARC not patron friendly to read or manipulate



Some 200 books written by or about Cabell were held in this rosewood cabinet in the main parlor of his house.

Manuscript + MARC Records



- Location information (not in MARC records and in manuscript code)
- OCLC # (not in manuscript)
- Authority (not in manuscript)
- Common element: Duke Number

“The optimist proclaims that we live in the best of all possible worlds; and the pessimist fears this is true.” James Branch Cabell. *The Silver Stallion*.

Dataset

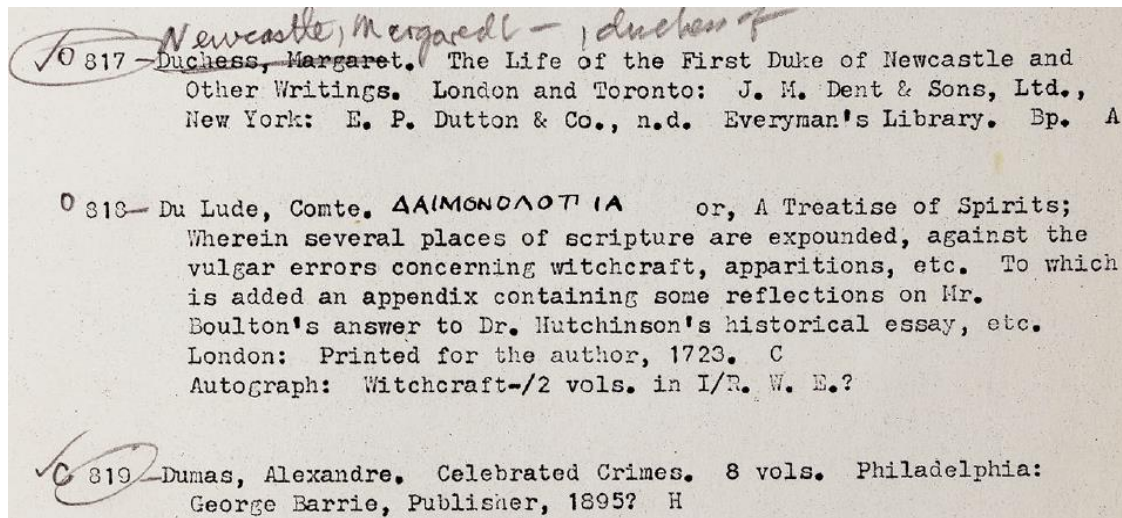
- MARC records
- MarcEdit -> CSV -> Excel
(Duke Number | Author Name | Title | Publisher and Date | Date | Physical Description | Series | Local Note | Contents | Original Location (from manuscript) | OCLC #)
- Added location information and QA



Burton Rascoe, a literary critic from Chicago, Ellen Glasgow, James Branch Cabell, Priscilla Bradley Shepherd Cabell (Cabell's first wife), and Elliott White Springs. 1928

Vulgar witchcraft errors

- QA for identified gaps; a new set of cataloger eyes
- *Treatise of Spirits* mystery solved

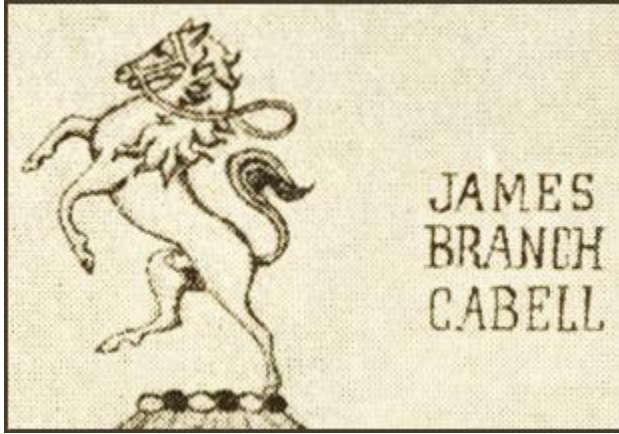


PDF Dataset Version

- Derived from Excel
- Familiar for Humanists
- 337 page ms → 71 page PDF
- 197MB (color) → 40MB → 1MB PDF
- Born digital searching

Duke Number	Author Name	Title	Publisher and Date	Date
1	Hanna, Kathryn Abbey	Florida, land of change / Kathryn Trimmer Abbey.	Chapel Hill : University of North Carolina Press, 1941.	15
2	Abbot, Anthony, et al.	The Mystery Book: One Full-Length Novel and Four Novelles	New York : Farrar & Rinehart, 1939.	15
3	Abbot, Anthony, et al.	The Second Mystery Book: One Full-Length Novel, One Story and Four Novelles	New York : Farrar & Rinehart, 1940.	15
4	Abbott, Charles D. (Charles David)	Howard Pyle : a chronicle / by Charles D. Abbott : with an introduction by H.C. Wyeth and many illustrations from Howard Pyle's works.	London : Harper & Brothers, 1925.	15
5	Adams, Evangeline	Astrology, your place in the sun, by Evangeline Adams.	New York, Dodd, Mead, 1928.	15
6	Adams, Henry	The education of Henry Adams : an autobiography.	Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1918 (Cambridge, Mass. : Riverside Press)	15
7	Adams, Samuel Hopkins, et al.	The Novel of Tomorrow and the Scope of Fiction	Indianapolis: The Bobbs-Merrill Co., Publishers, 1922.	15
8	Adams, W. H. Davenport (William Henry Davenport)	Witch, warlock, and magician: historical sketches of magic and witchcraft in England and Scotland, by W.H. Davenport Adams.	New York, J.W. Bouton, 1889.	15
9	Lewin, Walter, editor.	The lower, and other papers of Steele and Addison. Edited by Walter Lewin.	London, Walter Scott, 1887.	15
10		The Spectator, Joseph Addison, Richard Steele, and others.	New York, E.P. Dutton [1906]	15
11		Breaking into print : being a compilation of papers wherein each of a select group of authors tells of the difficulties of authorship & how such trials are met : together with biographical notes and comment / by an editor of the Colophon, Elmer Adler.	New York : Simon and Schuster, 1937.	15
12	Adler, Mortimer Jerome	How to read a book; the art of getting a liberal education, by Mortimer J. Adler.	New York, Simon and Schuster [81940]	15

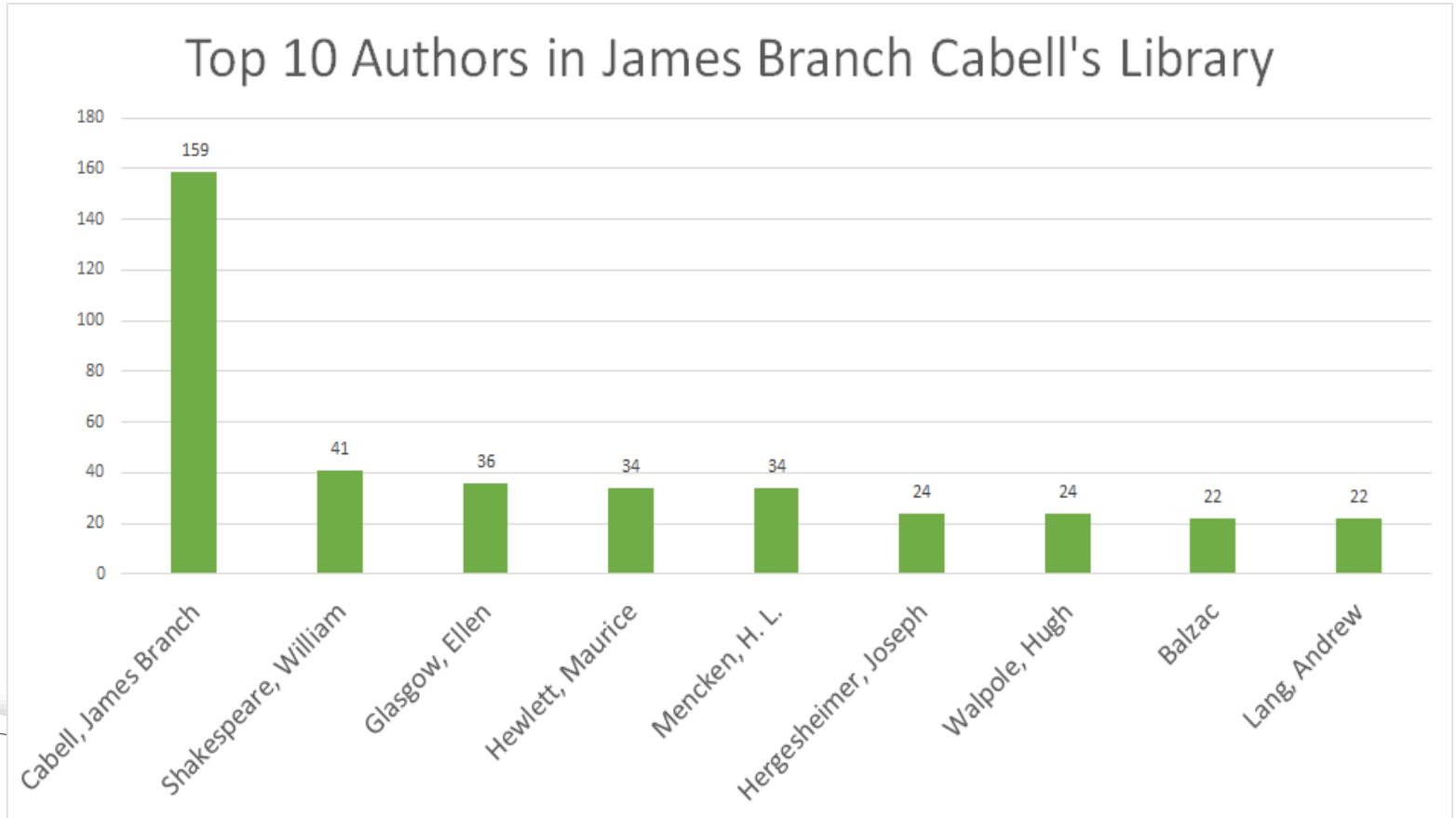
Text Dataset Version



Cabell bookplate, detail

- Derived from Excel
- TSV text version
- Stable non-proprietary format
- Portable import into Excel or other statistical packages

Basic Analysis Examples



Basic Analysis Examples

Tarkington: 16 of 17 total
Bailey: 13 of 13
Twain: 7 of 13



Other Possibilities

- Detailed Analytics
- With OCLC numbers possibilities for text mining
- Network Analysis



Louisa Nelson, nurse to the three young Cabell sons, James, Robert and John.

Presentation

- Versions housed in one CONTENTdm collection with introduction
- Version overload?
- DOI's and other dressing



The screenshot displays the VCU Libraries Digital Collections website. At the top, the VCU logo and "VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY" are visible, along with the slogan "Make it real. CAMPAIGN FOR VCU". The main header reads "VCU Libraries Digital Collections". Below this is a navigation bar with links for "Home", "Browse All", and "Collections A-Z", and a search bar with a "Search" button and a link to "Advanced Search". The breadcrumb trail shows "Home >> James Branch Cabell's Library".

The page title is "James Branch Cabell's Library". The main text describes the Special Collections and Archives at Virginia Commonwealth University's James Branch Cabell Library, which houses the library of writer James Branch Cabell, originally cataloged by Dr. Maurice Duke's 1968 dissertation from the University of Iowa (*James Branch Cabell's Library : A Catalogue*). Created by VCU Department of English Professor Emeritus Maurice Duke, the *Catalogue* was the first attempt to fully represent the contents of James Branch Cabell's library in 1967: its organization, contents, and functions. This collection consists of digital presentations of the two copies of this dissertation currently held by VCU Libraries, as well as a dataset containing other information about each entry.

Each entry in the *Catalogue* provides the author, title, publisher information, and year, as well as other descriptive elements. Notably featured are signifiers which represent the location of each book, pamphlet, or magazine within Cabell's home, as his library was largely organized by genre and utility. In a 2005 interview, Maurice Duke remarked that "Cabell used his books, personal books, as filing cabinets for letters from his

Recent Additions

- Receive updates for this collection.
- James Branch Cabell's library : a catalogue [unannotated version]
- James Branch Cabell's library : a catalogue [annotated version]
- James Branch Cabell's library [dataset PDF]
- James Branch Cabell's library [dataset]

Bringing it on Home

- Value of your and others metadata
- Licensing of metadata thinking both Artisanal Data and Big Data
- Old projects in new bottles



"I too was once a dreamer: and in dreams there are lessons." James Branch Cabell. *The High Place*.

Credits and References

- Cabell images from the online exhibit by Alice Campbell: *James Branch Cabell: Man of Letters and Libraries*.
<https://gallery.library.vcu.edu/exhibits/show/jamesbranchcabell>
- Primary materials held in Cabell Library Special Collections.
<https://www.library.vcu.edu/research/special-collections/>
- Imaging and data wrangling, Joe Woods, Digital Specialist
- VCU Libraries Digital Collection *James Branch Cabell's Library*.
<http://dig.library.vcu.edu/cdm/landingpage/collection/cab>