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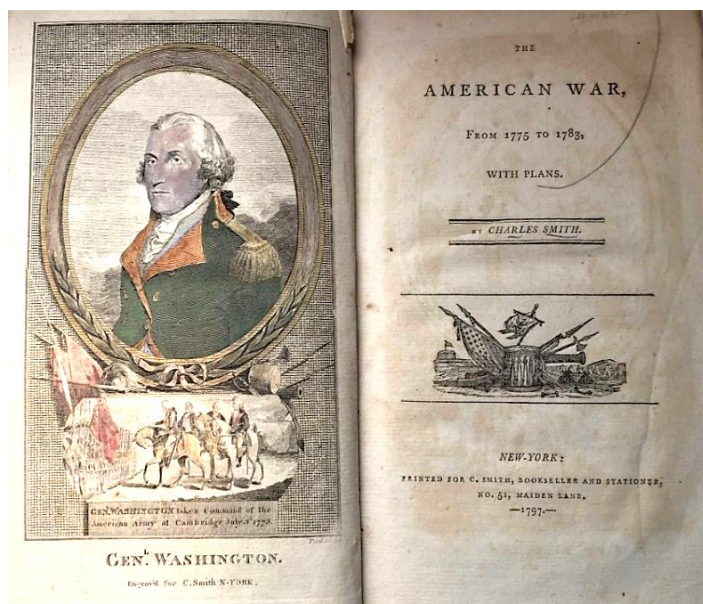
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## **EARLY AMERICAN PERIODICALS IN THE VORONTSOV COLLECTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY OF THE ODESSA I. I. MECHNIKOV NATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

The paper contains information on American journals published in the course of the first third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which are conserved in the Scientific Library of the Odessa I. I. Mechnikov National University. The set of seven periodicals published between 1811 and 1838 contains 98 volumes making part of the Vorontsov collection of the University library.

**Key words:** periodicals, book printing in the USA, the first third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, book collections, the Vorontsovs, University library.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, the University Library incorporated a number of private book collections, the library of the Vorontsov palace in Odessa being the largest and the most valuable [1, c. 71; 2, c. 84-86]. Being formed by four generations of the noble family for more than a century, the Vorontsov collection is known for a considerable number of old printed



books and periodicals of English language including a small selection of books and maps printed across the Atlantic in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. *The American war, from 1775 to 1788, with plans* (New-York : Printed for Ch. Smith, 1797) (ill. 1) and *An oration upon the death of general Washington* (New York, 1800) by an American statesman Gouverneur Morris, one of Founding Fathers of the United States, can serve examples.

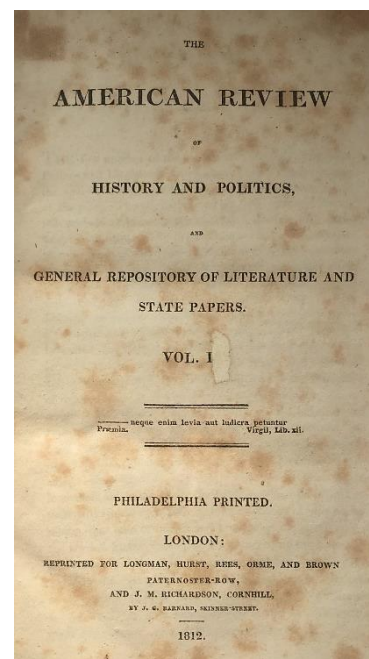
### Ill. 1

Count Semyon Romanovich Vorontsov resided in Britain from 1785 until his death in 1832, being the Russian ambassador to the Kingdom of Great Britain in 1785-1800 and to the United Kingdom in 1801-1806. His son Mikhaïl, who became an outstanding administrator and a man of

war, grew up in Britain. Being interested in different aspects of the colonial policy of the British Empire including Anglo-American controversy and the first decades of the history of an independent American state, they both can be considered as main contributors to this part of the family library.

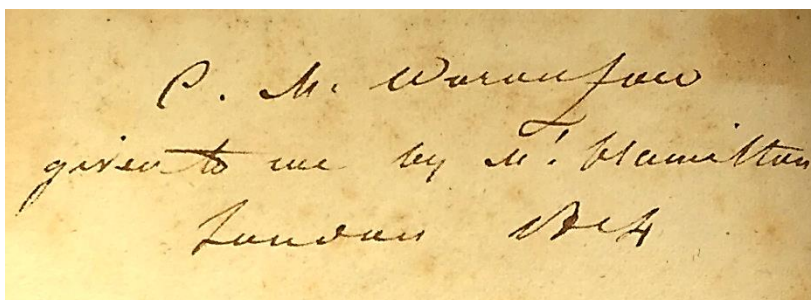
Our attention was drawn to a selection of early American periodicals printed between 1811 and 1838 in the most important American printing centers Philadelphia, Boston, New York, and Baltimore.

The earliest printed periodical in the selection is *The American Review of History and Politics, and General Repository of Literature and State Papers* (ill. 2). Founded and edited by a diplomat and publicist Robert Walsh (1784-1859), it was published in Philadelphia in the years 1811 and 1812. According to Frank L. Mott, historian of American magazines and newspapers, *The American Review of History and Politics* "was the first standard quarterly review in America" [4, p. 271]. The publisher formulated the goal of his undertaking as follows: "The propaganda of sound political doctrines, and the direction and improvement of the literary taste of the American people" [4, p. 272]. However, it was mainly devoted to politics giving special attention to French affairs.



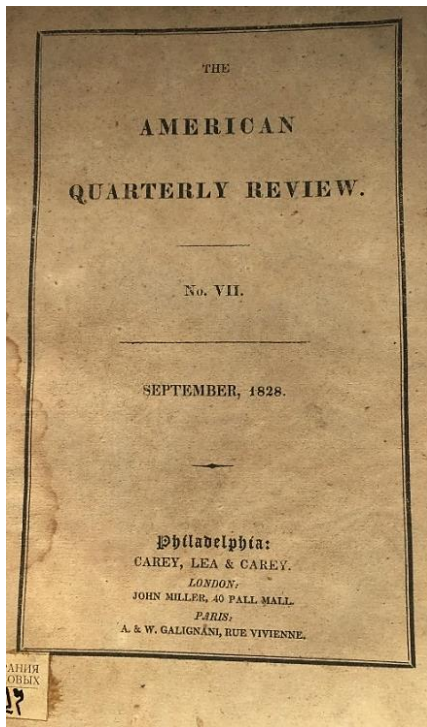
III. 2

The Vorontsov collection contains three of four volumes of the review. There is a note on fly-leaf of every volume giving details of this acquisition: **C. M. Woronzow | given to me by Mr. Hamilton | London 1814** (ill. 3). It is probable that the note mentioned Colonel Alexander Hamilton Jr., second son of Alexander Hamilton, one of the Founding Fathers of the United States, who joined the Duke of Wellington fighting against Napoleon's army in Portugal before returning to America and taking part in the campaigns of the War of 1812. Count Mikhail Semyonovich



III. 3

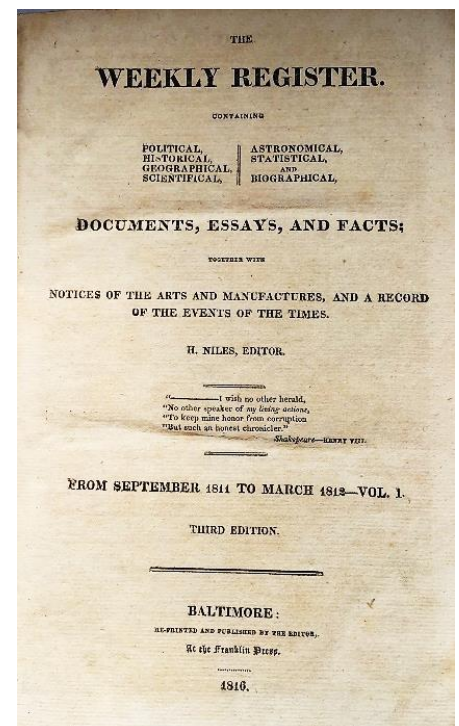
Vorontsov is known to be a close acquaintance of the Duke of Wellington and he could have met Hamilton Jr. though the date in the note is not fully consistent with this assumption.



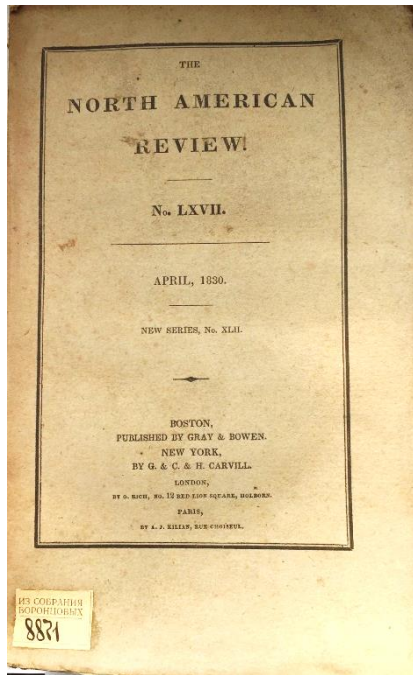
Fifteen years later Robert Walsh revived his review under the new title, the first number of *The American Quarterly Review* being published in Philadelphia in March 1827 (ill. 4). The whole set comprises twenty-two volumes published between March 1827 and December 1837, each volume consisting of two numbers; two volumes per year. The Vorontsov collection contains six volumes of the quarterly, for March and June, 1827 and March, June, September and December, 1828. In F. L. Mott's opinion, "This is really a resuscitation of the former review, though different in certain particulars" [4, p. 272]. The content of the publication was marked by variety, having geography and travel, astronomy, history, biography, law, education, European literature, the classics and the fine arts among the subjects treated [4, p. 275].

### III. 4

The contents of *Niles Weekly Register* was no less varied, but superior in quality: this periodical is considered to be "a chief reliance of the historiographer for the first half of the nineteenth century" [4, p. 268]. First appeared as *The Weekly Register. Containing political, historical, geographical, scientific, astronomical, statistical, and biographical documents, essays, and facts* (1811-August 1814), in September 1814, it took the name of its founder, editor and publisher for twenty-five years, Hezekiah Niles (1777-1839). The editor had ambitions of establishing an impartial national periodical without interfering "in petty disputes between the *inns* and *outs*". He hoped that "the Register will receive a general support" and "its politics shall be American ...not to support individuals, but to subserve *the interests of the people*..." From 1811 to 1849, it is considered to be "the principal window through which many Americans looked out on their country and the world" [3]. . The Vorontsov collection contains a set of the popular weekly for seven years (Baltimore, September 1811-September 1817) (ill. 5).



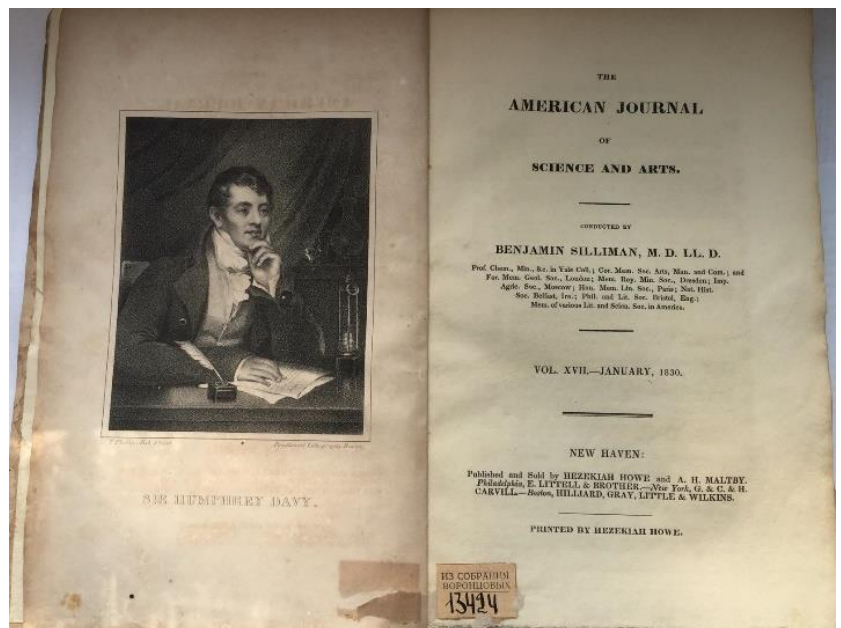
### III. 5



Ill. 6

In 1815, a Boston author, merchant, legislator, and diplomat William Tudor (1779-1830), a Harvard graduate (1796), started publishing *The North American Review and Miscellaneous Journal*, which was a bimonthly until December of 1818 when it became a quarterly. *The North American Review* has the reputation of the leading periodical in the first third of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which “was significantly instrumental in reflecting as well as refracting” cultural politics helping invent the national past [5, p. 111]. The library’s set is not complete containing two volumes for 1821 (January and April), one volume for 1823 and 1824 each, three volumes for 1829, all four volumes for 1830-1837 and two volumes for 1838 (ill. 6). Another set of this periodical contains two volumes for 1831.

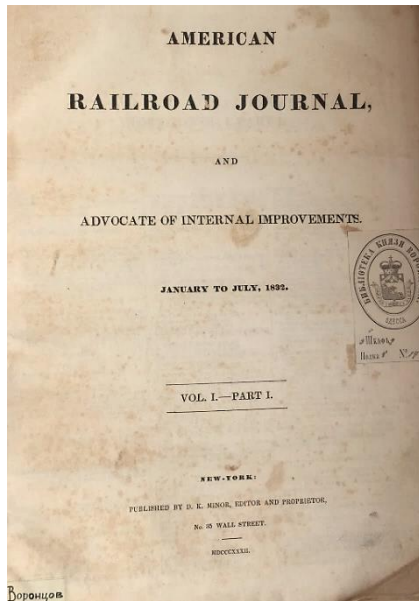
Along with periodicals of general and popular contents, science and technical periodicals are also represented in the Vorontsov collection. In 1818, Professor Benjamin Silliman (1779-1864), early American chemist and science educator, founded *The American Journal of Science and Arts* (the title until 1880), the United States of America’s longest-running scientific journal focusing on natural sciences and especially on geology (ill. 7). Latest issues of the periodical inform that it is *Earth-science research since 1818 & open access since 2023*.



Ill. 7

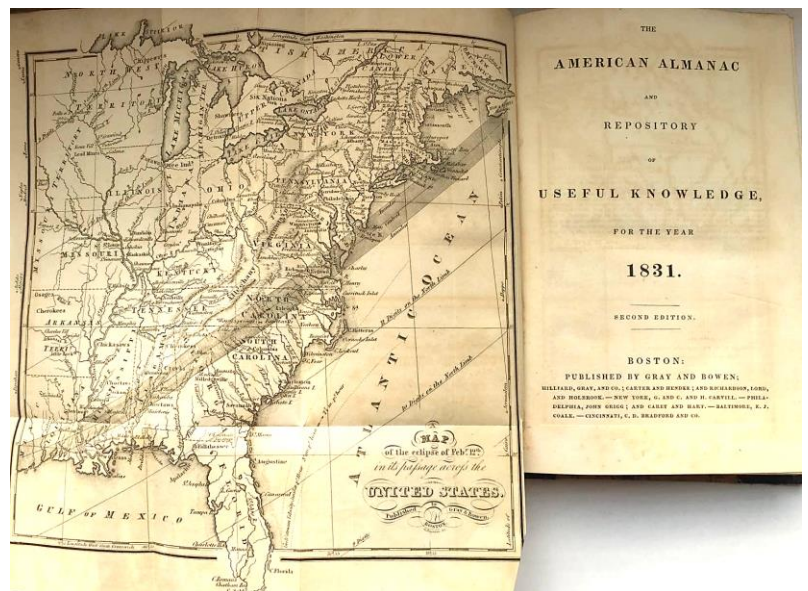
In the period between 1830 and 1836, twenty-eight volumes were published (the periodicity of the journal changed to quarterly in 1826-1845) which are available in the Vorontsov collection. Numerous illustrations, partly colored, are worth mentioning.

The unprecedented technological progress that distinguished the development of the United States caused the appearance of specialized periodicals on civil engineering and namely railroad engineering. The premier railroad industry journal of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was *American Railroad Journal* (ill. 8). The Vorontsov collection of the University library conserves four volumes which were published in New York under the title *American Railroad Journal, and Advocate of internal improvements* in the years 1832-1835 (the complete set of the periodical consists of 6 volumes with the last volume for 1837, issues for September 2-December 30, 1837 were actually published in January-March 1838). Mikhail Semyonovich Vorontsov was known to be an enthusiastic supporter of the idea of building a railroad in the southern province of the Russian empire so his interest in early days of American Railroad engineering is quite understandable.



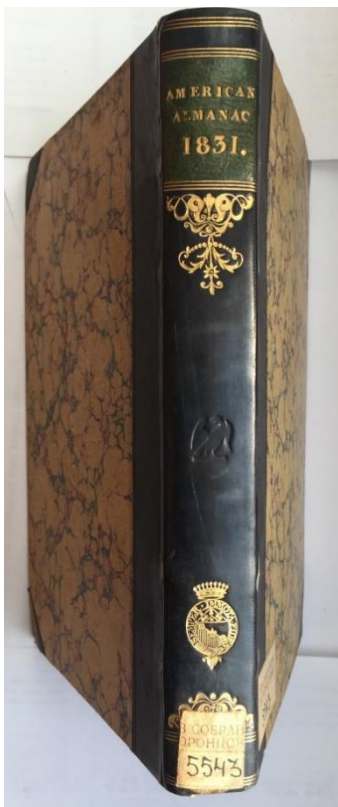
III. 8

The University library holdings include an example of another type of publications close to periodicals and containing compilations of information of various sorts. The title page of *The American Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge for the year 1831* bears a long subtitle: *comprising a calendar for the year; astronomical information; miscellaneous directions, hints, and remarks; and statistical and other particulars respecting foreign countries and the United States* (ill. 9). It is the second volume of thirty-two volumes of the *The American almanac and repository...*, which was started in 1830 and was published in Boston until the early 1860s. The collection also holds volumes for the years 1836-1838.



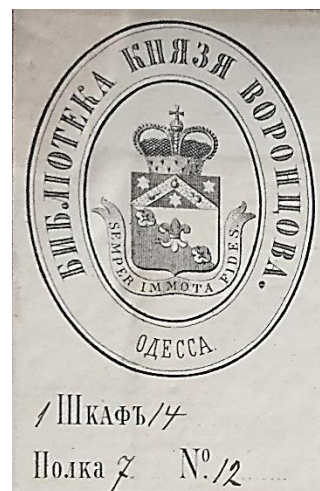
III. 9

Thus, a small collection of early American periodicals from the library of the Vorontsov palace in Odessa contains seven publications representing periodicals of different frequency covering a multitude of subjects. Its provenance is connected with the first owner of the palace built as a residence of the governor of the province of Novorossiya, the appointment Count M. S. Vorontsov got in 1823. Not only Mikhaïl Semyonovich inherited his uncle's and father's book collections, but he also replenished them with a significant number of valuable editions, purchasing them mainly from booksellers in Europe and subscribing to contemporary newspapers and journals including those published in North America. The copies of mentioned periodicals are mainly in plain paperbacks except three volumes of *American Review of History and Politics* and *The American Almanac and Repository of Useful Knowledge for the year 1831* in half-leather bindings. The binding of the latter is marked with count Vorontsov's coat of arms embossed on the bottom of the spine (ill. 10).



III. 10

In 1844, Count Mikhail Vorontsov was raised to princely dignity. He was succeeded in his titles by his son Semyon who ordered to mark books and periodicals from the library of Odessa residence with armorial bookplates bearing the Vorontsovs' coat of arms with a family motto «**SEMPER IMMOTA FIDES**» and an inscription **Библиотека князя Воронцова. Одесса** [The library of the prince Vorontsov. Odessa] and a shelf-mark (ill. 11). Some of mentioned periodicals are marked with this bookplate (see ill. 8).



III. 11

Although early American periodicals available in the Vorontsov collection are insignificant in quantity terms, the fact of their acquisition for a private library located in the city on the Black Sea Coast seems to be of interest.

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## РАННІ АМЕРИКАНСЬКІ ПЕРІОДИЧНІ ВИДАННЯ У ВОРОНЦІВСЬКОМУ ФОНДІ НАУКОВОЇ БІБЛІОТЕКИ ОДЕСЬКОГО НАЦІОНАЛЬНОГО УНІВЕРСИТЕТУ ІМЕНІ І. І. МЕЧНИКОВА

Книжкові зібрання Воронцових містили значну кількість стародруків та періодичних видань англійською мовою, включаючи невелику добірку книг та карт, надрукованих по той бік Атлантики наприкінці XVIII століття. Власники бібліотеки цікавилися різними аспектами колоніальної політики Британської імперії, в тому числі історією англо-американського конфлікту та перших десятиліть незалежної американської держави. У розвідці наведено відомості про американські журнали, видані протягом першої третини XIX століття, що зберігаються у Воронцовському фонді Наукової бібліотеки Одеського національного університету імені І. І. Мечникова.

Найпершим періодичним виданням у добірці американських періодичних видань, надрукованих між 1811 та 1838 роками у найважливіших американських центрах друкарства – Філадельфії, Бостоні, Нью-Йорку та Балтіморі, є «Американський огляд історії та політики...» («The American review of history and politics and General repository of literature and state papers. – Philadelphia, 1811–1812») – перший щоквартальний огляд у Північній Америці.

У Воронцовському фонді представлено популярний тижневик «Тижневий огляд» («Weekly Register») за сім років. «Північно-американський огляд» («The North American Review and Miscellaneous Journal») вважається провідним американським періодичним виданням першої половини XIX століття (у бібліотеці зберігається 41 том, виданий протягом 1821–1838 років). Поряд із періодичними виданнями загального та популярного змісту у Воронцовському фонді представлена науково-технічна періодика. У 1818 році професор Бенджамін Сілліман (1779–1864), один із перших американських хіміків і педагогів, заснував «Американський журнал науки та мистецтв» («The American journal of science and arts» – назва до 1880 року) – науковий журнал із природничих наук і, перш за все, з геології. Прикладом спеціалізованого технічного періодичного видання XIX століття в університетському зібранні є «American Railroad Journal». Такий цікавий різновид видань, що продовжуються, як альманахи представлений «Американським альманахом...» («American almanac...») за 1831, 1836–1838 рр. Формування невеликої колекції американських періодичних видань (сім назв різноманітної тематики), що виходили в першій третині XIX століття, пов'язане з М. С. Воронцовим, герб якого вибитий на корінці деяких журналів із його бібліотеки.

**Ключові слова:** періодичні видання, книгодрукування в США, перша третина XIX століття, книжкове зібрання, Воронцови, університетська бібліотека.