

**A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF  
NEW YORK:  
FORMERLY CALLED  
NEW NETHERLANDS**

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A Brief Description of New York: Formerly Called New Netherlands by Daniel Denton

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**DANIEL DENTON**

**A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF  
NEW YORK:  
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DENTON'S  
NEW YORK

*Of this edition, two hundred  
and fifty copies only have been  
printed, of which this is*

*No. \_\_\_\_\_*

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION  
OF NEW YORK  
FORMERLY CALLED NEW NETHERLANDS  
BY DANIEL DENTON

Reprinted from the original edition of 1670

*With a Bibliographical Introduction by*

*FELIX NEUMANN*

*of the Library of Congress*



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THE BURROWS BROTHERS COMPANY

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## INTRODUCTION

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Bibliography is the biography of books.—JOHN FERGUSON, *Some Aspects of Bibliography*.

IN the middle of November, 1900, there was sold at auction in London by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, a part of the library of Lord Ashburton\* that was especially rich in scarce and unique books, and the sale attracted, therefore, considerable interest among book-collectors. The highest bid reached—£400, or \$2000—during the sale, which lasted four days, was for a tract of only twenty-one pages text, i. e., (the title is given abbreviated) *Daniel Denton's Brief Description of New York, formerly called New Netherlands*, London, 1670.

This pamphlet is always considered by connoisseurs, and with good reason, as one of the most sought after Americana, not only as it seems to be the first printed relation of New York in English, but also on account of its excessive rarity.

Denton's Description has been twice reprinted, and, curiously enough, the two reprints

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\* Catalogue of a portion of the valuable library of the Rt. Hon. Lord Ashburton, sold by Sotheby, Wilkinson & Hodge, Nov. 14-17, 1900.



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happened to appear in the same year. The first reprint was issued in No. 1 of the "Proceedings of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania," Philadelphia, March, 1845,\* with a very brief introduction by John Pennington.

The second forms Vol. 1 of "Gowans's Bibliotheca Americana," † published in New York, 1845, with introduction and notes by Gabriel Furman. There is also a third partial reprint in the "Library of American Literature," ‡ edited by E. O. Stedman and E. M. Hutchinson, Vol. 1, pages 419-426.

I have been able to trace, of the original, up to date, the following copies:

A. *Mentioned in Auction and Second-Hand Catalogues* —

1 copy mentioned in Evans's "Auction Catalogue of the Library of George Nassau," London, 1824.\*\*

1 copy mentioned in O. Rich's "Catalogue of

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\* Proceedings of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Vol. 1, No. 1, March, 1845. Philadelphia, printed for the Society, 1845.

† Gowans's Bibliotheca Americana, Number 1. New York, William Gowans, 1845.

‡ A Library of American Literature, from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time, compiled and edited by Edmund Clarence Stedman and Ellen Mackay Hutchinson. 11 volumes. New York, William Evarts Benjamin.

\*\* Catalogue of the Choice, Curious and Extensive Library of the Late George Nassau, Pt. 1, No. 1094. Sold by auction by Mr. Evans, beginning February 16, 1824.

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Books Relating Principally to America," London, 1832.\*

- 1 copy mentioned in Evans's "Auction Catalogue of the Library of Richard Heber," London, 1835. †
- 1 copy mentioned as recently imported, by Gabriel Furman in the introduction to the reprint of Daniel Denton's Description, New York, 1845.
- 1 copy mentioned, 1846, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of the Library of Gabriel Furman." ‡
- 1 copy mentioned in Henry Stevens's "Historical Nuggets," 1862.\*\*
- 1 copy mentioned, 1873, as belonging to John F. McCoy, in Sabin's "Dictionary of Books relating to America." ††
- 1 copy mentioned, 1875, in the "Auction Sale

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\*Catalogue of Books Relating Principally to America, arranged under the years in which they were printed. London, O. Rich, 1832.

†Catalogue of the Library of the late Richard Heber, Pt. 7. No. 1842. Sold by auction by Mr. Evans, May 25, 1835.

‡Catalogue of an extensive and valuable private library, collected during many years with great labor and expense, consisting of a very choice collection of rare, curious and valuable books. Sold at auction by Royal Gurley & Co., November 30, and the five following days. New York, 1846.

\*\*Henry Stevens. Historical Nuggets. Bibliotheca Americana, or a descriptive account of my collection of rare books relating to America. 2 vols. London, printed by Whittingham & Wilkin, 1862.

††Dictionary of Books relating to America from its discovery to the present time. By Joseph Sabin. Vol. 5, page 350.

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Catalogue of the Library of William Menzies." \*

1 copy mentioned, 1880, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of the Library of George Brinley." †

1 copy mentioned, 1884, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of the Library of Henry C. Murphy." ‡

1 copy mentioned, 1889, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of Samuel Latham Mitchell Barlow." \*\*

This copy is the same which Gabriel Furman mentions, 1845, as belonging to Col. Thomas Aspinwall, consul of the United States at London, which came into Mr. Barlow's possession when he bought the entire library of Col. Aspinwall. This last copy was bought by Mr. Brayton Ives, and is therefore identical with the next copy.

1 copy mentioned, 1891, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of the Library of Brayton Ives." ††

1 copy mentioned, 1900, in the "Auction Sale Catalogue of the Library of Lord Ashburton."

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\* Catalogue of Books, Manuscripts and Engravings belonging to William Menzies, prepared by Joseph Sabin, New York, 1875.

† Catalogue of the American Library of the late Mr. George Brinley, of Hartford, Conn. 5 parts. Hartford, Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1878-97.

‡ Catalogue of the Library of the late Hon. Henry Cruse Murphy, of Brooklyn, Long Island, consisting almost wholly of Americana or Books relating to America. George Leavitt & Co., New York, 1884.

\*\* Catalogue of the American Library of the late Samuel Latham Mitchell Barlow, prepared by James Osborne Wright. New York, 1889.

†† Catalogue of the collection of Books and Manuscripts belonging to Mr. Brayton Ives, of New York. Printed at the De Vinne Press, New York, 1891.