

BETWEEN THE COVERS RARE BOOKS

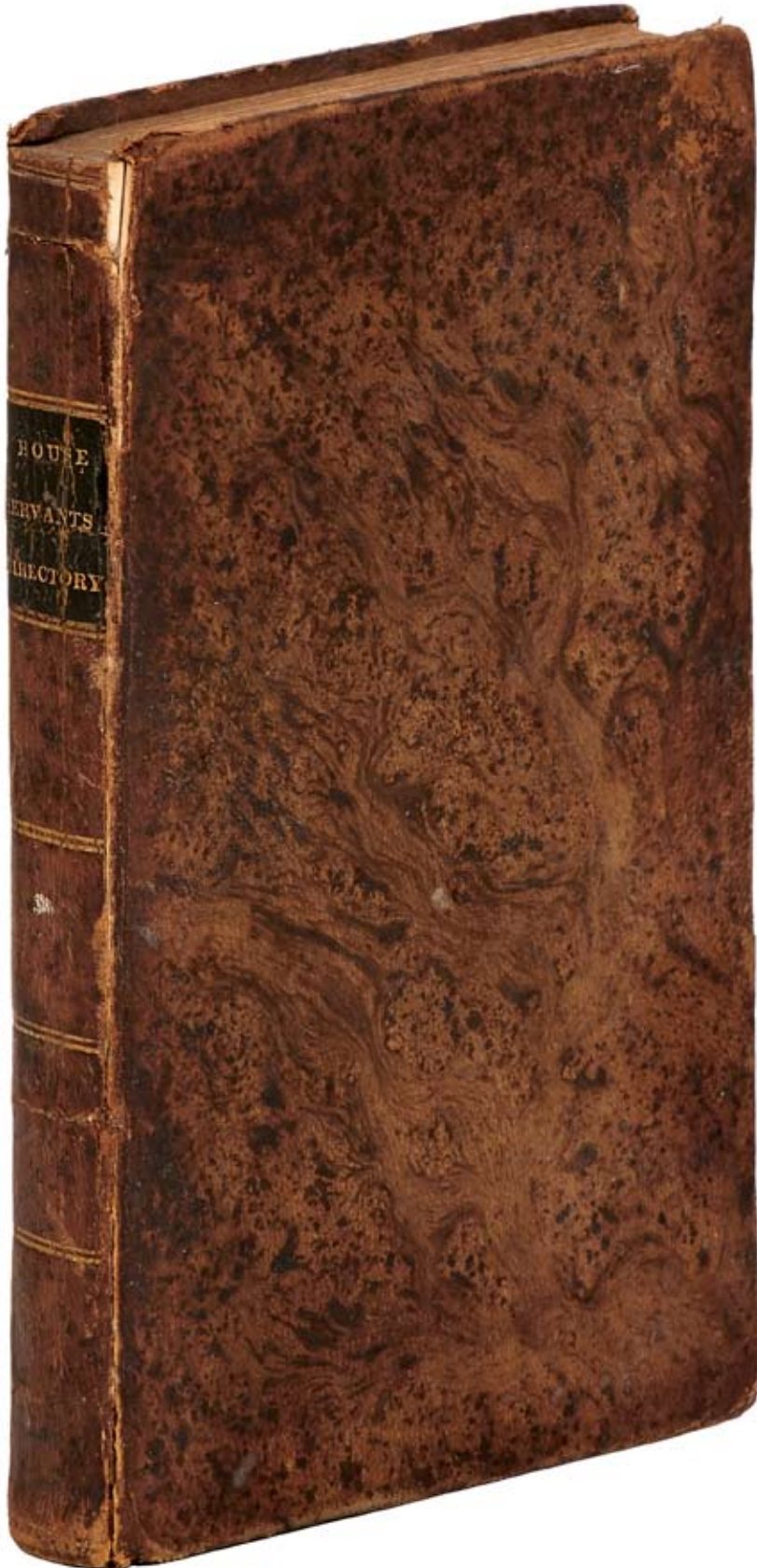
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Robert Roberts

The House Servant's Directory, or a Monitor for Private Families: Comprising Hints on the Arrangement and Performance of Servants' Work

Boston: Monroe & Francis 1827

\$20,000



First edition. 12mo. 180pp. Contemporary American tree calf with black morocco spine label gilt. Joints starting a little, some slight loss at the crown, the usual light spotting in the text, and a small dampstain on the last three leaves, a sound and pleasing very good copy. A guide for servants and the first cookbook written by an African-American; and one of the first books by an African-American on any subject to be printed by a commercial publisher. Roberts was the maitre d' for Christopher Gore, Governor and Senator of Massachusetts. This book was a standard reference for cooks and caterers of all races in the major eastern cities. "Some historians think this work was seminal in producing men of singular ability as caterers, and managers - rather than servants - of large households." (Longone. *American Cookbooks and Wine Books 1797-1950* p.2; Lowenstein 107; Axford p.221; Cagle & Stafford 647; *Negro History: 1553-1903* #154. Although there are plentiful holdings in libraries, rare in the trade, the only other first edition we've handled was over 20 years ago. A handsome copy of an important book, in a nice contemporary American binding.

[BTC#399874]

THE
HOUSE SERVANT'S DIRECTORY,

OR

A MONITOR FOR PRIVATE FAMILIES :

COMPRISING

HINTS ON THE ARRANGEMENT AND PERFORMANCE OF

SERVANTS' WORK,

WITH GENERAL RULES FOR
SETTING OUT TABLES AND SIDEBOARDS

IN FIRST ORDER ;

THE ART OF WAITING

IN ALL ITS BRANCHES ; AND LIKEWISE HOW TO CONDUCT
LARGE AND SMALL PARTIES

WITH ORDER ;

WITH GENERAL DIRECTIONS FOR PLACING ON TABLE
ALL KINDS OF JOINTS, FISH, FOWL, &c.

WITH

FULL INSTRUCTIONS FOR CLEANING

PLATE, BRASS, STEEL, GLASS, MAHOGANY ;

AND LIKEWISE

ALL KINDS OF PATENT AND COMMON LAMPS :

OBSERVATIONS

ON SERVANTS' BEHAVIOUR TO THEIR EMPLOYERS ;

AND UPWARDS OF

100 VARIOUS AND USEFUL RECEIPTS,

CHIEFLY COMPILED

FOR THE USE OF HOUSE SERVANTS ;

AND IDENTICALLY MADE

TO SUIT THE MANNERS AND CUSTOMS OF FAMILIES

IN THE UNITED STATES.

By **ROBERT ROBERTS.**

WITH

FRIENDLY ADVICE TO COOKS

AND HEADS OF FAMILIES,

AND COMPLETE DIRECTIONS HOW TO BURN

LEHIGH COAL.

BOSTON,

MUNROE AND FRANCIS, 128 WASHINGTON-STREET.

NEW YORK,

CHARLES S. FRANCIS, 189 BROADWAY.

1827.